

MISSISSIPPI MIDNIGHT

written by

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FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

All is quite except for a grandfathers clock ticking away the seconds. It reads 4:22am.

GEORGE And ROSE JACKSON, mid-forties, slumber under a mountain of wool blankets.

A door bell.

DING DONG.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - MORNING

Shadows of flames flicker against the white front door. SEDRIC JACKSON (20), paces impatiently.

A cupped hand peeks into a side window. Flames flicker off the window.

SEDRIC
Momma! Dadda! Momma...

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Rose sits up in bed. George still sleeps.

ROSE
George.

No movement. She delivers an elbow to his shoulder. He snorts and wakes.

ROSE (CONT'D)
George.

GEORGE
What's the trouble woman?

ROSE
The door bell.

GEORGE
What?

ROSE
The door bell. Someone rang the doorbell.

George rustles out of bed and into his slippers.

Now pounding on the front door.

SEDRIC (O.S.)
Hurry up Momma... Dadda. Get up!

George strains to listen

GEORGE
Did you hear that?

More frantic pounding.

ROSE
It's Sedric!

She bounds out of bed, rushes out of the bedroom. George hobbles behind her.

EXT. FRONT LAWN - MORNING

Orange flames illuminate the day break sky as a cross scorches their lawn.

Sedric weeps at the foot of the burning lawn - his hands clasped together over his head.

Two KKK HOODED MEN point shotguns at the back of Sedrics head.

A porch light goes on. Rose whips the door open. Realizing the horrific scene both Rose sprints toward Sedric. George follows favoring his gimp leg.

SEDRIC
Please sir... I'll get it for you.

ROSE
Leave my boy alone! He didn't do nothin' to you.

From behind - A CLICK.

KKK GOON#1
Shut up nigger.

GEORGE
Take me. Leave him be!

KKK GOON#1
I said shut it!

GEORGE
He's only a baby.
(to Sedric)
Sedric.

WHACK - A gun butt slams into the back of George's skull.
Out like a light. Drags and drops George next to Sedric.

KKK GOON

Your daddy ain't so tough now is he
boy?

SEDRIC

Momma, I'm sorry.

Rose drops to her knees wailing uncontrollably.

KKK GOON#2

The council has decided.

Hammers of three guns click. CLICK - CLICK - CLICK.

Rose lunges at the three hoods.

ROSE

Nooooo!

KKK Goon #1 squeezed the trigger. Fire squirts from the barrel of his shot gun. Rose's face splatters. Blood sprays from her buck shot ridden face. Her body jerks backwards. Stone cold dead.

SEDRIC

Momma! Oh god! Oh god!

KKK GOON#3

Got any last words boy?

KKK GOON#2

Better say your prayers Sedric. An
when I get to three you better be
right with the lord.

SEDRIC

Momma. I love you.
(to the goon)
Wait... Sir...

KKK GOON#2

One... Two...

SEDRIC

God will judge you.

Sedric closes his eyes and sucks in a deep breath.

BAM! A Shot rings out. Blood squirts like a water faucet out of George's head.

Sedric tries to fight.

A gun butt knocks him back to the ground. Still conscious.

KKK GOON#3

Three!

BAM! The goon stands stoic and stunned. His shot gun drops - then he slinks to the lawn in a growing pool of blood.

Two goons run for cover.

Two more shots. BAM! BAM!

One by one the goons are struck by bullets to their heads. They drop. Both dead before hitting the ground.

Meet JESSE JESSUP, a street wise Rocky look alike, early thirties.

Jesse helps Sedric up.

JESSE
Got my shit?

SEDRIC
Do I got your shit. Do I got your
shit!

JESSE
That's what I said.

SEDRIC
Man. Look at my momma and dad-da?!

Jesse cocks his gun.

CLICK - aims it at Sedric's temple.

JESSE
Hey nut cake! Shit happens in this
business. Get over it.

SEDRIC
Chill man. I got your shit.

JESSE
Where?

Sedric pulls a purple balloon out of his underwear. Tosses it to Jesse.

Two cop cars whine up the street toward them.

JESSE (CONT'D)
Thanks man. Well time to scoot.

SEDRIC
Yeah, time to scoot.

Both sprint away from the approaching cop cars.

FADE OUT:

END