



F.A.C.E. (Fragile Angel Crushed Emotionally)

Bernard Mersier

BLACK SCREEN:

"A person is only as powerful as the people who fear them."

~Bernard Mersier~

FADE IN:

EXT. STARLIT SKYLINE - NIGHT

The stars are shining bright, meshing perfectly with the lights coming from the buildings on the Detroit riverfront, giving the scenery a glow of beauty.

ALICIA (V.O.)

This is beautiful. In a world of madness, you can always embrace the natural beauty the world offers, releasing the stress in your heart and mind. Now... Some view stars as "Angels" looking down on those in need of their help. The brighter the star means they had a heavy impact while they were inside of a vessel putting forth positivity.

Slowly start moving closer to the stars.

Amongst the beautiful stars, there's one that's slowly dimming in and out.

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

Sadly... Some of the stars arrived back home before they could show they're true potential. But sometimes... Sometimes, the dimmest star gets another chance to finish what they started, so their presence can live on forever because of their impact. This can only happen if the human allows the star to help them, so they won't meet the same demise.

The dim star falls from the sky.

Following the star down to earth, we come to a stop at a corner liquor store in the slums on the Eastside.

Four people are standing around the store talking loudly, drinking and smoking.

Arguing can be heard from inside the store, accompanied by commotion.

Within a few seconds, Ebony, a homeless woman in her late thirties gets shoved out of the door, hitting the concrete.

She lies on her stomach moaning in pain.

The brown-skinned woman with a voluptuous body and long dirty black hair is wearing tattered clothes, a torn up coat and reeks of an odor that would instantly make you vomit.

The people standing around step back.

The store owner comes to the door.

STORE OWNER

Stay outta here, you filthy bum!

She remains on the ground as some food items are flung at her.

STORE OWNER (CONT'D)

And take what you tried to steal! Your filthy hands were all over this stuff, so I know it's no longer stuff I can sell.

Slowly sitting up, she begins placing the items inside of the raggedy pockets on her coat.

With all of the items gathered, she stands up and takes a deep breath, softly sighing.

The people standing around are silent for a few seconds before they start laughing and making fun of her.

Not bothered by the insults or laughter, she turns to face them.

EBONY

Can I get a cigarette from one of you?

RANDOM MAN

Yeah, I got one. What are you willing to do for it?

EBONY

(Scoffs)

Nothing that will lower my situation worse than what it is. I'm homeless,

but I'm still a woman with pride.

She turns her back and begins walking off.

RANDOM MAN

A bum with pride. Now, that's something new.

The four begin laughing.

Ebony ignores them as she continues walking down the street.

She comes to a stop at the corner where a fairly in good condition fourplex apartment rests.

Some of the lights are on inside of the building.

Ebony sighs as she walks towards the building, heading toward the back where the alley is.

In the back, the grass needs to be cut, along with the weeds growing along the building.

A busted car is back there, and dumpster cans.

Ebony approaches the back door of the car, opens it and retrieves a dirty blanket and sleeping bag.

Closing the door, she walks back and places the blanket to the side and then lays the sleeping bag down.

Taking a seat on the sleeping bag, she leans back against the wall and sighs.

One at a time, she pulls her items out and puts them on the bag.

When she's finished, she goes back inside her coat pocket and pulls out a pint of vodka, a pack of cigarettes and a lighter.

Opening the vodka, she takes a nice sip and then places it to the side.

Shaking off the burning sensation, she takes a cigarette from the pack and places it in her mouth.

A window is heard opening.

Ebony prepares to light her cigarette, and that's when a nice amount of women's clothing comes falling down on top of her.

Confused, she moves the clothes to the side, and then places her cigarette back in the pack.

KRIS (O.S.)

Since you think I'm always doing something behind your back, you can get out! I already called you an Uber! It should be here any minute now!

SHALETA (O.S.)

A Uber, really? Why can't you just drop me off at my mother's house?

KRIS (O.S.)

Be more responsible and keep up with the maintenance of your car, and you wouldn't have this problem.

SHALETA (O.S.)

I can't believe you right now.

KRIS (O.S.)

Keep talking and I'll give you something to believe.

SHALETA (O.S.)

Every time I try to have a discussion with you and things don't go your way, the first thing you resort to is putting me out.

KRIS (O.S.)

Because you need me! I don't need you!

SHALETA (O.S.)

Are you serious right now?

KRIS (O.S.)

If you don't get out of my house right now, I'll cancel the Uber and call you an ambulance.

SHALETA (O.S.)

I can't believe---

Something is heard shattering against the wall.

KRIS (O.S.)

Stop running your mouth and get out! The next thing I throw will hit you in the face! Trust me!

Shaleta can be heard crying as a door is heard opening and closing.

KRIS (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I don't know who she thinks she is. It doesn't matter what I do because I'm the man and she needs me. When I decide to let her come back, she better remember that, and stay focused on what she's supposed to do as far as being my woman.

He closes the window.

Ebony shakes her head as she stands up and makes her way to the front of the building.

Standing in front of the building wearing some tight blue jeans and a T-shirt is Shaleta, early twenties.

The petite, beautiful light-skinned woman has long black hair, holding an overnight bag.

Sorrow is spilling from her light brown eyes, doing her best to stop crying.

Ebony comes up and stands back to the side, staring at her.

Shaleta looks around and notices Ebony staring at her.

SHALETA

Can I help you?

EBONY

I'm sure if you allowed me I could.

SHALETA

(Scoffs)

No offense. But---

EBONY

It's already offensive, but continue.

SHALETA

Anyway, no offense, but what can a homeless woman possibly teach me?

EBONY

That anybody can be homeless at any moment, but losing your self respect as a woman, and regaining it can take

a long time. That's even if you can reclaim it.

SHALETA

Excuse me? What do you think you know about me?

EBONY

Everything you're showing and telling me right now. All of the signs of a woman slowly losing self respect, but she doesn't think she is because she has a man who she thinks loves her, knowing he doesn't. Sounds about right?

SHALETA

Says the woman in the position she's in.

EBONY

And she's trying to help a woman so she doesn't end up in my position or worse. Don't let my appearance and lifestyle fool you. There's knowledge underneath this filth.

A car pulls up and comes to a stop.

Shaleta walks to the back seat, opens the door and then looks at Ebony.

SHALETA

Maybe you should use some of that knowledge to get yourself back on your feet. Have a good---

(Clicks her tongue)

You can't have a good night, look at you. Do whatever it is you do for the night, and enjoy.

Shaleta gets inside of the car and it pulls off.

Ebony looks on, shaking her head before walking to the back of the building.

INT. DESIGNER STORE - MORNING

There's a few people moving around the store as indistinct talking can be heard, along with soothing music playing softly over the speaker.

Shaleta is wearing a button up and black slacks, with her hair pulled up in a ponytail, moving around the store to see what needs restocking.

She pauses on a rack of elegant dresses.

She forces herself to form a slight smile, gently touching the black dress.

You can tell by her expression, she wishes she could wear the dress and go out for a fun night on the town with Kris, but she knows deep down inside, it will never happen.

MY'SEAN (O.S.)

Excuse me, can you help me with something?

Softly sighing, Shaleta turns around.

When she realizes who's in front of her, her eyes get wide, and a rogue of blush tints her cheeks.

My'sean is a slender lightish-brown-skinned male in his early twenties.

He has a thin goatee, light brown eyes, medium length strawberry blonde cornrows and a small beauty mole on his left cheek.

Wearing something casual, he's staring at Shaleta with the brightest smile.

SHALETA

Oh, my God. Look at you.

MY'SEAN

(Soft laugh)

I figured it was you. A woman with a specific beauty such as yours can never be mistaken.

SHALETA

(Shy laugh)

Boy, stop it.

MY'SEAN

I'm serious. But aside from that, how have you been?

SHALETA

I'm still the same girl you always

flirted with in high school. Nothing much has changed.

The smile on his face slowly vanishes, turning into a look of disappointment.

MY'SEAN

I guess that means---

SHALETA

(Somber tone)

Yeah, I'm still with him.

MY'SEAN

I apologize. It wasn't my place to ask about your personal life.

SHALETA

No, it's fine. No harm done.

MY'SEAN

I beg to differ. Anyway, it's nice seeing you after all this time.

He turns prepared to walk away.

SHALETA

Wait a minute. How have you been? As handsome as you are, I know some lucky woman cuddles with you every night.

He turns around with a dry smile.

MY'SEAN

I work full-time at the Italian restaurant Downtown a couple of spots down from the bakery. I'm a cook.

SHALETA

Ooo, a chef. Maybe you can cook me something one day.

MY'SEAN

(Soft laugh)

When my skills improve, I'll do it. Aside from that, I've been in and out of relationships. Nothing truly based on love. Well, at least on my part there wasn't any love involved.

SHALETA

And why is that?

MY'SEAN

Like I told you in high school. Love comes and goes. Being in love with someone you know will complete you only comes around once. Why ruin that moment with someone you know won't fulfill their end of the deal?

SHALETA

So... Why were you bothered with women you knew wouldn't put forth their share?

MY'SEAN

I could ask you the same question, but because I still love...

He catches himself, and covers his mouth.

Shaleta is staring at him with googly eyes.

MY'SEAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I was about to rekindle feelings that shouldn't be there. Maybe I'll see you around.

SHALETA

You know you can give me your number?

MY'SEAN

I could. But if he's still the same, there's no...

(Low laugh)

It's good seeing you again, "North star." If it's meant to be, I'll see you again.

SHALETA

(Bashful laugh)

You still call me that after all of these years. Why?

MY'SEAN

If you know the meaning behind the North star, you know the answer.

He turns and walks off.

Shaleta stands blushing, thinking about if she could go back and date him.

Her phone goes off.

Pulling her phone from her pocket, the moment of joy she was embracing vanishes, looking at a text message from Kris.

INSERT PHONE SCREEN

Did you get your mind right, and realize what your position is in this relationship?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. THE PIZZERIA - CONTINUOUS

Loud talking can be heard from the workers preparing pizza's, taking orders and various other tasks going on in the kitchen.

Kris is standing up against the wall wearing an all black button up and matching slacks.

Arrogance outlines the dark-skinned chubby male, with a low fade, stubble for a goatee, short in height and is in his early twenties.

Placing his phone back in his pocket, he sucks his teeth before he starts moving around the work area.

He doesn't care about the work ethic because he knows he has the ability to fire whoever he wants.

Moving towards the front counter, while the workers take orders, he spots a woman in line he finds attractive.

A few of the customers move out of the line, and just when the woman Kris finds attractive comes up to the register, Kris tells the worker he'll take the register.

Woman #1 steps up, and Kris steps behind the register with a smile.

KRIS

How can I help you today?

WOMAN #1

I'd like two deep dish specials.

KRIS
That's all?

WOMAN #1
That's what I said.

KRIS
You don't have to respond that way, my baby. I'm just making sure you're satisfied with our service today, and you get everything you want to your satisfaction.

She looks at him with a seductive glance.

WOMAN #1
You want me to be satisfied with the service?

KRIS
That's what I said.

WOMAN #1
Then my order should be free.

KRIS
Only if you appreciate it, and know why I'm doing it, aside from what you're thinking.

WOMAN #1
Hm. I can roll with what you're saying.

KRIS
So, again. Does this complete your order?

WOMAN #1
(Soft snicker)
You can add extras if you plan on spending extra time with me later tonight.

KRIS
Your order will be out before you know it. I'll make sure when it comes out, you'll have a way to contact me. Cool with you?

WOMAN #1

As long as everything is good.

KRIS

I'm about to have them start on it now.

Kris winks at her before walking off.

EXT. THE APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Ebony wakes up on top of the sleeping bag.

She stretches while looking around.

EBONY

Another day in heaven.

She gets up and walks to the car, opening the back door.

Reaching inside for a hot second, she pulls out a big black plastic bag.

EBONY (CONT'D)

Time to round up enough cans for dinner and a drink.

Going back to the sleeping bag, she places the bag to the side, and then picks up her blanket and sleeping bag, placing them inside the car.

Closing the door, she makes her way to the front of the apartment.

Kris pulls up in his car and comes to a stop.

Kris and Shaleta get out.

Ebony stands to the side staring at them.

Kris looks over at her and cocks his head to the side.

KRIS

What do you want?

EBONY

Nothing from you. Although, there is something I would love to give her that I know would change her life.

KRIS
(Scoffs)
What could that possibly be "Street trash?"

EBONY
Street trash?
(Laughs)
That's a new one. What makes me street trash?

KRIS
Look at you. Not to mention you live behind our building. Need I say more?

Ebony Smirks, trying to hold back from laughing.

EBONY
If that's what you're basing it on, the only difference is you have a roof over your head.

KRIS
(Laughs)
I'm not about to entertain this.

Kris goes inside the apartment.

Shaleta prepares to follow, and Ebony releases a soft snicker.

Shaleta focuses on her.

SHALETA
Is there something you find funny?

EBONY
Yeah. You

SHALETA
And what's so funny about me?

EBONY
You're a stand up woman with some sass to any and everybody, except towards the person you need to stand up to. So, that makes you funny.

Shaleta folds her arms across her chest.

SHALETA

By you saying that, I'm guessing
you're talking about my man.

EBONY

If that's what you call him.

SHALETA

(Clicks tongue)

I'll let that slide. Now, what makes
you think I don't stand up to him?

EBONY

Baby girl, I'm sure everybody in this
building knows you don't. But if
that's not enough, I sleep outside of
your window. Need I say more?

Shaleta sighs, lowering her head before looking back up at
Ebony.

SHALETA

...What do you want?

EBONY

Nobody can give me what I want. But...

She goes inside her coat and pulls out an old diary.

A look of sorrow is in her eyes, staring at the diary for a
few seconds before looking at Shaleta.

EBONY (CONT'D)

There's still hope for you.

Ebony walks toward her and extends the book.

Shaleta looks at it leery.

SHALETA

What is this?

EBONY

Hopefully, something that will help
you realize things need to change
before it's too late.

SHALETA

(Scoffs)

You want me to read your old memories,
thinking---

EBONY

Either you will or you won't. It'd be a shame if you end up being "Street trash" as your boyfriend calls me.

She places the diary on the ground, pats Shaleta on the shoulder, and then walks off.

Shaleta watches her walk off before looking down at the diary.

Bending down, she picks up the diary.

Tapping the back of the diary against her palm, she sighs, walking into the apartment.

Going up the stairs, she walks down the hall to the last door on the right, and stops.

She sighs, placing the diary in her purse before walking into the apartment.

The inside of the apartment is a pigsty.

Clothes are all over the floor and sofa.

Shaleta sighs, walking over to the sofa placing her purse down.

She prepares to sit down, and that's when Kris comes into the room looking spiffy, smiling ear to ear.

A rouge of blush comes on her face.

SHALETA

Well, ain't you the finest man on the Eastside of Detroit.

He looks at her and winks.

KRIS

As long as you know.

SHALETA

Oh, I know. So...

She blushes walking towards him.

SHALETA (CONT'D)

Where are we going?

He looks at her confused.

KRIS

Huh?

Shaleta takes a step back, looking at him confused.

SHALETA

What do you mean, huh?

KRIS

Um... I'm about to go out with the
fellas and watch the game. You...

(Laughs)

We we're just arguing yesterday, and
you think I'm about to take you out
somewhere?

Shaleta folds her arms across her chest staring at him.

SHALETA

And you really believe I think you're
about to go out with your boys dressed
like that?

KRIS

(Sighs)

See. This is what got you in trouble
yesterday.

SHALETA

Got me in trouble?

KRIS

You heard what I said.

SHALETA

Who do you think---

He steps up to her and places a finger on her lips.

KRIS

Let's not ruin a good day. I'm about
to go out and have a few drinks with
my friends. If you plan on staying..

He looks around the room.

KRIS (CONT'D)

You know what you have to do, and have
it done before I get back.

He gives her a kiss on the cheek, and then walks away.

Only a few steps away, he pauses and then turns back around.

KRIS (CONT'D)

I only turned around because I can sense you're about to talk, so before you get some words formed together in your mind, don't. That's unless you want this relationship to end on a bumpy note.

He turns around and stands there for a few seconds to see if she'll respond.

Satisfied with the result he was expecting, he releases a soft chuckle as he walks out of the apartment.

Shaleta stands silent with shame and tears in her eyes.

INT. KRIS APARTMENT - NIGHT

Shaleta is standing in the bedroom looking out the window.

The same look of shame dwells in her eyes.

SHALETA POV

Ebony returns holding a store carry out bag.

She does her usual routine.

Shaleta slowly nods her head, thinking about what Ebony said.

She leaves the room.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. THE ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Sitting back against the wall, Ebony goes inside the bag and pulls out a sub, juice and a pint of vodka.

She prepares to open the sub, and she hears footsteps.

Looking around the area unbothered, she sees Shaleta come around the corner.

Ebony scoffs, and focuses back on her sub.

SHALETA
Is that dinner for the night?

Ebony places the sub down.

EBONY
Everyday is a feast as long as you get
to eat.

SHALETA
Understandable. But, how about we go
to the coney up the street and get you
some real food?

Ebony turns to look at her.

EBONY
And why would you wanna do that? I
don't think your man would appreciate
you feeding street trash.

SHALETA
...He's not my man.

EBONY
Since when?

SHALETA
Since what you told me earlier made me
realize you were right about what you
were saying.

EBONY
What's the catch? We go down there and
then you try to embarrass me.

SHALETA
No catch. I just...

EBONY
You just what?

SHALETA
I need someone I can talk to right
now, other than my family because I
know they'll judge me.

Ebony looks at her.

EBONY
I'll do this so you can vent, and you

can understand why I've been trying to communicate with you. The food is the least of my worries.

SHALETA

(Shy laugh)

I know. You're a strong woman with pride who can stand her own ground.

EBONY

(Shy laugh)

You got that right.

She puts her items back in the bag before grabbing the blanket and sleeping bag, placing it back in the car.

She picks up her bag and then walks over to Shaleta.

Shaleta looks at her with a slight smirk.

EBONY (CONT'D)

What?

SHALETA

I know you're not worried about the food, but do you think you'll want that after we get some hot food?

EBONY

Nothing wrong with a little snack and a drink after a meal. Besides, I didn't get this lovely shape from not eating.

SHALETA

(Laughs)

Let's go.

EBONY

(Laughs)

You know I ain't lying.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. THE BAR - NIGHT

Mellow music circulates through the partially dim room where people are socializing on the dance floor.

Other people are sitting at tables and the bar having drinks while conversing.

My'sean comes into the bar wearing something casual with his hair pressed.

Woman #2 is standing beside him.

She's an attractive brown-skinned woman wearing something fitted.

The two take a seat at an empty table.

She's enjoying herself and the atmosphere.

Meanwhile, My'sean is busy thinking about Shaleta.

WOMAN #2

This is a cool place. I've never been here before.

MY'SEAN

Yeah, it's okay. I like coming here because it's laid back.

WOMAN #2

What's wrong? You seem dry.

MY'SEAN

I'm good. Just thinking about something, that's all.

WOMAN #2

(Seductive tone)

Could you possibly be thinking about what we're doing after we leave?

MY'SEAN

(Dry laugh)

Maybe after a few drinks I'll be thinking about that.

WOMAN #2

Okay, seriously. What's going on with you? I've never seen you this caught up in your thoughts or whatever. You don't like being with no more?

My'sean wipes his face down, and reveals a slight smile as he reaches across the table to hold her hands.

MY'SEAN

I love being with you, you know that. You're right. Let me stop thinking

about it because I'm being rude.

WOMAN #2

We can talk about it if you want.

MY'SEAN

Nah, I'll pass. Talking about it will lead to an argument, and I'm already putting a damper on the mood.

WOMAN #2

When has there been a time you couldn't talk to me about anything?

MY'SEAN

I understand that. But...

(Low sigh)

When a man wants to talk to his female friend about another female, it instantly---

She snatches her hands away, looking at him with anger in her eyes.

WOMAN #2

What female are you thinking about and I'm with you?

MY'SEAN

(Sighs)

See. That's why I said---

WOMAN #2

I'm sorry. gon' head and---

MY'SEAN

It's all good. Let's just focus on what we're about to drink and have a good time.

WOMAN #2

No, I was wrong for coming off the way I did. You love being with me, but right now, some female has you thinking about something that you need to get off your chest. So, tell me.

MY'SEAN

Nah, I'm not falling for that. I can tell you the story and you'll pretend to listen, but in the back of your

mind, you really don't care because it's not about you.

WOMAN #2

No, I'm serious. It's bothering you, so it's bothering me. I swear I won't brush it off as nothing.

MY'SEAN

(Deep sigh)

Uh huh. Well, yesterday, I ran across an old friend from high school. Everything was going good until she told me---

My'sean cuts his words short when he sees Kris walk by their table with Woman #1.

The two make their way to the bar, and Kris pulls her stool out so she can take a seat before taking his.

Anger outlines My'sean eyes, keeping them locked on the couple, while Woman #2 tries to gain his attention.

WOMAN #2

Hello. Hello, what's wrong with you?

Snapping out of his anger, he focuses back on Woman #2, while looking at Kris and Woman #1 out of the corner of his eye.

MY'SEAN

I'm sorry, I blacked out for a moment. Umm... It doesn't matter about the rest of the story, I'm over it.

WOMAN #2

That quick?

MY'SEAN

Yeah. We're here to---

A female bartender comes over to their table.

FEMALE BARTENDER

What can I get for you guys?

My'sean signals for Woman #2 to put in her order.

WOMAN #2

Can I have a long island and a double shot of Jack Daniels?

FEMALE BARTENDER.

Okay. And for you?

MY'SEAN

I'll have a glass of Remy and a
Corona.

FEMALE BARTENDER

Okay. I'll be back with your drinks.

She walks off.

WOMAN #2

Ooo, a Remy night.

My'sean looks at her and winks.

MY'SEAN

You already know what that means.

She licks her lips provocatively.

WOMAN #2

You know it.

MY'SEAN

Long as we both know.

WOMAN #2

Uh huh. I'm about to go to the
bathroom.

MY'SEAN

I'll be here.

She gets up and gives him a kiss on the cheek before walking
off to the bathroom.

Focusing back on Kris, he notices the two are being touchy
feely.

Anger is building inside of My'sean, but he's doing his best
to keep his composure because he knows it's not his place to
say something to Kris about his actions.

The female bartender comes back and places their drinks down.

My'sean keeps his eyes locked on the couple because deep down
inside, something is telling him he should address the
situation.

Woman #1 gives Kris a kiss before she gets up and walks off to the bathroom.

My'sean picks up his glass and downs it.

Sucking up the smooth taste of the liquor, he gets up and makes his way over to Kris.

Standing to the side of him, you can tell My'sean wants to hit him dead in the mouth.

MY'SEAN

I see you're still the same from high school.

Kris turns and looks at him confused.

KRIS

What?

MY'SEAN

You heard what I said.

KRIS

I don't know who you are, but you can---

MY'SEAN

You know who I am, scumbag.

Kris picks up his drink and takes a sip, laughing under his breath.

KRIS

Because I'm having a good night, I'll let that slide. But if you call me out of my name again, I won't be responsible for---

MY'SEAN

I don't understand why she's still with you. I don't understand what she saw in you in the first place.

Kris goes to take another sip, and then he puts the glass down, now realizing who My'sean is.

KRIS

Oh, it's you.

(Laughs)

You still have an obsession with my

property, I see.

MY'SEAN

That's sad you label her that.

KRIS

Because that's what she is, and how she likes to be treated. That's why you never had a shot with her. You're too soft. Then again.

(Laughs)

I mean look at you. That says it all.

MY'SEAN

If I was the type of man to---

Woman #2 comes over to him and wraps her arm around his waist.

WOMAN #2

Hey baby, who is this?

KRIS

Somebody he better leave alone before things get ugly.

MY'SEAN

In your case it's too late for that.

Kris prepares to stand up and Woman #2 pulls My'sean back.

WOMAN #2

That's not why we're here. Come on, let's go back to our table and drink.

KRIS

You better listen to her. She's not as fine as my woman, but you're better off settling with that because you're not getting mine.

Woman #2 is offended, but she ignores it, trying to get My'sean back to the table with her.

Woman #1 comes back, and walks by My'sean and Woman #2, looking at them confused before focusing on Kris.

WOMAN #1

What was that all about?

KRIS

Nothing. Somebody needs to keep their feelings in high school, and realize he can never have what I have because he's not that guy.

Fed up, My'sean snatches away from Woman #2 and storms back to Kris, greeting him with a punch to the mouth, followed by grabbing him by the back of the head, slamming his head on the counter.

Everyone stops what they're doing, focusing on the two brawling.

Bouncers are trying to get through the crowd to break the two apart.

CUT TO:

INT. KRIS APARTMENT - LATER

Shaleta and Ebony come into the apartment.

Ebony looks around at how filthy the place is.

EBONY

And I thought living on the streets was bad.

SHALETA

(Laughs)

Yeah, I need to clean up.

EBONY

Why do you need to clean up? This is his place.

SHALETA

Yeah, but I do live here, too.

EBONY

And why is that?

SHALETA

What do you mean?

Ebony walks over to the couch and moves the clothes onto the floor before taking a seat.

EBONY

Exactly what I said. Why do you live

here with this slob?

Shaleta lowers her head, sighing.

SHALETA

...I wonder the same thing sometimes. I guess it's because I love being on my own.

EBONY

You can be on your own without this luggage you call a man.

SHALETA

I understand where you're coming from, but you don't understand.

EBONY

Help me to understand.

SHALETA

(Sighs)

It's just... Let me go get some clothes for you, and then I'll come back and talk about it.

EBONY

The clothes can wait. Shaleta, don't you think it's best to get a peace of mind first?

SHALETA

...Yeah.

EBONY

Okay then.

SHALETA

Ebony, just let me get the clothes first. I promise we'll talk.

EBONY

Okay.

Shaleta walks off to the back.

Ebony looks around the room disgusted, trying to wrap her mind around why Shaleta is dealing with Kris.

Loud drunk footsteps are heard coming down the hall.

Ebony looks at the door unbothered.

The door flies open, and Kris walks in furious.

His face is bloody, and his clothes are torn.

KRIS

Where are you?!

He's so furious, he doesn't notice Ebony sitting on the couch as he makes his way to the bedroom.

Ebony remains unbothered until she hears Shaleta shriek.

KRIS (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Look at me! This is all your fault,
you know that?!

SHALETA (O.S.)

What are you talking about?

KRIS (O.S.)

Your high school crush who still has a
crush on you! That's what I'm talking
about! You're always accusing me of
cheating, so what are you doing that
has my face looking like this?!

SHALETA

I haven't talked to---

KRIS (O.S.)

Shut up! You know what I'm about to
do?!

A brief scuffle is heard before Shaleta comes running from the back with Kris right behind her.

Ebony gets up from the couch and rushes over to Shaleta, standing in front of her.

Kris has a look of confusion on his face,

KRIS (CONT'D)

What the hell are you doing in my
house?

EBONY

Thank God I'm here. It looks like
you're ready to do what every coward
who calls themselves a man was about

to do.

KRIS

Why do you have this street trash in my house?!

EBONY

Don't you worry about her right now because I'm the one that's in your face. She's scared of you for whatever reason, but I'm not. And I'm not about to let you lay a finger on her.

KRIS

Listen, you bum. You're sticking your nose in something that can land you a position far worse than what you're already in. Now, we can---

EBONY

We're not doing anything. And there's nothing you can do to me that I haven't been through already that can land me in a position worse than what I am. What's about to happen is me and Shaleta are leaving you in this dump like the bum you are because you truly define every aspect of a bum.

KRIS

(Laughs)

Okay, I get it. She probably gave you a couple of dollars, something to eat and some of her old clothes. That's why you're standing up for her, but you truly don't care because bums will do anything to get a handout. So look.

He pulls out his wallet, opens it, and pulls some money out.

KRIS (CONT'D)

Here's a few dollars so you can get you some food. A room for that night, and actually take a bath. Doesn't that sound better than sleeping on a sleeping bag in the alley, and smelling the way you do?

He extends her the money.

Ebony looks at it with a slight smile.

EBONY

You know something? A hot bath, food and a bed would really come in handy right now. And If I take this, you want me to leave so you two can discuss your personal issues, right?

KRIS

That's right, street trash. Either that, or suffer what I'm going to do to her.

EBONY

You know...

She smiles at him before she hauls off and slaps.

Shaleta looks at her shocked.

EBONY (CONT'D)

I think I wanna see what you think you're about to do to her.

Before he can retaliate, she kicks him hard and deep between the legs, holding her leg there for a second as he bends forward moaning in pain.

She lowers her leg and he drops to the floor, balling up in the fetal position, moaning in pain.

EBONY (CONT'D)

I don't know what she's used to allowing you to do to her, but that's not happening on my watch. And your few measly dollars means nothing to a woman with pride, and knows she's worth more than money.

She looks back at Shaleta.

EBONY (CONT'D)

Let's go.

Ebony makes her way to the door.

Shaleta is still shocked, looking at Kris moaning in pain.

Ebony looks back at Shaleta.

EBONY (CONT'D)

Are you about to continue being his

personal property, or do you realize
you're a woman who deserves better?
The choice is yours.

Ebony walks out.

Shaleta is stunned by the event that happens.

Coming from her daze, she makes her way towards the door.

KRIS

If you walk outta that door, you'll be
no better than her. Trash. Worthless.
Without me, what would you be?

Shaleta pauses at the door, and then turns around to look at
him.

SHALETA

In a better position that I knew I
could've been in without you.

KRIS

You're stupid, you know that?! You're
stupid, and you'll end up just like
your street trash friend!

Shaleta looks at him, shaking her head.

SHALETA

If it comes to that point, I'll be
content with the outcome, until I get
back on my feet. You made me believe
without you, there's no me, and I was
stupid to believe it. My eyes are
open, and as I look at the woman I
was, the woman I am now knows better.

Shaleta walks out of the door.

KRIS

Stupid! You're nothing without me, and
you know it!

CUT TO:

INT, MOTEL ROOM - LATER

The room isn't too shabby with two beds.

Shaleta comes in and Ebony is right behind her.

Shaleta takes a seat on the bed and covers her face, sniffing low.

After locking the door, Ebony takes a seat on the other bed across from her.

EBONY

Why are you crying?

Slowly lowering her hands, Shaleta looks at her and sighs, shaking her head.

SHALETA

Because I'm stupid.

EBONY

That's a harsh word.

SHALETA

And it fits perfectly with who I am.

EBONY

I wouldn't say that.

SHALETA

Well, thank you for sparing my feelings. Although, I know that's what you're thinking.

EBONY

If that's what I'm thinking, why wouldn't I tell you? What do I have to lose?

SHALETA

(Soft laugh)

You make a point. Thank you for helping me back there.

EBONY

Oh, I can't accept that.

SHALETA

Huh? Why not?

EBONY

Because I'm only helping you see how situations should play out. The true help is you helping yourself with what I'm showing and telling you.

SHALETA

If only it could be that simple.

EBONY

Why can't it be?

SHALETA

(Sighs)

You see what he puts me through.

EBONY

No, I see what you allow him to put you through.

Shaleta closes her eyes, shaking her head in shame.

EBONY (CONT'D)

Right. So... Why do you allow him to do it? And please don't say it's because of love.

SHALETA

How can I exclude the reason why?

EBONY

If that's the reason why you allow him to do it, fine. You remind me of my best friend.

SHALETA

How?

EBONY

She was going through the same thing as you.

SHALETA

How did she solve the problem?

EBONY

He solved it for her when he killed her.

Shaleta covers her mouth, shocked.

SHALETA

Oh my God. I'm so sorry.

EBONY

Don't feel sorry. I have enough of that to share between us.

SHALETA

Why do you say that?

EBONY

If I had stood up for her like I'm doing for you, she would probably still be alive.

SHALETA

What stopped you?

EBONY

I just gave up on her because she has the same attitude as you.

Shaleta lowers her head.

SHALETA

...Oh.

EBONY

Her death hurt me so bad, I lost track of who I was. I ended up going down the same path she was on.

SHALETA

What happened in your situation?

EBONY

I decided I'd rather get things done on my own and keep my pride, instead of having a person treating me like trash, possibly killing me, and easily replacing me as if I didn't exist.

SHALETA

...Good point.

EBONY

On a happy note. Who beat your boyfriend up and had him ready to fight you?

SHALETA

(Laughs)

You said boyfriend. That's cute.

EBONY

(Laughs)

Well, it's true.

SHALETA

(Laughs)

Anyway, the guy he got into a fight with is My'sean. He's my good friend from high school.

EBONY

Why do you think they were fighting?

SHALETA

They didn't like each other in high school. As you heard, his mouth is reckless when he's been drinking. At that point, he doesn't care about anything or anyone.

EBONY

So, you think he said something disrespectful to your friend?

SHALETA

I wouldn't doubt it.

EBONY

Hm. You don't think they were fighting because he did or said something your friend found disrespectful towards you?

SHALETA

What makes you think that?

EBONY

Why aren't you with...

She points her finger at her.

SHALETA

My'sean.

EBONY

Why aren't you with My'sean?

SHALETA

Because I've been with Kris since high school.

EBONY

And what made him better than My'sean?

SHALETA
I... Well, Kris... He---

EBONY
Take your time.

SHALETA
(Sighs)
Honestly... I should've been with
My'sean. Anything I needed financially
or just a shoulder to cry on, he was
there.

(Soft laugh)
He would always call me his "North
star." He still does to this day.

EBONY
His "North star." And you turned that
down for a true piece of trash?

SHALETA
Don't be so harsh about it.

EBONY
The same thing I said when you called
yourself stupid.

SHALETA
You're on a roll tonight.

EBONY
No. We're on a roll. By the time it's
said and done, you'll remember your
worth as a woman.

SHALETA
I don't think it's going to happen
overnight.

EBONY
Anything is possible. Especially if
you believe in God and have faith.

SHALETA
(Sighs)
It would be nice if he showed me a
sign that he still cares about me.

Ebony taps her on the knee with a warming smile.

EBONY

He is. You just have to open your heart and eyes to the sign.

SHALETA

I would like to believe that's true.

EBONY

It is. Just like I believe you should give My'sean a chance.

SHALETA

I don't know.

EBONY

Right. Listen. Do you mind if I take a bath? It's been a long time since I had a hot bath.

SHALETA

We're becoming friends. Why would I care about that?

EBONY

You still have to ask, it's common courtesy. But before I do that. Here's something to think about on why you should give My'sean a chance.

SHALETA

Okay.

EBONY

Why does Kris love you? And why do you love him?

SHALETA

I'm sorry... Come again.

EBONY

Aside from the typical reasons people tell each other they love them. Why does he love you, and why do you love him?

SHALETA

I... I never looked at it that way.

EBONY

Now, you can. Thank you for allowing me to take a bath.

SHALETA
No problem. Oh, wait.

EBONY
What's up?

SHALETA
Since my car will be up and running tomorrow. How about after I make a few runs, we go do something fun?

Ebony looks at her and smiles.

EBONY
I would love to.

SHALETA
I would, too.

Ebony stands up and makes her way to the bathroom.

She walks in and closes the door behind her.

Shaleta remains sitting on the bed smiling.

INT. THE RESTAURANT - MORNING

Indistinct talking can be heard coming from the patrons inside of the restaurant as waiters and waitresses move across the room.

Shaleta comes into the restaurant smiling, making her way towards the hostess.

The hostess looks up at her with a smile.

HOSTESS
How are you doing today?

SHALETA
I'm doing fine, and yourself?

HOSTESS
I'm having a great day. Do you have a reservation or would you like a table?

SHALETA
(Shy laugh)
Actually, I was wondering if My'sean is working today?

HOSTESS

I'm sure he is, but let me go check to make sure.

SHALETA

Thank you.

HOSTESS

Not a problem.

The hostess walks off.

Shaleta steps to the side, standing with a smile.

The hostess comes back.

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

He's on the way.

SHALETA

Thank you.

My'sean comes from the back making his way to the front.

He speaks with the other workers he walks by.

When he gets to the front, the smile he had on his face vanishes when he sees Shaleta.

He walks over to her and stares at her with no expression.

MY'SEAN

What's up?

SHALETA

Wow. That's a real dry welcome.

MY'SEAN

What kind of welcome were you expecting?

SHALETA

The usual, bubbly, hey, North star.

MY'SEAN

Let's not play with each other. I know you know what happened.

She lowers her head for a second, and then looks back at him.

SHALETA
Can we step outside and talk?

MY'SEAN
For what?

SHALETA
My'sean, please. Can you do this one
thing for me?

He sighs, shaking his head as he walks towards the door,
walking out.

She releases a soft sigh following behind him.

As the two stand on the sidewalk people are walking by as
cars move down the street.

MY'SEAN
Now what?

SHALETA
Okay. Yes, I know what happened
between you two.

MY'SEAN
...Okay.

SHALETA
I don't know why he would pick a fight
with you, but I want to say that---

MY'SEAN
Is that what he told you? He picked a
fight with me.

SHALETA
I know how he gets when he drinks, and
I'm sure seeing you set off something
he thought about during our high
school---

MY'SEAN
(Low laugh)
You really haven't changed since high
school.

SHALETA
What do you mean?

MY'SEAN

Nothing, Shaleta. What is it you wanna tell me?

SHALETA

Why are you being so hard towards me?

MY'SEAN

The real question is why are you still being hard towards yourself? Look at you. You're beautiful. Educated. But you're lacking one thing.

SHALETA

And that is?

MY'SEAN

Common sense to use your brain instead of your heart. That's why we got into that fight. Because I know you know better, but you choose...

(Sighs)

Forget it. Listen, I gotta---

SHALETA

No. For once, say what you have to say to me.

MY'SEAN

Your heart makes you stupid. Your heart is the reason why you're still with someone you know cheats on you and shows you no respect. Your heart is the reason why you'll forever be blinded from the true love I've been trying to give you from day one.

(Sighs)

Here I am calling you my North star, and I know you never gave it a second thought to wanna know why, and that's cool.

Sadness outlines her face.

He stares at her, shaking his head.

MY'SEAN (CONT'D)

(Dry laugh)

Just like I thought. Go back to your life, Shaleta. I won't say I regret running across you again because I'll

always love who I know you can be. But whoever this is... Please keep her away from me.

He turns his back and walks toward the door.

MY'SEAN (CONT'D)

Next time you come down here, just order something because there's no other reason for you to come in here.

He walks back in the restaurant.

Shaleta stands with tears coming from her eyes, slowly turning around to walk away.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - AFTERNOON

Ebony is sitting on the bed watching something on television.

Whatever the program is, it causes her to release a deep laugh.

Shaleta comes into the room carrying an overnight bag.

You can still see the sadness in her eyes as she takes a seat on the other bed.

Ebony turns her attention to her.

She can feel the heartache in Shaleta.

EBONY

What's wrong?

Shaleta sighs, shaking her head.

SHALETA

Nothing. I brought you some clothes you can change into.

EBONY

I appreciate that, but what I would really appreciate is you telling me the truth about what's wrong with you.

SHALETA

...It doesn't matter anymore.

Ebony turns the television off.

EBONY

Don't tell me you're letting---

SHALETA

No, it's not Kris. It's My'sean.

EBONY

The man you should be with. What about him?

SHALETA

I don't think that will be in my future.

EBONY

Conversation went that bad?

SHALETA

Let's just say he regrets meeting me.

EBONY

Oh, baby girl.

Ebony gets up and sits next to her.

As soon as Ebony wraps her arms around her, Shaleta breaks down crying.

SHALETA

(Sobbing)

How could I be so blind and stupid.

EBONY

You're not stupid.

SHALETA

What do you call it?

EBONY

Trial and error.

SHALETA

Well, trial and error caused me to lose the one man I should've given a chance because he actually loves me.

EBONY

Girl, you didn't lose him.

SHALETA

Believe me. After what he told me, I---

EBONY

You think you lost him, but you haven't.

SHALETA

I love your positive outlook, but I know it's a wrap. Once My'sean sets his mind on something, nothing can change it.

EBONY

And I'm telling you, true love never dies. All you have to do is open up your heart and allow it in.

Shaleta looks at her, wiping the tears from her eyes.

SHALETA

Sadly, life isn't a fairytale, Ebony.

EBONY

It can be if that's what you choose it to be, and set out to make it come true.

SHALETA

...I don't know.

EBONY

(Soft laugh)

You can't see it now because you're hurting. But I promise you, everything will be perfect in the end.

SHALETA

Do you think so?

EBONY

I know so.

She smiles, patting her on the shoulder before she stands up.

Ebony picks up the overnight bag.

EBONY (CONT'D)

How about after I shower and change, we can go Downtown to cheer you up as

we talk, and then we can talk to My'sean together.

SHALETA
Together?

EBONY
Trust me. You want your fairytale ending, right?

SHALETA
(Shy laugh)
Yeah.

EBONY
Okay then. Just let me shower and change.
(Laughs)
I hope these clothes fit. You know I'm a whole lotta woman.

Ebony laughs as she walks off to the bathroom.

Shaleta sits on the bed wiping her eyes, slowly forming a smile.

CUT TO:

INT. KRIS APARTMENT - LATER

Kris is sitting at the table drinking cognac straight from the bottle.

He's wearing a dirty T-shirt and jeans.

Taking a sip from the bottle, he swallows hard, followed by licking his dry lips.

Looking into his bloodshot eyes, you would think he's angry, but he's actually filled with sorrow because he knows he ruined it with Shaleta.

KRIS
Who does she think she is? I mean, truthfully. Who does she think she is to call it quits with me? ME!
(Takes a sip)
Not only did she leave me, she sided with that street trash. ...Street trash.
(Takes a sip)
That street trash is the reason why

she believes this relationship is over with no repercussions. I got a mind to...

He pauses to think, and a sinister smile comes on his face.

Pulling his phone out, he turns it on and scrolls for a hot second.

Picking up the bottle, he releases a low laugh, while taking a sip.

KRIS (CONT'D)

I'll show 'em better than I can tell 'em why I'm the man, and I'm the only one who can say this relationship is over.

He takes one more sip before getting up from the table, leaving the room.

EXT. DOWNTOWN DETROIT - LATER

It's a beautiful sunny day.

Downtown is filled with people enjoying the weather, coming in and out of restaurants and the casino.

Ebony and Shaleta come out of the bakery eating cookies.

Both of them are radiating joy.

SHALETA

I'm glad this friendship blossomed into what it is.

EBONY

You and I both. Who would've thought a lonely homeless lady like me would be having fun experiencing new things with a beautiful young woman like you?

SHALETA

You're not just some homeless woman. You're my lifesaver. My light at the end of the tunnel. But above all, you're my best friend.

EBONY

That's nice of you to say.

SHALETA

And I meant every word.

EBONY

I know. When do you think you'll start on the diary?

SHALETA

As soon as I get set up in my apartment, that will be the first thing I do.

EBONY

That's good. Hopefully, you'll give me an invite.

SHALETA

Invite?

(Playful laugh)

Girl, we're gonna be roommates until we get you on your feet.

EBONY

(Laughs)

We'll see how things turn out. So, are you ready to go talk to My'sean.

SHALETA

(Soft sigh)

Do you really think he'll listen to us?

EBONY

I don't see why he wouldn't.

SHALETA

You know how men are when it comes to their egos. I don't think---

EBONY

You're My'sean's "North star."

Shaleta stops walking, which makes Ebony stop walking.

SHALETA

...Yeah... That's what he calls me.

EBONY

Do you know what it means?

SHALETA
 (Light laugh)
 I have no idea why he---

EBONY
 No, not his meaning.

SHALETA
 Okay. What are you talking about?

EBONY
 It's a good thing we became friends.

SHALETA
 (Laughs)
 I'm listening.

EBONY
 When a man views you as a complete woman, and only wants you to be the woman he's in love with... There's no such thing as an ego because he'll go to the depths of hell and back, as long as that woman he loves is comfortable. He knows the love coming from her heart is genuine, and he'll listen to whatever she's going through, right or wrong.

SHALETA
 So, you're saying---

EBONY
 A genuine man enters your life once. Love him and keep him.

Shaleta looks at her with love in her eyes before hugging her.

Ebony embraces her with the same love.

SHALETA
 Thank you so much. I don't where would be if---

Kris comes from around the corner, startling them.

At this point, he's beyond the limit of being drunk.

The two slowly start stepping backwards.

KRIS

You'll be dead if you don't come home like you're supposed to.

SHALETA

What are you doing here?

KRIS

Did you forget? We share our locations through our phones.

Shaleta lightly palm slaps herself.

KRIS (CONT'D)

That's right. Warm it up for me baby. When we get home, it'll be far worse than that.

Ebony steps up in Kris face.

EBONY

She's no longer your property, and that will never be her home.

Kris looks at her with disgust before focusing on Shaleta.

KRIS

This is what started your problem in the first place. Talking to this street trash has you thinking---

EBONY

This "street trash" made her realize she's the one who was homeless, digging in the trash, hoping she'll find a treasure that's worth something.

KRIS

You say one more word, and I'll---

EBONY

You'll what?

(Laughs)

What happened the last time when you tried to do what I know you're thinking?

Kris prepares to step up in her face and Shaleta steps between them.

SHALETA

This is not about to happen.

KRIS

You're right. Because you're---

SHALETA

You're about to shut up for once, and finally face the reflection you constantly ignore.

KRIS

What?

SHALETA

You had a good thing and you ruined it because the only thing you view that deserves your respect is you. With that, I wish you and yourself the best. But this mirage shared between me and you...

She leans in and gives him a light kiss on the cheek.

SHALETA (CONT'D)

It's time we both face reality and move on.

She turns her back and walks away.

Ebony gives him a sly smirk before following behind Shaleta.

Kris is lost for words, pacing back and forth with hate building in him.

My'sean comes out of the restaurant and spots Shaleta.

KRIS

Get back here! I'm the one who made you realize your worth as a woman! I made you realize you're beautiful! Get back here before I do something I'll regret!

The two stop but don't turn around.

SHALETA

You won't regret it like you don't

regret everything else you did behind
my back. You do what you need to do.

My'sean sees Kris walking towards the two, reaching under his
shirt for a gun.

MY'SEAN

North star!

Shaleta looks across the street and sees My'sean running
towards them.

She's confused until she turns around and sees Kris raising
the gun.

The people outside scream, dropping to the ground right
before Kris opens fire.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - LATER

Shaleta is standing against the wall in the partially crowded
lobby.

Sorrow outlines her face, with a few blood splatters on her
clothes.

The television, people talking and doctors over the intercom
can be heard indistinctly.

A doctor comes down the hall making his way to Shaleta.

The two exchange some words that can't be heard, and after a
few seconds Shaleta breaks down crying.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Wearing the same clothes, Shaleta is propped up against the
headboard with tears streaming down her face, reading the
diary Ebony gave her.

As she flips the pages, she comes to a stop.

Wiping the tears from her eyes, a slight smile forms on her
face.

An aura of love and understanding radiates from her as she
stands up and leaves the room.

CUT TO:

EXT. STARLIT SKYLINE - LATER

Shaleta is sitting under a tree with the diary on her lap.

A bookmark is placed inside of the diary.

On the blanket beside her is a wine glass that's half full, a wine bottle and a picnic basket.

Picking up the glass, she takes a sip with a smile.

When she places the glass down, My'sean takes a seat beside her.

She leans over to the side placing her head on his chest.

He embraces her.

MY'SEAN

North star.

SHALETA

Always and forever.

He kisses her forehead.

MY'SEAN

It's a shame what had to happen for it to get to this point.

SHALETA

I wouldn't say that.

MY'SEAN

I'm listening.

SHALETA

God brought three things into my life. Two were tests that I had to pass in order to receive the blessing, which is the third thing.

MY'SEAN

What were the tests?

SHALETA

Kris and befriending Ebony. Mainly Ebony because she was the key for me to receive the blessing.

MY'SEAN

How so?

SHALETA

When God sees you realize the wrongs in your life he removes them. Kris is no longer here because he tried to take my life, and ended up losing his life by trying to have a shootout with the police. He was my first test that I'm thankful Ebony helped me with. Because without her, I would've stayed with him and he eventually would've killed me.

MY'SEAN

Yeah... But did she have to lose her life?

SHALETA

She's not dead. She returned home to our heavenly father after delivering the message he wanted me to receive. And I'm sure her best friend, who is a special person in both of our lives. I'm sure she was missing her.

MY'SEAN

You lost me there.

SHALETA

Ebony was sent by God and my sister to help me with the situation with Kris, and help me realize who I should be with.

MY'SEAN

Your sister?

She hands My'sean the diary.

My'sean takes it and opens it where the bookmark is.

INSERT DIARY

There's a picture of Ebony and Alicia standing beside each other smiling.

Alicia is almost a spitting image of Shaleta.

Beside the picture, the caption reads "BEST FRIENDS FOREVER."

MY'SEAN (CONT'D)

I never knew you had a sister.

SHALETA

I didn't talk about her because she was murdered by her boyfriend when I was young. That's part of the reason why Ebony became homeless. She felt bad that she couldn't do anything to prevent what happened, and she was going down the same road. She decided she'd rather struggle before suffering the same fate as my sister over a lifestyle.

MY'SEAN

Now, that's a strange coincidence.

SHALETA

The Lord works in mysterious ways. You have to pay attention to his signs in order to receive your blessings.

MY'SEAN

Agreed. And what would you consider me?

She smiles, looking at him, puckering her lips for a kiss.

He smiles, giving her a kiss.

SHALETA

You're the man I'm glad never gave up on me. Now, I know why you call me your "North star."

MY'SEAN

Why?

SHALETA

Because you need me as much as I need you. And now that we have each other, there's no need for us to use a compass to find love.

MY'SEAN

You're absolutely right.

They kiss again.

She snuggles closer, and he hugs her tighter.

They gaze at the stars, smiling.

MY'SEAN (CONT'D)

This is a beautiful night.

SHALETA

And our father and guardian angels are
looking down at us, protecting our
love with their love.

Move in closer to the stars.

Two of the stars are shining brighter than the other stars.

ALICIA (V.O.)

If you don't believe in "love conquers
all," there's your proof. But you have
to allow it into your heart, and trust
what God has planned for you.

SLOWLY FADE TO BLACK:

BLACK SCREEN:

"Allowing authentic love into your heart will open your eyes
to the things you need, not desire."

~Bernard Mersier~

END CREDITS: