

FADE IN:

EXT. HAIR BOUTIQUE - DAY

The sign above the glass door reads: SANDRA'S HAIR BOUTIQUE
Below that it says: SANDRA ATKINSON, PROPRIETOR. The sign inside
the glass door says: SORRY, WE'RE CLOSED.

INT. HAIR BOUTIQUE - DAY

SANDRA ATKINSON, late twenties, African American, petite,
attractive, sporting short cut hair, is cleaning up her
boutique. She hums to herself as she does so. The cell phone
she has in a case clipped onto her belt rings.

She stops what she is doing and answers it.

SANDRA

Hello.

It's the voice of a female.

FEMALE VOICE

Sandra, this is Catherine, your
Real estate agent.

Sandra smiles.

SANDRA

Oh hi, Catherine, what's up?

CATHERINE (V.O.)

Okay, everything has been finalized,
I just need you and your boyfriend
to sign some papers and pretty soon
you'll have your house.

Sandra does not answer immediately; she drops the broom she has
in her left hand and suddenly presses it over her heart; she
closes her eyes for a second.

CATHERINE (V.O.)

Sandra, are you there?

Sandra seats herself on one of the chairs nearby.

SANDRA

Yes, I'm here, I'm okay. That's wonderful news.

CATHERINE (V.O.)

I'll drop by your sister's house this evening. What would be the best time?

SANDRA

About seven.

CATHERINE (V.O.)

Okay, I'll be there around seven.

SANDRA

I'll see you then. 'Bye.

CATHERINE (V.O.)

'Bye.

Sandra hastily hangs up, gets up, puts away her phone and goes into the bathroom.

MOMENTS LATER

She comes out with a bottle of pills. She opens the bottle. With hands shaking, she holds the bottle firmly and extracts a pill. She closes the bottle and puts it on top of the refrigerator. She throws the pill into her mouth.

She goes into the fridge and takes out a bottle of water. She closes the fridge, opens the bottle of water and turns it to her head and drinks thirstily.

EXT. STREET - I-95 - DAY

The Tahoe S.U.V. cruises along the highway amongst regular traffic.

INT. S.U. V.

Sandra is on her cell.

SANDRA

Darling, I got the house.

She is talking to her BOYFRIEND, RONALD WILSON.

RONALD (V.O.)

Sweetheart, how are we going to be able to afford this?

SANDRA

Sweetheart, you worry too much, I've got the money, all I need is your signature.

RONALD (V.O.)

We are talking thirty thousand dollars, that's your life savings.

SANDRA

A little less than my life saving actually, but this is an investment, honey.

RONALD (V.O.)

It's just that I feel so guilty, honey, I was hoping that you could have waited until I come up with some money of my own.

SANDRA

Honey, understand me, I know what you're saying, but I love this house and I don't want it to pass.

RONALD (V.O.)

(dejectedly)

I understand.

SANDRA

Honey, don't feel so down. Here is the deal, I pay everything now and you pay me back your half when you can.

RONALD (V.O.)

It won't be for awhile though.

SANDRA

Honey, I need to leave my sister's house; she is a darling, I love her, but I think we need our space, otherwise I would have waited.

RONALD (V.O.)

So when do I sign this thing?

SANDRA

The real estate agent will be at my sister's house this evening around seven, be there.

RONALD (V.O.)

Okay, sweetheart, I will.

SANDRA

I love you.

RONALD (V.O.)

I love you too, 'bye.

SANDRA

'Bye.

A smiling Sandra hangs up and exits the Highway.

INT. THE RICHARD'S HOUSE - DAY

RONALD WILSON, mid-twenties, African American, tall, good looking, athletically built, is sitting in the living room with Sandra and an attractive woman, who looks around 40. She is CATHERINE WRIGHT, Real Estate agent.

There is a little table in their midst with some papers Ronald is signing. Ronald signs the last piece of paper and she takes it and puts in a folder, and then into her briefcase. Sandra and Ronald are sitting beside each other. She smiles at them.

CATHERINE

Well, you guys are on your way to owning your own home. When are you guys gonna get married?

SANDRA

Hopefully soon, I wanted a big wedding,
but maybe we'll have to settle for
a small one; all our money is now
invested in a house.

CATHERINE

It's a very good investment if you
ask me. Closing will be in a week,
you guys will be in your new home
by some time in the next two week.

Sandra and Ronald smile simultaneously.

RONALD/SANDRA

Thanks.

They look at each other and laugh. Catherine looks begrudgingly
at them.

CATHERINE

You're such a happy and lovely couple,
I wish you all the luck in the world.

RONALD/SANDRA

Thanks.

They look at each other and laugh again. Catherine gets to her
feet and extends a hand. Sandra and Ronald get up simultaneously
and reach out at the same time; then both drop their hands to
their side at the same time. Laughter again.

CATHERINE

Do you guys always do that?

RONALD/SANDRA

What?

They laugh again.

CATHERINE

That is what I'm talking about.

(Catherine picks up her
briefcase)

I'll see you guys at the closing.

She starts to walk towards the door, Sandra and Ronald start after her; they are hold hands.

CATHERINE

You don't have to let me out, I know my way.

RONALD/SANDRA

That's...

They laugh and look at each other.

ROANLD/SANDRA

You go...

Catherine goes through the door with a smile on her face.

EXT. THE RICHARD'S HOUSE - DAY

Catherine opens her car door and puts in her briefcase. She looks at Ronald and Sandra who are now on the porch beside each other.

CATHERINE

Hey, send me an invitation when you guys are getting married.

RONALD

We will.

SANDRA

We promise.

CATHERINE

Thanks. Have a nice day.

Sandra and Ronald shake their heads.

RONALD

You too.

Catherine gets in and closes her car door; she starts her engine; she waves as she backs out. In the street, she

straightens and blows as she drives away. Ronald turns to Sandra and holds her hands. He looks into her eyes.

RONALD

You're very happy, aren't you?

She smiles.

SANDRA

Well, I have everything to be thankful for, don't I? I have you, and we'll soon have a beautiful home, pretty soon beautiful kids. The future is looking wonderful, don't you think?

RONALD

Yep, the future is looking real wonderful.

They kiss.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

The building is marked STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANY

INT. OFFICE BUILDING HALLWAY

The sign on the door reads "RONALD WILSON, AGENT"

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Ronald is on the phone; he is in his shirt and tie; his jacket is draped around the chair behind him.

RONALD

So he needs a policy now, does he?

He is speaking to a woman.

WOMAN (V.O.)

Yes.

RONALD

Did you convince him to get it?

WOMAN (V.O.)

We talked about it.

RONALD

Well, I will be there about four o'clock, would that be a good time?

WOMAN (V.O.)

Yes, he will be here; I'll call you if there is any change.

RONALD

Thank you, see you at four.

WOMAN (V.O.)

Okay, 'bye.

RONALD

'Bye.

Ronald hangs up; there is a knock on his door.

RONALD

Come in.

The door is pushed in and JAMES FLETCHER, 30, tall and lanky, walks in with a cup of coffee in his hand, he is in a white shirt with his tie loose around his neck.

RONALD

Coffee break already?

JAMES

You know I'm always on coffee break.

He pulls out a chair and sits in front of Ronald.

JAMES

How are things with you and Sandra?

RONALD

Things are great, we just bought a house.

JAMES

I thought you said you didn't have any money after you bought that Chrysler 300 with everything.

RONALD

I don't. Sandra paid the thirty thousand dollars for closing cost and down payment.

JAMES

Must be a big house. It's in Acreage, isn't it?

RONALD

Yeah, it's in Acreage all right.

JAMES

She is a good girl, isn't she?

RONALD

She is wonderful, man, the problem is my parents think that since she is not a Christian, I shouldn't marry her.

JAMES

You're not a Christian.

RONALD

I know, but I was brought up in a Christian home; my old man is an Elder.

JAMES

I know. So what are you going to do?

RONALD

Well, let's put it this way. I'm 24 years of age, I work, I don't depend on them, even though I still live with them. And now I think it's time I go on my own.

JAMES

Good luck, sonny, I think you're gonna need it.

Ronald is thoughtful; he is toying with a pencil.

RONALD

Yeah, so do I, so do I.

EXT. SANDRA'S HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: TWO WEEKS - LATER

A removal truck is parked in front; removal personnel are taking things into the house; the furniture are gorgeous. Sandra is there, supervising. She sees two guys with her sixty-inch screen television.

SANDRA

Guys, that goes into the room beside the kitchen.

Her phone rings; it's on its clip on her side; she takes it, opens it and puts it to her ear; she sees two guys as they fumble with her armoire.

SANDRA

Guys, be careful.

RONALD (V.O.)

Hi, Honey, what's up?

She smiles.

SANDRA

Oh, hi, sweetheart.

RONALD (V.O.)

Who are you yelling at?

SANDRA

I'm here with the removal truck;
the guys are taking the furniture
into the house. Sweetheart, we're
moving into our new home. Now, have
you spoken to your parents about
moving?

He laughs.

RONALD (V.O.)

You make it sound so much like I'm
a child.

SANDRA

Well, you're living with them so the
decent thing to do is to tell them
when you're moving out.

She sees a guy holding a twenty-inch television himself; she
removes the phone and calls out to him.

SANDRA

Be careful, guys, I don't want anything
broken.

She puts back the phone to her ear.

RONALD (V.O.)

I understand what you're saying.
Anyway, I think I'd better leave
you to do your supervising, I'll
talk to you later. Love you.

SANDRA

Love you too, 'bye.

RONALD (V.O.)

'Bye.

Sandra hangs up, puts away the phone and goes up to a guy and
takes her small aquarium away from him.

INT. THE WILSON'S HOUSE-DAY

ELDER IVAN WILSON, 60, African American, balding at the front of his head, tall, wiry and has a pleasant countenance. He is sitting in front of his computer and is on the phone.

IVAN

When he gets in this evening, I'll inform him he has a client.

He is talking to a MAN.

MAN (V.O.)

Thanks Elder Wilson, I hope to be there tomorrow at the service.

IVAN

I hope to see you.

MAN (V.O.)

Okay, I'll talk to you then.

IVAN

'Bye.

Elder Wilson hangs up. There is a knock on the door.

IVAN

Come in.

Ronald walks in; he is in his suit; however, his tie is loose.

RONALD

Is mom here?

IVAN

She just went out.

RONALD

I have something I want to talk to you guys about.

IVAN

Is there a problem?

RONALD

No, no problem. I'll wait until
mom gets back.

He turns and opens the door.

IVAN

Son, John Chamberlain wants a policy,
I told him when you get in this
evening I'd tell you.

RONALD

Thanks.

He goes out, closing the door behind him.

INT. THE WILSON'S HOUSE - LATER

They are all seated in the family room. MRS. JOYCE WILSON,
African American is a petite, 55 years old woman, with a serious
looking face. Ronald is sitting opposite them.

RONALD

Mom and dad, I'm moving.

JOYCE

When?

RONALD

I'm actually going to be moving
tonight, but I'll be picking up
the rest of my things tomorrow.

JOYCE

Are you moving in with that girl?

RONALD

Yes, mom.

She looks at her husband.

JOYCE

Ivan, I think you'd better talk to
him.

IVAN

Son, why are you going to do something like that?

RONALD

Dad, you guys are making it seem like I'm doing something against the law.

JOYCE

You are doing something against the law; it may not be the laws of men, but it's the laws of God.

RONALD

Mom, dad, I love this woman, we bought a house...

JOYCE

A house? You mean you bought a house and you said nothing to us?

RONALD

It was her idea, but...

JOYCE

See, already this woman is in control. The woman is a sinner, she has convinced you that it's okay to move in with her without getting married first, what is she going to do next, convince you that there is no God?

RONALD

Mom, she is not like that.

JOYCE

What do you mean she is not like that? She is a sinner, isn't she?

RONALD

Yes, mom, but she is a good person.

JOYCE

The Bible said there is none good,
but God, son, especially if she is
a sinner.

RONALD

Mom, I've made up my mind.

IVAN

Why couldn't you be like your brother
John? He married himself a Christian
woman and is now an Elder in
Connecticut. Why must you be so
different?

RONALD

Dad, seven brothers, seven different
minds; we couldn't all be the same.

JOYCE

It is wrong, Ronald, that woman is not
right for you; she is not a Christian.

RONALD

But, mom, maybe in time she will
become one.

JOYCE

Have you ever spoken to her about
Jehovah?

RONALD

Once or twice.

JOYCE

Once or twice?

RONALD

Mom, she is a good woman; that's all
I know and I love her. Whenever I'm
with her, I'm the happiest person
there is.

IVAN

Son, you don't know what happiness
is.

RONALD

Why? Because I'm not marrying a Christian?

IVAN

That woman is going to turn you away from Jehovah.

RONALD

No, she won't. Mom, and dad, I've made up my mind, this is the woman I'm going to marry. I was just hoping that you guys would have given your blessings to this union, but obviously, it's not forth coming.

Ronald gets up.

RONALD

I'll see you guys later.

He walks out. Mrs. Wilson looks disdainfully at her husband.

JOYCE

What kind of man are you? You see our son is about to make a big mistake and you just sit there and said nothing.

IVAN

What am I supposed to say? He has already made up his mind, I can't do anything at all to change it.

Mrs. Wilson gets to her feet; she looks condescendingly at her husband.

JOYCE

You know what, Ivan, it would be good if for once you would just stand up as a man and do what you're supposed to do. We lost our only daughter to a world of sin and now we're about to lose our son.

IVAN

Am I the one responsible for that?

JOYCE

Yes, blame me; I was the one who was too lenient with my daughter.

IVAN

(under his breath)

Lenient?

JOYCE

What was that you mumbled?

IVAN

Nothing. I'm not saying that you were too lenient, but you never allowed me to be the father I wanted to be.

JOYCE

Your idea of being a father is something that I detest.

IVAN

Well, whatever happens now, I can't help.

JOYCE

Our daughter ran off and marry some man who was not a Christian; she died soon after, her soul was lost Ivan, are we going to stand by and watch something like that happen again?

IVAN

What do you want me to do, Joyce? Get down on my knees and beg him to stay?

JOYCE

We're not going to lose another one of our kids to the enemy, I'd prefer to see him dead first.

Mrs. Wilson storms off to her room and slams the door shut.
Her husband looks into the ceiling and shakes his head sadly.

IVAN

(softly)

Dear God, you said you do not give
a man more than he can bear, but,
God it seems like you have forgotten
that I'm a man.

INT. SANDRA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Ronald and Sandra are lying beside each other; they are both
still in their clothes.

SANDRA

How pissed were your parents when
you told them your decision?

RONALD

They weren't too pleased; my dad is
the easy going type, my mom is the
one who throws a tantrum when things
don't go her way.

SANDRA

So, I have a set of in-laws who do
not like me, it's the first time
that has ever happened.

RONALD

I'm not surprised. I had a sister
who went out and married a man who
was not in the truth.

SANDRA

What's that?

RONALD

What's what?

SANDRA

The truth?

RONALD

Oh, that's what they called our doctrine, it's about Jehovah God, so that's why it's called the truth.

SANDRA

So what were you saying about your sister?

RONALD

She married an unbeliever and she died soon after.

SANDRA

Did you think it was because she married someone who wasn't a Christian?

RONALD

No.

SANDRA

How old was she?

RONALD

She was around 24 when she died.

SANDRA

That's around your age.

RONALD

She had just past her 24th birthday when she died, in a few weeks I'll be twenty five.

SANDRA

Aren't you scared?

RONALD

Scared of what?

SANDRA

That God will cause something terrible to happen to you because you're not serving Him?

RONALD

God is not like that; He had nothing to do with what happened to my sister, my sister had a drinking problem, she was drunk when she went through the red light, and someone hit her.

SANDRA

I'm sorry. I guess as a child, you had to go out a lot to talk to people?

RONALD

Yeah, I used to hate it. They called it field service; some times I think my mom is the one who forced my dad into this thing. I remember some days when my dad didn't want to go out, but my mom would be on him to go.

SANDRA

Would you say your dad is the man of the house?

RONALD

Believe me, there was no man in my house, it was just my mom and her ways or the Highways; I think some times dad just do things to appease her because he can't take the nagging in his ears.

(he chuckles forcefully)

Believe me, if I were my dad, I would have left my mom a long time ago.

INT. PASTOR RAHEIM'S HOUSE - DAY

PASTOR RAHEIM SINGH, 32, Indian American, tall, fair skinned, good looking, is around his computer, his phone rings and he picks it up.

RAHEIM

Hello.

It's his sister KOREEN.

KOREEN (V.O.)

Are you going anywhere tonight?

RAHEIM

No.

KOREEN (V.O.)

A friend of mine would like to meet you.

RAHEIM

Let me guess, he would like to talk to the only original Pastor who's left in Clewiston after the Stranger passed through?

He speaks with sarcasm in his voice.

KOREEN (V.O.)

You sound angry.

RAHEIM

I'm tired, Koreen, people are treating me as if I'm some celebrity, I don't like it, I'm here to do God's work and that is what I'm going to do. If someone wants to talk about God, that's fine, but I don't like it when people treat me as if I'm something special. They are giving reverence to me when they should be giving it to God.

KOREEN (V.O.)

I don't think it's the same thing with this guy, he is a student of theology.

RAHEIM

How sincere is he?

KOREEN (V.O.)

I think very.

RAHEIM

What's his name?

KOREEN (V.O.)

Courtney.

RAHEIM

I'll see him, but tell him I'll know what he is about when he comes by and if he is not sincere, I'll know.

KOREEN (V.O.)

I'll bring him by this evening.

RAHEIM

Okay. Talk to you later.

KOREEN (V.O.)

'Bye.

RAHEIM

'Bye.

Raheim hangs up and goes back to doing what he was doing before.

EXT. SEASIDE - NIGHT

Ronald and Sandra are sitting beside each other on a bench; they look out towards the sea.

RONALD

Why is it that you do not like to talk about your former boyfriend?

SANDRA

Maybe because the memories are too painful.

RONALD

Well, don't make me bring them back.

SANDRA

No, maybe I should talk about him.

RONALD

I'm listening.

SANDRA

My ex-boyfriend was a sweetheart
(she chuckles)
He too was brought up in a Christian
home.

RONALD

You seem to attract a lot of people
who were brought up as Christians.
Have you ever thought of becoming
one yourself?

SANDRA

No. I mean, I believe there is a God,
yes, but the way I see things now,
churches are as commercialized as
the department store next door; it's
all about money.

RONALD

Jehovah Witnesses are different.

SANDRA

How?

RONALD

They don't believe in tithing, you
just give what you can give, if you
can't, you're still welcome.

SANDRA

I remember when I was a kid and
Jehovah Witness would knock on our
doors and my mom or my dad would say,
'Just give them some money and they
will leave you alone.' We used to
keep money so that they'd leave as
soon as they came.

RONALD

My dad used to tell me about that,
but I think they don't do those
things anymore.

SANDRA

What? Go to peoples' houses?

RONALD

No, they don't go anymore just to pick up offerings, they want to talk to you even if you give them money or don't give them money.

SANDRA

Well, back to my ex. He died on the eve of our wedding, it was an accident.

RONALD

I'm sorry.

SANDRA

I decided that that was it for me; I didn't want another man in my life, because I didn't want to fall in love and to have him taken away from me again.

Ronald smiles and looks at her.

RONALD

Well, honey, you don't have to worry about me, I'm going to be around until you become tired of me.

Sandra kisses him hurriedly on the cheek.

SANDRA

Honey, I'll never be tired of you.

RONALD

I'll hold you to that promise now.

Sandra chuckles.

SANDRA

So how come you're so different? How come you're not like your brother John

RONALD

Maybe because I wasn't given a name from the Bible.

SANDRA

What was your sister's name?

RONALD

Ruth.

SANDRA

That name is from the Bible as well as John.

RONALD

Right.

SANDRA

Are you rebelling or something?

RONALD

No, this is just me. I figure it's up to me to be who I wanna be. My sister was fed up with my mom when she walked out. Even as adults, mom wanted us to go into field services. My sister and I hated it when we were kids.

SANDRA

What about John?

RONALD

John didn't mind.

SANDRA

Is he the eldest?

RONALD

Yeah. I figure it's time I do what I wanna do.

SANDRA

I guess you're right. We all have our lives to live, no one can live it for us.

RONALD

You have a very beautiful singing voice you know.

SANDRA

When did you hear me?

RONALD

I heard you a couple of times in the bathroom.

SANDRA

Well you sound better in the bathroom than you sound anywhere else.

RONALD

No, Sandra, your voice is good.

SANDRA

I used to sing as a little child, everyone thought I was good. But I wanted to sing love songs and one day after I did a song at a School concert, a man came up to me and asked me if I wanted to sing gospel, I told him no, it was too boring. I sang a few years after that but then I just forget about it.

RONALD

Maybe you should have done gospel.

SANDRA

Maybe.

MONTAGE RONALD AND SANDRA HAVE FUN TOGETHER

(1) Ronald and Sandra are on the beach; they are holding hands as they walk.

(2) They are seen chasing after each other and laughing; they are enjoying themselves.

(3) They are on a ship and are sitting by the poolside.

(4) They are at a party and are dancing closely with each other.

INT. SONNY'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Raheim is having his lunch; he is alone. JOHNNY WRIGHT, 30, African American, tall and lanky, joins him; he is a reporter.

JOHNNY

Well, well, isn't this the celebrated Pastor Raheim Singh?

RAHEIM

What do you want, Johnny?

JOHNNY

You know, an exclusive. Are you denying that you're one of the chosen few?

RAHEIM

I'm not denying, neither am I admitting it, I just don't know.

JOHNNY

That stranger found favor in you, didn't he? Some people think he might have even told you his name.

RAHEIM

They are wrong, I don't know who he was. He told the people that the message is more important than the messenger is, and he didn't want anyone to focus on him; he wanted them to focus on God, and that's the exact way I feel.

JOHNNY

Maybe that's why he chose you because you two have something in common.

RAHEIM

Maybe. Or maybe it was because I was living a clean life? I don't know.

JOHNNY

Maybe, he sure showed up the hypocrites, didn't he?

RAHEIM

Yes, he did.

JOHNNY

I bet you are glad you weren't one of them.

RAHEIM

Yes, I am. Now could you just let me eat my lunch in peace, Johnny?

Johnny gets up.

JOHNNY

Okay, maybe another time.

RAHEIM

If you want to hear me, you can catch me in church on Sundays

JOHNNY

I'll bring my tithes.

RAHEIM

Give it to the widows and orphans. I'll take offerings for the maintenance of the church, that's all, whatever you can give; there is no pressure.

JOHNNY

You're a good man, Pastor Raheim, a very good man.

RAHEIM

There is none good but God, Johnny, thanks anyway.

JOHNNY

You're welcome.

He leaves.

INT. SANDRA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Ronald is asleep. Sandra walks in and shakes him. He opens his eyes and looks at her.

SANDRA

Get up, you have an appointment in Palm Beach at six, it's a quarter to five.

RONALD

When did you get up?

SANDRA

As soon as you start snoring.

RONALD

How about me canceling the appointment and you getting back in bed with me?

SANDRA

No, as tempting as it sounds, business is business, be professional.

RONALD

How about a quickie?

SANDRA

No, you know how I feel about quickies.

RONALD

Woman, you're no fun.

Sandra starts to walk out. She looks over her shoulder.

SANDRA

I'll remember you say that when you get back in this evening.

She goes through the door and closes it behind her.

INT. SANDRA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Sandra is preparing dinner.

SANDRA

Do you want to have dinner now or after you have a bath?

RONALD (O.S.)

After.

SANDRA

Okay.

INT. SANDRA'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sandra is in the walk in closet getting out Ronald's clothes. He is in the bathroom, having his shower. She takes out a pair of jeans and a tee shirt and puts them on the bed.

SANDRA

Honey, I placed your clothes on the bed.

RONALD (O.S.)

Thanks, honey. How about joining me in the shower for a game of Drop-soap?

Sandra smiles.

SANDRA

Not interested, time is going.

She leaves the bedroom.

INT. SANDRA'S KITCHEN - LATER

Ronald is having himself something to eat. Sandra is in the kitchen with him.

RONALD

Hey, honey, how about coming with me and we'll just go to the movie on our way back?

SANDRA

Sounds good, honey, but I have some work I have to do and I was thinking of using this free time do it.

RONALD

Okay, I'll just hurry back. But you make sure I have no excuses out of you when I get back.

Sandra chuckles forcefully.

SANDRA
You're insatiable you know.

RONALD
Well, you can't blame me, that's
what you get for being so hot.

Sandra smiles.

SANDRA
Okay, I promise I won't have any
excuses when you get back.

RONALD
Good.

Ronald finishes his meal and gets up and goes to the bathroom.

INT. SANDRA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Sandra walks with Ronald to the door.

SANDRA
Make sure your phone is on.

His phone is on a clip by his side; he takes it out and flips it
open.

RONALD
It's on.

He closes it and places it back in its clip. He opens the door.
He holds and kisses Sandra; the kiss is a prolonged one. Sandra
eases him off gently.

SANDRA
Okay, sweetheart, when you get back.

RONALD
You know what, I hate this job. See
you.

He goes through the door.

EXT. STREET - DAY

There are two cars racing; they are Mustangs, well souped up and with rims. Heavy rap music is coming from both. The drivers appear to be youngsters. Ronald's 300 Chrysler turns into the McDonalds; he goes into the drive through line.

One of the racing cars goes behind him; the other one races along Congress.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

The youngster in the car in the drive through sees his companion in his rear view mirror.

YOUNGSTER

Idiot, I told him I was going to stop by McDonald's.

He takes his phone and gets him on the radio.

YOUNGSTER

Hey, Dirk, I thought I told you I was going to stop by McDonalds.

DIRK (V.O.)

Hey, I'm going to wait for you. If anyone is in front of you, just push him out of the way, we have a time limit, remember.

YOUNGSTER

Sure, I'll talk to you.

He hangs up.

INT. RONALD'S CAR

He is searching for loose change; he leans his head out and talks in the mike.

RONALD

Did you say a dollar fifteen?

FEMALE VOICE

That's correct, sir, for a medium coffee.

RONALD

Okay.

FEMALE VOICE

If that's all, drive up to the next window, please.

Ronald drives up. He pays the lady at the window and drives down to the other window; he picks up his coffee from a smiling African American lady. He holds the coffee in his hand and drives out towards the road. He stops and takes a sip.

Suddenly he is hit from behind, his coffee is spilled on his pants and his car is out on the street and in the path of a... trailer. Ronald is looking at the trailer, a look of intense horror on his face; THE TRAILER HITS HIS CAR.

INT. SANDRA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sandra is seated in front of her computer; she is on the phone with her sister, INGRID.

INGRID (V.O.)

So when are you guys going to get married?

SANDRA

Ingrid, you know me, I've always wanted a big wedding, but I don't have the money. We might just do something small.

INGRID (V.O.)

Well, do what you can do, you two deserve each other, I think you make a wonderful couple.

SANDRA

Thanks. I really do love him and I think he loves me too. I should have gone out with him this evening, but I have something I have to finish by tomorrow. During the days I'm too busy at work, I can't do it then.

INGRID (V.O.)

When are they going to promote you to manager at that Winn Dixie?

SANDRA

You know me; I'm more interested in my printing business, if it takes off, I'm quitting.

INGRID (V.O.)

Yeah, but in the meantime, you need money.

SANDRA

I have some saved; I've paid like five months mortgage in advance, so I'm sort of okay right now.

INGRID (V.O.)

That's good. My husband and I are thinking of moving to Clewiston.

SANDRA

Why?

INGRID (V.O.)

Because he works in Fort Myers and commuting to and from is proving a bit too much.

SANDRA

But Clewiston is country.

INGRID (V.O.)

We've been there and there is a place we're looking at called "The Ridge".

SANDRA

Looks good?

INGRID (V.O.)

Yeah.

SANDRA

I want to have a surprise birthday party for Ronald.

INGRID (V.O.)

When is his birthday?

SANDRA

Tomorrow.

INGRID (V.O.)

It's a bit sudden, isn't it?

SANDRA

You wanna know the truth? I forgot. I just remembered not too long ago, but of course I don't want him to think I'd forgotten.

INGRID (V.O.)

So what do you want me to do?

SANDRA

Get a couple of your friends over and we're going to surprise him.

INGRID (V.O.)

Sandra, hold on for me please, my niece is saying something to me.

MOMENTS LATER

Ingrid comes back on the line.

INGRID (V.O.)

Sorry for that interruption, I keep telling her not to interrupt me when I'm on the phone. She is telling me something she saw on the news about a fatal accident in Lake Worth.

SANDRA

Oh, so will you do it?

INGRID (V.O.)

Yeah, I'm sure we can get a few people together.

SANDRA

Great, he won't ever know I'd forgotten. I want you to keep it at your place.

INGRID (V.O.)

Okay.

SANDRA

In that way I could just tell him we're going to go for dinner at your place and then the dinner will be in his honor.

INGRID (V.O.)

Then you're gonna have to tell me what he likes, so I can have it catered.

SANDRA

It's not going to be too much problem, is it? Because I'm going to pay you back, in fact I'll take the money to you in the morning.

INGRID (V.O.)

That's okay. Sandra, I'll talk to You later, my husband just walked in, I've got to give him my undivided attention.

SANDRA

Okay, 'bye.

Sandra hangs up. She dials Ronald's number. It rings for a while without an answer; she hangs up as it is about to go to the voice mail.

INT. SANDRA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sandra is asleep when she hears the doorbell and jumps out of her slumber. At first she isn't certain of what she heard, but then when it comes again, she realizes it's the doorbell. She is still dressed the way she was earlier. She goes to the wall and pushes the button on the intercom.

SANDRA

Hello, who is it?

A male voice comes back.

MALE VOICE

It's the police.

SANDRA

You're sure you're at the right House, officer?

OFFICER (O.S.)

This is where Mr. Ronald Wilson lives, isn't it?

SANDRA

Yes.

OFFICER (O.S.)

Could you come to the door madam?

SANDRA

Okay, officer, I'll be there.

Sandra goes to the front and opens the door.

INT./EXT. SANDRA'S HOUSE

A tall, good-looking OFFICER is there. He displays his identification.

OFFICER

I'm officer Roy Smith from the Royal Palm Police, mind if I come in?

SANDRA

Officer, is my boyfriend in some trouble?

OFFICER

I'd prefer if you sit before I talk to you.

SANDRA

My boyfriend isn't...

OFFICER

Madam, please, I'd prefer if you sit down.

SANDRA

Oh, my God.

She faints. The officer catches her on her way down, uses his foot to close the door and takes her and places her on the couch; he notices she isn't breathing. He feels for a pulse, there is none. For a while the officer seems lost. He suddenly grabs his radio.

SMITH

Base, this is Officer Smith, I'm at 1600 72nd street, in Acreage, I need an ambulance.

BASE (V.O.)

What's going on, officer Smith, come back, ambulance is on its way.

SMITH

The lady I just told about her boyfriend has fainted, and she hasn't got any pulse.

BASE (V.O.)

You mean she is dead? Come back.

SMITH

I think so.

BASE (V.O.)

Officer Smith, try to revive her,
you remember how to do C.P.R.,
don't you? And be calm, please.

SMITH

Yes, sir.

Officer Smith proceeds to do C.P.R. His second attempt at
reviving her sees her coming awake, but she is weak; she tries
to open her eyes, she can't seem to. He gets back on his radio.

SMITH

I think she is back, but she is still
weak.

BASE (V.O.)

Don't worry, the ambulance is coming.
Just make sure that she doesn't fall
back into the situation she previously
was in.

SMITH

The ambulance better get here pretty
fast; she is breathing but it's not
strong at all.

He hears siren in the distance.

BASE (V.O.)

They'll be there, just make sure that
she keeps breathing.

SMITH

Okay.

EXT. SANDRA'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

With sirens wailing, the ambulance drives up and stops; the
attendants comes out with the stretcher; Officer Smith holds the
door open, and they enter.

INT. THE RICHARDS' HOUSE - DAY

INGRID RICHARDS, 40, petite, African American, attractive, is sitting in her family room; she is on the phone with one of her neighbors.

INGRID

Stephanie, my sister wants to keep a surprise birthday party for her boyfriend, she wants to keep it at my house and she wants me to invite some of the people who know him. What are you doing this evening?

STEPHANIE (V.O.)

Her boyfriend? I thought her boyfriend was dead.

Ingrid chuckles forcefully.

INGRID

What are you talking about?

STEPHANIE (V.O.)

You didn't know?

INGRID

Know what?

STEPHANIE (V.O.)

Oh, my God, I thought you knew.

INGRID

Knew what?

STEPHANIE (V.O.)

There was an accident yesterday in Lake Worth.

INGRID

So?

STEPHANIE (V.O.)

The driver of the car was Ronald Wilson; he died on the spot. I thought you knew.

Ingrid is in shock; she drops the phone and faints; her limped body rolls off the chair onto the floor.

INT. RICHARDS' HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

ANTHONY RICHARDS, 45, African American, solidly built with mustache walks in with the newspaper. He sees his wife on the floor and hears the recording on the phone. He drops the newspaper, rushes to his wife, lifts her onto the couch and shakes her.

ANTHONY

Honey, are you okay?

Her eyes flutter opened.

INGRID

What happened?

ANTHONY

You tell me, I saw you on the floor.

Anthony picks up the cordless phone and hangs it up and places it on the chair beside his wife. Ingrid sits up and grabs the phone and starts dialing rapidly.

ANTHONY

Honey, what's going on?

INGRID

Sandra's boyfriend is dead.

ANTHONY

Are you serious?

INGRID

Very.

(she is listening, there are tears in her eyes.)

Oh my God, she is not answering.

(she is still listening)

What are we going to do, Tony?

ANTHONY

First of all, you've got to calm down.

She still listens to the ringing of the phone.

INGRID

I'm scared for my sister; she has
a bad heart and bad news like this
could kill her.

He takes the phone from her.

ANTHONY

If she is not answering, all we've
got to do is call the cops.

He hangs up and dials a number.

INGRID

Oh, my God, the cops, what if it's
too late.

ANTHONY

Let's hope not.

The phone is answered by a male voice.

MALE VOICE

Hello, Royal Palm Police, may I help
you?

ANTHONY

Officer, my name is Anthony Richards.
My wife has a sister who lives in
Acreage, her boyfriend died in an
accident yesterday, we have been
trying to reach her but we can't
seem to. Is there anyway...

OFFICER (V.O.)

Is her name Sandra Atkinson?

ANTHONY

Yes.

OFFICER (V.O.)

Brace yourself, I've got bad news.
She is in the Critical Care unit at
J.F.K.

There is a look of horror on Anthony's face.

ANTHONY
What is she doing there?

INGRID
What's happening?

Anthony is listening.

OFFICER (V.O.)
When she was told about the death of her boyfriend, she fainted, as a matter of fact, she stopped breathing. If it weren't for quick thinking on the officer's part, she might have been dead. However, her situation is very serious, I think she is in a coma.

Anthony is looking as if he is lost.

ANTHONY
Thank you, Officer.

He hangs up. He doesn't say anything; Ingrid is looking questioningly at him. Finally.

INGRID
Anthony, what did he say?

ANTHONY
Just calm down, will you?

Anthony is walking towards the kitchen. Ingrid gets up and follows after him.

INGRID
What did he say?

ANTHONY
It's not as bad as you think.

Anthony goes into the refrigerator and takes out a beer. She turns him around roughly and looks fiercely into his face.

INGRID

What do you mean it's not as bad
as I think?

ANTHONY

She is in J.F.K. in a coma.

He drops the beer as he catches her going down. He lifts her and
takes her to the coach.

ANTHONY

Damn, I hate it when they do this.

INT. JFK HOSPITAL - DAY

Ingrid is in the Critical Care unit looking at her sister who is
hooked up to a machine, and being fed through a tube. An
attractive NURSE, dressed in a crisp white uniform enters.

NURSE

Mrs. Richards, your husband wants
you to go downstairs.

Ingrid has napkins drying her tears. She sniffs.

INGRID

I can't leave my sister.

NURSE

I know how you feel, Mrs. Richards,
but you have been here for almost
three hours now. I promise if there
is any changes in her we'll call.

INGRID

(wiping her tears)

She is my only sister.

NURSE

I'm really sorry about what happened,
she must have loved her boyfriend
dearly.

INGRID

Yes. My sister has been through a lot; two years ago the same thing happened; she was supposed to have gotten married, and her boyfriend died on the eve of their wedding. She decided she wasn't going to get involved with another man, but I encouraged her to. I said you're still young, you need to start dating again. Today would have been his birthday; he died on the eve of his birthday.

She starts to cry again, covering her face as she does so. The nurse looks sadly at her.

NURSE

I'm really sorry Mrs. Richards, I really am.

INT. SONNY'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Koreen is having lunch with her friend, PATRICIA ANDERSON, late twenties, she is African American, attractive with a face than looks much younger than her age.

PATRICIA

Do you know the other day a few friends and I went to Let It Roll and I had to show my Identification?

KOREEN

How come?

PATRICIA

Well, they said I look like a teenager. Connie Johnson was there, she is twenty and they didn't ask her; they asked me.

KOREEN

It's annoying, isn't it?

PATRICIA

Yeah, it is. It gets bothersome at times. I went somewhere once without my I.D. and I couldn't get in.

KOREEN

Well, I'm sure there are lots of girls out there who wish they look as young as you. How do you do it?

Patricia smiles.

PATRICIA

I have nothing to do with it my dear; it runs in the family, you should see my mom.

KOREEN

My days of going to clubs are over.

PATRICIA

Because you're a Christian?

KOREEN

That, and because I really don't have the urge to go anymore.

PATRICIA

Is that brother of yours going to get married at all?

KOREEN

I don't know, I asked him, but he says when he sees the woman he is going to marry, he'll know.

PATRICIA

There are so many women going crazy over him.

KOREEN

Am I to assume you're a part of that group?

Patricia laughs.

PATRICIA

I'd be lying if I say I'm not.

KOREEN

Well, they say confession is good for the soul, so confess girl. Hey maybe I can drop in a few words for you.

Patricia smiles brightly as she looks at Koreen.

PATRICIA

Would you?

KOREEN

Now, there is no guarantee that anything is going to happen, but I'll see what I can do.

PATRICIA

Thanks.

KOREEN

You're welcome.

EXT. JOSEPHINE MEMORIAL PARK- LAKEWORTH - DAY

Ingrid and Anthony are amongst the people gathered at the park to see Ronald going to his final resting-place. There are a lot of people there, amongst them Mr. and Mrs. Wilson and a man who appears to be their son, JOHN WILSON, they are standing beside each other. Anthony and Ingrid leave before the ceremony is over.

INT. JFK HOSPITAL - DAY

Ingrid and Anthony are in the Critical Care unit with Sandra who has made no change. The DOCTOR is there with them. He is of oriental origin, he is DOCTOR CHAN. He speaks perfect English.

INGRID

Do you think she will come out of the coma, Doctor?

CHAN

We can only hope, some times they do, some times they don't. it's anybody's guess what can happen when it comes to a coma.

INGRID

But if she comes out, she can lead a normal life, can't she?

CHAN

Yes. If you believe in God, just pray that she comes out.

ANTHONY

Thank you, Doctor.

CHAN

You're welcome.

He leaves them.

ANTHONY

Maybe we should go home, there is nothing we can do here.

INGRID

Sweetheart, you can go home, I'll stay for awhile.

ANTHONY

Honey, do you know we haven't made love since this thing happened?

INGRID

Honey, this hasn't been two weeks.

ANTHONY

Well, honey, we haven't had it a few weeks before either, counting these almost two weeks, makes it almost four weeks.

INGRID

That wasn't my fault then, it was yours.

ANTHONY

Honey, it doesn't matter whose fault,
the fact still remains we haven't
had it in a while.

There is a knock on the door and a nurse enters. She is an
AFRICAN AMERICAN, early thirties with a radiant smile; she is
petite. She introduces herself.

EMILY

Hi, my name is Emily; I'll be her
Nurse for the rest of the night.

INGRID

I want you to take special care of
her.

EMILY

I will. I'll call you if there is
any changes in her condition.

ANTHONY

Thank you, Nurse.
(he looks at his wife)
Now can we go, sweetheart?

Ingrid reluctantly gets to her feet; she leans over and kisses
her sister's forehead.

INGRID

Take care, sweetheart, I love you.

ANTHONY

Honey, she doesn't hear you, let's go.

Ingrid walks out, Anthony follows.

INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY

They are walking side by side.

INGRID

Why are you so impatient, Tony?

ANTHONY

Look, Ingrid, maybe it's time you face the fact that she may not come back.

INGRID

What are you suggesting?

Anthony shrugs evasively.

ANTHONY

I don't know, I'm just thinking that one day maybe we're gonna have to consider pulling the plug, that's all.

Ingrid stops and Anthony continues to walk. Anthony looks over his shoulder at her.

ANTHONY

Are you coming, honey?

Ingrid folds her arms in front of her defiantly, a sad look on her face.

INT. LAWYERS - OFFICE - DAY

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson are sitting in front of Lawyer CLIVE RICKETTS; he is an elderly, distinguished looking man.

JOYCE

We are here to check about something on behalf of our son.

CLIVE

Who is that?

JOYCE

Ronald. Before he died, he bought a house together with his girlfriend, he is now dead and it seems like for some reason she is gonna die too. If she goes, what will happen to that property?

CLIVE

Well, if neither of them had made a will, the property will go into the hands of the government for them to divide it between the two families.

JOYCE

In a situation like that, we would need a lawyer, wouldn't we?

CLIVE

Yeah. You think the girl might die?

JOYCE

We were told she is in a coma.

CLIVE

I'm sorry to hear that.

JOYCE

So are we. Well if anything should happen, we'll get back to you.

CLIVE

Okay.

Mr. And Mrs. Wilson get to their feet; Clive gets to his feet too and shake hands with both.

CLIVE

I'm really sorry about the death of your son.

JOYCE

Thanks.

IVAN

Thanks.

CLIVE

Well, see you.

JOYCE/IVAN

'Bye.

They both leave the office.

INT. THE WILSON'S - DAY

Ivan and his wife are home; they are having a disagreement.

IVAN

Why don't we just leave these people alone? It's not like we need the money.

JOYCE

Ronald was our son, whatever legacy he had, now belong to us.

IVAN

What if she comes back out of the coma?

JOYCE

Then we force her to sell, and I don't think she is coming out of it anyway. Why can't you just side with me for once, Ivan? Everything we quarrel over.

IVAN

I don't want any part of this, that's all, I don't think it's right. We were against the union.

JOYCE

So because of that we're supposed to allow her to get away with what belonged to him? What if I tell you that her former boyfriend died in the same way, what would you say?

IVAN

What do you mean?

JOYCE

I think she has something to do with our son's death; she took whatever money he had, bought the house and then set him up. The car from behind pushed him into the road.

IVAN

I know that.

JOYCE

Most people when they're buying a house put in a clause which stipulates that if one dies, the other has the house for his or herself.

IVAN

So?

JOYCE

Don't you see? That's what she did.

IVAN

You're saying she bought the house with our son and then set up his death so she can get the house?

JOYCE

Exactly.

IVAN

So what about the fact that she is in a coma now?

JOYCE

Don't you see? That's God's doing.

IVAN

The God I know doesn't work that way.

JOYCE

Maybe you don't know Him as much you think you do. He said that He's a God of vengeance.

INT. J.F.K. HOSPITAL - CRITICAL CARE ROOM - DAY

SUPER: TWO WEEKS LATER

A nurse is in the room with Sandra; her condition is the same. The nurse changes her food; she is cleaning up the room. Her back is turned to Sandra. Suddenly Sandra's eyes are opened. She pulls off the mask that is over her face, and pulls the intravenous needle out of her arm; she sits up.

SANDRA

What am I doing here?

The nurse gasps and turns.

NURSE

Oh my God, you're awake.

She runs out of the room screaming.

MOMENTS LATER

Doctor Chan along with Nurse Emily and another nurse enter the room.

CHAN

Good afternoon, I'm Doctor Chan.

SANDRA

What am I doing here?

CHAN

Do you know who you are?

SANDRA

Sandra Atkinson. You haven't answered me, what am I doing here?

CHAN

You've been in a coma for almost four weeks. I'd like to do some tests.

SANDRA

(nonchalantly)

If you must.

The doctor proceeds to do his tests. He is using his Stethoscope to listen to her heart; first from in front and then from behind, telling her to breath in and out and cough as he did his test.

SANDRA

Is there anyway I could get something to eat?

CHAN

Nurse, get her some food.

EMILY

What kind of food, doctor?

CHAN

What kind of food do you want?

SANDRA

I don't know, I'm famished, I feel like I haven't eaten in days.

CHAN

Get her a balanced meal.

EMILY

Yes, sir.

Emily leaves. Doctor Chan finishes his tests and stands in front of her.

CHAN

So far everything sounds okay. I'm going to have to send you to do a Cat scan and an EKG.

SANDRA

When can I go home?

CHAN

As soon as we are certain that everything is okay. Do you remember anything about what brought you in here?

A sad look comes over Sandra's face.

SANDRA
My boyfriend, he is dead, isn't he?

Chan shakes his head.

CHAN
I'm sorry.

SANDRA
How long you say I've been in here?

CHAN
Almost a month.

SANDRA
He's buried too, I assume?

CHAN
Yeah.

SANDRA
What about my sister?

CHAN
She has constantly been here.

SANDRA
Her and her husband?

CHAN
Yeah.

SANDRA
Can I call her?

CHAN
Yeah, you can use the phone next
to you there. Just dial 9 to get
out.

Sandra picks up the phone and starts to dial.

CHAN

Someone will come to take you to do a Cat scan and the EKG. I'll see you later.

The doctor and the nurse leave.

SANDRA

Hello, Ingrid, this is Sandra.

The person at the other end of the line hangs up.

INT. THE RICHARDS' HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Ingrid is angry.

INGRID

These people have no heart.

Her husband is in the family room, watching television.

ANTHONY

Who was it, honey?

INGRID

Some crazy woman calling to say she is Sandra. She obviously knows Sandra is in the hospital and knows her condition.

The phone rings again. No one makes any move for it. It continues to ring. Her husband looks at her.

ANTHONY

Aren't you going to answer it?

INGRID

No, maybe it's that crazy lady again calling. I told you to get a phone that displays the numbers but you won't.

ANTHONY

Hey, you can buy it, they sell them at Brandsmart for about a dollar a piece.

The phone stops ringing.

INGRID

You think I should call the hospital
and find out what's going on?

ANTHONY

Before you do it maybe you should
come and sit beside me; I don't
feel like lifting anyone off the
floor today.

INGRID

You think I'll get some bad news?

ANTHONY

I don't know, go ahead anyway.

Ingrid is about to pick up the phone when it starts ringing
again. She picks it up.

INGRID

Look, if this is some prank you're
pulling...

FEMALE VOICE

Mrs. Richards, this is Emily from
JFK, we have been trying to get you,
but you're not answering. Your sister
is ...

Ingrid faints. Anthony hears the noise and looks.

ANTHONY

Damn it, I knew it.

EMILY (V.O.)

Hello, hello.

Anthony goes up and picks up the phone.

ANTHONY

Hello, who is this?

EMILY (V.O.)
Is this Mr. Richards?

ANTHONY
Yes, who is this?

EMILY (V.O.)
This is Emily calling from JFK; your
sister-in-law is awake and talking.

ANTHONY
Oh, my God, that's great news.

EMILY (V.O.)
Is your wife okay?

ANTHONY
She will be as soon as I put some
smelling salt to her nose. Thanks
for the news. 'Bye.

He hangs up and takes up his wife and takes her back onto the
couch.

INT. JFK HOSPITAL - PRIVATE ROOM - NIGHT

Sandra is seated up in bed; she is watching Television. The door
is pushed in and Ingrid comes into the room followed by Anthony
with a bunch of roses. Ingrid goes over and embraces her sister.

INGRID
Welcome back, sweetheart.

Sandra smiles.

SANDRA
Thanks.

Anthony gives the flowers to her and embraces her too.

ANTHONY
We're glad to see you back.

SANDRA
I'm glad to be back. How was the
Funeral?

Ingrid and Anthony sit.

INGRID

Quite a few people were there.

ANTHONY

Did the doctor tell you when you will be discharged?

SANDRA

He said as soon as they get back the results of some tests they have done. He thinks my heart is completely healed.

INGRID

My God, that's a miracle.

SANDRA

I don't know about a miracle Ingrid, I'm beginning to feel like I'm cursed.

INGRID

Honey, don't say that.

SANDRA

This is it for me, Ingrid, from now on I'll be staying away from men.

ANTHONY

You can't mean that, Sandra?

SANDRA

Just watch me. I don't know what I've done in the past or in another life, but I'm not supposed to be happy, I've been cursed and I think it's by God.

INGRID

Why do you think it's God?

SANDRA

I don't know, it's just a feeling I have.

INGRID

If He's the one who cursed you, why did He heal you?

SANDRA

I don't know; maybe so I could live to suffer.

INGRID

I think you should stop it.

SANDRA

Why should I? It's the truth.

INGRID

Are you going to go back to that house when you get out of here?

SANDRA

Most likely, it's where I live.

INGRID

We got the keys from the police and we went and clean it up. Why don't you sell it and come live with us? We got that house in Clewiston I was telling you about.

SANDRA

When are you guys going to move?

INGRID

We are living there already.

SANDRA

Did you see Ronald's parents at the funeral?

INGRID

Yeah, they were there and I think his brother was there too.

There is a knock on the door and doctor Chan walks in. He has a big smile on his face. He looks at Anthony and Ingrid and shakes his head to both, then he walks over to Sandra.

CHAN

Hello, how are you doing?

SANDRA

Fine.

CHAN

Well, you ought to be, everything came back negative, and your heart is fine, it's as if you never had a bad Heart.

He notices that Sandra does not look happy.

CHAN

You should be smiling; you're going home.

SANDRA

Well, maybe it's because I don't want to go back out there, maybe I don't want to go back out into a world that has only heartaches for me. Maybe it would have been better if I had died.

EXT. JFK HOSPITAL - NIGHT

A nurse pushes the wheelchair with Sandra out to the front; Ingrid walks beside her. Anthony drives up and stops. Ingrid opens the back door for Sandra and she gets in; she closes it and gets into the front beside her husband. The car drives off.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

ANTHONY

Where are we going?

INGRID

We're going to our home, Tony, I don't want to leave her by herself in that house.

SANDRA

I'll be fine.

INGRID
You're coming home with us, I don't
like the way you're talking, you
don't sound like yourself.

SANDRA
I'm fine.

Ingrid turns around and looks sternly at her younger sister.

INGRID
You're going home with us and that's
final.

ANTHONY
(teasingly)
Yes, ma'am.

Ingrid looks at him and folds her arms defiantly in front of
her.

INGRID
You shut up.

ANTHONY
Yes, ma'am.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Anthony gets carefully out of the Hospital and goes onto the
street.

INT. RAHEIM'S HOUSE - DAY

Raheim enters the house; it seems empty. He locks the door and
goes into the family room.

RAHEIM
Koreen.

KOREEN (V.O.)
I'm in the studies.

RAHEIM
Oh, I thought you weren't here.

KOREEN (V.O.)
I'm writing my thesis.

RAHEIM
Okay.

Raheim goes to his room.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Raheim enters; Koreen is there having a cup of coffee; she is seated around the table.

KOREEN
Guess who is interested in you.

Raheim goes into the fridge.

RAHEIM
Who?

KOREEN
Patricia.

Raheim doesn't find what he was looking for. He gets himself a cup, puts some water in it and puts it in the Microwave; he turns it on and goes to sit around the table with Koreen.

RAHEIM
Did you say Patricia?

KOREEN
Yes.

RAHEIM
No.

Koreen smiles.

KOREEN
Yes, she is.

Raheim laughs.

RAHEIM

Patricia looks like a baby.

KOREEN

That's not her fault, Raheim, and you must admit she is an attractive woman.

RAHEIM

She is an attractive woman, yes, but I keep telling you that the moment I see that woman who is for me, I'll know.

KOREEN

Raheim, the woman is not going to drop from the skies into your arms.

RAHEIM

I didn't say she was.

KOREEN

Well, you've got to talk to somebody to find out if you're compatible with that person.

The bell on the microwave goes. Raheim gets up.

RAHEIM

I understand what you're saying, but I tell you when I see that woman, I'll know.

He removes the cup from the microwave and starts to make himself a cup of coffee.

KOREEN

Raheim, there are so many women out there who would do anything to be with you.

RAHEIM

Well it's good to be wanted, but if you're a Christian like I am, you just stay to yourself until the right one comes along.

KOREEN

Raheim, you're thirty-two years of age; you're running out of time.

RAHEIM

Well, as long as I'm doing what God wants me to do, I'm fine.

KOREEN

Well, I guess I'd better stick to my studies and forget about you.

RAHEIM

I'll be praying to see that day when I can walk into your office and see a sign which says "Doctor Koreen Singh, OBGYN."

KOREEN

You'll see it. My only thing is that I don't think there will ever be a day when I can say, "There goes my brother, his wife and his two kids."

RAHEIM

There will be, trust me. Did you drink the last of my wine? I didn't see it in the fridge.

Koreen smiles sheepishly. Raheim goes back to sitting in front of his sister with his finished coffee. His sister looks at him as she sips her coffee.

KOREEN

I didn't know ginger wine was so refreshing, no wonder it's your favorite.

RAHEIM

Don't tell me it's gonna become your favorite too, you need to buy your own.

Koreen becomes serious.

KOREEN

Pastor Raheim, you know what the Bible says about giving over receiving, don't you?

RAHEIM

Yeah, I know, but so do you. Get your own.

Raheim gets up and takes his cup to the sink. He leaves Koreen and goes to his studies.

INT. THE WILSON'S HOUSE - DAY

Mr. And Mrs. Wilson are just returning from field Service; they appear tired. Mr. Wilson sits in the kitchen and places his briefcase on the floor; his wife goes into the refrigerator for a bottle of water and sits around the table, she places her purse on it and opens the bottle; she drinks thirstily.

Mr. Wilson gets up and gets himself one; he sits around the table again; he opens it and drinks as thirstily as his wife had done.

JOYCE

I heard that the lady is out of the Hospital now.

IVAN

What lady?

JOYCE

Ronald's ex.

IVAN

Leave the lady alone.

JOYCE

What do you mean leave the lady alone? She has something that belongs to us.

IVAN

What?

JOYCE

She has a house that our son and her bought.

IVAN

Our son is dead; we don't know what kind of arrangement he and that woman had made, just leave her alone, please.

JOYCE

Ivan, you're a coward, that's what you are, you never stand up for up for your family. What kind of a man are you anyway?

IVAN

I'm pretty fine with who I am.

JOYCE

You can't seriously be proud of who you are, you have no backbone; I've been carrying you since the day I married you.

Ivan stands and picks up his briefcase.

IVAN

Look, woman, I'm tired of arguing with you all the time; do whatever it is you wanna do, I don't care.

He walks away into the bedroom. His wife gets up, picks up her purse and follows after him.

INT. THE WILSON'S HOUSE - BEDROOM

Ivan puts his briefcase on the floor beside the bed; he seats himself on the bed. He clasps his hands over his face as if he is praying. Joyce roughly pulls away his hands.

JOYCE

Don't you ever turn your back on me when I'm talking to you. You were nothing when I married you, don't you ever forget that.

He looks at her, a sad look on his face.

IVAN

How can I when you keep reminding me so much?

Joyce slaps at his face and he catches her hand. He looks sternly into her face.

IVAN

Don't you ever do that, 'cause I swear to God, I'll hit you back.

He pushes away her hand and gets to his feet; he walks out of the room, leaving a shocked wife looking after him.

EXT. HOUSE - PORCH - DAY

Sandra is sitting by herself; she seems lost. She looks out, but it's like she sees nothing. Ingrid comes and sits beside her.

INGRID

Are you okay?

SANDRA

Yeah, I'm all right.

INGRID

Sandra, why don't you sell the house? Too many memories are in that house. And you wouldn't even have to stay with us if you don't want to. You could buy a house here and live, it's close to us so we'd be in close contact all the time. I don't want to see you living in the Acreage by yourself.

SANDRA

I'll think about it.

The phone rings; Ingrid gets up.

INGRID

Excuse me.

She goes into the house.

MOMENTS LATER

She brings the phone out to Sandra; Sandra looks questioningly at her as she accepts it; she covers the mouthpiece. Ingrid sits beside her.

SANDRA

It's Ronald's mom, isn't it?

INGRID

Yes, how did you know?

SANDRA

Just guess. I have a feeling she is calling about the house.

She puts the phone to her ear.

SANDRA

Hello.

JOYCE (V.O.)

Hello, Miss Atkinson, I hope you're doing fine.

SANDRA

I am, thank you.

JOYCE (V.O.)

There is something my husband and I would like to discuss with you.

SANDRA

What is it?

JOYCE (V.O.)

It's about the house.

SANDRA

What about the house?

JOYCE (V.O.)

Well since the house belongs half to you and half to our son, we thought now that he is dead and without any other relative but us, it's only fair that you sell the house and give us his share.

SANDRA

You're not serious, are you?

JOYCE (V.O.)

I'm afraid we are, it's something my husband and I have discussed since you've been out of the hospital and we thought that the moment is right now that we talk to you about it.

SANDRA

I'm sorry, but I don't want to talk about this, for your information, your son didn't pay a cent on this house, I paid everything. Good bye.

Sandra hangs up rudely. She hands the phone to Ingrid.

SANDRA

The nerves of that woman. Ronald used to tell me how terrible she is, but I didn't believe it.

INGRID

What was she saying about the house?

SANDRA

She wants me to sell the house and give her Ronald's share.

INGRID

That woman is something else.

SANDRA

It was my money that I used for the down payment on that house; Ronald didn't have any money to help me when I was buying it.

INGRID

Well you should tell that to her.

SANDRA

I did. Whether she believes it or not is another thing.

INGRID

You wanna go have some lunch?

SANDRA

The argument I had with that woman just took away my appetite.

INGRID

Well, don't worry about her, I'm hungry. There is a restaurant called 'Sonny's', I heard it's good.

SANDRA

Okay.

Ingrid gets up, Sandra gets up too.

INGRID

Come on, I'll get my keys.

They both go into the house.

EXT. SONNY'S RESTAURANT - DAY

The big sign says "SONNY'S" the parking lot is full.

INT. RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Sandra is dressed in a red blouse and jeans pants, Ingrid is in black and also wearing Jeans. Both are led to a table by a waitress, she leaves them with two menu's. The waitress leaves and goes further down where she is attending to Raheim. Raheim is already eating.

WAITRESS

How is it going so far, Pastor Raheim?

Raheim looks at her and shakes his head.

RAHEIM

Good.

His drink looks almost finished.

WAITRESS

Could I get you something more to drink?

RAHEIM

A glass of water would be good, thank you.

WAITRESS

Okay, I'll be back.

The waitress leaves. As if on a cue, Raheim looks up and looks straight into Sandra's eyes. For a few seconds they lock and then Sandra looks down.

SANDRA

Don't look now, but there is a guy behind you and he was looking straight into my eyes just a minute ago.

Ingrid looks over her shoulders.

INGRID

Where is he?

SANDRA

I specifically said don't look now.

Ingrid looks back at her.

INGRID

Is he good looking?

SANDRA

Very.

INGRID

Maybe you should go over and introduce yourself.

SANDRA

No, I'm serious, Ingrid; I'm not going to ruin anybody else's life.

The waitress brings the water for Raheim and places it on the table.

RAHEIM

Don't look now, but there are two ladies behind you, one is in a red blouse and the other is in a black, have you ever seen them before?

WAITRESS

No, this is the first time I'm seeing them.

RAHEIM

Thanks.

WAITRESS

You're welcome. Is there anything else you'd like Pastor Raheim?

RAHEIM

No, thanks, that will be all.

WAITRESS

Okay.

The waitress leaves and attends to Sandra and Ingrid.

WAITRESS

Are you ladies ready to order as yet?

INGRID

We need the dinner for two.

WAITRESS

What kind of side orders would you like?

SANDRA

Coleslaw.

WAITRESS

You get two.

INGRID

Baked beans.

WAITRESS

Okay.

The waitress writes down their orders and takes the menus.

INGRID

Who is that man down there? The Indian looking one?

WAITRESS

Pastor Raheim, he is very famous here in Clewiston.

SANDRA

And very married, I assume?

WAITRESS

No, he is not.

INGRID

Is he gay?

The waitress chuckles forcefully.

WAITRESS

I don't think so.

INGRID

So what is he doing not married?

WAITRESS

Maybe you ought to ask him that
yourself. I'll be back with your
orders.

Sandra looks up sneakingly from beneath her lashes but once
again their eyes meet and she looks down again. She looks at
Ingrid.

SANDRA

Do you mind if we change seating
positions?

INGRID

Why?

SANDRA

You wanna see him, don't you?

INGRID

Not really, I'll see him when I'm
leaving.

SANDRA

For my sake.

INGRID

All right.

They both get up and change positions.

SANDRA

Okay, now I can concentrate.

INGRID

He is looking in our direction, but
his eyes are on you.

SANDRA

Maybe you should call him over and
tell him nicely that I'm jinxed,
I'm cursed, I'm no good.

INGRID

Maybe you can tell him that yourself;
he is coming over.

Raheim comes up to them; he has sheepish smile on his face.

RAHEIM

Hello, ladies.

(he looks at Sandra)

I'm not usually this forward, but somehow I seem to be drawn to you.

Sandra looks boldly at him.

SANDRA

Maybe I remind you of someone you know, but I can assure you I'm not that person.

RAHEIM

No, you don't remind me of anyone, it's just that there seem to be a connection between us.

Sandra laughs.

SANDRA

Sorry for laughing, but I'm definitely the wrong person you're connecting with.

RAHEIM

Why?

SANDRA

It's a long story.

RAHEIM

Anyway, my name is Raheim Singh, what's yours?

SANDRA

I'm Sandra, and this is my sister, Ingrid.

Raheim shakes hands with both.

RAHEIM

I'm a pastor...

SANDRA/INGRID

We know.

RAHEIM

Well, my church is close by and I'd like to invite you to service.

SANDRA

We'll think about it and get back in touch with you.

RAHEIM

I'd really like to see you guys at church.

INGRID

We'll think about it, pastor, seriously.

RAHEIM

Well, it was nice meeting you.

SANDRA

It was our pleasure.

Raheim walks back to where he was seated; the waitress brings the ladies' meals.

INT. RAHEIM'S HOUSE - DAY

Koreen is there when Raheim walks in. She greets him with a smile on her face.

KOREEN

Guess who calls.

RAHEIM

Who?

KOREEN

Sister Mary Stewart; she is married you know, she wanted to know how you were doing.

RAHEIM

Did you tell her?

KOREEN

I told her you are the same Raheim
you have always been, that makes her
know you're not married, neither are
you dating.

RAHEIM

I think I may have met her.

Raheim sits in the kitchen; he seems to be in a thoughtful mood.

KOREEN

Who?

RAHEIM

That girl I have been telling you
about.

KOREEN

You mean the one you're waiting for?

RAHEIM

Yeah.

Koreen smiles mischievously.

KOREEN

Don't tell me she has finally fallen
out of the sky.

RAHEIM

Well, you can say whatever it is you
wanna say, but I've met her.

KOREEN

How do you know it's her?

RAHEIM

I felt drawn to her.

KOREEN

Is she extremely beautiful?

RAHEIM

She is beautiful, but that's not only it, there is something about her that's special, I don't know what it is, but there is something special about her.

INT. THE RICHARDS' HOUSE - DAY

Sandra is watching television. Ingrid comes into the living room.

INGRID

Sandra, you wouldn't happen to have any Aleve pills, would you?

SANDRA

No, it's like I don't feel pain anymore. What's happening?

INGRID

It's my arthritis, it seems to be getting worse and worse everyday.
(she sits beside Sandra.)
Look at my hands.

She holds out her hands, they are swollen. Sandra holds both in her hands and closes her eyes for a while. Ingrid is looking at her hands and notices that the swellings are going down. Sandra opens her eyes and releases her hands. Ingrid is in awe of what she has just seen.

INGRID

How long have you been aware of this?

SANDRA

For a while now.

She flexes her wrists.

INGRID

I'm completely healed, there is no more pain, no more swellings, nothing. You've received a gift, you're a very special person now, sweetheart.

SANDRA

No, you put it whatever way you wanna put it, but I'd give it back to live a normal life like everyone else. I'm not blessed, Ingrid, I'm cursed, cursed to be barren, cursed to be alone for the rest of my life.

INGRID

Honey, some people are made to do God's work and that's it.

SANDRA

They have a choice, they can either do it, or not do it, but why me? I have been given the capacity to love but the person who loves me back has a price to pay for loving me. Why? What have I done to deserve this? Why is this happening to me?

She starts to cry. Ingrid holds her close to her.

INGRID

Honey, there is an explanation for everything that's happening in your life.

SANDRA

I don't want explanations, I want to love and to be loved in return without the one who loves me paying the ultimate price. Is that too much to ask?

INGRID

Honey, it is not too much.

INT. THE WILSON'S HOUSE - DAY

MR. And Mrs. Wilson have just finished having dinner; Ivan is clearing the table; Joyce is still seated round the table.

JOYCE

Ivan, you've gotta step up and be a man and do something about this woman.

IVAN

What do you suggest I do?

JOYCE

Why do I have to keep telling you what to do? You're the man of the house.

Ivan takes the plates to the sink.

IVAN

(under his breath)

Yeah, only when it suits your purpose.

JOYCE

What did you say?

IVAN

Nothing.

JOYCE

Consider this, this woman only knew our son for about two months before she conned him into buying a house.

IVAN

Who said she conned him?

JOYCE

So what did you think she did? She told him not to tell us they were doing it so that when he died, she could say whatever she wants to say without us knowing the truth. She had him killed so she could keep all this money for herself.

Ivan starts to walk towards the bathroom.

JOYCE
Where are you going?

He stops and turns.

IVAN
I'm going to the bathroom, if you
don't mind.

JOYCE
Go ahead, that's all you're good
for.

Ivan goes into the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM

JOYCE (O.S.)
I know that that woman has something
to do with the death of our son, if
I could only prove it.

Ivan is brushing his teeth.

IVAN
(beneath his breath)
No one can please you, not even God,
you were the one praying for his
death, now that he is dead, you're
blaming someone else.

JOYCE (O.S.)
What are you in there mumbling about?

IVAN
Nothing.

JOYCE (O.S.)
Are you going to do something about
this woman, or am I going to have to
do it like I do everything else
around here?

Ivan comes out of the bathroom.

INT. THE WILSON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

IVAN

Woman, I don't know what the hell to do about this situation, if it's left up to me, I'd leave her alone.

JOYCE

How can you say such a thing? We may not need the money, but how can we allow a woman who is no relative of ours to get the legacy of our son's? John and his kids need money, we could give it to them.

IVAN

Well you know what, you get it and give to them, I'm not fooling around with this woman.

JOYCE

Ivan, I knew you were a coward, but you're proving to me everyday that my marrying you was the biggest mistake of my life.

She gets up and goes to her room, slamming her door shut.

EXT - CHURCH - DAY

The service is over; Ingrid is walking to her car.

RAHEIM (O.S.)

Ingrid.

She stops and turns. She smiles when she sees that it's pastor Raheim approaching her.

INGRID

Oh, hi Pastor Raheim, that was a wonderful Sermon.

RAHEIM

Thanks. Sandra didn't come?

INGRID

No.

RAHEIM

Why?

INGRID

Pastor, a couple of months ago,
Sandra's boyfriend was killed in an
accident.

RAHEIM

I'm very sorry to hear that.

INGRID

She herself was in a coma for almost
a month. And before that she had a
boyfriend who was also killed in an
accident. Sandra feels as if she is
cursed.

The look on Raheim's face is enough to show how deeply he feels
for Sandra.

RAHEIM

I'm really sorry to hear that, I
didn't know she is going through
so much.

INGRID

She thinks that God has cursed her;
she doesn't want to come to church.

RAHEIM

Why does she think God has cursed
her?

INGRID

She thinks he is the reason why all
of the men she has ever loved are
dead.

RAHEIM

The Bible said with evil God cannot
be judged, God does not do evil.

INGRID

Well maybe she needs someone to tell that to her.

RAHEIM

There are so many people out there who have been misled because of the things they've heard, and yet they will not seek someone who can explain things to them.

INGRID

She also has the ability to heal.

RAHEIM

She has?

INGRID

Yes, but she doesn't want it.

RAHEIM

Why?

INGRID

Pastor, maybe you can talk to her, then she would be able to explain to you what she is going through.

RAHEIM

Do you think she'll talk to me?

INGRID

I don't see why not.

RAHEIM

Well, talk to her and let me know if she wants to talk.

(Raheim takes a card from his pocket and gives to her)

Here, my number is on that, she can call me if she wants.

INGRID

I'll tell her.

RAHEIM

Thanks. Thanks for coming out. Have a nice day.

Raheim turns and starts to walk away.

INGRID

You too.

Ingrid gets into her car.

INT. THE RICHARDS' HOUSE - LATER

Sandra and Ingrid are in the living room; Sandra seems upset.

SANDRA

I don't want to see him.

INGRID

Sandra, you think that God has cursed you, this man is a Christian, he thinks he might be able to explain things to you.

SANDRA

No, I don't want to see him. Pastor Raheim is a very handsome man, the next thing I'll be falling and then he will be falling, and before you know it he is going to be dead; I don't want that to happen.

INGRID

He knows about your boyfriends and he is not scared.

SANDRA

They never are, until it's too late.

INGRID

What is going to happen, Sandra? Are You just going to spend the rest of your life inside?

SANDRA

If that's what it will take to save another man's life, I will.

INGRID

Maybe you're right. I think he likes you.

SANDRA

I know that's what's going to happen, Ingrid, I know that's what's gonna happen.

INGRID

So you won't be going to any service at all?

Sandra shakes her head sadly.

SANDRA

No, I'll stay here and I won't even go back to my home in the Acreage; I'm going to sell it.

INGRID

Have you spoken to Catherine about it?

SANDRA

Not yet, but I'm going to call her.

INGRID

I don't want you to stay here and be Hidden away from people, Sandra, but at the same time I don't want to encourage you to get involved again; it was because of me why you got involved with Ronald and now he is dead.

SANDRA

I have been thinking of Raheim from the moment I saw him, and I know that once we get to talking, it's not going to stay there; we're going to get intimate and I'm scared, so very, very scared.

INT. THE RICHARDS' HOUSE - LATER - SAME DAY

Sandra is on the phone with Catherine.

SANDRA

Catherine, this is Sandra.

CATHERINE (V.O.)

Sandra Atkinson?

SANDRA

Yes.

CATHERINE (V.O.)

Oh my God, Sandra, I'm so sorry.

SANDRA

Thanks. I'm calling because I want to sell the house.

CATHERINE (V.O.)

You do know that the house is yours now, don't you?

SANDRA

What do you mean?

CATHERINE (V.O.)

I mean that now that he is dead, the house is paid for, the bank doesn't own it anymore, you do.

SANDRA

I wasn't aware of that.

CATHERINE (V.O.)

Well, that's the way it goes.

SANDRA

I'm going to sell it; I'm not going back there to live; there are going to be too many memories in that house.

CATHERINE (V.O.)

I'm sorry, you were the cutest couple I've seen in a while.

SANDRA

Thanks. I'm leaving everything up to you, let me know what happen.

CATHERINE (V.O.)

Okay. Is this the number I can reach you?

SANDRA

Yes.

CATHERINE (V.O.)

Okay, I'll put it on the market right away, I'm sure there won't be a problem in selling it.

SANDRA

Okay, I'll talk to you later.

CATHERINE (V.O.)

Sure, 'bye.

Catherine hangs up. Sandra hangs up and looks at Ingrid.

SANDRA

Well, that is done. She said the house is paid for.

INGRID

How come?

SANDRA

I didn't even go into details, but she said something about when two people buy a house and one dies the other becomes the owner. If I could give up the house and everything to get back Ronald, I would.

INT. THE WILSON'S HOUSE - DAY

Joyce is lying in bed; Ivan is serving her her meal.

JOYCE

I think it's only right we get back something from that woman.

Ivan gives her the food and starts to walk out of the room.

JOYCE

Don't you think so?

IVAN

Whatever you say.

He goes through the door.

JOYCE

Why can't you agree with me for once?

IVAN (O.S.)

I don't know what you want me to do.

JOYCE

You do know, you just don't care. We foot the bills for his funeral, the least she can do is give us back some money for something she did.

Ivan brings in her drink.

IVAN

You know, I distinctively heard you said you'd prefer to see him dead than to see him living a life of sin.

JOYCE

Well, I didn't mean it literally.

IVAN

Well someone heard you and granted your wish. I don't know who it was, but I'm sure it's not God, and I don't think the woman he was with had anything to do with it either.

JOYCE

So what are you saying?

IVAN

I'm saying if you're going after that woman for any form of compensation, you're on your own.

Ivan walks out of the room.

JOYCE

You know, I knew you were a loser from the day I marry you, not one day have you ever stood up for your family.

Ivan pushes his head into the room.

IVAN

I wasn't the one who caused our daughter to walk out on us.

She throws the can of drink he had given to her at him; Ivan moves his head out of the way and closes the door.

INT. RAHEIM'S HOUSE - DAY

Raheim walks in; the house appears empty. He goes to check the answering service. There is no message there. He seems sad. He picks up the phone and dials a number. Ingrid answers.

INGRID (V.O.)

Hello.

RAHEIM

Hi, Ingrid, may I speak to Sandra?

INGRID (V.O.)

Raheim, I don't know what to say, she is just not in the mood to talk to anyone, some times I'm scared of the way she talks.

RAHEIM

What is she saying?

INGRID (V.O.)

She is convinced she is cursed, so she is not going to talk to any man, because she figures this is the only way she can save his life.

RAHEIM

So tell her it's me, maybe she'll look at things differently.

Ingrid chuckles forcefully

INGRID (V.O.)

Raheim, I'm sorry, she doesn't want to talk, to you especially.

Raheim seems disturbed.

RAHEIM

Why?

INGRID (V.O.)

I was going to say it's nothing personal, but I'd be lying if I say so.

RAHEIM

What's going on?

INGRID (V.O.)

Be truthful with me.

RAHEIM

I try to be as truthful as I possibly can be, God loves the truth.

INGRID (V.O.)

Do you feel anything for my sister?

RAHEIM

Like what?

INGRID (V.O.)

Okay, some men, the moment they see a woman, he'll say, that's a woman I'd want to be with. Some may wanna marry her, because he feels she is ideal for him, some may just want to go to bed, which one of these are you?

RAHEIM

When I see your sister it's like she is someone I've been waiting for all my life, and I can't seem to get her out of my mind.

INGRID (V.O.)

Even though you know what's her past is like? Even though you may die?

RAHEIM

Sandra is not cursed, she is special, but she doesn't know that.

INGRID (V.O.)

Well maybe you need to talk to her and tell her that.

RAHEIM

But she won't talk to me.

INGRID (V.O.)

Have you got a pen?

RAHEIM

Yes, hold a minute.

Raheim uses his shoulder to hold the phone in place while he extracts a pen from his briefcase, which is on the table, he takes his notepad too.

RAHEIM

Okay, I'm ready.

INGRID (V.O.)

Take this address down. It's 2226 Kentucky way, and that's 'The Ridge' and we're behind Wal-Mart.

RAHEIM

Actually, I live on the other side of you.

INGRID (V.O.)

That's good. Now just drop by one day, she will talk to you if she sees you in person.

RAHEIM

Okay.

INGRID (V.O.)

I really do need someone to talk to her, because she is scaring the hell out of me.

RAHEIM

Okay. Talk to you later.

INGRID

'Bye.

Ingrid hangs up. Raheim hangs up and closes his briefcase; he takes it with him into his room.

EXT. THE RICHARDS' HOUSE - GAZEBO - DAY

SUPER: SIX MONTHS LATER

Sandra is sitting inside the gazebo; it's cool inside. Ingrid brings her a glass of water and sits beside her.

SANDRA

Who was that on the phone?

INGRID

How do you know I was on the phone?

SANDRA

Well you went in for the water and stayed so long.

INGRID

Just a friend.

SANDRA

It was Raheim, wasn't it?

Ingrid looks seriously at her.

INGRID

How do you know it was Raheim?

SANDRA

Just guessing.

INGRID

You're beginning to scare me you know.

SANDRA

Why?

INGRID

Because I can't seem to keep any secret from you.

Sandra looks at her the way a Gypsy would look at someone she is reading.

SANDRA
(in an eerie voice)
I know your deepest secrets.

Ingrid punches her playfully.

INGRID
Stop it.

Sandra laughs.

SANDRA
Was I scaring you?

INGRID
You know you were.

SANDRA
Sorry.

INGRID
You need to talk to somebody, Sandra.

SANDRA
Is that why you gave him our address?

Ingrid comes to her feet quickly and looks strangely at Sandra.

INGRID
How did you know I gave him our
address?

SANDRA
Look, I don't know what is happening
to me; I went into the hospital a
normal person, and I came out a
freak.

Sandra appears very sad. Ingrid sits beside her and embraces her.

INGRID
I'm sorry, sweetheart.

SANDRA

I don't understand what's happening.

INGRID

I don't understand either, honey, I wish I could say I do, but I can't. Maybe that's why you need to talk to Raheim, he is a man of God, maybe he knows.

Sandra shakes her head resolutely.

SANDRA

No, you don't understand, I know I'm going to get intimately involved with Raheim, that's why I don't want to talk to him; I feel something drawing me towards him.

INGRID

What?

SANDRA

I can't explain, I don't know.

INGRID

You remember when you were a child and you used to sing?

SANDRA

Yes.

INGRID

You remember when you sang at that School hall and this man came to you and told you that he wanted you to sing gospel?

SANDRA

Yes.

INGRID

Do you remember what you said to him?

SANDRA

I told him that gospel is too boring.

INGRID

You stopped singing, you had the chance to sing gospel again, but you gave up singing completely instead of singing gospel. Maybe you need to stop running from God, maybe you need to face up to Him and do the things you were supposed to do.

INT. RAHEIM'S HOME - DAY

Raheim is home from work; he is home alone. He is in his bedroom. He gets on his knees beside his bed; he closes his eyes and clasps his hands in front of him and prayed.

RAHEIM

Dear God, I've often prayed that you send someone for me and I've prayed that when that one comes along, you'll let me know. I feel so drawn to this woman. Is this your telling me that this is the woman? If it is, Father, let her be receptive to me when I visit her this evening. I thank you for everything. In Christ's name, amen.

He gets to his feet.

EXT. THE RICHARDS' HOUSE - DAY

Sandra is in the gazebo; she has a small tub with ice, two glasses and a bottle of Ginger wine on a small table. Ingrid comes out of the house and sees what she has.

INGRID

I didn't know you drink Ginger wine.

SANDRA

I didn't, I do now.

INGRID

So who is the other glass for?

SANDRA

Pastor Raheim.

Ingrid looks pleased.

INGRID

Did he call you or did you call him?

SANDRA

I didn't call him and he didn't call me.

INGRID

So how do you know he is coming?

SANDRA

Just have a gut feeling.

INGRID

And your gut feeling is normally right?

SANDRA

Yes.

The doorbell rings. Ingrid looks at Sandra.

INGRID

Do you think that's him?

SANDRA

Go check.

The doorbell rings again. Ingrid starts for the house.

INGRID

I think I'd better go answer it,
before whoever is there damages
the doorbell.

She goes into the house.

INT. THE RICHARDS' HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Ingrid opens the door. Raheim is standing there, he has a bouquet of roses in his hand.

INT./EXT. HOUSE

Ingrid looks at him with a smile.

INGRID

Are those mine?

Raheim smiles.

RAHEIM

Unfortunately, they are not. I brought them to cheer Sandra up. I hope she will see me. I didn't come at a bad time, did I?

INGRID

No, if you hadn't come at this time, my sister would have been disappointed.

Raheim looks perplexed. Ingrid steps aside for him to enter.

INGRID

Come on in.

Raheim enters; Ingrid closes the door behind him and leads the way to the back of the house.

EXT. THE RICHARDS' HOUSE - DAY

She takes him to the gazebo.

INGRID

Well, here is your hostess and she is apparently waiting on you.

RAHEIM

Thank you.

INGRID

You're welcome.

Raheim gives the flowers to Sandra. She smiles.

SANDRA

They're beautiful. How did you know
red was my color?

RAHEIM

I did not, I just bought them, hoping
you'd like them.

SANDRA

Ingrid, could you put these in some
water for me?

INGRID

Sure, they're beautiful.
(she takes them)
I'll leave you guys to yourselves.

She leaves them. Sandra sees that Raheim is still standing.

SANDRA

Oh, I'm sorry, where are my manners?
Have a seat.

Raheim sits; he sees the table with his favorite wine. He takes
up the bottle and looks at it closely. He looks at her.

RAHEIM

This is my favorite wine.

SANDRA

I know.

He puts it back on the table and looks questioningly at her.

SANDRA

You wanna know how I know?

RAHEIM

Yeah.

SANDRA

Things have been happening to me that
I have no explanation for, and it's
been happening since I've been out
of the hospital.

Raheim leans forward, opens the wine, puts ice in both cups and pours wine in. He gives one to her and takes one for himself. They both hold up their glasses.

SANDRA

Here is to a lasting friendship.

They both clink their glasses together.

RAHEIM AND SANDRA

Cheers.

They sip.

RAHEIM

Your sister says that you can heal.

SANDRA

That and other things. Why do I feel as if I'm cursed? And why would a God who is said to be a loving God curse an innocent woman?

RAHEIM

First of all, I don't think you're cursed, and second of all, if you were even cursed, why do you think it's God?

SANDRA

So do you think it's the devil?

RAHEIM

My question is, why do you think you're cursed?

SANDRA

In two years I've seen two boyfriends died because they were with me. One on the eve of our wedding, the other on the eve of his birthday. What do these guys have in common? They were my boyfriends.

RAHEIM

First of all who do you think is the ruler of this world?

SANDRA

Well the Bible says God created the world, I'd imagine He is the ruler.

RAHEIM

The ruler of this world is Satan. Why do you think there is so much evil in the world today?

SANDRA

Because men have turn their backs on God?

RAHEIM

Yeah, that is one reason. But we are living in a world where evil is the order of the day, a world where not even Christians are safe. And the people who are special to God are at risk more than anybody else.

SANDRA

Why?

RAHEIM

Because the enemy has targeted them. People who belong to Satan already belong to him, so he wants the people who God has, and so he will do things to them to make them feel as if God is not with them.

SANDRA

But why does God stand aside and allows that to happen?

RAHEIM

He doesn't. He has given us protection, but some times we turn our backs on the protection He gives us and allows the Devil the control he wants.

SANDRA

So how can you turn your backs on the protection God has given you?

RAHEIM

Well some times we think we can do without God, as a result we don't pray to Him, and we don't ask Him for help, so it's like we don't need Him. We need God; we can't really live without Him.

SANDRA

So are you saying that I'm the one who is responsible for the things that have happened to my boyfriends?

RAHEIM

No, I'm not blaming you. Take Job for example, he was God's chosen, but the Devil wanted to test him and so he took away everything he had and everyone started encouraging him to curse God and die, but Job knew it wasn't God who was doing it, he knew it was Satan.

SANDRA

And so he still kept his faith in God?

RAHEIM

Yes, and look at the reward he received.

SANDRA

So what are you saying to me?

RAHEIM

I'm saying you're special, as a result the devil has targeted you, he wants you to curse God, to believe that it's God why you're losing the ones you love, but it's not. God loves to see people happy.

SANDRA

Are you saying that I may have a chance at being happy?

RAHEIM

I'm saying trust in God, so that that protection He has placed over you can once again be restored.

SANDRA

I've been having dreams, or maybe they are visions, I don't know, but most of the times you're there, it's all about us, that's why I was scared to talk to you.

RAHEIM

The Devil is very strong, but he has no control over us, thank God.

SANDRA

When I was a kid, I used to sing, and I was told that I was very good. After singing at a school concert, I was approached by a man who told me that I had what he considered an anointing voice.

Raheim smiles.

RAHEIM

You were that good, eh?

SANDRA

Yeah, I was told that I was good. He asked me if I would like to sing gospel and I said, "Gospel is too boring."

RAHEIM

Did he give you his number?

SANDRA

Yeah, he gave me his number and said that if I changed my mind, I should call him. I did not, I gave up singing over singing gospel.

RAHEIM

Maybe you were called to do something for God, maybe that could be it, maybe you were called to be a singer. But it's not God that's doing this to you.

SANDRA

I want to live and to love and be happy. As a child, I dreamt of having a family, being forever with the person I love.

RAHEIM

Well, with God all things are possible. It can happen.

Sandra smiles and looks at him.

SANDRA

Who would want to be with me, knowing that the last two people who were in my life met similar fate?

RAHEIM

I would.

SANDRA

I'm scared. I know all about you, I know that you're chosen.

(she looks away)

Why would you wanna be with someone like me?

RAHEIM

Maybe because I believe that you are also chosen, and together we could bring joy into people's lives.

SANDRA

If I don't cause you to die first.

RAHEIM

Sandra, you're not cursed.

SANDRA

I will come to your church on Sunday.

RAHEIM

That's a start.

SANDRA

You're sure you're not scared of me?

RAHEIM

I'm sure, no matter what's happening,
if you put God first in everything,
everything will be fine.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

The sermon is over; everyone is making his or her way to their cars so they can go home. Pastor Raheim stands with Ingrid and Sandra.

INGRID

Your sermon was very good today,
Pastor.

Raheim smiles.

RAHEIM

Thanks.

SANDRA

I like it, but now that the people
know about tithing, how are you
going to support the church?

RAHEIM

These people know about the tithes
a long time ago. I don't ask for
tithes.

SANDRA

I notice you have a box at the front.

RAHEIM

Yeah, if anyone feels like putting some money in, they can, if they don't want to, they don't have to. I teach about God and Christ, and my sermons are free, just like they were when Christ was on earth. Christ used to feed the people both physically and spiritually, it was never the other way around.

Koreen claps as she approaches; causing her brother to turn around.

KOREEN

Well said, pastor Raheim.

Raheim introduces her.

RAHEIM

Sandra, Ingrid, this is my baby sister, Koreen.

Koreen shakes hands with Ingrid first; she smiles.

KOREEN

Don't mind my brother; he keeps forgetting that I'm no longer a baby.

Ingrid smiles.

INGRID

Nice to meet you.

KOREEN

Same here.

She shakes Sandra's hand next, holding it and looking into her eyes.

KOREEN

I thought my brother said that looks didn't matter when it comes to choosing a mate. Well, he sure chose himself a beautiful woman. Sweetheart, be on your guard, this may be a church, but there are many women here who are after my brother, and who have not given up.

Sandra smiles coyly.

SANDRA

Thanks.

She looks at her brother.

KOREEN

Brother, this may begin to sound redundant to you, but your sermon was excellent. Talk to you later.
'Bye.

She waves to the girls as she walks away.

SANDRA

I like her.

INGRID

She is a nice girl.

RAHEIM

Thanks. Well, I'll let you girls go home now. I'll talk to you later, Sandra.

SANDRA

Sure.

RAHEIM

'Bye.

He walks away leaving both girls looking after him.

INGRID

He seems really happy, don't you think?

SANDRA

Yeah, but I'm scared I might be just the one to ruin his happiness.

INT. RAHEIM'S HOUSE - DAY

Koreen is home by herself when Raheim walks into the house with his briefcase in hand. She is in the kitchen. He has a smile on his face.

KOREEN

You're very happy today.

He puts his briefcase on the table and sits around the table in front of her.

RAHEIM

Any reason why I shouldn't be happy? I've got God in my life and I've been given a woman who is both beautiful and special.

KOREEN

Well, you guys are aware that there can't be any hanky panky before marriage now, aren't you?

RAHEIM

Of course we're aware of that.

KOREEN

Well, what are you going to do?

RAHEIM

Well, we're gonna date and we'll go places together.

A mischievous smile comes over Koreen's face.

KOREEN

Hey, I know what; I can be your chaperone.

RAHEIM

We don't need a chaperone.

KOREEN

She is a beautiful woman, Raheim;
you're gonna need a chaperone.

RAHEIM

I won't need a chaperone, I can control
myself.

KOREEN

Come on, Raheim, when you're alone
with her, the first thing that's
gonna happen is that you're gonna
wanna kiss her, and then one thing
is gonna lead to another. Now if
I'm there...

RAHEIM

You're not gonna be there. And I
told you I can control myself.

KOREEN

When was the last time you've been
with a woman?

RAHEIM

None of your business.

KOREEN

Raheim, that's mean.

RAHEIM

I'm sorry, Koreen, but you're
getting too deep in my business.

KOREEN

You're my brother, and I love you,
that's why.

RAHEIM

I know you love me, but, Koreen,
with God's help, I will be able to
take care of myself.

Koreen becomes serious.

KOREEN

You do know about her past, don't you?

RAHEIM

Yeah.

KOREEN

I want you to be careful.

RAHEIM

Koreen, I asked God to let me know when I see the right woman for me, and I know that she is the one because I've never felt this way before for any other woman; I'm drawn to her, it's like a magnetic pull.

KOREEN

Well, God has always been good to you, I don't think He will let you down now.

RAHEIM

Koreen, God doesn't let us down, we are always the ones who are doing the letting down; we let down ourselves when we refuse to follow guidelines He sets for us.

KOREEN

I know.

Raheim gets to his feet.

RAHEIM

Well, I'm gonna get changed.
(he picks up his briefcase)
And go take my lady to dinner.

He walks off to his towards his room.

KOREEN

If you change your mind about a
chaperone, you know where to find me.

Raheim enters his room.

RAHEIM (O.S.)

I won't need one.

INT. WAL - MART - DAY

Ingrid and Sandra are walking and looking at clothes.

SANDRA

Ingrid, what are we doing here?

INGRID

If you're gonna start dating again,
you're gonna need new clothes.

SANDRA

Ingrid, I have clothes, and if I
need more clothes, I can go to Miami
or Fort Myers.

INGRID

We're just looking for casual wears.

SANDRA

Ingrid, I'm okay, if you're gonna
buy groceries, go ahead, but I don't
need any clothes.

INGRID

Well, at least you know where you
can come and get some cheap stuff.

SANDRA

Okay, now I know, can we go?

INGRID

Okay, I'll go pick up some stuff
and then we can go.

SANDRA

Tony is home, I'm sure he is getting impatient for you to come home.

INGRID

It would do him some good if he would go to church once in a while.

SANDRA

He only gets Sundays off, remember?

INGRID

I know. So where are you guys going this evening?

They are walking towards the food section.

SANDRA

I don't know, maybe we'll go for a walk on some beach or something, and maybe the movie.

INGRID

He is a nice man, a very nice man.

SANDRA

I know, makes me feel as if I don't deserve him.

Ingrid looks at her.

INGRID

I didn't say that.

SANDRA

No, but you can't deny you are not scared for him.

Ingrid doesn't answer.

EXT. LAKE-SIDE - DAY

Raheim and Sandra are seated on a bench and looking out onto the lake.

RAHEIM

My sister is afraid we might do something we shouldn't do.

SANDRA

Like what?

RAHEIM

I guess she is thinking of fornication.

SANDRA

Well, you can tell her that I won't get you into something you are not ready for. Do you think she likes me?

RAHEIM

Yeah, if she didn't I would have known; she would have told me, believe me.

SANDRA

I see the respect everyone here has for you.

RAHEIM

If you treat people with respect, you're sure to get respect in return.

SANDRA

Some times it's not only the fact that you treat them with respect, it's also who you are. I think they respect you because they think you're special.

RAHEIM

Well, they are going to respect you too, when they know how special you are.

SANDRA

I'm scared, Raheim.

RAHEIM

Why?

SANDRA

How do you know that being with me won't put your life in jeopardy the way it did the others?

RAHEIM

Look, the devil has been after me too, every time a person becomes a Christian, the devil seems to be more into his or her life more than he was before.

SANDRA

But I'm not yet the kind of Christian I ought to be.

RAHEIM

The thing with you is that you got a head start on a lot of people; you were chosen, maybe before you were even born.

SANDRA

And you think the devil knows that?

RAHEIM

Of course he does, he knows the people God chooses even before they know themselves.

SANDRA

I hope you're right, I do hope you're right.

EXT. PLAZA-PARKING LOT - DAY

Raheim is exiting the Dollar General Store with a can of coke in his hand. He hears his sister's voice on the Radio.

KOREEN (V.O.)

Raheim, where are you?

He takes his telephone out of its clip at his side and answers it.

RAHEIM

I'm just coming out of Dollar General.

KOREEN (V.O.)

Can you get a jug of milk? We don't have any.

RAHEIM

Okay, on my way home. I'm going across to U-Save to pick up something.

KOREEN (V.O.)

Okay, take care, see you later.

RAHEIM

Sure. 'Bye.

He hangs up his phone and replaces it in its clip by his side. He gets into his car and starts the engine. He reverses slowly and carefully out of his parking spot. He straightens and makes his way carefully out. He stops at the stop sign and allows another vehicle to pass.

He moves out again and goes closer to the road; he stops at the stop sign and watches the road. Suddenly a car slams into him from behind and sends his car forward into the road. The driver of the car, who is coming towards him on the road, swerves just in time to avoid hitting him; the driver pushes his head and shouts:

DRIVER

Hey, where did you get your license?
Did you buy it? Jesus Christ, you
almost got yourself killed.

The car continues on. Raheim slams his car into reverse and goes back into the spot where he previously was. THE DRIVER of the car that had hit him seems to be in shock. He is out of his car. He comes up to Raheim.

DRIVER

I'm sorry, I'm so sorry, I don't know what happened; one minute my foot was on the brake, the next thing I know, the car was shooting forward.

Raheim gets out and looks at the damage to the back of his car; it is minimal. The one to the front of the man's Camry is devastating.

DRIVER

I don't know what happen sir, I seriously do not know what happened.

RAHEIM

Don't worry about it, it's okay.

DRIVER

Thank you so much. Are you going to report it?

RAHEIM

If you want me to.

DRIVER

No, please don't report it.

He takes a card form his pocket and gives to Raheim.

DRIVER

Here is my name and phone number, get an estimate of your damage and let me know and I promise I'll pay for it.

RAHEIM

Okay.

DRIVER

Thank you very much.

RAHEIM

You're welcome.

Raheim gets back into his car and makes his way safely across the street once the road is clear.

INT. RAHEIM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Raheim is seated in the kitchen by himself when Koreen walks in.

KOREEN

What happened to your car?

RAHEIM

Where were you?

Koreen sits around the table.

KOREEN

After I spoke with you, Patricia called me, she wanted me to do something for her. What happened to your car?

RAHEIM

Someone ran into my back.

KOREEN

Where?

RAHEIM

Just as I was coming out of the Plaza, beside McDonald's.

KOREEN

You weren't injured, were you?

RAHEIM

No, but I was pushed into the road, I could have been killed. I can't tell this to Sandra.

KOREEN

What if she asks?

RAHEIM

She won't.

KOREEN

Two of her boyfriends died in motor vehicle accidents.

RAHEIM

I know.

KOREEN

Aren't you scared?

RAHEIM

No, she is not responsible for what is happening.

KOREEN

When are you going to get your car fixed?

RAHEIM

Tomorrow, maybe.

KOREEN

Did you get the Driver's name?

RAHEIM

Yeah.

KOREEN

He's gonna pay for the damage, isn't he?

RAHEIM

He told me to get an estimate and he'll pay for the repairs.

Koreen puts her hand on top of Raheim's on the table.

KOREEN

Brother, please be careful.

RAHEIM

With the help of God, everything will be fine.

INT. THE RICHARDS' HOUSE - DAY

Sandra is sitting in the gazebo when Raheim joins her; he gives her a kiss on the cheek.

RAHEIM

How are you?

SANDRA

Fine, and you?

RAHEIM

Oh, I'm fine, very fine. What did you do today?

SANDRA

Nothing, I read the Bible a little.

She is looking strangely at Raheim.

RAHEIM

Why are you looking at me like that?

SANDRA

Aren't you going to tell me?

RAHEIM

What?

SANDRA

About the accident.

RAHEIM

How did you know about the accident?

SANDRA

You don't know whom you're dealing with, Raheim, do you?

RAHEIM

It was nothing; I'm alive, aren't I?

SANDRA

That's not the point, Raheim, you could have been killed, and it would have been all because of me.

RAHEIM

You're not gonna start that again, Sandra, are you?

SANDRA

Why not? Don't you see, Raheim, I'm
cursed and anyone who has the courage
to be with me is gonna die.

RAHEIM

You're not cursed.

SANDRA

Raheim, please, I want you to go.

RAHEIM

Sandra, be reasonable, you had
nothing to do with this.

SANDRA

Please, Raheim, go. If you don't,
I'm going to leave here and I'm not
coming back.

Sandra gets up and walks out of the gazebo.

RAHEIM

Sandra, please, wait.

SANDRA

Go, Raheim, please.

She walks towards the house. At the door she turns.

SANDRA

I love you, Raheim, I don't know why,
I don't know what is happening. The
people of this town love you too, I
don't want to see you die. Please go.

She goes into the house. Ingrid comes out.

INGRID

I'm sorry, Raheim.

Raheim gets to his feet.

RAHEIM

That's okay, when she is in a better mood, I'll call back.

INGRID

Okay.

RAHEIM

I'll see you.

Raheim leaves via the side of the house.

INT. RAHEIM'S HOUSE - DAY

Koreen is having tea in the kitchen when Raheim walks in. she sees the look on his face as he sits in front of her.

KOREEN

She knows?

RAHEIM

Yeah, she knows.

KOREEN

And now she thinks she is responsible?

RAHEIM

What is it with women? How is it that they can always sense when something is wrong?

KOREEN

I think it's called "Women's intuition".

RAHEIM

I know, but with her it's different, but I wish it weren't.

KOREEN

How comes she doesn't know you've been in two accidents already?

RAHEIM

I don't know, maybe she does and is just mad; all she can see is what she thinks is happening to her; she only wants to love and to be loved.

KOREEN

And it looks like it's not going to happen.

RAHEIM

Yeah.

KOREEN

You still think she is the one?

RAHEIM

I know she is the one.

KOREEN

You've convinced yourself that she is the one, now the hard part is convincing her.

RAHEIM

I know. The thing is that she thinks she is cursed by God.

Koreen looks shocked.

KOREEN

Wherever does she get that idea from?

RAHEIM

She thinks she should have been doing God's work and because she has turned her back on Him, that's why He is punishing her.

KOREEN

Have you told her that God does not do evil? The Bible said with evil God cannot be judged.

RAHEIM

I know that and I've told her that,
and she was beginning to believe and
now this.

KOREEN

You're not going to give up on her,
are you?

RAHEIM

No, but if she doesn't want to talk
to me, what am I going to do?

KOREEN

You know what to do, pray about it.

INT. THE RICHARDS' HOUSE - DAY

Ingrid goes into Sandra's room. She is on the bed; her back
against the head of the bed and her feet crossed one over the
other and stretched forward; she has a solemn look on her face.

SANDRA

It's happening again. I thought it
was over, but it's happening again.

Ingrid sits on the bed beside her.

INGRID

He is not blaming you, don't you
see? He knows everything, but he's
not blaming you. And he is still
alive, nothing happened.

SANDRA

He is alive for now, but how long
will he continue to be alive if he
continues to be with me?

INGRID

I don't know, Sandra, I wish I could
tell you that everything is going to
be fine, but I can't.

SANDRA

I know, the sooner I accept the fact that this is the way my life is going to be, the better things will be for me.

INGRID

What do you mean?

SANDRA

I'm not meant to be happy, that's it. As a child I refuse to do something for Him, and now I'm cursed.

(she chuckles forcefully)

Some God of love we have; punishing a woman for refusing to do something for Him when she was a child.

INGRID

Why do you think it's God?

Sandra shakes her head sadly and resolutely.

SANDRA

I don't know what to think anymore, Ingrid, I don't know.

Ingrid embraces her.

INT. RAHEIM'S HOUSE - DAY

Raheim is in the living room when Koreen walks in; he is watching the television; she goes and sits on the couch opposite him; she notices his sad countenance.

KOREEN

You okay?

RAHEIM

Yeah, I'm fine.

KOREEN

She hasn't called, has she?

RAHEIM

No.

KOREEN

I'm sorry, Raheim. Have you called her?

RAHEIM

Yeah, but she doesn't want to talk to me.

KOREEN

It's been over a week now, hasn't it?

RAHEIM

Yeah, a week and two days.

Koreen gets to her feet.

KOREEN

If you guys were meant to be, you'll be together, just pray to God. I'm going to my room.

RAHEIM

Okay.

Koreen leaves.

INT. THE RICHARDS' HOME - DAY

Ingrid and Sandra are in the family room; they are watching television. The cordless phone is between them. It rings; they look at each other. It rings again and Sandra picks it up.

SANDRA

Hi, Catherine.

CATHERINE (V.O.)

Hi, how are you doing?

SANDRA

I'm fine, how are you?

CATHERINE (V.O.)
Fine, and I've got good news. I've
found a buyer for the house.

SANDRA
That's great.

CATHERINE (V.O.)
Do you want to come to my office to
sign the papers or do you want me to
come to where you are?

SANDRA
If you could come where I am, that
would be great.

CATHERINE (V.O.)
Okay, give me the address.

SANDRA
It's 2226 Kentucky way, and that's
'The Ridge" and we're behind Wal-Mart.

CATHERINE (V.O.)
And that's in Clewiston?

SANDRA
Yeah, it is.

CATHERINE (V.O.)
I'll be there tomorrow.

SANDRA
What time?

CATHERINE (V.O.)
Around six.

SANDRA
That will be good.

CATHERINE (V.O.)
Talk to you then.

SANDRA
Sure. 'Bye.

Sandra hangs up and replaces the phone.

INGRID

You know, I was thinking of buying a phone where I could see the callers as they call, but now maybe I don't have to; I have a sister who can do just that for me. Why don't you want to answer Raheim's call?

SANDRA

Ingrid, I know what I'm doing.

INGRID

What you're doing is hurting a man who sincerely loves you.

SANDRA

Ingrid, I'm not going to cause the death of another human being as long as I can help it.

INGRID

Raheim does not think you're cursed.

SANDRA

They say love is blind, Raheim is so much in love that he can't see the real me.

INGRID

Maybe I don't know the real you either.

SANDRA

You'll never understand what's happening to me. You've had one relationship and it's been going on for as long as I can remember, and both of you are still alive. In my case I've had two serious relationships, and what happened to them? They both ended in tragedy. You may not believe it, but I love Raheim, why? I don't know. I just know I do.

INGRID

And so that's the reason why you're not answering his calls?

SANDRA

Yes.

Ingrid gets up and goes towards the kitchen.

INGRID

He does not think you're cursed, and that's what's important.

Ingrid is in the fridge.

SANDRA

Could you get me some water, please?

INGRID

Sure.

Ingrid takes two bottles of water and closes the fridge. The phone rings. She walks with the water to the living room. The phone continues to ring. She sits beside Sandra and gives her the water. The phone continues to ring. Ingrid looks at her while opening her water.

INGRID

Aren't you going to answer that?

SANDRA

It's Raheim.

Ingrid grabs it, stands up and answers it; she puts it on speaker.

INGRID

Hello.

It is Raheim.

RAHEIM (V.O.)

Hello, Ingrid, I finally got you guys or maybe you didn't know it was me?

INGRID

Raheim, I wanna apologize for what's been happening, it's not my fault, it's my sister's.

She gives Sandra a disdainful look.

RAHEIM (V.O.)

Can I talk to her?

Sandra shakes her head.

INGRID

Raheim, she doesn't want to talk, she thinks she is doing you a world of good by not talking to you.

RAHEIM (V.O.)

She is driving me crazy, that's what she is doing.

SANDRA

He is already crazy; I'm not doing it to him.

(softly)

If he is that brave, why doesn't he marry me?

RAHEIM (V.O.)

What did she say?

INGRID

She said you're already crazy and If you're that brave, why don't you marry her?

Sandra has an incredulous look on her face as she looks at Ingrid.

RAHEIM (V.O.)

I will marry her, this very moment if she gives me the chance.

Sandra gets to her feet and rudely takes the phone from Ingrid. She takes it off speaker.

SANDRA

Raheim Singh, are you crazy? You don't even know anything about me.

RAHEIM (V.O.)

I know enough to know that I love you.

SANDRA

I know that I love you too, and that's why I don't want to hurt you. I've never felt this way before. Maybe those other times when I thought I was in love, I was not, but I don't want to hurt you.

RAHEIM (V.O.)

Well, I've never been in love, but I know this is it, and love never hurts anyone.

SANDRA

Well, with me it's different, my love does not hurt, but it's when someone returns it that it becomes dangerous. You're always on my mind, I can't sleep, I can't eat, I can't do nothing, but I wanna preserve your life, I don't want to be selfish; you're special and people need you, and I can't be selfish and jump into a relationship that I know might end in death, your death.

RAHEIM (V.O.)

I'm not afraid, the only thing I'm afraid of is losing you.

SANDRA

Raheim, you're crazy.

RAHEIM (V.O.)

The only thing I'm crazy about is you.

SANDRA

Are you sure you wanna marry me?

RAHEIM (V.O.)

If you want me to do it now, I'll do it. We can go down by the city hall and get a license, and we can be married.

SANDRA

Raheim, I'm scared.

RAHEIM (V.O.)

There is nothing to be afraid of; I think God will be in this relationship and once He is in it, everything will be fine.

SANDRA

You're sure?

RAHEIM (V.O.)

Yes.

SANDRA

Okay, if that is what you want.

RAHEIM (V.O.)

That is what I want, I hope it's what you want too.

Sandra smiles.

SANDRA

Yes, this is what I want too.

RAHEIM

Then we'll do it.

SANDRA

Yes. "Bye.

She hangs up and appears to be in a daze.

SANDRA

He said he is gonna marry me.

Ingrid is happy. She embraces Sandra.

INGRID

That's great.

INT. CITY-HALL - DAY

Sandra, beautifully dressed in an off the shoulder wedding gown is standing beside Raheim who is in a tuxedo. Ingrid and Koreen are beside them. They are in front of PASTOR JUSTIN SMITH, early fifties, African American. He is reading out of a book.

JUSTIN

Dearly beloved, we're gathered here today to join this woman and this man in holy matrimony. If anyone has any just cause why these two should not be married, please say so now, or forever hold your peace.

There is silence. The pastor continues; he looks at Sandra.

JUSTIN

You say you have a vow.

SANDRA

Yes.

She turns to Raheim and holds his hands by his side; she looks deeply into his eyes.

SANDRA

Do you really love me?

RAHEIM

With all my heart.

SANDRA

Then maybe I was thinking specifically of you when I wrote this vow.

RAHEIM

I know you were. And I can't wait to hear it.

INGRID

Me too.

SANDRA

"Today, I give to you my heart
and I thank God for this brand new start
If you should go before I do
I'll pray to God for Him to take me too
May the love we have for each other
Bind our hearts and souls together
May we to each other always be true
In whatever we say and do
I promise to honor and obey you
And I hope that you'll do the same thing
for me too
May God bless this union
And may we forever remain as one.
I love you.

They turn to face the Pastor. Ingrid and Koreen are near to tears, so is the Pastor.

JUSTIN

That was beautiful.
(he looks at Raheim)
Do you agree to what this lady just
said?

RAHEIM

I do. I was going to say something,
but I know when I'm beat, and I'm well
beaten at this moment; I couldn't say
anything that would surpass what she
just said.

JUSTIN

Well said. With the power vested in
me, I now pronounce you man and wife.
You may kiss the bride.

Raheim turns to Sandra and they kiss passionately; it's a kiss that appears as if it would never end.

JUSTIN

Okay guys, you can do that on your honeymoon, we have things to do, like signing the register for example. I have another wedding to take care of.

Raheim and Sandra hold hands as they go into the chamber to sign the register. They sign, and so did Koreen and Ingrid.

MOMENTS LATER

Raheim and Sandra are walking hand in hand towards the exit of the hall; Koreen and Ingrid are following slowly behind them. Raheim looks into her eyes.

RAHEIM

You see, honey, if you only just have faith in God, you'll see that with Him nothing is impossible. And in time you'll come to realize that God does not do evil.

Together they walk out of the hall into a beautiful sunny day.

FADE OUT

THE END

