

Mendacity
by
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25 YEARS AGO

INT. DANIEL'S ROOM - DAY

A 13 years old DANIEL JAY, African American, stands in front of her full length mirror, admiring her floral church dress.

Daniel smiles at herself and twist and turn as if she was a contestant in a pageant.

DEBRA (O.S.)
Miss Daniel get away from that mirror! It's Sunday and Sunday is church day!

MARKUS (O.S.)
Come down now Danny! We have to go!

DANIEL
Yes Mama I know it's church time and I'm coming down in a second Dad.

MARKUS (O.S.)
Danny we have to pick up UNCLE CURTIS! Let's get it moving

Daniel takes her bible off her bed and runs downstairs.

INT. JAY'S HOUSE - DAY

At the door of their middle class home stands Markus Jay 30s African American and Debra Jay 30s African American.

DANIEL
I'm here! I'm here! Where's DEBORAH, MARVIN and MJ?

DEBRA
They know what today is, they know that it's church day and they are in the car waiting to go to church.

DANIEL
Okay Mom! I get it's Sunday and its church day!

Daniel walks off and heads for the car with an attitude.

EXT. JAY'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

Debra follow behind her.

DEBRA

Miss Daniel if you don't watch
that tone you might not live to
see Monday! Do you understand me?

DANIEL

Yes Mama.

They get in the station wagon and join the other three
occupants to watch and wait patiently for Markus to lock
the house and come in the car.

Markus lock up and goes over to his family.

MARKUS

Okay let's get the show on the
road, we need to get Curtis and
then our last stop will be the
church.

DEBRA

And the car says?

DEBORAH MARVIN MARKUS JUNIOR

Amen!

Markus reverse out of the yard and drives off.

EXT. CURTIS' HOUSE - DAY

HONK! HONK!

MARKUS

Curtis!

CURTIS

Yeah! Yeah!

Curtis rushes out of his house. CURTIS BROWN is African
American, He's about the same height and age of Markus and
sports a little afro and is well built with muscles.

Curtis gets in the car and greets the family.

CURTIS (CONT'D)

Hey Guys.

EXT. KINGDOM LIGHT CHURCH - DAY

Drone shot descending from above the church to the doors.

INT. KINGDOM LIGHT CHURCH - DAY

The church is filled with people.

PASTOR FEARON 40s, is standing behind the pulpit.

The CHOIR is standing behind him dressed in blue and white gowns. SISTER CINDY 40s, is the choir leader. She's standing in the front of the choir and is dressed in a blue and gold gown.

PASTOR FEARON

It's always an honor to be in the presence of the Lord and his people! Amen?

CONGREGATION

Amen!

PASTOR FEARON

The Lord has been good to me all week! His holy presence has not left my side.

CONGREGATION

Amen!

PASTOR FEARON

Now Sister Cindy and the choir are going to lead us off in a beautiful rendition of 'SEEK YE FIRST'. Clap for the choir Saints!

The congregation begins clapping for the choir.

Sister Cindy the lead singer of the choir starts to sing the song.

EXT. KINGDOM LIGHT CHURCH - DAY

The people are leaving the church and heading in all sorts of directions.

The Jay Family and Curtis walks over to the parking lot. Debra walks with her hands around Markus Jr 's shoulder and Markus has Marvin in his hand.

Some members are standing up talking to each other and others are driving out.

Pastor Fearon and his wife stands on the step of the church with bright and happy smiles and wave to some of the members.

FEMALE CHURCH MEMBER (1)
Have a blessed week pastor!

FEMALE CHURCH MEMBER (2)
Beautiful service Man of God.

DEBRA
Hmm Hmm... Beautiful service man of God my ass! She cuts his throat with her little followers and then come smile in his face on Sunday. Hell is going to be full with church people!

MARKUS
Watch your mouth D! We are still on the premises.

DEBRA
I didn't swear.

Curtis snort.

CURTIS
If you say so.

INT. JAY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Markus and Debra are going on a date and Curtis is the babysitter.

The kids are watching television and Curtis is standing at the door waiting for the couple to leave with strange overwhelming happiness.

Debra enters the living room while putting the tickets in her clutch.

DEBRA
Okay guys we are leaving now, Emergency numbers are on the Fridge-

Daniel cuts her mother off.

DANIEL
We don't need a babysitter Mama. I can take care of MJ, Marvin and Deborah myself.
(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Why does he has to watch us? I
thought AUNT JESSIE was
babysitting.

MARKUS
You're Uncle wants to spend some
time with you guys so we cancelled
your aunt.

DEBRA
Miss Daniel I've been over this
with you already. Uncle Curtis is
staying with you guys now deal
with it.

DANIEL
Mama!

DEBRA
Miss Daniel!

Debra kiss Daniel's forehead.

DEBRA (CONT'D)
I love you.

Debra kisses the rest of her children goodbye and heads for
the door.

MARKUS
Good night my babies and take care
of my kids Curtis.

Curtis walk with Markus to the door.

CURTIS
Oh I will.

Curtis smile at Markus and close the door. He walks back to
the living room to where the kids are.

CURTIS (CONT'D)
Okay children everyone except
Daniel's bedtime is at 9.

DEBORAH
Not fair! Why does she get to stay
up so late and we have to sleep?

MARKUS JR.
Yeah why does she get to go to bed
later than us?

MARVIN

That's not how Mama do it.

Daniel smile at Marvin little toddler voice.

DANIEL

Relax guys I'll go to bed when you
guys are going.. alright?

CURTIS

Why?

DANIEL

Come again...I don't quite
understand.

CURTIS

Just forget it.

Daniel and Deborah watches him strangely as he leaves the
living room.

INT. JAY'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Curtis paces around the kitchen impatiently.

He stops to check his watch and then pace some more.

Finally the time that he has been waiting for had came and
he rushes out of the kitchen.

INT. JAY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Curtis enters back into the living room and turns the TV
off.

CURTIS

Well guys it's time to hit the
hay.

MARKUS JR.

We literally just got to the good
part.

CURTIS

I don't want any attitudes let's
go.

The Jay children gets up, Deborah and Markus Jr. begin to
stretch to get ready for bed. Daniel takes up Marvin since
he's the smallest.

CURTIS (CONT'D)
No Daniel I'll put him to bed.

DANIEL
That's okay I can handle it.

MARVIN
I want Danny to put me to bed.

CURTIS
I am sorry for the both of you
because that won't be happening
tonight.

DEBORAH
What is it with you?

CURTIS
Bed time now!

He then takes Marvin from Daniel's arms.

CURTIS (CONT'D)
I'd like for you to go to the
kitchen and make me a sandwich
please.

DANIEL
(frown)
I am a little confused here, you
came over here earlier than
necessary and it was dinner time
and Mama offered you food you said
you had ate already, then you
spent a hour and a half in the
kitchen doing nothing I'd say
couldn't you have made yourself
something to eat then? And why
wait until it's bedtime?

CURTIS
Will you make the sandwich or not?

DANIEL
Fine! I'll go make the sandwich.

Curtis heads up the stairs and Daniel heads to the kitchen.

INT. JAY'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Daniel is making a cheese and tomato sandwich for Curtis,
and she hums a tune while she make the sandwich.

After Daniel finish making the sandwich she starts cleaning back up her Mother's kitchen. She is drying off the sink with her back turn to the door.

Curtis sneak up behind her and put his hands over her mouth and press her into the sink.

Daniel begins to struggle against him and try to scream but it was muffle.

CURTIS
Your father said take care of you
so I'm going to take very good
care of you

Daniel begin to cry and push away from the sink. She pull at his hands but he is too strong.

She's still putting up a fight, she trash and fight but it is only turning him on.

He pull her shorts and underwear down and Daniel starts fighting harder.

CURTIS (CONT'D)
Cut it out Daniel! Relax!
Relaxxxx...

He struggles with freeing himself and when finally he does he push Daniel over the sink and enter her from the back and Daniel scream and cry painfully.

DANIEL
No! No! No! please stop!

CURTIS
Ahhh! I've been waiting for this
for a long time!

Curtis finish with Daniel and push her to the side and she falls to the ground still crying. He pull up his pants and fix back himself.

CURTIS (CONT'D)
Don't even bother to go tell
anyone about our big secret
because no one will believe you.
Oh that was worth the wait.

He kneels down to the crying Daniel.

CURTIS (CONT'D)
Oh Daniel, you're not the first
and you most definitely won't be
the last.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Daniel sits in the tub, knee to chin and cry while the water beat her skin.

INT. DANIEL'S BEDROOM - DAY

Daniel stands in front of the mirror watching herself with longing in her eyes.

INT. JAY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Debra watches from the kitchen window by the sink with a worried look as Daniel sadly sits in a chair in the backyard and watch Marvin and Markus Jr. play.

INT. JAY'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Debra watches Daniel sadly as she uses the fork and push the food around on her plate.

EXT. JAY'S PORCH - DAY

Curtis arrives in his beat up muscle car and smiles at Daniel. She gets scared and run in the house.

INT. JAY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

JESSICA THOMAS late 20s, recognize that something was off with her niece, as the whole family watch TV. She stares at Daniel and then glance at her older sister Debra who is watching Daniel too.

INT. DANIEL'S ROOM - NIGHT

Daniel watches the window while the raindrops rolls down the window just as the tears runs down her cheeks. A thunder goes off and she was startle and starts to cry aloud.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. DEBRA AND MARKUS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Debra is sitting up in bed under the covers staring off into space, as Markus comes to bed in his vest and boxers and kiss her cheek while getting under the covers.

MARKUS

Hey Baby girl come back to me please.

Markus place kisses all over her face.

DEBRA

Something is wrong Markus.

Markus sits up in the bed when he hears the seriousness in Debra's voice.

MARKUS

What's the matter? Did I do something to offend you?

DEBRA

No! No! nothing like that.

MARKUS

Then what?

DEBRA

Something is going on with Miss Daniel.

MARKUS

Oh that!... I've realized. She's acting strange and she's awfully sad these days. I just don't know how to approach her, she being a girl and all that, I don't know what exactly to say to my little girl.

DEBRA

I have noticed it, ever since that night we went on that date to the concert she has been acting different but I am going to talk to her. I don't like this.

MARKUS

Can you do that as soon as possible? 'cause I would be lying if I said I am not worried.

DEBRA

Yeah I will, as soon as we come back from Markus's soccer game tomorrow I'll get to it immediately.

MARKUS

Even that, that's weird. She told me she didn't want to come.

DEBRA

She told me too, she doesn't want to so Jessica is coming over to watch her.

MARKUS

She loves Markus's games, that one was a shocker.

DEBRA

Yeah apparently I love arguing with her especially on Sundays because I miss it.

PAUSE

DEBRA (CONT'D)

A lot!

Markus and Debra laugh. They start preparing for bed and Markus turns the lights off.

INT. DANIEL'S ROOM - DAY

Daniel runs across the room with clothes in her hands and stuff them in the duffel bag on her bed.

She runs over to the nightstand by her bed and start to dig through it for something.

By now Jessica is at the door watching with confusion. She looks at the bag on the bed and the trail of clothes that leads from the drawer to the bed.

Daniel finds the money she is looking for, turns around only to find her Aunt watching her.

JESSICA

Daniel?

DANIEL

Yes Aunty.

JESSICA
What's going on?

DANIEL
Oh nothing at all, is there
something going on with you?

JESSICA
So you're just going to stand
there and tell a bold face lie to
my face?

DANIEL
What if I turn my back and say it?

JESSICA
Daniel I promise you can trust me,
whatever it is you can trust me.

DANIEL
Okay then well I am running away
from home.

JESSICA
(shock)
What? I was expecting something
serious but not that serious I'll
tell you that. Why are you all of
a sudden up and running?

Jessica enters the room and sit on the bed. She paths the
empty space next to her and Daniel comes over and sit down.

DANIEL
Because I don't feel safe here
anymore. If I stay in this house
one more day I'll take my own
life.

JESSICA
You should talk to your parents
Dan.

DANIEL
I've already made up my mind and
I'm leaving today. I am not going
to lie and say I'm not scared.
Truth is I am scared out of my
mind but I'm beyond terrified of
being here.

JESSICA
Where will you go?

DANIEL

Far from here and I'm never coming back. And you can tell my parents. By the time they are home I'll be long gone.

JESSICA

Can I know why you're doing this? Just tell me why you're doing this please.

PAUSE

DANIEL

Curtis raped me and he comes around here everyday looking proud and unbothered and that scares me even when he's not here I feel like he is. I am scared. I don't feel safe anymore in my own home.

Daniel takes up her bag and start leaving the room. She is about to exit the room.

JESSICA

Stop!

Daniel obeys her Aunt.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I'll come with you!

DANIEL

(shock)
You'll what?

JESSICA

Come with you.

DANIEL

You're going to run away with me?

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Why?

JESSICA

Because I wasn't the first or the last and you won't be the first or the last. when he raped me, I too wanted to run away but I had no courage or guts to. It still hurts everyday as if it just happened...

PAUSE

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I put so much energy in trying to pretend that it is alright, to pretend like I am good. I don't want you to end up like me Daniel. I am Sad, Broken, Weak, Lost, Scared and I can go on. I'll sleep better at night knowing you and I are struggling together than if you should leave her by yourself and struggle alone. I want to take on this cold world with you, no matter the consequences.

Jessica and Daniel are both emotional now.

DANIEL

I'd like that very much.

JESSICA

We'll take my car and I'll collect some things from my place and then we'll go.

Jessica walks over to Daniel and take her hand. They stare in each other eyes then they both exit the room hand in hand.

TODAY

INT. DANIEL'S OFFICE - DAY

A now grown up, wife and mother of two Daniel(38), sits at her desk going through some files when her office phone ring.

DANIEL

Hello good afternoon this is Daniel.

LAWYER (V.O.)

Good afternoon, It's Conrad.

DANIEL

Well this is a surprise, what can I do for you Conrad?

LAWYER (V.O.)

Listen I have a beautiful proposal for you.

DANIEL

I'm listening.

Daniel sits up in her chair and watch the roof waiting for Conrad to begin.

LAWYER (V.O.)

My client is willing to offer your client 1.5 million dollars and a public apology.

DANIEL

And then he goes to jail, sounds good to me.

LAWYER (V.O.)

Come on Daniel, as a settlement.

Daniel begins to laugh. Just as JASON CARR a Junior Executive from the firm enters her office, with a file in his hands. She stop laughing and signal to him to give her a minute.

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

Did I say something funny.

DANIEL

Oh yes you did! Conrad you and I both know that I'm the best sexual assault victim attorney in the business. My reputation speaks for itself and I know you have never heard of me settling and quite frankly the only settlement I'm taking is your client rotting in prison for raping his 13 years old stepdaughter! Oh and I'll make sure of it. Now have a nice day.

She hang up the phone and motion for Jason to sit. Jason obeys and sit down.

JASON

Here's the file that you asked for.

He hands her the file.

DANIEL

Thank you.

She goes through the file. She then smile bright and gratefully.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Jason you are my favorite junior executive I swear.

JASON
Yeahh, Yeahh, I know.

He gets up to leave. He was almost out when he turn back.

JASON (CONT'D)
Can I just say something?

DANIEL
(frown)
Yes of course.

JASON
What is so different about this case?

DANIEL
I don't quite understand.

JASON
Just like many of the people around here, I too admire your work and pay close attention to every case that you have worked on and I've never seen you like this. Ever.

DANIEL
How I'm I like?

JASON
I don't know one word to voice it in but all I can say is that you've taken this one... personal and you've never done that previously.

Daniel sit back in her chair and Jason leaves her to think about what he had just said.

EXT. COLE MANSION - EVENING

The big white gate opens and a car enters, it drives up the long driveway.

A man in a suit with a computer bag over his right shoulder is heading to the door.

He stops when he sees the car approaching.

He then smile just as Daniel parks the car and grabs her briefcase and exit her car. She smile and walk up to him, and by her facial expression you can tell that she's please to see him.

DIAN
Mrs. Cole.

She reaches him. They stand intimately with each other, DIAN's hands around her and Daniel hand without the briefcase is on his bicep.

Dian is 6,3ft tall. He's tall comparing to Daniel 5,6 ft height. He's ripped with muscle and has a genuine smile.

DANIEL
Mr. Cole.

Dian leans in and kiss his wife passionately.

DIAN
Let's go inside it's kinda chilly outside here. It's surprising seeing you here.

Daniel and Dian enters the house and Dian shuts the door.

INT. COLE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Inside the house Dian takes Daniel coat.

DANIEL
Why is it surprising don't I live here?

DIAN
Yes you live here.

Daniel starts walking towards the kitchen.

DIAN (CONT'D)
But since you started on this case you've been acting different.

Daniel stop in her tracks and turn back around and head to the couch and sit down.

DANIEL
Come sit with me for a second Babe.

DIAN
Okay?

Daniel take off her pumps as Dian sits down.

DANIEL

In today alone, you're now the second person that have said that to me. Now I might not be so forthcoming to talk about it with the person that said it first, but I'll talk to you. How have I been acting different?

TANYA COLE 12, comes down the stairs just as Daniel finished asking her question. She have in her hands a book and she's paying attention to the pages.

TANYA

You have been tardy a lot, you're barely ever here and when you are here, you're here in the flesh but you're mind isn't. Hi Mom.

Tanya finishes her statement and continue walking in the kitchen with her head down in her book.

DANIEL

Hi Tanya!

Daniel watches Dian with a 'you've got to be kidding me' look.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Her too! I am calling this the third person to call me out today.

DIAN

No baby not her too, it's them too. Tian called.

DANIEL

And said what?!

DIAN

That he hadn't heard from you in a while if he did something or is there something going on here.

Daniel face palm herself.

DANIEL

Not my son too he doesn't even live here!

DIAN

And not only that and what Tanya said, She said what she has seen and observed but it's different for me. Since you took on this case you cry and scream in your sleep.

Daniel stares at Dian while he nods at her.

DIAN (CONT'D)

Yep.

TANYA (O.S.)

Dad there is a phone call for you!

Tanya shouts from the kitchen and Dian leans in again and kiss Daniel's cheek then gets up and leave to walk to the kitchen.

DIAN

I'm coming!

For the second time today. Daniel is left in her own thoughts.

INT. TANYA'S ROOM - NIGHT (DREAM)

Tanya is in bed sleeping peacefully, with a little bit of light reflecting in the room and highlighting her features.

CURTIS leans over the sleeping Tanya, smells her hair, run his hand down her face and take off her covers.

He put his hands over her nose and mouth, she wakes up and start to trash and scream even though her voice is barely audible.

TANYA

Mammy! Mammy! Mammy!

Curtis laugh.

CURTIS

She can't help you baby she couldn't even help her own self. Plus she already got hers, she's only good for watching.

Tanya starts crying. Daniel is in the room but for some unknown reason she is incapable of moving. She is paralyze neck down.

DANIEL

Stop! Stop it! Curtis I swear I'm
going to kill you! Dian! Dian!

Daniel tries moving but only her neck would move.

Meanwhile Tanya struggles to keep Curtis off her.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

No Curtis please! I'm begging you
not to! Oh God Curtis please no!

By now both Daniel and Tanya are full on crying.

Curtis doesn't care anymore that Tanya is screaming. He is
now focus on taking off Tanya pajamas pants.

This cause Daniel to start behaving wildly.

Curtis takes off his trousers, and begin climbing on Tanya.

DIAN (V.O.)

Daniel! Daniel! Wake up! Babe?!

INT. DANIEL AND DIAN'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Dian is shaking a crying and hysterical Daniel awake. She's
crying and fighting in her sleep.

DANIEL

Curtis no! Don't you dare! Dian!

Dian was astonish by this. He is now more motivated to wake
her up.

DIAN

Daniel I said wake up!

Dian give Daniel a big jerk and she jumps up, breathless
and sweating.

DIAN (CONT'D)

Who's Curtis?

DANIEL

Ah.. Umm.. Curtis?

Daniel watch Dian speechless.

DIAN

You have been having these weird
nightmares for a while now what's
going Daniel? and don't lie to me!
what are you dreaming about?

DANIEL
It's nothing, Baby go back to
sleep.

Daniel leans over and kiss Dian, Daniel lays back down,
pull the covers up to her chin and turn her back to Dian.

DIAN
Unbelievable!

Dian gets out of the bed in anger and heads for the door.

He leaves the room and slam the door and Daniel flinch when
the noise from the door echos in the room.

Daniel is left alone yet another time to bath in her
thoughts only this time around though she's crying.

INT. COLE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Tanya sits in her school uniform at the kitchen island,
having cereals for breakfast.

Dian is leaning over on the kitchen island, in his work
clothes a suit, sipping his coffee and reading the
morning's paper.

A FEW MINUTES PAST

TANYA
Dad do you like your job?

DIAN
A matter of fact I love my job.

Dian stands up straight, put down his cup, fold his paper,
picks back up his cup and placed all his attention on
Tanya.

DIAN (CONT'D)
Why did you ask?

TANYA
Because I've been thinking.

DIAN
About?

Now Tanya is focus on the conversation. She stops eating
and starts to explain.

TANYA

So I've been thinking since Tian wants to go in the law business, being 16 and in Harvard Law says how serious he is about it. Now that means you don't have a heir for your Oil Company that you built from scratch.

Dian sip his coffee.

TANYA (CONT'D)

So I want to be your heir, I want to talk over when you retire.

DIAN

You want Legions Cole Enterprise?

TANYA

Well yeah.. I can do it.

Dian smile was bright as the sun. Tanya looks nervous because of her father's smile.

TANYA (CONT'D)

Why are you smiling? It was that funny huh?

DIAN

No! No not at all! Legions is yours Baby I'm just so impressed.

Daniel enters the kitchen with a smile when she sees Dian and Tanya.

DANIEL

You're in a good mood this morning.

TANYA

Good morning Mom.

DANIEL

Morning Baby.

Dian stop smiling and the room is instantly full with tension.

Daniel reaches in the cupboard for a cup and pour some coffee.

Dian takes his laptop bag off the counter, walk around the island and kiss Tanya on her forehead and cheek.

DIAN
 Have a nice day at school today my
 baby, My little CEO. Mammy will
 bring you to school.

DANIEL
 Actually..

Daniel leans back on the counter behind her.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
 Daddy is taking you to school
 Baby, go get your stuff.

Tanya felt the tension and knew better than to question her
 mother now. So she gets up and do as she was told.

Meanwhile Dian and Daniel is having a staring competition.
 Even when Tanya leaves the room they are still staring at
 each other.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
 This is us now?

DIAN
 I don't know D, ask Curtis.

Dian walks out of the room. While Daniel stand there
 staring at the door.

ENGINE START (O.S.)

DANIEL
 Aaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhh!

Daniel threw her coffee mug across the room on the wall and
 it breaks to pieces.

She slides against the kitchen counter to the floor and
 start crying again.

JOAN the Hispanic middle aged housekeeper, enters the
 kitchen quickly but cautiously to see what had happened.

She has a strong Spanish accent, and didn't know English
 one hundred percent so she couldn't say some words
 correctly.

Daniel is in a trans.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
 Get it together Danny. Get it
 together Danny. Get it together
 Danny. Get it together Danny. Get
 it together Danny.

Joan slowly walk closer to her boss. Daniel is behind the island, so Joan walk cautiously towards her.

Joan is shock when she sees the state Daniel is in. She hurries to Daniel and get on her knees in front her boss.

JOAN

Daniel!

She holds Daniel's face in her hands so that Daniel would give her eye contact.

JOAN (CONT'D)

Hey! Hey!

Daniel fight to hold her head down.

JOAN (CONT'D)

No Daniel! This no good! No bueno!
It doesn't matter be what the
problem is, You're strong Daniel.
Don't break, don't be like this.
You are strong woman Daniel!
Believe in you person! Don't be
like this. Say I am very strong!

DANIEL

I am very strong.

Daniel wipe her tears, and try helping herself off the floor.

When she and Joan are successfully standing back up. Joan wipe Daniel's face some more.

JOAN

Go clean up and go to the work.
This is not you Daniel. Get
together

DANIEL

Thanks Ms. Joan.

JOAN

Anytime mi amore.

Daniel kiss Joan's cheek and exit the kitchen.

Joan leans on the island behind her and take out her necklace and hold the cross pendant.

JOAN (CONT'D)

(IN SPANISH)

Give her strength my God.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

A woman compose Daniel stands in a conference room with a coffee cup in her hands and a file up to her face reading.

A FEW MINUTES LATER

Someone clears their throat.

COUPLE SECONDS LATER

Daniel takes down the file to eye level, and stare at where the sound had come from.

DANIEL

Yes?

In the conference room sits Conrad a white male in his 40s, and a younger man in his 30s.

The younger man didn't dress for a meeting. He dressed as if he was attending a party, T-shirt and jeans, Jordan shoes, fingers filled with rings, big gold chains around his neck and a snapback hat on his head.

CONRAD

Yes?! Just yes! My client and I have been sitting here for 30 minutes now watching you drink your morning coffee and read a file, Goddamit!

DANIEL

God dam you but fair enough then.

Daniel sits down, put away the file and rest her coffee down.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

So what's up? What can I do for you?

CONRAD

We talked on the phone yesterday and-

DANIEL

And I told you all that I had to say, so it was with great surprise that when I came in my building this morning my assistant told me you were in here waiting for me. A surprise yesterday and now one today?

(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)
You have got to stop surprising me
Conrad you are not my type.

CONRAD
Daniel think about it.

DANIEL
I am about to get up and leave
this room because I have neither
the time or energy for this. You
think about that.

Daniel gets up and start to walk to the glass door. Conrad
stands up to shout after Daniel.

CONRAD
Daniel!

DANIEL
Byeeee Conrad, see you in court.

Daniel leaves and Conrad's client is fuming with anger

CLIENT
Mr. Big Shot lawyer that's what
you had planned for our morning?!

CONRAD
Look I thought-

CLIENT
No you look! If I go to jail
you'll not like to know what will
happen to you! Make this go away
or else.

He pushes Conrad and then leave the conference room in
anger. Conrad sits back down in frustration.

CONRAD
Like I was the one who told you to
go and rape your step daughter!
And Daniel is going to send you to
jail too! On a day like today I
really hate my job.

INT. RECEPTION AREA - DAY

ELIZABETH RICKETTS, A petite brunette, in her early 20s is
sitting at her desk focused and typing away on a computer
with a pencil between her index and middle finger.

PHONE RING

ELIZABETH
 Good Morning, this is Daniel
 Cole's office you're speaking with
 Elizabeth her assistant how may I
 help you?

She smile and then nods.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
 Okay I'll tell her right a way.
 Have a nice day Ma'am.

INT. DANIEL'S OFFICE - DAY

Elizabeth knocks.

DANIEL
 Come in!

Elizabeth enters.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
 What's up Lizzy?

ELIZABETH
 Hey, your Mom called.

DANIEL
 She did?

ELIZABETH
 Yes and she said to tell you to
 meet her at Rosemary's for lunch
 in a hour.

DANIEL
 Okay then, clear my schedule. I'll
 be out for about 2 hours.

ELIZABETH
 Consider it done. When you get
 back you'll have about 30 mins
 then you have the be in a meeting
 with the board.

DANIEL
 Okay thanks Liz. Have Anthony
 bring my car around please.

ELIZABETH
 Okay.

Lizzy gestures to leave.

DANIEL

Oh and Liz can you please send
Joan some flowers? Rose and Calla
Lily preferably and on the card
write 'Thanks for the reminder'.

ELIZABETH

I'll get to it immediately.

DANIEL

Thanks again Liz.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

- INT. DANIEL'S OFFICE - DAY

Daniel puts on her trench coat, take her phone and purse
and leaves her office.

- INT. RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Daniel walks out of her office into the reception area on
her floor. She goes to the elevator and press the elevator
button.

- INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

Daniel stands in the elevator and checks her watch.

- INT. LOBBY - DAY

Daniel exits the elevator and walk into the lobby and at
the exit door of the building Anthony is waiting for her.

END OF MONTAGE

Daniel walks to Anthony.

ANTHONY

Here's your key Ma'am.

He hands her the key.

DANIEL

You know not to call me 'Ma'am'
Anthony, you know better.

ANTHONY
(smile)
I'm sorry Daniel.

DANIEL
I forgive you. You want me to
bring you back something?

ANTHONY
Just a dessert.

DANIEL
Okay no problem.

Anthony opens the door and Daniel leaves.

EXT/INT. CAR - DAY

Daniel walks to the car, gets inside, take out her shades,
put on her seat belt and drive off.

EXT. ROSEMARY'S PATIO - DAY

Knowing already where her mother was sitting, Daniel walk
onto the semi full patio.

DANIEL
Hey Mama.

She kiss Jessica and take off her coat and take a seat at
the table.

JESSICA
Hi Baby. I went ahead and ordered
for you.

Jessica looks the same only much older now. She sport a big
rock on her ring finger and have wrinkles that smiles had
brought. She was truly happy now.

DANIEL
Oh thanks Mama.

JESSICA
You're welcome.

Jessica stare at Daniel as she take off her shades and put
it away in her purse.

Daniel frown as she sees Jessica watching her but didn't
say anything.

A FEW MINUTES LATER

DANIEL
Okay Mama spit it out, for the
pass minutes you've just been
staring at me.

JESSICA
What's going on?

DANIEL
I don't know Mom you tell me.

JESSICA
Okay I'll tell you Joan called.

DANIEL
Oh lord...

Daniel face palm herself.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
So much for sending her flowers.

JESSICA
Look at me Daniel.

Daniel looks at Jessica

DANIEL
It's just this case I've been
working on.

JESSICA
What about-

The waitress comes to the table with two plates of food and
Jessica stops talking and smile at the waitress.

TESSA
I know the Garden Salad with
grilled Salmon is for you Daniel.

DANIEL
You know it Tessa.

She put the particular plate down in front of Daniel and
the remaining one in front of Jessica.

TESSA
Can I get you anything else?

JESSICA
No thank you.

DANIEL
Actually I have to bring back some
dessert for someone at the office.

TESSA
What would you like?

DANIEL
Surprise me.

TESSA
Okay, well then guys enjoy your
meals

DANIEL JESSICA
Thanks Tessa.

Daniel dig into her meal the second Tessa walks off to
dodge the topic.

JESSICA
As I was saying, what about the
case?

DANIEL
Your food is going to get cold
Mama.

JESSICA
What about the case?

DANIEL
You're sure you don't want to eat?

JESSICA
Daniel Jayyy.

DANIEL
Actually I prefer Cole.

JESSICA
Really!

Daniel puts down her fork, wipe her mouth with the napkin
and drink some water.

DANIEL
Okay so ever since I took on this
case, where a 13 years old girl
was raped by her stepfather; my
emotions has been all over the
place. I've literally transform
into something completely
different.

(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I've been putting in unnecessary hours, even though Dian and I have this strict 9 to 6 policy where work time is work time and home time is home time and you know how serious I take that. Instead I'm going home 10 o'clock some nights and very distant with my family. And that's not even the worst part.

JESSICA

It gets worse than that?

DANIEL

Yes! Another symptom of this new case is that it was like a trigger for dreams. I have horrible nightmares that gets more horrible by the night!

JESSICA

Nightmares? about what?

DANIEL

Of me getting raped different ways and places but still by him. Last night was the most terrifying one, last night the nightmare was about him raping Tanya and I was there and couldn't do anything.

Daniel voice get thick with emotions.

JESSICA

I'm so sorry baby.

DANIEL

There's more!

JESSICA

What else?

DANIEL

I've been crying and fighting aloud in my sleep.

JESSICA

So Dian knows...

DANIEL

He knows something is up but he doesn't know what's up and he's upset with me right now because I said HIS name and Dian wants to know who's name I called in my sleep. What i'm I going to tell him then?

JESSICA

(surprise)

You said Curtis?!

DANIEL

Yes and ...

JESSICA

Now you don't know how to explain Dian who Curtis is.

DANIEL

Exactly! I've come so far! We have come so far! We worked harddd, crappy jobs, hungry and cold nights, darkness, you name it and we have been through it. I've worked so hard in school, graduated valedictorian and got a full scholarship to Harvard and work my ass off again and became a successful lawyer at 21! I worked my way to the top of my company until I became the CEO.

PAUSE

Look I met an amazing man and had two beautiful and loving children. I have put it behind me! I have put Curtis the rapist behind me! It feels like my perfect paradise is crumbling because of this bullshit.

JESSICA

It doesn't have to, tell Dian the truth. Start there!

DANIEL

Tell Dian what truth?

JESSICA

The whole truth.

DANIEL
I can NOT do that..

JESSICA
Oh yes you can, I did it and so
can you.

DANIEL
You told Tyler the truth about us?

JESSICA
Yes I told him, Candice and Zara.

DANIEL
I can't tell my children Mom!

JESSICA
I started with Tyler and he help
me tell the children, start with
Dian.

DANIEL
I don't even know where to start,
or how to start.

Jessica takes Daniel hands.

JESSICA
We are in this together, forever!
We can tell him together if that's
what you want.

DANIEL
You'll do that for me?

JESSICA
Anything for my half daughter half
niece.

They both laugh.

DANIEL
It feels like a burden was lifted
off my shoulders by just telling
you all that I just did.

JESSICA
Yep and that's just the beginning,
you'll feel totally free when you
tell Dian.

DANIEL
Let's have some cold food.

JESSICA

Shall we.

Daniel looks happier now that she had talked about it and have a possible solution.

INT. COLE MANSION - DAY

Daniel and Jessica stands in the entrance of the hallway and WHISPER to each other.

JESSICA

Where is he?

DANIEL

Down the hall in his office.

JESSICA

He's working so I'll assume Tanya isn't here.

DANIEL

Yeah, she's at her book club.

Daniel looks nervous.

JESSICA

Are you nervous?

DANIEL

Of course! Let's go and get it over with.

Daniel and Jessica walks down the hallway and stops in front of Dian's home office door.

STILL WHISPERING

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Mama you knock.

JESSICA

Why?

DANIEL

Knock the door.

JESSICA

No thank you, knock let's go. You're now making me nervous.

DANIEL

(ALoud)

Just knock the door!

DIAN (O.S.)
Just come in.

JESSICA
(whispering again)
Yeah look what you did Daniel.

Daniel watch her Mom, Jessica gesture for her to open the door.

Daniel opens the door and they both enter.

INT. DIAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Dian is sitting at his desk. He watches as the door opens and Daniel and Jessica enters, when he sees Jessica too he takes of his glasses and gets up to greet her.

DIAN
Heyyy Mom!
(Dian hug Jessica and
she hugs him back.)
I wasn't expecting you.

JESSICA
I know, I know, how are you?

DIAN
I've seen better days, have a
seat.

Dian pulls out the two chairs in front of his desk and motion for Jessica and Daniel to sit.

He then goes to his seat and sit down.

DIAN (CONT'D)
Okay so I'm glad to see you Mom
but I know this is about
something. So what is it?

DANIEL
How can you tell?

DIAN
You came in my office a nervous
wreck, yo-

DANIEL
Okay! Yeah I'm nervous..

DIAN
Why?

JESSICA

The something we want to talk to you about is why she's nervous.

DIAN

Okay.. let's talk.

Daniel takes a deep breath.

DANIEL

Okay where do I start?

DIAN

The beginning sounds like a great place to start.

Daniel stare at Dian and Jessica takes her hand to bring back her focus.

DANIEL

.... When I was 13 years old I was rape-

DIAN

What?! Who raped you?!

JESSICA

(turns to Dian)

Calm down she'll get to that.

(turns back to Daniel)

Go ahead baby.

DANIEL

I was raped by my father's best friend, Curtis.

DIAN

Curtis from the dreams?

DANIEL

(nods)

After it happened I was so sad and scared. I told myself two things. One, I was either going to run away or two, kill myself and I choose to run away. Whe-

DIAN

But what did Tyler do when you told him what his best friend had done?

DANIEL
Let me finish, talking about it is hard enough.

DIAN
Okay I'm sorry continue.

DANIEL
I packed my stuff to run away and my aunt found me and long story short she decided to runaway with me.

Dian is now shock and speechless.

JESSICA
We came here and lived in my car for months and I worked in a little diner and saved up, while Daniel would go to school. I met Tyler there, he helped us to get somewhere proper to live and we fell in love and yada yada.

DANIEL
What I said about my school days and everything was tr-.

DIAN
Jessica is your aunt?!

DANIEL JESSICA
Yes.

DIAN
Wow... I think I can already fill in some of the blanks about what has been going on. But why now? it's been what 25 years, what happened what changed?

DANIEL
The new case is what happened and changed everything.

DIAN
Oh okay, it adds up.

Dian gets up from his chair and walks around his desk and sits on the couch in his office.

DIAN (CONT'D)
Wow... now that's a lot to take in, just wow!

JESSICA
Yeah I know it's a lot to take in.

DIAN
So what did her real parents say
when you guys told them?

Jessica and Daniel watches each other.

JESSICA
They never found out.

DANIEL
Well at least not from any of us.

DIAN
You ran away from your real
parents and they don't even know
why? Just came home one day and
their child and sister was gone?!

JESSICA
That's basically what happened.

DIAN
You know you can be charged with
kidnapping right?

DANIEL
It doesn't matter we are not going
back there anyhow.

DIAN
That's where you're wrong. You are
going back, I don't know about Mom
but you are going back.

DANIEL
I think the hell not! A matter of
fact I'm getting up from here and
I'm leaving.

Daniel gets up and is ready to leave the room.

DIAN
Sit down Daniel and listen.

DANIEL
I don't need to listen to you
right now.

JESSICA
I have a feeling that you'd want
to hear what he's going to say.

DIAN
Listen to your mother Daniel.

Daniel sits back down.

DANIEL
Okay what do you have to say?!
Keep in mind I'm not going back!

DIAN
Yes you are going back, if the
tables where turn and Tanya ran
away without you knowing why, how
would you feel?

DANIEL
Keep Tanya out of this!

He looks at Jessica.

DIAN
If Zara or Candice had ran away
and you didn't know why your
daughter just up and left how
would you feel?

JESSICA
Like a piece of me were gone... I
don't want to think about it but I
know I wouldn't be happy.

DIAN
Exactly, I know if Tanya sh-

DANIEL
I said keep Tanya out of this!
Seriously! Can I go now?

JESSICA
Can you stop the mentioning of
Tanya please Dian?

DIAN
Okay fine, if my child-

DANIEL
Which would be my child, and
you're now going to drop it.

DIAN
Bottom line is you need to go
back-

DANIEL
I sai-

DIAN

Listen Daniel! First reason why you're going back is you need to slay this demon, send him to jail; You are now part of the law so you know how it works and you make a living by sending people like him to jail or just go home and face him, let him know that you forgive him or whatever.

DANIEL

I-

DIAN

Lis-tennn! I'm not done yet. Second reason you need to make your parents know that you are alive, successfully and until a case ago, happy. Let them know that they have grandchildren now. You know... explain to them why you had to leave. Go find closure, come back and we'll move on.

The room gets deadly quiet.

Daniel gets up to leave again and this time she starts walking and is near to the door.

DANIEL

I'm not going back!

DIAN

You don't go back I file for a divorce and I take Tian and Tanya.

Daniel caramel skin turns pale and she stop in her tracks. Jessica sits down with her mouth wide open and looks back and forth between Daniel to Dian.

DANIEL

Take that back Dian!

DIAN

No I won't. You want to be stubborn and acting ignorant then fine by me.

DANIEL

You just said that you are going to file for a divorce and take our kids?! Tian just started university and he is doing great!

(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)
he doesn't need this drama right
now!

Jessica nods in agreement with what Daniel said.

DIAN
Well then go back and handle this
thing quietly. Then come back and
we'll tell the children together.

JESSICA
One problem Tanya lives here,
she'll ask questions and she'll
tell Tian and he'll ask questions
too.

DIAN
We will tell her that it's a work
thing.

DANIEL
So you just want to lie to her?

DIAN
You have been doing it for 12
years.

JESSICA
Touché...

DANIEL
You just had to rub it in right?

DIAN
It's the truth.

DANIEL
(signs in defeat)
I'm going to go upstairs and start
making preparations.

Daniel leaves the room and close the door behind her.

DANIEL (O.S.)
So much for feeling totally free

The two occupants of the room sits in an awkward silence.

When Dian is sure that Daniel is completely gone he spoke.

DIAN
I do love your daughter. I just
said that just so she could've
said yes to going back.

JESSICA
And it's a good thing she loves
you too and choose to go back
instead of the divorce.

DIAN
(awkward laugh)
I was scared for a minute.

Jessica and Dian sits in an uncomfortable silence.

A MINUTE LATER

JESSICA
I'm going to go with her.

DIAN
Are you sure you want to do that?

JESSICA
I'm sure.. that girl and I have
seen some dark days together.
Survived some horrible things too.

PAUSE

JESSICA (CONT'D)
I love her with the love that I
have for the children that I
carried for nine months and felt
pain for.

DIAN
Yeah I can imagine. You were all
each other had for a while.

JESSICA
Oh yes... He raped me first.

DIAN
Curtis?

JESSICA
Yes, I was so broken and lost.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
(laugh humorlessly)
Stupid even. When I found out what
he did to my niece I wanted to
kill him. But I know all that I
had the strength to do was run
away with her.

DIAN

Why didn't you involved her
parents?

JESSICA

I didn't have time, if I had gone
to my sister she would have
already been gone and then what?

DIAN

What if she didn't got as far as
she intended?

JESSICA

Then she would've taken her own
life. I cared more about my niece
than how my sister would feel.

DIAN

What about after you guys left?
Didn't you think about reaching
out then?

JESSICA

And said what? Hey Deb I have your
daughter yeah we ran away together
but we good?

DIAN

Well precisely.

JESSICA

Rightttt. Well you can continue
thinking that because you
obviously don't know Debra.

DIAN

Debra?

JESSICA

That's Daniel's biological mother
and my sister and let me tell you
this she's crazy!

DIAN

I guess running away with her was
the best thing to do then, just
like this is the best thing to do
now.

JESSICA

Yes it's about time.

DIAN

I hope that you understand why I'm doing this.

JESSICA

(smile)

Absolutely! I understand. It's past due now, the time has come.

INT. TYLER AND JESSICA CLOSET - DAY

Jessica is in her closet, taking clothes off the hanger and handing them too her husband Tyler. TYLER MARTINEZ, white male in his late 50s. Tyler is worried about her going back home.

TYLER

Babe I don't feel good about this.

JESSICA

It'll be alright. Stop worrying so much, come help me pack.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I love you.

Jessica kisses Tyler.

TYLER

I love you too. But-

JESSICA

Stop worrying about it, even if it's the worst Debra and Markus has in mind for me Debra won't go through with it.

TYLER

And how do you know that?

JESSICA

I know my sister.

TYLER

She could've changed when you ran away with her daughter.

JESSICA

(kisses Tyler again)

I said stop worrying about it.

INT. TYLER AND JESSICA BEDROOM - DAY

CANDICE 20s, is packing clothes in her mother's suitcase while her younger sister ZARA 20s, is laying on her parents bed texting away on her phone.

CANDICE
Zara can't you find something a little more constructive to do?

ZARA
What do you want me to do?

Jessica and Tyler joins the girls in the bedroom.

JESSICA
Let her be, Candice you and I can manage.

TYLER
You're the one that have her so spoil and lazy.

ZARA
I'm not spoil or lazy.

CANDICE
Says every spoiled and lazy person.

JESSICA
Will you leave my baby alone?

Candice and Tyler laughs.

TYLER
Mama bear to the rescue.

Tyler and his oldest laughs some more.

ZARA
Mom can I stress on the fact that I don't feel comfortable with you going back there?

Candice stops packing and sits on the bed.

CANDICE
I have to agree with Zara on that one. I don't feel so good about you and Dandan going back there, especially you Mom.

JESSICA
 It's going to be alright, come
 give me hugs and kisses please.
 I'm going to be gone for a while.

Jessica family moves in and gives her her request.

INT. TANYA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tanya sits at her desk doing her homework.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

DANIEL (O.S.)
 Baby?

TANYA
 Come in Mom it's open

Daniel enters her daughter's room and sit on her bed.

TANYA (CONT'D)
 I'm almost done doing my homework,
 I'm on the last sum.

DANIEL
 Take your time Sweetie.

Daniel sits and watch Tanya finish her homework.

Tanya finishes her homework and sits on the bed beside her Mother. She leans her head on Daniel and Daniel wrap her arms around her and kiss Tanya on her head.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
 Tanya?

TANYA
 Yes Mom.

DANIEL
 You know Mommy loves you and Tian
 with all her heart right?

TANYA
 Is something wrong?

DANIEL
 No Baby.

TANYA
 Are you and Daddy getting a
 divorce?

DANIEL
(laugh)
No baby.

TANYA
Okay now that we have that part clear. I know you tell me that you love Tian and I all the time, and you come in my room a lot to sit and watch me do my homework but I can hear something else in your voice.

DANIEL
(smile)
You're so smart I love you so much. What I came in here to tell you is that I have to go away for a while.

TANYA
Go away to where?

DANIEL
I was suppose to tell you that it's work related but I don't want to lie to you anymore. Grandma and I are going back to a place that we thought were behind us.

TANYA
But you're going to come back right?

DANIEL
Yes of course. I will always come back to you, your Dad and brother. I will be gone for a while but you can Facetime and call me everyday.

TANYA
Oh so it's not jail you're going to?

DANIEL
Tanya!

Tanya laugh and hug her Mom.

TANYA
I'm just making sure. Just. Making. Sure.

DANIEL
I'm going to miss you my princess.

TANYA
I'm going to miss you too Mom.

EXT/INT. CAR - NIGHT

Daniel and Jessica are sitting in a car outside the JAY'S HOUSE. They are in the backseat of the car and their driver is in the front.

They look through the car glass at the house. The driveway is filled with cars and they could hear the noise from the people inside the house.

JESSICA
Daniel?

DANIEL
Yes.

JESSICA
I'm nervous.

DANIEL
You want us to go back home? We can do that too you know.

JESSICA
No! We have come a long way.

DANIEL
I don't care.

JESSICA
It's your mother's birthday it's the best time. Everyone is here plus we brought gifts.

DANIEL
Really?! That still doesn't change a thing! Okay let's go I feel hype.

Daniel and Jessica exit the car and starts to walk up the driveway.

JESSICA
Your mother is going to murder me.

DANIEL
I'll do my best to save you.

INT. JAY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Marvin is sitting at the end of the stairs. He is all grown up and handsome now. He is on the phone with someone and by his body language you can see that the conversation is not going well.

DOORBELL RINGS

MARVIN

(puts the phone on his chest and turns his head to the kitchen)

I'll get it!

(puts back the phone to his ears)

Look Quan I have to go, I can't do this right now it's my mom's birthday plus someone is at the door. I'll talk to you later or something.

Marvin hang up the phone and walks to the door.

He opens the door and was about to greet the guest when he recognize who it is.

MARVIN (CONT'D)

Oh my God.

DANIEL

Marvin?

MARVIN

Daniel?

Daniel too was kind of awestruck seeing how grown her baby brother is now.

MARVIN (CONT'D)

Mom! Dad! Come quick! Aunty Jessica?

JESSICA

(smiling)

Hi Marvin you have grown into a very handsome young man.

Marvin is still stick to his place.

MARVIN

Th-thank you?

The family heard the urgency in Marvin voice and everybody runs to the door.

Everyone has aged, Debra and Markus looks 25 years older. Markus Jr. and Deborah has aged beautiful and Curtis wasn't looking too bad either.

When they see the new arrivals they stop and are astonish. Markus breaks the ice first.

MARKUS

Daniel?!

DANIEL

Hi Papa.

Markus runs to the door and hugs her while Debra stands her grounds and starts crying.

DEBORAH

Come inside guys it's cold out there.

Daniel and Jessica moves inside. Daniel now has teary eyes, she walks up to her mother and hugs her.

Marvin closes the door.

DEBRA

Miss Daniel, Oh Miss Daniel.

Debra hugs her tight.

DEBRA (CONT'D)

My baby.

Curtis is among the crowd and is hiding from sight.

After the crowd sees that Debra and her daughter had no intentions of going anywhere, they silently goes to the living room.

DEBRA (CONT'D)

I had so many sleepless nights,
cried so many tears. I never
thought I would ever see the day
when I'd wrap my arms around you
again.

DANIEL

I'm sorry that things had to turn
out the way they did.

DEBRA

Me too but I'm just so glad to have you back, to see you and touch you right now. I love you Miss Daniel, my baby.

DANIEL

I love you too Mama.

They release each other and Debra wipes Daniel tears and kiss her cheek.

DEBRA

My daughter!

Debra wipes away her tears and stop crying. Daniel kisses her back.

DEBRA (CONT'D)

Okay let's go and join the rest of family in the living room, we have new additions to the family! Grandchildren and in laws.

DANIEL

Mama before we go on in and meet the family I want you to promise me that you'll go easy on Aunt Jessica.

DEBRA

I ain't making no promises.

Debra takes Daniel's hand and head for the living room.

INT. JAY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

In the living room there are fifteen people including Daniel and Jessica. The couch are full with adults and the children are on the floor.

Debra's best friend PAM and her husband ROBERT are here too.

Pam, Robert, Curtis and Markus are on the big couch, Markus Jr. his wife and Deborah is on the smaller couch and Deborah's husband is standing by her side. Marvin sits in one chair and Jessica sits in the other.

The two children and one teenager are sitting on the floor.

When Daniel and Debra enters the room Markus stands up immediately.

DEBRA

Oh my this feels so good.

Jessica gets up and start to walk towards Debra, in her hands is the gift that she brought for Debra. The room gets deadly quiet as the action takes place.

JESSICA

Deb-

Jessica is cut off with a slap to her face that echo in the room.

The occupants of the room makes shock sounds.

Daniel move to come to her aunt rescue but stops when Jessica motion for to stay back.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I deserved that.

DEBRA

That and more! you kidnapped my child!

DANIEL

She didn't kidnapped me Mama.

DEBRA

Bet she told you to say that. She probably has you brainwashed by now.

JESSICA

She has a hard head just like you, she can't be brainwashed.

Jessica gives her sister the gift.

DEBRA

Whatever!

Debra takes the gift.

JESSICA

You know it's true.

DEBRA

Girl bye!

Debra walks around her sister and slightly push her then puts on a big smile on her face.

DEBRA (CONT'D)
Okay so who wants to do the
introduction?

JASON RUSSELL teen, stands up immediately.

JASON
Well since I'm the first
grandchild and all that good
stuff.

Jessica and Daniel gets closer to the family.

JASON (CONT'D)
I think I should go first and
introduce my family.

BRANDON
Oh God this nonsense again! Yeah
you're the first grandchild, I'm
the second and Markie the third
big deal.

The room laughs at Brandon's comment.

DANIEL
(points at Jason)
How old are you?

JASON
I'm Jason Russell and I'm 17 years
old.
(points at Deborah)
This is my mom.

DANIEL
Yeah I know her

Deborah and Daniel smile at each other. Jason points at the
man standing beside Deborah.

JASON
And this is my Dad and my mother's
husband Andre.

Daniel goes over and hugs Jason.

DANIEL
Nice to meet you Jason.

Deborah gets up and hug her big sister, the hug is a warm
welcoming hug. Daniel then shakes Andre hand.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

And it's also nice to meet you
Andre.

ANDRE

The pleasure is mines Daniel.

BRANDON

And I'm Brandon and I'm 11 and a
half.

JASON

He's also a Russell, my little
brother.

BRANDON

I told you to stop going around
telling people I'm related to you!

Daniel laugh.

DANIEL

(hugs Brandon)

Nice to meet you Brandon and I
know you must think it sucks being
the second grandchild and I'm
literally going to say something
that is going to make it 3 times
worse.

BRANDON

Like what?

DANIEL

Like you're not the second
grandchild.... you're actually the
4th.

BRANDON

Wow.

The room is once again shock and Debra turns to Jessica.

DEBRA

Really Jessica?!

MARKUS

D...

JESSICA

Oh hell no! Deborah is 36 and
Jason is 17 which means she had
him when she was 19!

(MORE)

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Daniel had Tian when she was 22 years old and Tanya when she was 26! And all that time she was married and living in a house with her husband. Leave me alone Debra!

DEBRA

What are you tryna say Jessica?
Come straight!

MARKUS

You are married?

DANIEL

Yes Papa.

MARKUS

To who?

DANIEL

To a man.

The room gets quiet again.

DEBRA

You already know Pam, Robert and Uncle Curtis.

PAM

Welcome back Daniel.

DANIEL

Thank you Ms. Pam.

DEBORAH

Daniel why didn't you bring your family?

DANIEL

Work and school.

JESSICA

But everyone is coming up the same time, my family included.

DEBRA

More people that you kidnapped?

Marvin and Jason snicker and tries to cover it up with coughs.

JESSICA

One I didn't kidnap Daniel and two
I'm now married to a loving
husband and have two beautiful
daughters 25 and 20.

DEBRA

Hmm.

DANIEL

They'll be here as soon as Tian
can take a break from school.

MARKUS JR.

You said that like it's such a big
deal.

ELAINE JAY, late 20s is Markus wife. She hits him on the
leg.

ELAINE

Markus!

MARKUS JR.

What?!

Elaine and Markus stare at each other.

MARKUS JR. (CONT'D)

Aunt Jess this is my wife Elaine
and that's our 5 years old son
MARKUS JAY the third. Say hi
Markie.

Markie greets them shyly

MARKIE

Hi,

He then hides his face behind his mother's leg.

Daniel reaches down and picks him up.

JESSICA

Hi Markie, he's so cuteeee.

DANIEL

Look at you so big and cute. You
look just like your Daddy.

Markie smile and hides his face on Daniel's chest. Jessica
comes up to Daniel and rubs Markie's back.

JESSICA

Such handsome boy.

DANIEL
You are so cute.

MARKUS JR .
He got all that from his father.

DANIEL
Yeah alright and FYI just know
that Harvard Law at 16 is a big
deal Markus.

Everyone in the room except Markus Jr. have impress looks
on their faces.

ELAINE
Take it from a teacher, that is a
big deal. Harvard by itself is a
big deal.

JASON
Let me get this straight, your 16
years old son is in law school?!

DANIEL
(proud)
Yes.

JASON
Wow.

ANDRE
And here you are 17 years old,
still in high school and refuse to
stay out of trouble.

Jason scratches his head and sits back down on the floor.

JASON
I got to reshape myself man.

DEBORAH
I agree.

MARKUS JR.
Don't scold your son over what
she's saying. Look at the rock on
her finger and the diamonds around
her neck, she screams money. She
most likely paid off the right
people so her son could be where
he is right now.

ANDRE

I don't know if it's all the alcohol you consumed tonight that have you like this or if you're just naturally being an ass! And don't tell me how to parent my children Markus.

DANIEL

I'll have you know hard work is what has my son where he is right now. What is your problem Markus?!

Daniel give Markie to Jessica, just as Markus Jr. gets up in anger and goes up in Daniel face.

MARKUS JR.

What is my problem?!

Jessica move to pull back Daniel because she already knew what is about to happen but she's too late.

DANIEL

Get out of my face Markus! what is the matter with you?!

Daniel pushes Markus Jr. out of her face with a hard force and he falls to the floor.

Nobody in the room beside Jessica is expecting this.

BRANDON

Damnnn!

JASON

Oh shoot!

Daniel is angry now.

Markus Jr. catches himself and gets up, he is now ready to fight his sister and she too is ready for him.

The men and women in the room intervene.

Marvin and Deborah holds their sister while Markus, Curtis and Andre hold Markus Jr.

Debra stands in the middle of both parties.

DEBRA

Okay everybody calm down.

MARKUS JR.

I'm going to mess you up Daniel!

DANIEL
Please try! I'm begging you to
Markus!

DEBRA
Eyyy shut up! Both of you!

MARKUS
I think it's time to call it a
night.

DEBORAH
I think so too Daddy.

DANIEL
Release me please.

They release her cautiously. Daniel points at Markus Jr.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
You ruined your mother's birthday
you little piece of trash.

MARKUS JR.
Just a little piece of trash
Daniel?!

Daniel storms out the living room and they hear when she
slams the door.

Debra starts panicking

JESSICA
Relax she'll be back. She'll sleep
at the hotel with me, tomorrow is
another day she'll be right back.

DEBRA
Why does she have to stay at a
hotel?

MARKUS JR.
Why do you care?!

ANDRE
Relax yourself Markus.

JESSICA
I'm staying at a hotel, she's
staying here I believe but with
her current emotions it's for the
best.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
 (gives Markie to Debra)
 We are at the Alrick Lawson's
 hotel in town, just to prevent you
 from pinning another round of
 kidnapping on me.

MARKUS JR.
 You hear that! One night at that
 man hotel is a arm and a leg and
 she's planning to stay there
 indefinitely. Money!

Andre and Markus are still holding him.

MARVIN
 Shut up Markus.

JESSICA
 (hugs her sister)
 Sorry for ruining your birthday.

DEBRA
 As crazy as it sounds this is the
 best birthday I've had in 20
 something years.

JESSICA
 (smile)
 I will see you guys tomorrow, good
 night.

PAM
 Robert and I are going to leave
 now as well.

Jessica turns to leave.

CURTIS
 Jessica I'll bring you guys to the
 hotel.

JESSICA
 Unbelievable... no thank you
 Curtis our driver and car is
 outside. Good night.

MARKUS JR.
 Money! Money! Money! and more
 money.

Jessica leaves the room and shortly after the door to the
 house is open and closed again.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Jessica is laying down on the bed texting on her phone in her pajamas.

Daniel comes out of the bathroom dress in her pajamas and sit on the bed.

Jessica puts her phone to sleep, takes of her glasses and rest them on the nightstand by the bed. She rolls to the side that Daniel is on.

JESSICA

You were really going to fight your brother?

DANIEL

You better believe it, he was so rude and disrespectful for no reason! I didn't do this man anything.

JESSICA

Calm down and come to bed.

Daniel gets in the bed beside her aunt.

DANIEL

Tanya said good night.

JESSICA

Tyler and the girl sent their greetings as well.

DANIEL

I miss them already.

JESSICA

That makes two of us.

They both turn off the lamps on their sides and lay in a comfortable silence. The room isn't pitch black, the light from the various windows highlight their features.

A MINUTE LATER

JESSICA (CONT'D)

She slapped me...

DANIEL

Hard too...

JESSICA

I'm not exaggerating or anything
but that was a hell of a slap, I
almost piss up myself.

Daniel burst out laughing and Jessica joins in too.

DANIEL

You felted it in all in your toes!

JESSICA

Girl! It shock up my insides.

They both laugh some more then sober up.

DANIEL

I'm actually glad we came, I don't
regret it.

JESSICA

Me too Dan, me too and we ain't
start regretting it just yet.

DANIEL

Another slap from Debra Mighty
will do the trick.

The ladies laughs at Daniel joke.

INT. CURTIS BEDROOM - MORNING

Curtis is laying on his back in bed, he had just woken up.

He tries getting out of bed to go to the bathroom but is
hit with a strong pain in his lower back and legs.

He tries to get up but was only reward with more pain.
After much hard work he finally sits up still in pain.

He makes it to stand up and because he is in so much pain
he couldn't make it to the bathroom fast enough.

Curtis lose control of his bladder and starts to urine on
himself. But it hurts to pee so he sits down on the floor
because of the new and addition pain he is feeling.

He sits there on the floor until the bad pain from peeing
and the pain he felt in his back and legs had calm down a
little.

He helps himself off the floor and goes into his bathroom.

INT. CURTIS BATHROOM - MORNING

Curtis washes his hands and face, he stand in front of the face basin and watch himself in the mirror.

He opens the mirror cupboard and takes out three medication bottle and a injection needle.

First thing he did was open two of the medication bottles and take one pill from one and two from the other.

Curtis take the pills and full a glass that he had sitting on the side of the bathroom sink with water and drinks it. After he finish taking the pills he reach for the third bottle and the needle.

He pulls some of the substance from the bottle with the needle and inject himself.

He gathers up his medication and put them back in the cupboard and throw away the needle.

Curtis goes back to staring at himself in the mirror again.

INT. JAY'S HOUSE - MORNING

DANIEL
Mama! Papa! Hey!

Daniel enters her parents house and close the door behind her.

MARKUS (O.S.)
We are in the kitchen Baby.

Daniel follows her father voice and goes to kitchen.

INT. JAY'S KITCHEN - MORNING

DANIEL
It smells good in here!

DEBRA
Good Morning Miss Daniel.

DANIEL
Good morning Mom and Dad.

MARKUS
Morning Danny.

Markus is sitting at the table eating and Debra is making breakfast, even though the kitchen counter was kinda full with food already.

Daniel picks up a bacon and starts observing the kitchen.

DANIEL

You guys did some renovations? I realize some changes in the living room and now the kitchen.

DEBRA

Yeah we renovated. I just love this house, so many memories both good and bad. It's my home.

Debra look around her house and her eyes are full with admiration.

DANIEL

Nice I like it, so where's everyone?

MARKUS

Those people don't live here, that's the perks of them being adults. You get to live on your own.

DEBRA

And they don't have to hear me shouting on a Sunday morning reminding them it's Sunday.

Daniel laughs.

DANIEL

Mama you still do that?

DEBRA

Absolutely!

DANIEL

If they don't live here then why are you making all that food?

DEBRA

For different reasons-

Debra is cut off by Jason running in the kitchen dancing, he is ready for school. His headphones are in and he is dancing to what he's listening and we hear what he's playing.

JASON
 (SINGING)
 Feels like I've been down to the
 riverrrrrr.

Jason starts singing and he now have the undying attention of his aunt who is amuse and his grandparents who are curious.

JASON (CONT'D)
 (SINGING)
 You washed away all my shame,
 No longer bound because I'm
 forgiven yeah,
 I've been made free from sin's
 guilty stain,
 You gave your life for me that I
 might be saved,
 You changed my destiny with the
 awesome price you paid, now I can
 say,
 Old things are passed away,
 All things are new,
 I'm not the same, Yes I've been
 changed,
 Yes I've been changed, Ohhh Yeah
 Yeah it's true I found my life in
 you,
 All things are new,
 I'm not the same,
 Yes I've been changed
 Yes I've been changed, Yeah.

Jason stop singing and take out his headphones.

DEBRA
 Changed from what Jason?

JASON
 I'm telling you Grandma that
 Geoffrey Golden is so very
 talented.

MARKUS
 One of the reasons your mother has
 to cook so much is because he
 lives here.

Everyone in the room laugh at what Markus said.

JASON
 Okay I'm taking my breakfast to go
 Grandma, I don't want to be late.

Markus and Debra watch Jason speechless.

MARKUS
You will?

JASON
Yes.

MARKUS
Pack his breakfast to go before he
changes his mind.

Jason laughs at his Grandfather. Debra start putting food
in a bowl for Jason.

JASON
Take your time Grandma.

MARKUS
Don't listen to him D, a matter of
fact I'll help you so it'll go
quicker.

Markus gets up from the table and start helping Debra.

DANIEL
What is wrong with them?

DEBRA
We'll explain after.

Jason smile and shake his head.

DANIEL
I don't live around her anymore
but I lived here long enough to
know that it's school hours now.

Debra give Jason his lunch and his breakfast.

DEBRA
Have a nice day at school Jason.

Jason leans over the counter and kiss his grandmother.

JASON
Have a nice day too Grandma. Peace
Granddad.

He kisses Daniel's cheek too.

JASON (CONT'D)
I didn't say good morning so good
morning and have a nice day too.

DANIEL
Yeah same.

Jason start leaving the kitchen, he put back his headphones in, and start singing again.

JASON
(SINGING)
Though I may fail he still calls
me his own, ooohhh
You gave your life for me that I
might be saved,
You changed my destiny with the
awesome price you paid, now I can
sayyy.

Lunch in one hand and holding his backpack over his shoulder with the other, Jason leaves for school.

Daniel watch her parents as they stare after the now gone Jason.

DANIEL
Are you guys okay?

Daniel laugh at her parents behavior.

MARKUS
You just saw that too right?

DANIEL
Saw what?

MARKUS
Jason came down here singing
gospel music, talking about he
changed me and stuff. Then the boy
says he wants his breakfast to go!

DEBRA
Yes something is definitely wrong!

DANIEL
I'm a little lost, that's good
behavior. Isn't it?

MARKUS
Exactly! It's good behavior and
that's something Jason doesn't
have! The boy is seventeen and
already have a girl pregnant and a
ugly police record.

DANIEL
Oh wow.

DEBRA

Deborah and Andre put him out and that's the reason why he lives here.

MARKUS

Every morning I have to chase this boy out of this house to go to school.

DEBRA

And I have to drag him out this house on a Sunday!

DANIEL

(frowns)

Really?

DEBRA MARKUS

Yeahhh.

DANIEL

Okay then, can you make me a plate please? we'll see if it last.

Markus starts dishing out food on a plate for Daniel.

MARKUS

I hope it does.

Markus finish making the plate and gives it to Daniel. Daniel takes the plate and sits at the table.

She starts eating and Debra and Markus watch their daughter with happiness.

Markus and Debra WHISPER to each other.

MARKUS (CONT'D)

I'm so happy to have her home.

DEBRA

Me too.

Daniel phone keeps ringing and she declines the call. while her parents clean up the kitchen.

MARKUS

You don't want to answer that in our presence?

DEBRA

We understand if you don't want to answer it while we are in here but you can step out and answer it. We don't mind

Daniel stop eating immediately.

DANIEL

No! Not at all it's nothing like what you guys think. It has nothing to do with you guys.

MARKUS

We-

DEBRA

You know what? when he calls back I'll answer.

DEBRA (CONT'D)

You don't have to d-

DANIEL

He's calling back! I'll even put it on speaker.

Daniel answers the phone and puts it on speaker.

DIAN (V.O.)

Hey, I've been trying to reach you.

DANIEL

I know.

DIAN (V.O.)

I even tried using Tanya's and my work phone.

DANIEL

I know.

DIAN (V.O.)

I miss you.

DANIEL

I know that too

DIAN (V.O.)

You are still upset with me?

DANIEL

YOU know that already.

DIAN (V.O.)
I expected that, you good?

DANIEL
Yeah I'm alright.

DIAN (V.O.)
Will you start answering my calls
now?

DANIEL
Nope.

DIAN (V.O.)
Messages?

DANIEL
I'll think about it.

DIAN (V.O.)
Good enough, I love you.

DANIEL
I love you too.

DIAN (V.O.)
I have to go I'm in a meeting.

DANIEL
Okay bye.

Daniel hang up the phone.

DEBRA
I would assume that was your
husband.

DANIEL
(smiling)
Yeah that was him.

MARKUS
I think I like him already.

Daniel and her mother laugh.

DEBRA
You don't even know him.

MARKUS
Yeah but here he is calling my
daughter while he is in a meeting
because she is mad at him, says
where his mind and thoughts are.

DEBRA

I hear you Father Markus, so what does he do for a living Miss Daniel? or is it too soon asking questions like that?

DANIEL

He's a CEO of a oil company called Legion Cole Enterprise.

MARKUS

Wow that's a big company! Dian Cole is your husband?

DANIEL

Yes Sir.

MARKUS

Well... I'll have you two know that I liked him before I knew he was my son in law. Mannn! Dian Cole is my son in law! wait until the boys at the garage hears this.

DEBRA

So he has a company and you are like a housewife?

DANIEL

Oh no, I'm a badass lawyer from 9 to 6 and a housewife the rest of the time.

MARKUS

You are lawyer?

DANIEL

Yes Sir, have my own firm too.

DEBRA

Well then, I am proud of you I can say that much.

MARKUS

Me too, I'll see you two later.

Markus kiss his wife and takes his lunch.

DANIEL

Where are you going?

MARKUS

Work.

DANIEL
Why do you still work?

MARKUS
Because I still have bills.

Daniel gets up with her plate and put it in the sink.

DANIEL
I can afford your retirement you know.

MARKUS
Oh yeah? we'll talk about that when I get back.

Daniel smile and watch her father leave for work.

Daniel and her mother sits at the table in the kitchen catching up on the 25 years they missed out on.

DEBRA
Where's Jessica anyway?

INT. CAFE - DAY

Jessica is dressed nicely today, she's standing at the side of the line happily waiting for her order to be ready.

We see a white male in his 40s enters the cafe, he is on the phone talking to someone.

While still in her happy state Jessica turns around and see the guy.

JESSICA
Oh shit not good..

Jessica turns her head to the other direction and now she was not sporting the happy vibe instead it was replace with impatience and nervousness.

CAFE GIRL
(hands a coffee cup and
a white paper bag to
Jessica)
Here's your order Ma'am.

Jessica grabs the food out of the girl's hand quick.

JESSICA
Thank you.

Jessica put her food up to her face and speed walk out of the cafe.

As Jessica leaves the cafe recognition flashes on the man's face and he removes the phone from his ears.

BOB
I'll be damned.

INT. HALLWAY/STAIRS - DAY

Daniel comes out of her room into the hallway dressed beautifully for church like always, she is putting in her earrings. Her destination is downstairs in the living room to wait for her mother's Sunday call.

At the end of the staircase were Marvin was sitting two months ago, sits Jason.

He was dressed properly for church.

DANIEL
Hey look who it is! The first born. I've been here what? two months now? and he has been on time for church every Sunday.

Jason smile just as Daniel reaches him.

JASON
Sit with me for awhile, we are a couple minutes early.

DANIEL
Yeah I got up early and got ready today. She gave me a long lecture already and a warning.

Daniel sit beside her nephew on the stairs.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Is there something on your mind you'd like to discuss?

JASON
These days there's always something but this morning it's my baby.

DANIEL
Mammy at 22 was hard enough I can tell you that Daddy at 17 will be harder.

JASON
I'm going to have a daughter.

DANIEL
Congratulations Jason!

JASON
Thank you.

Jason reaches in his pocket and take out his wallet, he open it and pulls out a neatly fold paper and hands it to Daniel.

DANIEL
What's this?

She unwrap it and it was a picture of an ultrasound.

JASON
That's my daughter.

DANIEL
Awww!

Daniel hugs her nephew.

JASON
I want to be a good man for my daughter, I want to provide for her, I want to finish school there's so much things I want to do. I want to make my parents proud just like Tian makes you proud.

DANIEL
Take your time don't try to run before you walk. You are already making your parents proud by wanting to be a better person. What do you want to be when you get older?

Jason shrug.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Okay then you think about that. You can come and live with me and work part time at my firm you also have that option.

JASON
I'll think about it.

DANIEL
Do that.

DEBRA (O.S.)
Miss Daniel it's Sunday!

DANIEL
Hear her. I'm already ready Mama
I'm downstairs!

DEBRA (O.S)
Jason? It's-

Debra appears at the top of staircase, she came from the opposite end of where Daniel had come from.

DEBRA
Oh you're here, excellent.

Daniel and Jason snicker and head for the door.

DEBRA (CONT'D)
Markus-

MARKUS
I'm here!

DEBRA
Great let's go.

INT. KINGDOM LIGHT CHURCH - MORNING

The church is filled with people, all ages, color and size. Pastor Fearon is still there and he doesn't look a day over 45.

The Jay, The Russells and Jessica are standing beside each other singing and clapping. They are in the order of, Markus, Debra, Daniel, Jessica, Deborah, Jason, Brandon and then Andre. The rest of family aren't at church.

The people are standing, clapping and singing, while the worship leader and the choir sings worship.

When she finish singing she gives Pastor Fearon the mic.

PASTOR FEARON
You may be seated in the presence
of GOD. The Lord is an outstanding
and good God.

CONGREGATION
Amen!

PASTOR FEARON
I said he's a outstanding and good
God!

CONGREGATION
Amen!

The congregation claps and some wave.

PASTOR FEARON
Sometime in the week a certain
young man approached me and told
me that he was ready, I was not
sure what he was ready for so I
asked him "Ready for what son?" He
said "To baptize and give my life
to Jesus." I was indeed shocked
but I didn't say no. Kingdom light
the bible says young man I call up
on you because your strong.

CONGREGATION
Amen!

PASTOR FEARON
Come on up Jason so the people can
see you.

The Jay and Russell clan are surprise and Jason gets up.

PASTOR FEARON (CONT'D)
Come on, clap for him!

The congregation clap for Jason as he makes his way to the
pastor.

CHURCH MEMBER 1
(whispering)
Ain't God good, that boy needed
Jesus.

CHURCH MEMBER 2
(whispering)
He's the devil's spawn.

PASTOR FEARON
Brethren judge him not because I
too and you too have come short of
God's glory.

CONGREGATION
Amen!

Pastor Fearon motion to the choir and they start singing.
Jason stands at the alter with his hands lifted and Pastor

Fearon prays for him. Many people in the church are happy for him and they stand and clap, his family included.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Dressed up for dinner, Daniel and Jessica model down the sidewalk. The road isn't busy, a few car would pass now and then.

JESSICA
How was church?

DANIEL
It was wonderful. Jason is going to get baptized I'm so proud of him.

JESSICA
His mother was telling me some stuff about him, he is really changing for the better.

DANIEL
Yeah I might go back home with him, give him a job and all that. I spoke to Dian about it earlier he's cool with it. Actually I think he is just glad that I'm bonding with the family.

JESSICA
(smile)
Truth, but you talked to Dian did you talk to Deborah and Andre? It's indeed their child plus Jason is still underage.

DANIEL
I haven't spoken to them but if Jason decides that he wants to come back with us then I'll make Mama talk to her then I'll say something.

JESSICA
Okay.

The ladies come to a halt as they reach their destination.

DANIEL
Well this looks like it, 'Je t'aime' finest culinary around here I heard.

JESSICA
Yeah this look like it let's go
inside, I did make reservations.

Daniel enters the restaurant and Jessica follows.

INT. JE T'AIME - NIGHT

Inside the restaurant Daniel turn to Jessica who is behind her checking out the place.

DANIEL
Tonight we really have to discuss
this Curtis thing, we have been
here a whole two months and
nothing is been said or done about
it. We ne-

JESSICA
Oh... My... God...

DANIEL
What?

Daniel follow Jessica stare and too is shock.

Marvin is sitting at a table with a very handsome man, they are smiling at each other and holding hands intimately.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Listen let's leave fast!

JESSICA
Why?

DANIEL
Before he sees us!

JESSICA
Daniel we came her to eat not to
mind Marvin's business.

DANIEL
Soo? let's step outside for a
minute please?

JESSICA
Fine but I highly disagree with
you.

Daniel and Jessica turn around and goes back through the door that they entered mere minutes ago.

EXT. JE T'AIME - NIGHT

DANIEL

Why did it had to be us that saw them?!

JESSICA

Wrong place at the wrong time.

DANIEL

That back there isn't what it looked like.

JESSICA

It's not?

DANIEL

Nope, it's normal for two man to sit the way Marvin and that guy is sitting and it not be anything! Maybe it's a business meeting or something.

JESSICA

Well then what they are doing now isn't normal for a business meeting or something and I sure as hell wouldn't want Tyler to have such meetings.

Daniel follows Jessica stare for the second time tonight and through the glass of the restaurant, Marvin and this mysterious guy is having a heated kiss.

Daniel mouth is wide open.

DANIEL

Oh my God!

She turn back around to face Jessica.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Scratch that!

JESSICA

That's a kind of kiss that goes down between two people that are in love, trust me I have been around long enough to know these things.

DANIEL

What do we do now?

JESSICA
Well for starters Marvin eyes and
mine just made four.

DANIEL
What?!

Daniel turn around just in time to see Marvin getting up.

JESSICA
I think he's coming out here.

DANIEL
Should we run or hide behind
something?

JESSICA
We are not doing any of those
things! We are waiting for him to
come, and do you see the size of
the heels both you and I are
wearing.

DANIEL
Good thought, so we just wait?

JESSICA
Pretty much.

The ladies started waiting and shortly after Marvin joins
his aunt and sister.

MARVIN
Hi.

DANIEL JESSICA
Hi.

They fall in an awkward silence.

DANIEL
Look your secret is safe with us.

Daniel seal her mouth and motion with her thumb and index
finger across it.

JESSICA
Yep, safe.

Marvin smirk.

MARVIN
It's not really a secret.

JESSICA
Everyone knows your gay?

DANIEL
Even Mom?

JESSICA
Yes especially her.

MARVIN
Well they know and at the same
time they don't know.

DANIEL
How so?

MARVIN
They know but they aren't sure.

JESSICA
Well okay then, who were you with?

DANIEL
If you didn't want to know that.

JESSICA
Yes I am very much interested.

MARVIN
Like I really didn't want you guys
to find out like this. I didn't
even want you guys to find out, I
wanted to be the one to tell you.

DANIEL
It's not really a big deal.

JESSICA
We aren't homophobic or anything.

DANIEL
You know the story of Sodom and
Gomorrah?

MARVIN
(frowns)
Yeah why?

DANIEL
Once I know, that you know that
story then I'm good.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
(hugs Marvin)
I love you so much still Marvin.

MARVIN
I love you too big sister.

JESSICA
And I love the both of you. Now
you're going to tell us who your
Beau is or not?

MARVIN
(blushing)
That's Quan.

The trio stare through the glass at the back of Quan.

DANIEL
That's a beautiful man, even from
the back.

JESSICA
Hmm hmm.

MARVIN
Let's go inside, you guys can sit
with us.

JESSICA
He won't mind?

MARVIN
Not at all he will be happy to
meet a family member of mines for
a change.

Daniel, Jessica and Marvin walks back inside the
restaurant.

INT. JE'TAIME - NIGHT

The trio walks over to the table where Quan is and stopped.
Quan seeing the new arrivals stands up immediately.

MARVIN
Quan this is my aunt Jessica and
my sister Daniel.

QUAN
Oh wow your family.

MARVIN
Yep.

DANIEL JESSICA
Hi.

Jessica reach out her hand to shake Quan's while Marvin motion to the waitress two more chairs.

INT. DANIEL BEDROOM - DAY

Daniel is on the phone with her son Tian.

DANIEL
And what she said?

TIAN (V.O.)
She said this is not high school
so figure it out myself.

DANIEL
She really said that? What kinda
professor is that!

TIAN (V.O.)
In front the whole class she told
me that I was so embarrassed, as
if being the youngest in the class
isn't already enough.

DANIEL
I promise you I don't get why she
said that what exactly did you say
to her?

TIAN (V.O.)
She gave us back our papers and
when the class was almost finished
I went to her with my paper and
ask her if she can please help me
with the question I got wrong and
she just went off on me.

DANIEL
Ridiculous! Don't worry about it I
will look over it for you just
email it to me.

TIAN (V.O.)
Amazing! Can you as soon as
possible? I feel like every wrong
answer is a step behind.

DANIEL
Okay no problem i'll get to it as
soon as I hang up.

TIAN (V.O.)
Okay I love you Mom, bye!

DANIEL
Bye Tian I love you too baby.

Daniel hangs up the phone and walks over to her bag and take out her laptop.

DEBRA (O.S.)
Miss Daniel come to my room please!

DANIEL
Okay Mama!

Daniel gets out the room and walk down the hallway to her parents room.

INT. DEBRA AND MARKUS ROOM - DAY

Debra is coming out of her bathroom dress to go out.

DEBRA
Miss Daniel Pam and I are going on the road to run some errands you want to come?

DANIEL
I would love to but Tian got a B on a paper and he wants me to go over it so I want to get to that immediately.

DEBRA
Okay then Miss Daniel I'll see you later.

Debra take up her purse.

DANIEL
Mama?

DEBRA
Yes.

DANIEL
Why do you call me Miss Daniel and not just Daniel or whatever.

Debra laugh and sit on her bed.

DEBRA
Oh I'll tell you the story.

Daniel join Debra on the bed.

DEBRA (CONT'D)

You were a little bit over three at the time and that day Deborah was sick. Crying, vomiting all sorts of things, your father had still gone to the garage regardless. I couldn't keep up with both of you, so of course I gave all my attention to Deborah. She needed it more... I stayed with Deborah for maybe an hour and a half until she had settled down, stopped crying and fell asleep. But I was so caught up and worried about Deborah that -

DANIEL

You forgot about me.

DEBRA

Yes exactly! When I came to my senses you weren't in the room with us. I got up and started looking for you and I couldn't find you. I checked the whole of upstairs, mind you I'm shouting your name "Daniel! Daniel!" I am not getting any answer now I'm worried sick, I even started crying. I ran downstairs checked everywhere, no Daniel. Now in my mind I'm asking myself how I'm I going to tell Markus that I lost our child and i'm like he's going to kill me. I searched the whole house and couldn't find you so I decided to check outside, I ran to the backyard porch and there you were laying down on the floor with your doll beside you without a care in the world. I ran over to you and I said "Daniel!" and you watched me and then I picked you up and hugged you. I said "I have been looking for you! Didn't you hear me calling you?" you said "Yeah I heard you." I was still crying, I asked you "Then why didn't you answer?" and you watched me in my eyes and said " I want you to call me Miss Daniel," I looked at you and meanwhile I was crying I just had to laugh. Miss Daniel had stick ever since.

Daniel and Debra smile.

DANIEL
I told you to call me that.

DEBRA
Hmm Hmm, now I love having these little talks and moment but I really have to go, when I get back I can tell you some more stories of little Daniel.

DANIEL
Yes that sounds great and Mom?

DEBRA
Yes?

DANIEL
I'm sorry that I put you through that a second time.

DEBRA
Don't worry about that thanks for coming back baby.

The duo embraces each other and leaves the room.

INT. MARKUS JUNIORS HOUSE - NIGHT

Elaine and Markie is at the door of the house. Elaine is putting on her son's coat.

MARKUS JR. (O.S)
Elaine?

ELAINE
Yes!

Elaine finish putting on Markie's coat and stands up just in time to see Markus Jr. comes at the door where they're standing.

MARKUS JR.
Where you going?

ELAINE
At my mother's house.

MARKUS JR.
I thought you were going to stay the night.

ELAINE
Nope.

 MARKUS JR.
Cool.

Elaine opens the door and Markie starts walking out.

 ELAINE
Tomorrow night i'll meet you here
to go your parents and please
don't start your crap again with
your sister-

Markus Jr. grabs Elaine roughly and pulls her to him.

 MARKUS JR.
It's not your business.

 ELAINE
Let me go Markus!

Markie runs back in the house and bites his father on the leg and Markus Jr. let's go of his mother and shake him off his leg.

Elaine takes up her son and leaves.

 MARKUS JR.
Whatever man! don't come back!

INT. JAY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Jessica and Debra cleans up the kitchen after lunch. They are in a comfortable silence getting things done.

 DEBRA
Soooo... which one is her?

 JESSICA
Which one of who are you talking
about?

 DEBRA
Really Jessica stop acting like
you don't know what I'm talking
about.

 JESSICA
I don't.

But the facial expression Jessica was wearing said the opposite.

DEBRA

Okay then, is it Candice or Zara
you left here pregnant with?

Jessica turn to face her sister.

DEBRA (CONT'D)

Yeah I know you were pregnant when
you kidnapped my child and ran
away.

JESSICA

I didn't kidnap Daniel and how do
you know I was pregnant?

DEBRA

How do you mean how I know you
were pregnant? I was four children
deep in life I can tell when
someone is pregnant and besides
the same person that told the
father told me too.

JESSICA

He knows?!

DEBRA

Yes he knows and he had all rights
to, it's his daughter too you
know.

JESSICA

Whatever, who told you all?

DEBRA

The doctor.

JESSICA

He obviously doesn't know about
Doctor patients confidentiality. I
could sue him!

DEBRA

Just like the baby's daddy and I
can you for kidnapping our
children.

JESSICA

Look!- You know what I am not
going to do this with you. Her
name is Candice, and she knows
there you go. Happy?

DEBRA

Smart, yeah I'm happy.

SILENCE

DEBRA (CONT'D)
 Jess I just want you to know that
 I-

DANIEL (O.S.)
 Mama!

Daniel comes in the room and cut her Mom off.

DEBRA JESSICA
 Yes?

Debra does a double take, she watches Jessica with a 'are you out of your mind look'. Meanwhile Daniel stands frozen in her spot because she know her mother is going to blow up.

DEBRA
 Oh hell no! you answer to Aunt or
 Aunty or whatever you hear me? not
 Mama! she's my child don't forget
 that.

JESSICA
 Deb.

Debra stops what she was doing and walks out the kitchen.

DEBRA (O.S.)
 Got me upset with that bullshit.

Daniel walks over to the island where her aunt is standing.

DANIEL
 You got her upset!

Daniel and Jessica laughs softly.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
 She gon' kill you one of these
 days.

JESSICA
 I ain't scared of your Mama!

DANIEL
 Yeah right, I am meeting with an
 old friend of mines, that's what I
 originally came in here for.

JESSICA
 Will you be back for dinner? It's
 going to be a big one.

DANIEL
Everyone is coming?

JESSICA
Yes Curtis and your brother is
coming.

Daniel sucks her teeth.

DANIEL
I love you, see you later.

JESSICA
Okay, I love you too have fun.

Daniel leaves the kitchen and Jessica exhales.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

INT. CAFE - DAY

Daniel enters the cafe in the same clothes she was wearing
a while ago in the kitchen with her Mother and Aunt.

Daniel looks around the cafe until her eyes spot two
excited ladies who is waving at her happily.

She rushes over and hugs the ladies, they all sport happy
smiles.

INT. CLINIC - DAY

Jason sits beside his pregnant baby mother in a packed
clinic. From the way Jason is biting his nails and shaking
his leg you can tell that he is nervous.

His baby mother reaches over and take his hands from his
mouth and holds it in her lap, and they both smile at each
other.

EXT. QUAN'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Quan and Marvin playfully hit each other with happy smiles
while taking grocery bags out the car.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. DOORWAY/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

DANIEL

I'm home!

JASON (O.S.)

Living room!

Daniel rest her purse on the stairs and join the gang in the living room.

DANIEL

Hey guys!

Daniel get's some 'hey's and 'hi's.

The living room was occupied by Deborah and her family and Markus Jr. and his.

BRANDON

Hey Aunt Jessica said you went to meet an old friend of yours.

JASON

How was it?

Daniel walks over to Brandon and hugs him. Elaine is sitting in the couch and holding Markie in her arms and he's asleep.

DANIEL

It was nice. I enjoyed it, thanks for asking.

DEBORAH

Hey Sis.

MARKUS JR.

I hoped that when you came back from your little outing that I would've been gone already.

Everyone in the room except for Daniel groans.

ANDRE

This again tonight Markus?

MARKUS JR.

Oh hell yeah and I'll have you know that tonight I'm sober so I can wait for her to put her hands on me tonight so I can beat her ass!

DANIEL

Oh yeah?

Daniel doubled her fist by her side and starts making her way over to Markus Jr.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Let's get it on!

Markus Jr. stands up.

JESSICA
Daniel! Stop it!

Daniel freeze then looks behind her at Jessica. Jessica is standing with her arms fold and wearing an apron.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Take a walk.

DANIEL
I don't want to walk I'm sick of
this piece-

JESSICA
I said... take a walk.

Jessica and Daniel send each other silent messages through eye contact then Daniel shakes her head and leaves the room.

As she leaves the room Jessica paths her back. When she was gone Jessica turns to the room and look at Markus Jr.

MARKUS JR.
You shouldn't have intervene.

JESSICA
You should be glad I did.

MARKUS JR.
You think I'm scared of Daniel?!

JESSICA
I don't know what you think or
even if you do think, but I know
that one of you were going to
leave this house in a body bag or
badly injured and my money was on
that person being you.

MARKUS JR.
Oh really?

JESSICA
Yes really, leave the girl alone
Markus.

Jessica shakes her head and goes back into the kitchen.

DEBORAH

Not tonight Markus, I don't have
the energy!

EXT. JAY'S PORCH - NIGHT

Daniel is sitting in the same spot she was sitting 25 years ago.

She sits in silence and listens to nature and calm herself.

Curtis drives up in the yard. It is like Deja vu only this time around Daniel isn't going to run or feel scared, she watches him get out his car and comes onto the porch.

He slowly and cautiously walk to the unfazed Daniel.

CURTIS

Please don't panic just listen,
don't be scared either; I won't
hurt you.

DANIEL

Really Curtis? Do I look scared or
like I'm going to panic or run? I
wish you would just try so I can
do you all the things I dreamt of
doing to you.

Curtis is now standing by her.

CURTIS

Okay then, what I want to say is
that I'm sorry for what I did to
you Daniel, I'm truly sorry.

DANIEL

You sorry about what you did to
Aunt Jessica too?

CURTIS

Jes-Je-Jessica?

DANIEL

Yes I know about that too, and now
I'd like to go back to the peace
one quiet I once had out here
before you arrived.

CURTIS

Daniel I want you to forgive me
and let us put it behind us. I
want is to move on from this.

DANIEL

Give me one reason why I should
forgive you Curtis!

CURTIS

I'm dying Daniel.. I have prostate
cancer.

SILENCE

DANIEL

(voice full of concern)
Are you in a lot of pain?

CURTIS

You have no idea.

DANIEL

Good! That's exactly what you
deserve.

Curtis was taken aback with Daniel words.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I hope you rot in hell Curtis!

Daniel gets up and starts walking away, she brushes Curtis
harshly with her shoulder as she passes him and goes into
the house and slam the door behind her.

DEBRA (O.S.)

Stop slamming doors in this house!

INT. JAY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The family just finished eating dinner and follow behind
each other into the living room. Elaine's arms is now free
of Markie, he is sleeping upstairs. They all take seats in
the living room.

JASON

Thank you Grandma and Aunt Jess,
that was an amazing meal.

MARVIN

I second that, I enjoyed every
single ounce of it.

DEBRA

So does that mean you'll come to church with me Sunday?

MARVIN

Mama I don't know about all that.

JASON

You should really come.

Marvin eyes Jason.

MARVIN

You speak church now Trouble?

JASON

More like preach, amen.

Everyone laughs.

MARVIN

So should I stop calling you Trouble and call you Pastor then?

Jason laughs.

JASON

Well I don't know about all that just yet but life is in the power of the tongue so you should find a nicer name.

MARVIN

Eyyy! Debby you need to take him out of this house! He's starting to sound like his grandmother.

BRANDON

Eyyy! Now I don't know about all that, he's perfectly fine here plus Grandma and Grandpa needs the company.

The room erupt in laughters again.

MARKUS

I don't know about all that but I do like his presence these days.

DEBORAH

Us too, we are so proud of him.

Daniel and Jason eye each other and smile.

ANDRE

His grades are high, his attitude is great, he's not hanging around that gang anymore, he's getting baptize, he's more serious about life. I think we should have kicked him out sooner.

Everyone in the room laugh.

DEBORAH

And you're always welcome back home.

JASON

Like I said when you guys asked me to move back in, this is my home now.

Debra and Markus smile.

BRANDON

Why'd you say that for?

JASON

Aww Brandon Boo Boo, I know you missed me, I miss you too.

BRANDON

Whatever Jason.

MARVIN

You gave away yourself there Brando, was kinda clear that you miss the guy.

Brandon wave off his uncle and gives him a eye.

ELAINE

I'm proud of you too Jason, you're hot topic in the teacher's room at school.

JASON

Really?!

ELAINE

Yeah.

Jason does a Michael Jackson dance.

JASON

Oh yeah! It pays having your Aunt a teacher. Oh wait what does Mrs. Hanson says about me?

ELAINE

Yeah.. Jasmin is loving the new you, she talks about how good you are participating in Maths class.

He does another dance move.

JASON

For her last year at our school I am sure making her enjoy it.

ELAINE

And that's very nice of you but do remember it's also your last year too.

JASON

Team Jason and Daniel.

DANIEL

All day!

JASON

You better come back out here for my graduation.

DANIEL

Of course!

DEBORAH

Thanks for working with him Dan, it's really paying off it's good to have you back.

MARKUS JR.

Barely!

DEBORAH

Here we go again!

ELAINE

Now I'm taking a walk! this is preposterous!

Elaine gets up and Markus Jr. grabs her hand.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

I ain't in the mood for this right now.

MARKUS

You better let her go.

Markus Jr. let go of her hand and she leaves.

DANIEL

Look at that! You're sick you need
to get help!

The room lights up with voices telling Daniel and Markus
Jr. to stop.

MARKUS JR.

I am sick? i'm the sick one? Oh
yeah I am sick I forgot.

DANIEL

You are like a female.

MARKUS JR.

And I hate you!

DANIEL

Boy please! love by few hated by
many you ain't never heard that!

MARKUS JR.

Daniel-

Debra whistle and the room fall silent.

DEBRA

Okay let me tell you two
something, Ain't nobody going to
come up in this house and shout
louder than me straight up, not
even Markus! seriously. And
there's obviously a problem-

DANIEL

Yes it's Markus!

MARKUS JR.

Me? There wasn't any problems
until you-

DEBRA

Yow!

Daniel and Markus stop arguing.

DEBRA (CONT'D)

Y'all deaf or you two just lack
the skill of understanding? What I
said just now?

MARKUS JR. DANIEL

That ain't nobody going to come up
in here and shout louder than you.

DEBRA
Damn right...

PAUSE

DEBRA (CONT'D)
Now we going to argue but on my
terms.

JESSICA
Really Debra?

DEBRA
My house my rules. Now Markus tell
your sister why you all of sudden
hates her.

MARKUS JR.
Mom-

DEBRA
I don't want to hear it, I said to
tell Daniel what you have to say
to her.

MARKUS JR.
Well fine! I hate you Daniel I
really do, I hate your ass because
you left! Left us left me! Mama
turned into a silent depressed
mess! She don't talk she don't eat
she just block out everyone! not
for a week Daniel for years! Dad
turned himself into a workaholic
and a alcoholic! Where does that
leave me Deborah and Marvin huh?
Debby and I had to raise ourselves
for a while while raising Marvin!
You thought it was easy after you
left? It was horrible but you
don't care about that!

Markus Jr. anger was rolling off him in waves and Daniel
try to mask her face from where Markus Jr. words hit home.

The other occupants in the room are very aware of the truth
in Markus's Jr. words.

DANIEL
You thought it was easy for me!?
For us!? We had hungry nights
Markus, dark days! It was horrible
for us too! Let it go and move on!

MARKUS JR.

That ain-

CURTIS

Hey, hey, stop this you are brother and sister, one mother one father, you are family, flesh and blood, stop it.

DANIEL

Whhaaaatttt!?

JESSICA

Guts! Curtis you have guts! You've got balls I'll give you that!

CURTIS

Jess-

DANIEL

Shut the hell up Curtis, you over there acting like you're some Angel or something decent! We here right now because of you! He hates me because of you! Every tear that was shed over my leaving is because of you! All of this is because of you! Tell them you raped me if you want to say something! You raped me and this is the results of it! I don't want to hear your voice Curtis.

DEBRA MARKUS MARVIN ANDRE

What?

JASON DEBORAH MARKUS JR.

Raped?

CURTIS

Daniel...

DANIEL

Daniel what Curtis?

Marvin and Markus Jr. are full with rage and Markus is shock, he put his hands on his head. Markus Jr. run to grab Curtis but is stop by Andre.

Deborah is beyond shock she sits back in the chair unmoving.

ANDRE

I know it's hard but take it easy Bro.

The other Jay brother gets up in full anger and grabs Curtis.

MARVIN

You piece of shit! You molested me for years and told me about other people that you raped just to find out its my sister! I'm going to kill you Curtis.

Marvin rise his fist to hit Curtis, Andre jump over the couch and hold Marvin just before his fist connects with Curtis and prey Marvin off Curtis.

DEBRA

You rape my son and YOUR daughter Curtis? You're nasty you make me sick to my stomach! You sick pathetic bastard! Get out of my house!

MARKUS

His what?

DANIEL

Did she just say Daughter?

With the new revelations Curtis was unable to move.

DEBRA

Get out of my house Curtis!

JESSICA

You're still here Curtis! You want a piece of the whole family right, well take another side?

CURTIS

I'm sorry for doing that to you too Jessica.

JESSICA

When you were on top of me and I was begging you to stop you weren't sorry then!

MARKUS JR.

My aunt too! I'm going to kill you! I'm going to kill him!

ANDRE

Get out Curtis!

Curtis tries running away but was a little too slow as he step foot out of the living room Markus Jr. catch him, Andre let go of Marvin and ran to help Curtis.

INT. JAY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Markus Jr. punch Curtis, Andre grabs Markus Jr. and Curtis tries to leave. Marvin runs out the living room and grab him and start beating him up.

MARVIN
I'm going to kill you!

Andre try to help Curtis but it was hard. Both brothers hit Curtis.

INT. MARCUS JR. BEDROOM/HALLWAY - NIGHT

Elaine is laying in bed with Markie when she hear the fight from downstairs, being startle by the loud noise Markie wakes up crying.

Hearing the commotion downstairs getting louder Elaine gets curious. She picks up the crying baby and goes to look what was going on. She hurry walking down the hallway to the staircase.

INT. JAY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

She comes to the top of the staircase and was surprise with the brawl.

ELAINE
Markus!

Jason and Brandon runs out the living room.

Jason grabs a furious Marvin and drag him away from the action down the hallway. This cause Andre to regain control and hold Markus Jr.

Brandon open the door and help Curtis out.

EXT. JAY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Brandon helps Curtis out of the house and to his car. Curtis is bleeding badly, he gets in and start the engine.

BRANDON
Don't come back around here man!

Curtis reverse out of the Jays yard and leave. The now out of breath Brandon sits on the porch step. He knew the heat and tension that is inside and didn't want to be a part of it.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
I better stay out here for a while.

EXT. JAY'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

Later that night Debra sits in her backyard on the porch step with a blanket wrap around her and nurse a tall bottle of brandy. Markus comes outside and he watches Debra and shake his head.

MARKUS
My best friend Debra?

DEBRA
Why did you come out here Markus?

MARKUS
Oh so I'm just suppose to sit back and smile after just finding out that my best friend raped MY two children and that my wife is sleeping with him!

DEBRA
Slept!

MARKUS
So what Debra!

DEBRA
Markus! Put your big girl draws on and move on! I've lust and so does millions of woman all over the world.

MARKUS
You didn't lust! You cheated and got pregnant!

DEBRA
And you're perfect Markus!?

MARKUS
I think I left the right sister for the wrong one.

DEBRA
Damn straight!

MARKUS
You see with Jessica-

DEBRA
With her what? Hmm Markus? Since
you want to talk let's talk about
the affairs that you are having!

MARKUS
(guilt is all over Markus' face)
W-what affairs?

DEBRA
You think I don't know about the
secret phone that you have in your
car that never enters this house?
Or your cheap motels? Or the
church sisters from our church?
You think I don't know Markus?!

Markus is surprise by Debra's knowledge.

DEBRA (CONT'D)
Get out my face Markus.

Markus leaves and go back inside and Debra is back to
sipping from her bottle of brandy.

INT. DANIEL BEDROOM - NIGHT

Daniel paces around the room, in anger. Jessica is laying
on the bed watching Daniel.

DANIEL
My father?!... My father?!

JESSICA
Dan-

DANIEL
How can that monster be my father!

JESSICA
Come sit.

DANIEL
I don't want to sit! I'm so
irritated right now!

Jessica takes up Daniel phone and dial Dian's number.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
 This is unbelievable! How's she
 going to sleep with a guy like
 that! And she's married to his
 best friend!

DIAN (V.O.)
 Hello?

Daniel stops pacing when she hears Dian's voice.

JESSICA
 Hey Dian, Daniel would like to
 talk to you, hold on.

Jessica hands the phone to Daniel.

DANIEL
 Why did you call him?

DIAN (V.O.)
 Daniel take the phone! What is
 going on?

Daniel walks over to the bed and takes the phone from
 Jessica and take it off speaker. She puts the phone at her
 ears.

DIAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Babe?

DANIEL
 Turns out Curtis is my biological
 father.

Now that she speak it out loud and confirm it makes her
 start crying.

DIAN (V.O.)
 Curtis that rape you?

DANIEL
 Yes.

DIAN (V.O.)
 You want to come home?

DANIEL
 I don't know.

DIAN (V.O.)
 Give Mom the phone.

Daniel gives Jessica the phone.

JESSICA

Hello?

Dian said something to Jessica.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Yeah she's going to need it. Okay
bye Dian, have a good night too.

Dian hangs up.

Jessica puts the phone back on the nightstand and crawls over to Daniel and hugs her. Daniel cries even more.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Don't cry baby.

Markus knocks on Daniel's open door and the two ladies look up at him. Daniel wipe away her tears even thou they refuse to stop running.

MARKUS

Jessica can I have a minute with
Danny please?

JESSICA

Sure of course.

Jessica get's up and leave the room and paths Marcus's shoulder on her way out.

Markus enters the room and sit where Jessica was seconds ago. Markus hugs his daughter and kiss her forehead.

MARKUS

Babygirl stop crying and waste
your precious tears.

DANIEL

You heard what she said didn't
you?

MARKUS

Stop worrying about what your Mama
said, I am your father!

DANIEL

But Dad-

MARKUS

But nothing Daniel, where Curtis
was when your mother told me she
was pregnant and I start putting
in crazy hours at the garage?

DANIEL
Not here I guess.

MARKUS
Damn right, and he still wasn't here when I cut down my finger nails til it hurt so I didn't scratch you when you were born. He wasn't there when I cut your navel string or when I stayed up late at night with you when you refuse to sleep? Not one day from you were born did Curtis ever clothed or fed you, It was me! I did everything a father was to do so don't worry about what your mother said Daniel I am your father. Your mother has the right to say whatever she pleases.

DANIEL
Don't you want a DNA test?

MARKUS
To do what Daniel? I already know that you're mines.

Daniel tears had stopped by now.

DANIEL
I love you Papa.

MARKUS
I love you more my Danny Baby.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Debra stands by the kitchen sink and stares through the window. You can tell by the depressed look on her face that she is not happy.

Daniel enters the kitchen and the minute she sees her mother she try a U turn.

DEBRA
You're avoiding me..

There is no need for Daniel to run anymore because she has already been seen.

Daniel strolls into the kitchen and sits at the table.

DANIEL
I am not avoiding you I just
prefer to not be in your presence.

DEBRA
Ouch.

DANIEL
Don't play victim. Don't do that.

DEBRA
I am not.

DANIEL
You out here acting innocent.

DEBRA
Okay cut it out! Respect is still
due! I am not trying to justify my
wrongs but I am really sorry.

DANIEL
Sorry for what Mom? For getting
pregnant by a rapist?

DEBRA
No for not telling you Curtis is
your father-

DANIEL
He is not my father!

DEBRA
Dan-

DANIEL
No Mom don't Daniel me. I have
heard enough now I am leaving you
want me to accept your apology
then okay fine apology accepted.

Daniel gets up and storms out of the kitchen.

DEBRA
Daniel...

DANIEL (O.S.)
I am going out, I'll be back in a
minute don't worry.

INT. CAR - DAY

Dian is driving Tanya to school and is dressed in his usual
suit for work.

DIAN
Monday and Tuesday two weeks from
now is a public holiday.

TANYA
Yeah I know.

DIAN
Okay perfect, what i'm going to do
is fly Tian in and we go down to
see Mammy?

TANYA
(happy)
Really?

DIAN
Yes Mammy really needs us right
now.

Dian reaches Tanya's school and parks up.

TANYA
Are you going to tell us what's
going on with Mom?

DIAN
It's not my place to tell but if
it makes you feel better when we
go see Mom in two weeks she'll
make you understand.

TANYA
Well that does make me feel a lot
better, have a nice day Dad.

DIAN
(leans over and kisses
Tanya's forehead)
You too baby girl.

Tanya exits the car and Dian drives off.

INT. RECEPTIONIST/DIAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Dian walks into his office with his laptop bag over his
right shoulder and walks up to his secretary.

DIAN
Good morning Crystal can you get
Tian on the phone before his next
class starts?

CRYSTAL
Good morning Sir, by the time you
reaches your desk he'll be on the
phone waiting for you.

DIAN
Thank you Crystal.

CRYSTAL
Just doing my job.

Dian walks into his office and just like Crystal had
promised Tian is on the phone waiting, the red light
blinking on the phone indicated that. Dian picks up the
phone and puts it at his ears.

TIAN (V.O.)
Hello?

DIAN
My boy what's up?

TIAN (V.O.)
You know the usual, walking to
class as we speak.

DIAN
Okay good I won't keep you long
then.

TIAN (V.O.)
What's up?

DIAN
Two weeks from now you have a
Monday and Tuesday free.

TIAN (V.O.)
Yes I am going to go up north with
some of my friends I met here.

DIAN
I'm afraid that won't be possible.
I am going to fly you in the
Friday after school and then we'll
meet you at the airport and from
there we'll go down to see your
mother and come back home the
Tuesday evening.

TIAN (V.O.)
Oh well okay then.

DIAN

Look I am not trying to ruin your plans it's just that Mammy really needs us right now. She's going through a rough patch and needs us there to remind her that we got her.

TIAN (V.O.)

Dad what's going on with my mother?

DIAN

It's not my story to tell but she'll tell you guys when we go down to see her.

TIAN (V.O.)

Is my mother going to be okay?

DIAN

Most definitely, I want to surprise her but still call her and let her know you're thinking of her.

TIAN (V.O.)

Okay I have to go Dad have a good one.

DIAN

You too son love you.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Debra and Pam sits in silence on a bench in the park and watch Markie and a little girl play.

They sit in silence for a while.

DEBRA

It's chaos in my house right now.

PAM

I can imagine but how do you feel?

DEBRA

Dirty. Nasty... Grossed out.

PAM

Debra it's your past.

DEBRA

Some days I feel like I'm being punished for it. For taking Markus away from Jessica even when I knew it was her he wanted.

PAM

Yes you took Markus from Jessica but Jessica went on and found her happiness, even before she left.

They fall in silence again.

DEBRA

He raped my children and sister and i'm trying to figure out if any of it was my fault.

PAM

Not at all! This isn't your fault. Curtis is just a dirty nasty rapist.

DEBRA

(makes eye contact with Pam)

And I slept with him more than once, had an affair til I got pregnant so what does that make me?

They sat in silence and stare at each other some more.

The little girl that Markie is playing with scream out in pain. Pam and Debra looks just in time to see Markie kick the girl and then push her and the little girl starts crying.

DEBRA (CONT'D)

Markus!

Debra gets up and walk over to Markie and the little girl, just as the mother of the little girl comes over.

DEBRA (CONT'D)

I'm so so sorry Ma'am.

The lady picks up her crying daughter and tries to calm her.

WOMAN

Children will always be children.

DEBRA

That doesn't justify it, what must
you say Markus?!

Markie facial expression shows that he feels bad about what
he did.

MARKIE

I'm sorry for making you cry
Robin.

LADY

Just don't do it again, have a
nice day.

Robin's mother smile and walks away.

DEBRA

That's it we are going home! No
more park for you! Home!

Markie starts crying.

MARKIE

I'm sorry Grandma.

DEBRA

We are going home and no ice cream
either.

INT. JAY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Jessica, Deborah and her children, Marvin, Elaine and
Markus Jr. are all in the kitchen doing different tasks.

MARVIN

We should seriously have like a
family fun day and stuff.

DEBORAH

I know right that would definitely
be cool.

JASON

We should do it like the Monday we
are free from school.

MARKUS JR.

That sounds-

Markus Jr. is cut off by his mother.

DEBRA (O.S)
I can't believe you did that,
that's very bad behavior Markie.

Everyone looks to the door hearing Debra's voice and
footsteps coming in their directions.

JESSICA
O oh, someone is about to feel the
wrath of Debra Jay.

Markie enters the kitchen first and goes to his uncle
Marvin.

MARVIN
Marcus the Great! Mom you're in a
sour mood.

JESSICA
Is she ever not?

DEBRA
If I tell you what that boy did
right.

Marvin looks at Markie.

MARVIN
Marcus the Great what did you do?

Markie holds down his head and refuse to talk.

DEBRA
What he did was not great at all!
He kicked a girl and push her
down.

MARKUS JR.
Boy!

ELAINE
Why did you do that? It's not nice
to hit other people Markie.

MARVIN
And you're not suppose to hit
girls Buddy.

MARKIE
Why? Daddy hits Mommy all the
time.

JESSICA
Oh lord..

Elaine looks embarrass and Markus Jr. looks ashamed of himself.

JASON

Okay Brandon and Markie time to give the old folks the room.

Brandon being happy to get away from the drama gets up immediately and leave. Jason takes up Markie and leave the room.

MARKIE (O.S.)

Is my Daddy in trouble?

DEBORAH

He has no idea.

MARKUS JR.

Mom-

DEBRA

Really Markus! Beating on your wife!

Markus Jr. watches his mother unable to say anything.

DEBORAH

That's weak Bro.

He then watch his sister.

ELAINE

Look guys...

JESSICA

Here comes the cover.

Elaine was not expecting that from Jessica and she is now thrown off track from the beautiful unbelievable lie she was about to tell. The ladies watch her with a 'really' look.

INT. JAY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Daniel goes through the makeshift office her parents have in the living room. She's going through paper by paper.

DANIEL

Where is it! Where did I put it!

She opens a little drawer and sees an envelope stash away with 'URGENT' in red written on it, curiosity got the better part of her and she opens it.

As Daniel reads what's on the paper she frowns.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
What the hell.

Daniel goes through the drawer some more and find more envelopes that looks like the one she saw first and start going through them.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
What the heck is going on in this house?

INT. JAY'S KITCHEN - DAY

ELAINE
Markie is not lying.

JESSICA
Oh baby we know that.

DEBRA
Children live what they learn
Markus don't you know that?

DEBORAH
Elaine you're beautiful and smart
why do you sit in an abusive
relationship?

ELAINE
Actually-

MARKUS JR.
Elaine-

ELAINE
Markus and I are divorced. I just
put on a show for you guys to take
the shame out of his eyes.

Debra, Jessica, Deborah and Marvin all have shock looks on their face.

ELAINE (CONT'D)
The abuse got so bad that I
couldn't take it anymore so I
filed for my divorce.

MARVIN
Why would you pretend to take the
shame out of someone that did such
wickedness things to you eyes.

ELAINE
He's still my child's father, I
found my voice again and I'm in
control again.

DANIEL (O.S.)
Mama!

DEBRA
Kitchen!

Split seconds after Debra answer Daniel is at door holding
up the letter.

DANIEL
What is this Mama?

DEBRA
Where did you get that?!

DANIEL
Where you and Papa hid them!

DEBORAH
What's that Daniel?

DEBRA
None of your business Deborah!

DANIEL
Yes it's their business! This
paper says Mom and Dad owes the
bank a lot of money and they are
taking the house and garage as
collateral!

MARKUS JR.
Stop your foolishness girl, let me
see that.

Markus Jr. walks to Daniel and she walks to meet him
halfway.

DEBORAH
I want to see too.

MARVIN
Yeah me too.

The other two sibling join the other two reading the
letter.

DEBORAH
Oh my God.

MARVIN

Yikes!

JESSICA

How much more secrets and untruthful deeds are left to go through?

DEBRA

Guys sit down I'll explain.

MARKUS JR.

Okay Mom don't worry about it your four children can all come together and pay this. Right guys?

DANIEL

That's not the point I can pay this eighty-five thousand dollars easy, that's not money-

DEBORAH

You can?

DANIEL

That's not the point! The point is why hide it? This is not a good thing, so why keep it a secret?

MARVIN

She has a point what was going to happen one day you guys were just going to get evicted and then tell us?

DEBRA

Sit down!

They all obey their mother and take seats at the kitchen table

DEBRA (CONT'D)

Daniel you weren't here and for the rest of you your father and I didn't know how to tell you guys.. I tried to ignore it and speaking it out loud would be accepting it and I believe in God to make a way and do a miracle on my part. I mean this is my home how do I just let go?

MARVIN

Aww Mom..

Marvin gets up and hug his mother. The rest of children gets up and hug their mother.

DANIEL
You still should've said something
Mama, I came now didn't I?

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Daniel just exit a building and is now standing on the sidewalk in front the said building and on her phone.

She dials a number and put the phone to her ears.

DEBRA (V.O.)
Hello?

DANIEL
Mama?

DEBRA (V.O.)
Yes Baby.

DANIEL
I just left the bank I paid all
the money and you guys are in the
clear now.

DEBRA (V.O.)
Oh my really? Thank you so much.

DANIEL
Yes and you're welcome Mom.
Anything you want just ask me
don't lie to me or keep secrets
and we good.

DEBRA (V.O.)
I hear you Ma'am but I thought
Marvin couldn't give his piece
until later in this month.

DANIEL
I didn't wait for anyone of them I
just covered it myself. Big
daughter duties and all that.

DEBRA (V.O.)
Daniel you shouldn't have.

DANIEL
Let me worry about that.

Daniel looks to her left and Curtis is walking down to her.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Mama we'll talk about it when I
get home.

DEBRA (V.O.)
Okay Bye.

Daniel hangs up the phone just in time for Curtis to stop
in front of her.

CURTIS
Hi Daniel.

DANIEL
What do you want Curtis?

CURTIS
Daniel I want to make a mends.

DANIEL
And I already told you my take on
that.

CURTIS
That was before we found out that
I am your father.

DANIEL
First of all shove that shit up
your ass or down your throat
whichever suits you because I know
that you're not my father.

CURTIS
Come on Daniel I am truly sorry
and I know I broke you b-

DANIEL
Nah hold up. You broke who? Me?
That's what you've been telling
yourself all these years? That you
broke me. Curtis you never broke,
you tried but I didn't let you.
You broke my hymen yes and I was
scared of you but you didn't break
me. Know that shit! I am built
with more bricks than what you
think and yes I ran away but I ran
away and became great. Many men
like yourself I have put behind
bars and you are no exception. I
am coming for you Curtis! For
myself, my brother and my aunt and
everyone else that you have wrong
remember that.

Daniel turn away from Curtis.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Talking about you broke me. You
wish! I am going to break you thou
remember that.

Daniel crosses the road and enters her car and drives off.

EXT. JAY'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

Debra sits out in the back yet another night. She wasn't
drinking this time. She hears the door open.

DEBRA
I ain't in it with you tonight
Markus, go away.

JESSICA
It ain't Markus fool.

DEBRA
Oh it's you, good now go away
Jessica.

JESSICA
You can't tell me what to do.

Jessica sits beside her sister.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
The sky is beautiful.

DEBRA
(watches Jessica)
Go see it from the front yard.

JESSICA
You ain't in the front yard, you
hypocrite.

DEBRA
Did you just call me a hypocrite?

JESSICA
You a damn hypocrite for true, you
lectured my ass about he's the
father he has the right to know
but Curtis didn't know that he's
Daniel's father.

DEBRA
Jessica?

JESSICA

What?

DEBRA

Did the devil sent you?

JESSICA

No did he sent you?

DEBRA

Girl bye!

JESSICA

I ain't going nowhere.

They fall in complete silence and listen to nature.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Deb?

DEBRA

Hmm

JESSICA

Just in case you're questioning it, Curtis is not Candice's father. Curtis raped me long before I got pregnant with Candice.

DEBRA

I know.

JESSICA

And Markus isn't here father either just know that.

DEBRA

I know.

JESSICA

And I never like hooked up or even kiss Markus after you guys got together.

DEBRA

I know.

JESSICA

It's-

DEBRA

Shut up Jessica pleaseee! I know it was that white boy named Bob Smith that live down the street that knocked your ass up and it's like we are having the same conversation over again. We discussed this already.

JESSICA

I know I just wanted to assure you.

DEBRA

Well I'm assured. You've had a thing for white boys since you were A little girl, you even marry one.

Jessica kisses her sister.

DEBRA (CONT'D)

Don't kiss me.

The two sister laugh and hug each other.

JESSICA

Momma is smiling down from heaven right now.

DEBRA

If that's where she went.

JESSICA

Debra!

The fall in a comfortable silence and the sisters stays cuddle up with each other.

DEBRA

I love you Jessica and thanks for making something that I couldn't out of my daughter.

JESSICA

Daniel did that and remember when Momma died you made something out of me.

INT. JAY'S HALLWAY/BEDROOM - DAY

Andre pushes Marvin in the room.

MARVIN
Stop touching me!

ANDRE
Get in the damn room and shut up!

Andre gives Marvin one last push.

MARVIN
What the hell you want from me
Andre?

ANDRE
Look I don't know what kinda
voodoo juju your sister brought
with her but shit that has been
hidden and should damn well stay
hidden is coming to light.

MARVIN
So?

ANDRE
(WHISPERING)
So I don't need nobody knowing I
slept with you dummy!

MARVIN
Why would I tell someone that? I'm
over it and Quan and I are
serious. Stop worrying about that
fling Andre, we did it one time
and we both agree it was a
mistake. Stop worrying about it.

ANDRE
Okay fine.

MARVIN
Can I go now?

ANDRE
Yeah let's go.

Andre and Marvin exit the room and was shock by who is
standing outside.

Deborah stand there with teary eyes. Her eyes is full of
tears and anger.

ANDRE (CONT'D)
Baby?

He motion to touch her.

DEBORAH
Don't touch me Andre!

ANDRE
Look baby-

DEBORAH
Get out of my parents house now!
My little brother really Andre?!
He's a boy! You're gay!

MARVIN
Deb-

DEBORAH
I don't want to hear nothing from
you either Marvin! He's my husband
for Christ sake! How you gon'
sleep with my husband?! How y'all
gon' do me this?!

ANDRE
Keep your voice down baby.

DEBORAH
Really now?! Get your ass out my
parents house Andre! Get out!

Marvin tries to touch his sister to calm her.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)
Marvin! Don't touch me!

Markus runs out of his room with a soapy body and a towel
wrap around his lower body.

MARKUS
What's going on? You guys shouting
and stuff.. Debby why you crying?
Andre?

ANDRE
It's nothing Sir.

DEBORAH
It's nothing?! How you gon' sleep
with my brother then watch my
father dead in his face and say
it's nothing?! Yow get up out of
here Andre!

MARKUS

What? Listen I'm going to watch this soap of my body and put on some clothes this is absolutely crazy! Marvin why did you do that?!

MARVIN

Dad I'm sorry!

MARKUS

Sorry doesn't cut it Sony. He's family, couldn't you have find someone else?

ANDRE

Sir it was a long time ago.

DEBORAH

Ain't nobody wants to hear that Andre get out!

INT. JAY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jason is showing pictures of his baby ultrasound to his grandmother, aunt and brother.

DEBRA

She's going to be a cute one.

DANIEL

I know right.

BRANDON

I'm still trying to figure out what I'm going to let her call me, Uncle Brandon is too you know.. common maybe Uncle Brando or Uncle Don.

They laugh at him.

JASON

Where? she's going to be calling you Brain-damaged!

BRANDON

Hey! That's rude!

DEBRA

That's a big word, she might just stop at Brain.

They laughs.

DEBORAH (O.S.)
I said get out! Andre I ain't
joking with you! Get out my
parents house!

DANIEL
Okay...

DEBORAH (O.S.)
Don't touch me!

DANIEL
Okay...

The three of them get up and walk to the living room
entrance and look upstairs.

INT. STAIRS/DOORWAY - DAY

They are right in time to see Deborah coming down the
stairs and Andre following her.

ANDRE
Baby just listen!

DEBORAH
I don't want to nothing from you!

Deborah comes down the stairs and goes straight to the door
and open it.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)
Get out my Nigga!

ANDRE
Baby please?

BRANDON
Mom? Dad?

JASON
What's going on?

DEBORAH
Your Daddy and your uncle had sex
and this fool thought I wouldn't
find out! God don't like ugly
Andre get out!

ANDRE
Why you do that for Deborah!?

DEBORAH
Get out!

BRANDON
That's just nasty...

Brandon shakes his head goes back in the living room.

JASON
You gay man! How you gon do this
to my Mom?!

ANDRE
Son-

JASON
Eyyy none ah that, don't come with
that now.

DEBRA
Where's Marvin?

DEBORAH
Somewhere being sorry for himself.
Leave Andre!

ANDRE
De-

JASON
She said leave!

Jason push his Dad through the door. Daniel holds on to
Jason.

DANIEL
Andre...

Markus comes downstairs.

MARKUS
It's time to go son.

Markus is wearing his no nonsense face and Andre knows what
time it is.

ANDRE
I love you Deborah.

DEBORAH
Bye!

Andre walks away from the doorway and Deborah shuts the
door. Daniel let's go of Jason and he hugs his Mom.

All the tears and pain Deborah had been holding in she
finally let's it out and cry in her son's arm.

JASON
Don't cry Mom i'm sorry. He's a fool.

DANIEL
I'm sorry Sis.

DEBRA
Watch me and that Marvin!

Debra heads up the stairs.

DEBRA (CONT'D)
Marvin!

INT. JAY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Debra and Jessica is laying down on the big couch. Debra was drinking from a bottle of brandy and Jessica had a tall glass.

Elaine is laying on the other couch with a case of beer on her lap and one in her hand.

Daniel and Deborah are on the floor with blankets. Deborah is laying on her back with her arm over her face and has a empty bottle of Vodka beside her.

Daniel is sitting with her back against the couch that Elaine is on and her feet are on Deborah and he's drinking a bottle of water.

ELAINE
Daniel?

DANIEL
Speak your mind or forever hold your peace.

ELAINE
Why did you just pop up out the blue? Not that I am not enjoying your presence and all that.

DEBORAH
Yeah good question.

DANIEL
Back home I am a lawyer for those of you that doesn't know and the last case that I worked on seriously got to me.
(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

It was like a flashback of what Curtis did to me and I started having nightmares and in one of them Curtis was raping my daughter. While I was reacting in my dream I was reacting in my sleeping form so then my husband found out and he didn't know of my past so after coming clean he forced me to come back here.

JESSICA

He was doing the right thing, he did the right thing.

DANIEL

Still forced me.

DEBRA

I am glad that he did.

DEBORAH

Me too.

DANIEL

He was like how do you think you're parents feel.

DEBRA

At least one person is considering our feelings.

JESSICA

Shut up Debra.

DEBRA

For real at least he cares you guys didn't.

The women laugh at Debra then falls in a comfortable silence.

DANIEL

Now how long ago did you blow up and send the male people in this house away Deborah?

Deborah count on her finger then stop.

DEBORAH

I can't remember.

JESSICA

Long enough for everyone in here
except Debra to drunk and sober a
couple times.

Daniel laughs.

DEBRA

I can handle my liquor.

ELAINE

It's been two weeks and a day!

Everyone laugh.

DEBRA

I don't always take the spirit but
when I do I do it right and
throughout these 2 weeks I drank
water too.

DANIEL

Wait! Debby and Elaine don't you
guys have work?

DEBORAH ELAINE

Sick leave until further notice.

DANIEL

Oh okay then.

JESSICA

So what you guys plan to do?

DEBORAH

Drink some more, next week if we
remember when that comes we'll
straighten up and go back to the
real world.

JESSICA

No! About your husbands I mean.

ELAINE

I'm divorced.

DEBRA

Speaking of which don't make that
stop you from coming around here,
the doors are always open for you
still.

ELAINE

Aww thank you. I'll use up the
opportunity .

DANIEL
My marriage is perfectly fine.

JESSICA
Mines too.

DEBORAH
Show off.

DANIEL
Yeah whatever.

DEBRA
I already know I'm taking back
Markus. I'm too old to be playing
divorce games and all that, he
still wants to be with me plus he
has his own faults. So...

DANIEL
He told me I mustn't listen to
you, he says he's my father and
you can say whatever you please.
He doesn't even want to do a DNA
test. I felt better instantly. He
was like you're my first born.

Debra smile.

JESSICA
Aww! That was nice of him.

DEBRA
He stays!

DEBORAH
I don't know about getting back
with Andre just yet.

ELAINE
I know a good divorce lawyer.

DANIEL
Or you can work it out. I know you
still love him.

DEBORAH
Still doesn't change what he did.
It's going to be awhile, I don't
even know who i'm more mad with if
it's him or Marvin. I still love
them but they did me bad and wrong
and Marvin is a boy, like that's
nasty.

DANIEL

I know.

JESSICA

But you can work it out still
Deborah.

Someone knocks at the door.

DEBORAH

Go get the door Daniel.

ELAINE

We aren't taking guest at the
moment!

JESSICA

Exactly!

The knocking continues.

DEBORAH

Daniel go get the door!

DANIEL

You the one that have us all here
you go get it.

POLICE 1 (O.S.)

This is the police!

POLICE 2 (O.S.)

Is there anyone inside?

The police officers definitely have the ladies attention
now

ELAINE

Oh my God!

JESSICA

The police?

DEBORAH

Stay calm...

ELAINE

(whispering)

Hey! Hey! This one time I saw this
Meme right where two police
knocked on someone's door right,
and the person said "Who is it?"
the police said "The police!"

(MORE)

ELAINE (CONT'D)

" the person in returned said
"What do you want?" and the police
said "We just want to talk!" so
the person said "How much of you
are out there?" the police said
"Two." and the person told the
cops "Then talk to each other."

Elaine, Deborah and Jessica burst out into laughter.

DANIEL

Who's the most sober one here?
It's most definitely not Elaine.

DEBRA

Me, I'll get.

Debra gets up and leave to go answer the door.

JESSICA

What if it was Andre that sent the
police for you Deborah?

The ladies giggle.

DEBORAH

Then I'll take Elaine up on that
lawyer.

Jessica laughs.

DANIEL

Okay tomorrow night we invite
everyone to dinner and we all just
make up.

DEBORAH

Well... I'm making up with Marvin
and i'm hating Andre some more.

JESSICA

That's sounds good and while you
guys at it I'll go down to Bob's
house and fill him in on Candice.
I've been hiding from him ever
since I came here

DANIEL

About time and no funny business
now.

JESSICA

Oh please Daniel.

DEBORAH
Okay we do the dinner.

Debra comes back in room and get back in her spot.

JESSICA
So what the cops said?

ELAINE
Yeahh.

DEBRA
They said Curtis neighbors called reporting that there was foul scent coming from his apartment and when they had went Curtis was sitting in his living room dead, he had shot himself.

DANIEL
Oh well! So let me full you in on the plans for tomorrow. Okay so we are going to have dinner and make up and stuff. Like be a family again, She's going to Bob's-

Daniel was cut off by a another knock at the door.

JESSICA
I hope it's not the cops again saying it was a mix up.

DEBORAH
I second that.

ELAINE
You ladies so cold.

DANIEL
I'll get it.

INT. DOORWAY - DAY

DANIEL
I swear if it's the police again right.

Daniel opens the door and is greet by the smiles of her three favorite people.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Oh my God!

TIAN TANYA

Hi Mom.

DEBRA (O.S.)

What is is Miss Daniel?!

JESSICA (O.S.)

Hi Dian!

DANIEL

That sneaky one! she knew you guys were coming.

DIAN

We might have shared words. Hi Mom, Tyler and the girls are at the hotel!

JESSICA (O.S.)

Don't call me that too loud around her I might get slapped!

DIAN

(smiling)

Well okay that's a story i'm looking forward to hear.

DANIEL

I still can't believe she knew you guys were coming!

Daniel hugs her son and daughter and they too are happy to see their Mom.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Come inside, come inside.

The children comes inside and take of their jacket while the couple approach each other with wide smiles.

DIAN

Hi Mrs. Cole.

DANIEL

Mr. Cole.

The couple share a passionate kiss.

TIAN

Okay none of that, behave yourselves Parents.

They laugh and Tian and Daniel leads her family to the living room.

INT. JAY'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Daniel and her family enters the room and by her facial expression you can tell how happy she is.

TIAN
(looks around the room)
This is quite a room.

JESSICA
Don't ask..

DANIEL
Okay everyone meet my family-

TIAN
Family?

DANIEL
Yes, this is Dian, Tian and-

TANYA
Tanya!

DEBORAH
She and Brandon will make a good team.

JESSICA
They already know me so while you guys meet and greet i'm going to the hotel to go meet and greet my babies.

TIAN
But don't they know you already?

DEBRA
Yes I like him already.

INT. DINNING ROOM - NIGHT

The Jays mix with the Cole and Russell clan sits at the table. Everybody is wearing happy smiles and chatting.

Markus is whispering something to Debra and she's blushing.

Marvin and Deborah are chatting about fashion. Tian and his mom are talking about the Harvard life. Tanya, Dian and Brandon are having a discussion about technology.

Elaine and Markus Jr. are watching their son have a heated conversation with Jason, Andre is laughing at Jason and Markie's conversation.

DOOR KNOCKS

DEBORAH
Daniel go get it.

DANIEL
Why is you always telling me to go
get it?

DEBORAH
Because.... can you just get it
man?

DANIEL
Okay i'll get it.

DEBORAH
you're the oldest you're the one
that suppose to get it at all
times.

DANIEL
Only because it's dinner time, you
stay there one day you're going to
wish you had gotten up.

Daniel makes a bloated face and get up from around the
table.

Everyone including Deborah and Daniel laugh.

INT. AT THE DOOR - NIGHT

Daniel walks to the door still laughing at her joke. Boy is
she really in a good mood.

She opens the door and standing on the opposite side of the
door is a beautiful young lady looks a little older than
Daniel.

DANIEL
Hi how may I help you?

SHAKIRA
Good night, my name is Shakira.

DANIEL
Good night Shakira I'm Daniel.

They shake hands.

SHAKIRA
Nice to meet you Daniel, Is
Markus Jay here?

DANIEL
You have to be more specific, 1st,
2nd or even 3rd?

SHAKIRA
(smile)
1st?

DANIEL
Yes he's here and who i'm I
suppose to tell him is out here to
him?

SHAKIRA
His Daughter.

THE END