

NECESSARY EVIL

Written by

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OVER BLACK:

SUPER: "Ephesians 6:12. 'For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world. Against spiritual wickedness in high places.'"

FADE IN:

INT. BERNADETTE'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - DAY

Venice, California. BERNADETTE LOUIS (27) rushes from room to room. It's Sunday morning, church day.

BERNADETTE
(yelling)
Mom, Sandy, get up! Sandy, get
Casey!

Bernadette's mother, IDA (50) steps out from the bathroom, dressed, makeup on, and a Bible in hand.

IDA
I'm ready.

Ida kisses her Bible.

IDA (CONT'D)
(yelling)
San-San, you better get a move on,
girl, or there won't be anywhere to
park!

Just then, SANDY (17) Bernadette's niece, rushes into the...

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

...still in her PJs.

SANDY
I ain't going; I'm too tired. If
you wait for me, ya'll will be
late!

Ida enters the living room, shaking her head.

IDA
Honey, we're already late. You
better get yourself some church;
the Devil's got his eye on you!

*

Sandy gives her grandma a scary face, then smiles.

IDA (CONT'D)
Come here, lil' girl.

Sandy walks and stands near her grandma.

IDA (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Let me tell you something... don't
you ever stop praying. You get on
your knees every day and ask for
His forgiveness. We cursed. But
listen... a curse can be lifted.
Only the blood --

BERNADETTE (O.S.)
Mom! Save it!

Ida catches herself.

IDA
(to Sandy)
You gotta watch yourself, because
the Devil's got a plan for you...

SANDY
Okay... thank you? I'll drop ya'll
off; I'm going to the evening
service.

Ida grabs Sandy by the arm.

IDA
Listen to me, lil' girl. There is
great evil... a curse... on our
entire family. The Devil never
stops!

SANDY
Oh please, Nana, the whole family?
What did we do?! Give me a break...

IDA
It don't matter; our whole family
and...

Sandy pulls away, cutting Ida short. Ida shakes her head.

INT. CASEY'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Bernadette is quickly getting her son, CASEY (8) dressed.

CASEY

Mom, can I wear my Currys?

BERNADETTE

No, baby; you know we always respect the Lord's house. Grab your shoes...

Casey goes to the closet and gets his "Sunday Best." Bernadette grabs a tie and clips it to Casey's shirt, then kisses him.

BERNADETTE (CONT'D)

I love you so much!

Then Travis, Bernadette's puppy Pit Bull, runs in and jumps on Casey's leg.

CASEY

Hi, Travis! Mom, we can't leave Travis here alone...

BERNADETTE

Sandy will watch him; she's just dropping us off.

Then, Bernadette picks up Travis and gives him a big kiss.

BERNADETTE (CONT'D)

You stay with Sandy... we'll ask the reverend to bless you!

They all run out, including Travis.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY (ESTABLISHING)

Autumn leaves blow across steps leading to the entrance of an old church. The ocean breeze chills the air. Strange black crows sit in a nearby tree. It's dreamy.

INT. CHURCH - MAIN CHAPEL - DAY

The church is filled to capacity. About sixty people are yelling and jumping up and down; some are crying. The choir is singing. Bernadette, Ida, and Casey rush to three open seats in the front.

INT. BACK OFFICE - SAME TIME

CU of Reverend ALVIN JOHNSON (35). Diamonds rings are on both of his pinky fingers, and he's dressed immaculately in an Italian red suit.

Reverend Johnson sits alone in a back office, which is just off of the main stage where his sermon will take place. He's deep in thought...

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

A ten-year-old Alvin dances in a classroom full of students. All of the students, including the teacher, are watching him. He's dancing calypso, his movement precise and rhythmic. Suddenly, the room goes black; everyone fades away.

INT. DARK ROOM - DAY (FANTASY)

Now, Alvin stands alone in a dark room. Alvin sees himself strapped in a gurney bed! He hears a VOICE; it's very faint. We hear loud knocking. Knock, knock, knock...

VOICE (V.O.)
(faintly)
I've been watching you. A daddy,
Daddy Divine, or maybe an Ike, a
Jones... Jim, drink...

END FLASHBACK SEQUENCE.

BACK TO:

INT. CHURCH - BACK OFFICE - DAY

Reverend Johnson snaps back to reality. He's confused, but hears a voice on the other side of the door. It's the CHURCH USHER (60). He bangs on the office door.

CHURCH USHER (O.S.)
Reverend, you're on!

Reverend Johnson, still trying to clear his head, raises quickly to his feet and exits for the pulpit.

INT. MAIN CHAPEL - DAY

Standing behind the pulpit, Reverend Johnson opens his Bible and surveys the packed church. Spotting Bernadette, he smiles, as if she were the only person in the church. Reverend Johnson reads from his Bible:

REVEREND JOHNSON
Possession! How will one know!?

The CONGREGATION responds:

CONGREGATION
(yelling)
Tell us! Tell us, brother!

Suddenly, the preacher jumps six feet in the air and lands hard!

IN THE PEWS

Bernadette grabs and squeezes Casey's hand. Casey tenses; he gives his mother a menacing look.

INTERCUT - PEWS & PULPIT

Reverend Johnson raises his hands.

REVEREND JOHNSON
Quiet!

You could hear a pin drop. Then, a CHURCH LADY (50's) breaks the silence:

CHURCH LADY
Teach!

Reverend Johnson looks around.

REVEREND JOHNSON
(whispering)
A little help now...

Reverend Johnson reaches into his pocket and pulls out a cloth mask, then drops it on the ground.

REVEREND JOHNSON (CONT'D)
A mask won't save you!

Reverend Johnson beckons the congregation. Then, everyone takes off their masks.

REVEREND JOHNSON (CONT'D)
 (yelling)
 Can I get some help up in here? Up
 in here?!

All five members of the choir approach, including NELSON (21), white, but who plays the piano with the soul of Ray Charles. The rest stand and sing.

Reverend Johnson sashes across the stage like a professional calypso dancer. His movement is sinfully rhythmic. Nelson raises his hand, and the music gets louder.

REVEREND JOHNSON (CONT'D)
 How will you know?! When demons
 come, they won't announce
 themselves!

Suddenly, the church lady jumps to her feet:

CHURCH LADY
 (screaming)
 Thank you Lord... thank you!

People are bouncing off of their seats, turning in circles. A CHURCH MAN (50's) is on his knees, praying. It's a pandemonium!

CHURCH MAN
 Lord, have mercy...

Reverend Johnson leans back and proudly surveys the raucous scene. As he looks around the church, he notices a familiar face in the crowd and momentarily goes stiff.

The man stares back. Reverend Johnson regains his composure and motions for Nelson to lower the music. As he prepares to speak, he loses sight of the familiar-looking man.

REVEREND JOHNSON
 (yelling)
 Demons can disguise themselves as
 saints; the Bible tells us this...

Reverend Johnson's voice suddenly becomes very high-pitched!

REVEREND JOHNSON (CONT'D)
 False prophecy will reign supreme
 in the final days. We bare witness
 to these final days!

MUSIC BUILDS, then fades away. The congregation settles. Reverend Johnson stands with his head tilted upward.

He slowly lowers his gaze onto the congregation; his eyes are transfixed on Bernadette.

REVERSE TO Bernadette, who stands as if she's in a deep trance. Her head is back; her eyes are closed, and her palms are up. She's muttering unintelligible words.

CUT TO:

INT. CHILDHOOD HOME - CLOSET - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A seven-year-old Bernadette stands in the closet. We hear many DOG BARKS and see that Bernadette is on her knees tightly holding a Pit Bull. She's whispering to the dog:

BERNADETTE

I won't let him take you!

Suddenly, Bernadette's father, KEVIN (30) opens the closet door and violently takes the dog.

BERNADETTE (CONT'D)

No; Kevin, no!

BACK TO:

INT. CHURCH - MAIN CHAPEL - DAY

Bernadette makes her way to the front. Reverend Johnson looks down at her.

REVEREND JOHNSON

Praise God! Blessed is He, who is greater than I, in you!

Reverend Johnson steps from behind the pulpit.

REVEREND JOHNSON (CONT'D)

Another soul has been saved and has joined the army of his praise. Thank you, Lord.

BERNADETTE

(in tongues)

Umbei... idda... luc... ci...
fer...

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. BERNADETTE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

It's late. The room is dark. Unknown eyes survey the room.
REVEAL Bernadette is dreaming.

PRE-LAP: A DOG BARKS.

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE:

INT. CHILDHOOD HOME - CLOSET - NIGHT

Bernadette is alone in her closet, hiding with her dog.
Suddenly, her father appears. Kevin quickly takes the dog
from a crying Bernadette.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Kevin goes to a fenced area in the backyard. REVEAL it's a
dog fighting pin! Men stand outside the fence placing bets.
The two dogs begin to fight.

Bernadette runs out of the house and sees the dogs fighting.
She screams! Then, Ida runs out:

IDA
(begging)
Stop the dog fighting!

KEVIN
No!

Bernadette runs back to...

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

...and grabs the house phone. She dials 911.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

The police arrive twenty minutes later and arrest Kevin.
Bernadette goes to comfort her dog, but the dog is dead!

END FLASHBACK SEQUENCE.

BACK TO:

INT. BERNADETTE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

A CELL PHONE RINGS. Bernadette snaps out of her sleep.

BERNADETTE
 (into phone)
 Hello? Praise God...

UNKNOWN CALLER (V.O.)
 Yo... where's Sandy at?

A long moment of silence. Then:

BERNADETTE
 Who is this? She's seventeen...
 leave her alone!

Bernadette sits up.

BERNADETTE (CONT'D)
 (yelling)
 Don't ever call this number again!

As Bernadette uncovers herself, REVEAL Casey sound asleep next to her. Bernadette slams the cell phone on the bed.

CASEY
 (sleepily)
 Mom? What was that?

Bernadette looks lovingly at her son, then out toward the window. She shakes her head.

BERNADETTE
 (to herself)
 This graveyard shift is gonna kill
 me...

CASEY
 Mom... what happened?

Suddenly, the bedroom door bursts open. It's Sandy.

SANDY
 (breathlessly)
 Bernadette!

BERNADETTE
 It's nothing; go back to bed.

Sandy, in her PJ's, jumps into bed beside Casey. Ida yells out from the other bedroom:

IDA (O.S.)
 What's all that racket? Ya'll all
 right?

BERNADETTE

Yeah, mom. Go back to sleep.

Bernadette rolls her eyes.

BERNADETTE (CONT'D)

(to herself)

I need to get ready for work...

Bernadette eases out of bed, walks to the closet, and pulls out a veterinarian uniform.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

A mirror reflects Bernadette quickly changing, brushing her teeth, and putting on makeup.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Fully dressed, Bernadette steps back into the bedroom and takes a long look at her son. She kisses him on the cheek.

BERNADETTE

(whispering)

I am so blessed to have you. Bye, sweetheart.

CASEY

(sleepily)

Bye, Mommy...

EXT. FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Bernadette steps outside and quickly walks to her small vehicle. The night is foggy.

BERNADETTE'S POV - ACROSS THE STREET

She notices several figures mysteriously materializing through the fog. It's a group shooting dice. The game is very intense. Standing in the foreground is a strange looking homeless man casually observing the events.

PUSH IN on the dice game...

EXT. STREET - SAME TIME

DREA (Pronounced "DRE", 21), is male, skinny, and five foot eleven, with a gold medallion on, double earrings, and tats everywhere.

Standing in a small circle watching the dice game are QUEEN (24), DEF (20), LIL' RICKY (21), and PUPPET (20).

DREA

Nina!

Drea rolls the dice and snaps his finger. Then, he stands and takes a joint out of his ear and lights it.

DREA (CONT'D)

(re: dice)

Nina... nine, get ready to pay up,
mothafuck... nine, bitch! Sweet
Nina! Pay that hustler!

The words roll off of Drea's tongue like a rap song. Drea makes his point, stands, and pulls his sagging jeans up. He then bends to collect a small stack of one hundred dollar bills from around the circle.

The other males moan over the lost cash. Queen, the brains of the crew, who's fashionably dressed with a Fendi backpack and cut jeans, steps up:

QUEEN

(to Drea)

Some kind of way you cheated! I
know you. You're a born cheater!

Just then, a motorcycle rolls up. The hooded rider quickly jumps off and looks around.

DREA

Who the fuck is this?

Drea passes the joint to Lil' Ricky. Then, Queen pulls Drea to the side.

QUEEN

Yo, I've got a deal set up with
Cortez for those worms we need...

DREA

You mean the shit you need?!

QUEEN

The programs I use benefit us all,
fool!

DREA

(quizzically)

Who the fuck is this... Chaewon?
The hacker?!

The crew all laugh.

QUEEN

Yeah, okay... you got jokes.

DREA

Cortez sharing information?

QUEEN

Not sharing; we're buying.

Drea turns his attention back to the crew. PABLO (20) a notorious and unafraid computer hacker for an international cartel, gets off of his bike and removes his helmet.

PABLO

Who's Drea?!

Queen steps up.

QUEEN

I spoke to your people.

She introduces the crew:

QUEEN (CONT'D)

This is my cousin, Drea. That's Def, Lil' Ricky, and Puppet.

They all nod.

PABLO

(to Drea)

Yo... what up?

DREA

I'm 'bout to make a couple dollar bills. You want some?

PUPPET

Big bank take lil' bank!

Pablo sees what's going on and pulls out a wad of hundred dollar bills. Drea gets the joint back from Lil' fool and hits it hard, slowly blowing the smoke from his mouth to his nose. Def, wearing a Bruin jersey, steps in front of Pablo:

DEF

(to Pablo)

Wait. Hold up, hustler...

Pablo pauses.

DEF (CONT'D)
 Put your cash away, homey, before
 you loose it all...

Pablo moves Def aside.

PABLO
 (to Drea)
 You hot, homey?!

QUEEN
 (to Pablo)
 Stay out of this; they don't play
 fair.

DREA
 Your money's good here; make it
 light on yourself!

PABLO
 (hesitantly)
 You faded for any amount?

The group chuckles. Def shoots Drea a smile and steps back.
 Drea looks around.

DREA
 Okay, okay, player... anybody else
 want some of this?

Drea tosses the joint. A moment passes. Then, the others
 watch while Drea pulls out a fat stack of hundred dollar
 bills and places one on the sidewalk.

DREA (CONT'D)
 Cash mon-nay, pimp!

Drea waves the cash around. The other players all shake their
 heads. Meanwhile...

EXT. FRONT YARD

Bernadette quickly gets into her car.

EXT. STREET

As Bernadette closes the car door, Drea looks over and
 notices her. Then, he turns back to the game. Queen also
 notices Bernadette. With a stack of cash in one hand, Drea
 bends to one knee. He shakes the dice...

...then tosses them across the pavement.

The dice stop. REVEAL the point is eight.

DREA
Eight, skate, donate!

Drea stands and smiles. As he looks around:

DREA (CONT'D)
Side bets?

Drea waves his cash and beckons bets.

DREA (CONT'D)
Careful, homies, money talk'n here!

Queen shakes her head.

QUEEN
I'm watching you, Drea... and guess
who else? Your girlfriend's momma!

Drea hears but ignores her warnings. The others begin to lay down small bets for and against. Drea quickly grabs the dice and rolls them. CU on the dice. The point is seven!

DREA
Donate!

Drea quickly reaches for the dice attempting to shield the losing seven; then, he starts to collect the money from the sidewalk.

PABLO
Wait, player... that was seven.
What up?!

QUEEN
(to Drea)
Seven out!!

DREA
(aggressively, to Paulo)
Eight, bitch!

Drea puts the money in his pocket. The other players chuckle.

DREA (CONT'D)
Pay day! Got some more money?

PABLO
(in Spanish, subtitled)
I got something for your ass...

Pablo angrily pulls a chromed 9M.

QUEEN
Wait, put that away!

PABLO
(in Spanish, subtitled)
I want my fucking money back!

Just as Pablo moves toward Drea, Lil' Ricky steps around behind Pablo and punches him in the back of the head! Pablo falls to the ground. He drops the 9M!

Then, Lil' Ricky jumps on top of Pablo and begins to choke him with both hands. In the background, the strange looking homeless man moves closer. Dre and Queen pull Lil' Ricky off of Pablo, who is fighting and kicking back.

INT. BERNADETTE'S CAR - SAME TIME (PARKED)

We see Bernadette nervously grab her phone and quickly punch in 911. The phone just rings; no one answers!

BERNADETTE
(to herself)
Answer the phone...

Bernadette disconnects the call and sits, watching, and unable to turn away.

EXT. STREET

Queen turns to Lil' Ricky.

QUEEN
Whats wrong with you, idiot?!

DREA
Chill, I got this!

Pablo manages to get to his feet.

PABLO
(in Spanish, subtitled)
Motherfucker!

LIL' RICKY
You wanna die, mothafucka?!

Drea smoothly slides a switch blade from his back pocket. Then, without warning, he stabs Pablo in the back! Pablo falls to the ground, face down. Lil' Ricky removes the knife from Pablo's back and flips Pablo over.

Drea then stomps on Pablo's chest, causing Pablo to double up in pain. In the background, REVEAL the homeless man is encouraging the beat down! Drea looks over at the homeless man and quickly pulls his weapon. Then...

...he fires five quick shots into Pablo's chest! Lil' Ricky, the smallest of the crew, dances around, laughing like a lunatic.

LIL' RICKY (CONT'D)
 (high-pitched)
 No mercy, homie!

QUEEN
 (to Drea)
 Why?!

FROM AN IPHONE'S POV

Def aims his iPhone directly on Drea's face; he then pans down to Pablo's bloodied body and a pool of blood.

BACK TO SCENE

Lil' Ricky and Def stand around laughing. Puppet goes over and checks to see if Pablo is still alive.

PUPPET
 He's still breathing. Let's go!

DREA
 (coolly)
 Hold up!

QUEEN
 (yelling)
 Stop; that's it!

FROM AN IPHONE'S POV

Drea goes through Pablo's pockets.

DREA
 Shit, he's loaded. Da-umn!

Drea pulls a wad of hundred dollar bills wrapped by a band.

QUEEN
 He's down; let's go!

INT. BERNADETTE'S CAR

Bernadette sits, horrified by the scene. She quickly drops her phone and tries to start the car. It stalls!

INT. STREET

Drea looks over and shouts:

DREA
Yo, she's calling 5-0!

EXT./INT. STREET - BERNADETTE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Bernadette is panicking. She tries to start the car; it stalls again! The group of men are running toward her. She tries to start the car again, and it starts! But... she's parked in between two cars, and the space is very tight!

Bernadette looks out of her window and sees Pablo laying still as blood runs in the gutter. She slams on the gas. Her car hits the front vehicle, and a little room is created. She quickly puts the car in reverse and slams on the gas.

She hits the car behind her; it moves back. Bernadette has space now... but Drea is at her passenger's window.

DREA
Got you.

BERNADETTE
My God!

BLAM!

A huge rock hits Bernadette's front window, cracking the glass. Bernadette gasps! She slams the car into drive and barely gets out as the group chases her car on foot, shouting obscenities.

INT. CASEY'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Casey and Sandy, unable to sleep and unaware of the deadly events occurring outside, watch Casey's iPad.

INSERT - IPAD

Casey is playing "Fort Night." Casey fires off a round, killing his opponent!

BACK TO SCENE

Casey laughs and screams.

CASEY
Got you, bitch!

SANDY
You're way to emotional about these
games. We gotta cut your time...

Casey looks confused.

CASEY
What?!

Sandy smiles.

SANDY
I'm gonna tell your momma!

INT. BERNADETTE'S CAR - NIGHT (DRIVING)

Bernadette is driving, gasping for air; she fumbles around for her cell phone. She finds it and dials 911:

BERNADETTE
I just witnessed a murder!

911 OPERATOR (V.O.)
Okay... slow down, ma'am. Where did
this take place?

BERNADETTE
Right in front of my apartment!

911 OPERATOR (V.O.)
Address, ma'am?

BERNADETTE
3645 Bronson Ave. I witnessed a man
named Drea murder another man. They
chased me!

911 OPERATOR (V.O.)
Are you safe now?

BERNADETTE
Not sure...

911 OPERATOR (V.O.)
Can you go somewhere safe?

BERNADETTE
Yes, at work.

911 OPERATOR (V.O.)
Stay there until the police arrive.
I'll send units to the address
location you indicated.

EXT. PET SAFE ANIMAL HOSPITAL - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Bernadette quickly exits her car and rushes inside.

INT. MAIN OFFICE - NIGHT

DOGS BARK. An INTAKE RECEPTIONIST (F, 20's) smiles seeing Bernadette.

INTAKE RECEPTIONIST
Hi, Bernadette!

Bernadette nods and quickly rushes by the receptionist to a...

INT. SMALL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

...where she closes the door and starts to sob.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

A helicopter is hovering above the crime scene, where Pablo's body lays in a pool of blood. The scene is yellow-taped off with several officers surveying the bloody scene.

INT. DREA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The police enter a house in Venice. REVEAL Lil' Ricky, Def, Puppet, and Queen are long gone... but not Drea. Drea is slammed on the ground and cuffed!

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Days later, Bernadette is on the witness stand. Sitting in the defendant's chair is Drea, shackled from head to toe. Several spectators sit in the audience, including some crew members and Cortez' face tatted CARTEL LIEUTENANT (M, 40's).

Casey and Sandy sit directly behind the prosecutor. The BAILIFF (M, 50's) calls for attention:

BAILIFF

All, please rise... the Honorable
Judge Wilson presiding...

JUDGE WILSON (70) takes the bench.

JUDGE

Please be seated. In the matter of
People v Andrea Jones, case number
LA93345, preliminary hearing...

The judge pronounces it as a female name... "ANN-drea."
There's subdued laughter from the audience. The judge pauses
and briefly looks over at Drea. Drea squirms uncomfortably.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Both sides ready?

The prosecutor, REBECCA GOMEZ (24), an extremely beautiful,
voluptuous Hispanic woman, stands.

REBECCA

The people are ready to proceed,
your Honor.

Just then, two well dressed lawyers, STANLEY ARNET (40)
white, and BOB JOSEPHSON (35), black, enter the court room.
They quickly approach the bar and step across. Arnet
addresses the court:

ARNET

The defense is ready, your Honor.
However, before we proceed, I wish
to make a motion for dismissal
based on newly discovered evidence.
In fact, this evidence has been
withheld from the defense by the
prosecutor, Ms. Gomez, in violation
of the evidence code...

There is an uproar in the courtroom. Rebecca nervously bats
her heavily made up brown eyes. The bailiff stands.

BAILIFF

(shouting)
Order in the court!

The judge pounds the gavel; the audience settles down.

JUDGE

I will not tolerate another
outbreak of noise! This is a court
of law, not a sports bar!

Some standing members in the audience take their seats.

JUDGE (CONT'D)
(angrily, to attorneys)
This is very unusual... I'll see
both sides in my chambers. The
court stands in recess!

INT. JUDGE'S CHAMBERS - DAY

As the three attorneys walk inside of the judge's chambers, the judge sits behind a large oak desk. There are two large leather chairs facing his desk. The office is decorated with college degrees, plaques, and photos on the walls.

The judge eyes Rebecca very closely. He carefully takes note of her curvaceous body. He breathes in deeply as his eyes slowly outline Rebecca's full thighs, hips, and breasts.

The judge clears his throat, addressing all attorneys:

JUDGE
Please, have a seat...

All parties sit.

JUDGE (CONT'D)
(to Arnet)
What's the basis of your motion?
Why was the court not notified?

ARNET
I discovered this evidence moments
before walking into court, your
Honor.
(beat)
A person living in the home of
Bernadette Louis is in a
relationship with the defendant.

Rebecca nervously moves her long, beautiful hair to either side of her ears; then, motioning with her perfectly manicured nails, she becomes very animated.

REBECCA
(softly, firmly)
This information is outrageous,
your Honor. It lacks foundation and
has absolutely nothing to do with
the case. It's completely
irrelevant!

ARNET

Your Honor, the defense was not given this information. The person in the home we are talking about is the babysitter for Ms. Louis. There is apparently hostility between Ms. Louis and the defendant over this relationship. In fact, Ms. Louis had a telephone conversation with my client on the night of the alleged incident.

(beat)

Ms. Louis is extremely biased against my client, and the court deserves to know of this pre-existing bias.

REBECCA

(determined)

Your Honor, the defendant has harassed Ms. Louis, as well as other families living in the area, on a regular basis. This is nothing new!

JUDGE

(angrily)

Ms. Gomez, you failed to provide the defense with a witness who could possibly corroborate an alibi. You are clearly withholding evidence! This violates the rules of court. You leave me with no alternative... I'm going to dismiss this case. You can re-file, but for now, the defendant will be free to leave the courthouse.

Rebecca's trying to hold back her anger.

REBECCA

Your Honor, this man is a killer! He viciously shot a man to death over a dice game!

JUDGE

(sternly)

I've made my decision.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

The judge takes the bench.

JUDGE

Order in the court! The matter
before this court is hereby
dismissed... thank you.

The judge pounds the gavel, looking disgusted.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Mr. Jones, you are free to go.

The audience explodes in cheers and boos. The judge steps off of the bench. The bailiff removes the handcuffs and leg chains from Drea. Drea jumps for joy as his buddies all gather around him, slapping high fives.

Bernadette steps off of the witness stand, disappointed. Drea turns and gives her a death stare.

LIL' RICKY

(to Drea)

Yeah, homey, we gon' get at her!

Drea looks directly at Bernadette.

DREA

(under his breath)

You... snitch. You --

QUEEN

You got other things to worry
about. Cortez sent one of his
guys...

Drea tries to ignore Queen, but she's standing directly in front of him as he celebrates. Drea notices the man glaring at him from across the courtroom and tries to look away, but he can't. The others quickly notice the fear on Drea's face.

Queen decides to grab Drea's arm, pulling him away. The celebration abruptly stops. They all begin to nervously leave the court. Drea throws up two middle fingers to the court as he and his crew leave.

EXT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

As Drea and his crew exit the court, they walk directly into Reverend Johnson. Reverend Johnson appears out of nowhere, standing directly in Drea's path. Drea freezes as if he's seen a ghost. Suddenly, the image is gone!

Drea looks around his crew, but no one else saw Reverend Johnson.

INT. COURTROOM - SAME TIME

Bernadette and Rebecca speak at the prosecutor's table.

REBECCA

(angrily)

Why didn't you tell me that Drea
was dating your babysitter?!

BERNADETTE

(dismissively)

Sandy is my niece; she lives with
me, and I didn't think it was
important...

REBECCA

Not important?! How many people
live with you?!

BERNADETTE

My mother, my sister's daughter,
Sandy, and my son, Casey. I'm very
busy with my son, work, and taking
care of my mother. I'm not aware of
every little thing Sandy does, who
she dates, and where she goes!

REBECCA

(aggressively)

You should be!

Bernadette is speechless. Rebecca backs off.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

Okay, let's go to my office.

INT. D.A.'S OFFICE - SMALL OFFICE - DAY

ANGLE ON the wall. There are newspaper clippings and pictures
of a younger, wilder looking Rebecca with friends. A poster
reads, "DANCERS, UNITE! UNIONIZE, IT'S YOUR RIGHT!"

REVERSE TO Bernadette, who keys in on the poster. She eyes a
picture of a scantily dressed Rebecca in a two-piece bathing
suit.

BERNADETTE

You were a stripper?

REBECCA (O.S.)

(defiantly)

A dancer!

Bernadette looks quizzical. She turns to face Rebecca.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
There is a difference, you know.

BERNADETTE
Yeah?

REBECCA
Between what I did... and stripping
naked.

Bernadette's eyes follow more pictures of Rebecca. The pictures are breathtaking!

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Dancing is an art. I worked the
pole like a pro...

Bernadette eyes Rebecca suspiciously.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
...it's how I paid for law school.
No shame in my game!

Bernadette turns back to the wall.

BERNADETTE'S POV - THE NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

One reads, "MAN SHOT TO DEATH." Another, "RECORD! 666
HOMICIDES IN LOS ANGELES THIS YEAR," and "POPULAR RAPPER
GUNNED DOWN, MORE VIOLENCE EXPECTED."

BACK TO SCENE

Bernadette stares at the clippings in disbelief.

BERNADETTE
(more to herself)
Will the killings ever stop?

BERNADETTE'S POV - THE NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

A huge headline reads, "POLICE OFFICER SHOTS FLEEING SUSPECT
IN THE BACK."

BACK TO SCENE.

Bernadette shakes her head.

BERNADETTE (CONT'D)
(to herself)
How many more lives will be snuffed
out?!

Rebecca walks over and places her arm around Bernadette.

REBECCA

As long as there are people willing to stand up, there's a chance that the violence will end on both sides of the law.

BERNADETTE

My ex belonged to a street gang. He was killed by a rival because they thought he was cooperating with the police.

REBECCA

I'm so sorry. I didn't know...

BERNADETTE

No, it's okay. We had two miscarriages, then Casey was born. We called him, "The Miracle Baby."

The two women turn and face each other.

BERNADETTE (CONT'D)

He was trying to turn his life around. He even started going to church. We planned to get married...

Tears rise in Bernadette's eyes.

BERNADETTE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

Bernadette tries to wipe the tears, but more follow.

REBECCA

It's okay.

The tears cascade down Bernadette's face uncontrollably. Bernadette struggles to regain her composure.

BERNADETTE

Being here in court brings back all of those horrible memories...

Bernadette looks away, then back to Rebecca.

BERNADETTE (CONT'D)

While I was pregnant, he wouldn't leave my side.

Rebecca looks on with concern. Bernadette still can't control her emotions. Rebecca hands Bernadette a napkin to wipe her face. As Bernadette wipes the tears away:

BERNADETTE (CONT'D)

I'm okay...

REBECCA

(coldly)

Well, let's get back to these senseless killings. Why didn't you tell me about Sandy and Drea?!

Bernadette's face tightens at the bluntness of the question.

BERNADETTE

Sandy is like a daughter to me. Her mother is in and out of drug rehab; she never knew her father... I'm the only family she has.

REBECCA

She's related to you?

BERNADETTE

She's my niece.

REBECCA

I see.

Rebecca leans in:

REBECCA (CONT'D)

Does she know anything about the killing?

A beat, then:

BERNADETTE

I doubt it. And even if she did... she wouldn't testify.

REBECCA

(frustratedly)

This is ridiculous. How will we ever be able to stop these senseless murders if people refuse to cooperate?!

Bernadette looks Rebecca in the eyes. She opens her mouth, but can't force herself to respond. Bernadette's face reflects a sea of fear, anger, and guilt.

INT. BERNADETTE'S APARTMENT - CASEY'S ROOM - NIGHT

SPENCER (8) a neighborhood friend, and Casey lay asleep in bunk beds. PAN ACROSS to posters of the latest hip-hop artist Mac T, a skate board, bike, and an Xbox console.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Bernadette walks into the living room and flops down on the couch. She closes her eyes, then hears a faint voice coming from the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME TIME

It's Sandy speaking in a low tone on the telephone!

INT. LIVING ROOM

Bernadette quietly walks over to listen.

SANDY (O.S.)
Mom, when do you think you'll be getting out?

INT. KITCHEN

Sandy's face tenses.

SANDY
In a few weeks?! I don't know what I'll be doing by then. Things are weird around here...

Sandy looks around the apartment.

SANDY (CONT'D)
Aunt Bernadette is fine.

Sadness comes over Sandy's face.

SANDY (CONT'D)
I miss you, mom. Okay... love you too.

Sandy hangs up the phone.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Bernadette quickly moves away and resumes her position on the couch. Sandy walks into the living room and sits across from Bernadette.

SANDY
What time is work?

BERNADETTE
Same as always.

SANDY
Church in the morning... it's at eight?

BERNADETTE
Yes, but I need you to drive Ida and the boys.

SANDY
I wanted to go out tonight --

BERNADETTE
(angrily)
With who?
(realizing)
That killer?! Out of the question!

Sandy pauses briefly, then looks away.

SANDY
I'm going out to dance. I like dancing --

BERNADETTE
He's a murderer. Evil!

Sandy looks as if she's about to cry.

SANDY
(screaming)
You're a liar!

Sandy jumps from the couch and runs to her room.

BERNADETTE
Sandy... I need you here with the boys tonight.

The bedroom door slams! Bernadette lays back against the couch, frustrated.

INT. CASEY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Bernadette's dressed in her uniform. She's standing in the doorway, lovingly eying her son. REVEAL Casey and Spencer are sound asleep. Bernadette walks over and gently kisses Casey on the cheek. Then, she leaves for work.

INT. ROLLS-ROYCE - NIGHT (DRIVING)

Drea and crew drive around listening to rap music. Def sits in the passenger's seat holding the iPhone; the images appear on Drea's car screen monitor. Lil' Ricky, Puppet, and Queen sit in the back seats.

Drea is smoking a joint; the car is very smokey. Drea takes a long hit and lets the smoke out slowly. They're watching the Pablo killing on the car's screen monitor.

DEF

Ohhh!

INSERT - THE SCREEN MONITOR

Drea stomps Pablo.

BACK TO SCENE

The males in the car respond by grabbing their penises. Then, spontaneous laughter breaks out.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. KATANA RESTAURANT - UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT - NIGHT

West Hollywood. Drea pulls his Rolls-Royce Wraith into valet parking. He and the crew, including Queen, exit to an inside elevator.

INT. MAIN DINING AREA - NIGHT

The restaurant is crowded with young hip people of all races. The crew is quickly greeted and led to a reserved table on the...

EXT. PATIO - CONTINUOUS

...which overlooks the Sunset Strip. The Maitre d', CHRISTIAN (30) a tall, thin Asian girl, comes to the table and hugs each of them. They all sit.

CHRISTIAN

(beaming)

Hello, Queen; hello everyone!
Please, have a seat. Good to see
all of you!

Drea looks around.

DREA

Damn I like phase three... all
kinds of honeys in here!

Christian motions with one hand; then, waiters appear with expensive champagne and liquor bottles in ice buckets. Drea immediately pulls a joint from his back pocket and lights it.

They all take seats, and menus are provided. A waiter brings out a huge sushi and sashimi platter.

CHRISTIAN

(to Queen)

Girl, I know what you like!

They all, including Christian, take a shot of liquor. Drea hands the joint to Puppet and gets up.

DREA

Goin' to the bathroom...

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Drea stands at the urinal, relieving himself. As he turns, he suddenly jumps.

DREA'S POV - IN FRONT OF HIM

It's Pablo with blood streaming from his chest!

BACK TO SCENE

Drea is freaked out.

DREA

What the fuck?!

Drea quickly turns to run for the door, but Pablo stands in his way. With no way out, Drea panics!

DREA (CONT'D)
 (screaming)
 Help! Help! Get me out of here!

Suddenly, the door bursts open. It's Puppet.

PUPPET
 Fool, what you screaming 'bout?!

DREA
 I saw him!

PUPPET
 Who?

DREA
 The guy we iced!

PUPPET
 You trippin'. Stop smoking so damn
 much...

Drea nods, and they leave the bathroom.

EXT. PATIO - NIGHT

Drea walks up to the crew in a hurry.

DREA
 We leaving!

QUEEN
 Huh? You leaving; I'm staying!

DEF
 What happened in the bathroom?

PUPPET
 Dude saw a ghost...

The whole table chuckles.

DEF
 (to Drea)
 A ghost? What? Did it say
 somethin'?!

LIL' RICKY
 He's ready to leave... I guess it
 told him to get out!

Everyone laughs, Queen the most uncontrollably.

QUEEN

Get out?! Okay... I'm done taking
shots...

DREA

Fuck all y'all!

Drea turns to leave; everyone follows except Queen.

EXT. UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT - NIGHT

After exiting the elevator, Drea and the crew notice that the previously full lot is now strangely empty except for Drea's car. Drea pays little attention to the anomaly.

INT. ROLLS-ROYCE - NIGHT (DRIVING)

He quickly starts the car and speeds off!

EXT. SUNSET STRIP - NIGHT

The Rolls-Royce speeds down Sunset Boulevard at an unbelievable rate.

INT. ROLLS-ROYCE - SAME TIME (DRIVING)

The others in the car quickly put on seat belts.

LIL' RICKY

Yo, watch out for deer!

The entire car, including Drea, laughs hard.

INT. PET SAFE ANIMAL HOSPITAL - SMALL OFFICE - NIGHT

Bernadette sits at her desk when the PHONE RINGS.

BERNADETTE

(into phone)

Bernadette...

UNKNOWN CALLER (V.O.)

Sick puppy alert.

BERNADETTE

I'll be right out.

Bernadette enters the...

INT. MAIN OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

...where there are two young children and an adult. A SMALL CHILD (M, 6) is holding a puppy.

SMALL CHILD
My puppy doesn't feel well!

BERNADETTE
Aww... let's see what's wrong.

Bernadette disappears into a back room with the puppy.

INT. BACK ROOM - NIGHT

Bernadette places the small puppy on an examination table.

BERNADETTE
Okay, let's have a look...

FADE TO:

INT. DREA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Drea and the crew sit eating food they had ordered for delivery. As the crew finishes eating, Queen walks in, pulling a laptop from her purse. The laptop fires up. Queen sits and hits a few keys.

QUEEN
Hey, I've mapped out our next hit.
I figure we'll make at least ninety
to a hundred K in cash and jewelry.
The target is a well known rapper
who lives in the valley. He'll be
at a party tonight off Mulholland
in the hills, drinking, gambling,
smokin' dope, and doing cocaine.
Usually, he wears thousands of
dollars in jewelry...

Queen pulls up a google map of the house where the rapper, Mac T, lives.

INSERT - COMPUTER SCREEN

It's the last house on a dead-end street adjacent to a field.

BACK TO SCENE

Queen smiles.

QUEEN (CONT'D)

Perfect!

DEF

What's the address?

QUEEN

12655 Montford Street, Encino.

Def pulls out his phone.

INSERT - IPHONE

He types the address on his Google app. The inside of the house comes up, showing every room. Def then goes to a "Google Live" map; he's able to see the house in real time.

Def focuses in on the security sign and quickly pulls up the alarm system type. He types in a web address, and we now see a page on the dark web. Def navigates to security codes and a price list.

BACK TO SCENE

Def holds out his hand.

DEF

Credit card, please...

Queen reaches into her purse and pulls out a data paper containing thousands of credit card numbers, SSN's, names, and addresses. As she hands Def the printouts:

QUEEN

Here, use one of these.

Def quickly uses one of the credit card numbers on the printout and is granted access to the codes needed. Def scrolls down searching for the correct code to neutralize the noted home security system. Then:

DEF

I'm in!

Then, Def moves over to Queen's computer.

INSERT - COMPUTER SCREEN

Def navigates to a separate site which allows him to break into the security cameras inside of the house; now Def is able to see through the security cameras inside Mac T's living room and bedroom.

Mac T's house is immaculate; there's thousands of dollars worth of electronics, furniture, and art.

BACK TO SCENE

Def smiles.

DEF (CONT'D)
Oh yeah... he's a balla!

QUEEN
Navigate to the safe. I know he has one...

Def moves back to his phone.

INSERT - IPHONE

He navigates the camera to a wall inside the bathroom covered with a photo of Michael Jordan.

BACK TO SCENE

Def and Queen look at one another.

DEF
Bingo.

QUEEN
Yup... that photo ain't got no business being there!

DREA
Let's go!

PUPPET
Hold up... shouldn't we wait to see if he'll open the safe? Then we'll know there's money.

QUEEN
No, these players always have at least fifty to a hundred K around in cash. It takes cash money to gamble, and to make it rain all night in those clubs!
(beat)
Plus, they don't trust banks... and even if he doesn't have the cash we're looking for, he'll be wearing enough jewelry to pawn for a hundred K...

PUPPET

Yeah, and if he got a couple of his boys wit him, we gone hit 'em too!

Queen has a big smile on her face.

QUEEN

Bingo.

PUPPET

You know he has guns stashed everywhere...

QUEEN

Yeah, and that's your job: to make sure he has no heat on him... and if he does, disarm him immediately by force! Lil' Ricky, you gotta watch his boys; they'll have guns, so immediately put heat on them...

Queen looks around the crew and addresses them all:

QUEEN (CONT'D)

The most important thing is to utilize the element of surprise; that will be when he first exits his car.

Queen looks at Drea, hard.

QUEEN (CONT'D)

Drea, you need to get him to the safe without killing him. Please don't seriously injure him before he can open the safe. Control your temper, even if he starts to talk shit. If you hit him in the head, he may blackout or possibly lose the ability to recall... that's counterproductive!

Drea is unresponsive.

QUEEN (CONT'D)

Def, I need you casing his house every thirty mins, starting now. Look out for the stupid mall cops... go!

DEF

On it!

Queen addresses the crew.

QUEEN

Dre, you and I are going to the party to see what's up with dude; everybody else, get on your job!

EXT./INT. MAC T'S HOUSE - ROLLS-ROYCE - NIGHT (DRIVING)

A huge house on Mulholland. Very expensive cars are parked out front and in the gated entrance to the house. Drea and Queen pull up to front gate and blow the horn. The gate immediately opens. They drive through, then exit the car.

INT. MAC T'S HOUSE - FRONT ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The house is packed with people partying. All party-goers are high on something; no one is wearing a mask. The whole scene appears like a dream. Drea and Queen are greeted by several people who recognize them and begin to mingle.

INT. PRIVATE ROOM - NIGHT

Queen enters a private room upstairs and notices MAC T (28) surrounded by women laughing and having a good time. Queen then heads out.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Spotting Drea, she goes and whispers in his ear:

QUEEN

He's here.

DREA

Bet!

QUICK MONTAGE - THE PARTY

-- Partygoers partying.

-- Suddenly, shots ring out from all directions!

-- Drea and Queen quickly exit.

-- All party goers panic and run, Mac T included.

-- As the people scatter, Reverend Johnson stands and watches from a near by rooftop.

END MONTAGE.

EXT./INT. FRONT ENTRANCE - ROLLS-ROYCE - NIGHT (PARKED)

The crew is staked out in front of Mac T's house. Then, Mac T arrives in a limo with four stripper girls and two guy friends. REVEAL six people exit the limo.

QUEEN

Take them, now! Dre, Puppet, get T;
Lil' Ricky, you have the limo
driver. Def, you're with me. Go!

All five crew members, weapons out, quickly overtake Mac T and his party guests! Queen, calmly, and without a weapon:

QUEEN (CONT'D)

Get on the ground, all of you!
Drea, get T. Def, the door!

Def uses his phone to electronically unlock Mac T's front door with a simple code.

QUEEN (CONT'D)

Everybody inside... now!

All five of the party-goers, including the limo driver, are hustled into Mac T's...

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Drea orders everybody around:

DREA

Sit on the couch!
(to Mac T)
Upstairs bathroom, now!

INT. UPSTAIRS BATHROOM - NIGHT

Drea roughly slams Mac T's head against a wall and points his gun directly at Mac T's crotch.

DREA

If you want these nuts, you better
find the safe and open it quickly!

Mac T doesn't resist. The Jordan poster is moved; the safe is located and opened.

MAC T

(drunkenly)
Take everything man. I got
insurance!

Mac T begins to laugh hysterically.

DREA
Okay, funny man...

Inside of the safe, there are neatly rolled bills totaling to one hundred and fifty K.

DREA (CONT'D)
You paid!

Drea quickly puts the cash in a black bag. Then, he re-aims the gun at Mac T's crotch.

DREA (CONT'D)
Take it all off.

MAC T
(nervously)
You mean... get undressed?

DREA
No, fool... the jewelry! I want it all. Keep cracking jokes... you real funny!

Mac T is wearing an all diamond Rolex watch, gold chains, and large diamond ear studs. He quickly complies.

DREA (CONT'D)
Now get in the bathtub.

Mac T gets in the tub and sits. Suddenly, Mac T becomes Pablo, all bloodied... Drea jumps! Drea fires one round to Mac T's head, killing him instantly. The image is gone.

Drea stands for a moment staring at the shot to Mac T's head. Drea shakes his head, then turns to leave, but runs into... Reverend Johnson! His image quickly fades. Drea shakes it off and runs back downstairs.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Drea comes running down the stairs with the loot. He looks at Queen:

DREA
Got cake! Homeboy tried to get at me; I had to pop him. Let's go!

Just as Drea reaches the bottom step, the front door bursts open!

Five heavily armed men with black bandanas covering their faces charge in, firing shots in the air! The LEAD GUNMAN (M, 50's) yells:

LEAD GUNMAN
(in Spanish, subtitled)
Don't anyone move! Chico, get the bag!

A masked man retrieves the black bag of loot from Drea. The lead gunman points his weapon at Queen.

LEAD GUNMAN (CONT'D)
You have twenty-hour hours to contact Cortez with the five million dollar payment for the killing of one of our men, or one member of your crew will die each day after!

Without warning, the lights in the house go out! There's lots of screaming, and intense movement. Then, the lights come back on suddenly. REVEAL the five guests and the limo driver are still sitting on the couch, but with their throats cut!

LEAD GUNMAN (CONT'D)
(in Spanish, subtitled)
Let's get the fuck out of here!

The masked gunmen leave as quickly as they'd arrived. Drea looks around sheepishly. Then:

DREA
Damn!

EXT. FRONT ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The crew quickly gets in the Rolls-Royce and leaves.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. DREA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Drea and the crew sit around the table staring at each other in disbelief.

DREA
(very animated)
I'll be goddamed if a motherfucker is gonna take me down, take my money, and have me walking around worried... fuck that!
(MORE)

DREA (CONT'D)

I'll kill everyone of those pussy-assed bitches. This is my crew! I put this crew together! They can ride these nuts --

QUEEN

You're fucking clueless... pretty soon, we'll all be fed to alligators following your stupid ass around!

Lil' Ricky, Def, and Puppet all look at Drea at the same time. Then:

LIL' RICKY

Damn, I heard of cuttin' a homey's nuts off, but gator meat?!

DEF

Let's just start killing as many of them as we can now. They'll back the fuck off.

Puppet chuckles.

PUPPET

Ya'll stupid. How we gone fight a fucking cartel?! These mothafuckers got people all down in Mexico, damn near run downtown LA, and got unlimited fire power... what we got?!

Queen looks around.

QUEEN

Okay ya'll... hold up. I got this!

DREA

(to Queen)

Bitch, hold up?! I call the shots! I run this crew!

QUEEN

Oh, now I'm a bitch?! The only thing you run is yo fuckin' mouth. You're the reason we're in this shit... fucking killing people for no reason!

Drea and Queen stare each at other. Then, Drea goes deep in thought...

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Drea is eight; Queen is eleven. Drea's surrounded by a group of boys threatening to beat him. The boys are all yelling. Drea stands in the middle, afraid. An OLDER BOY (10) steps up:

OLDER BOY
Yeah, we gone get that ass!

JJ (8) approaches from the back.

OLDER BOY (CONT'D)
Yeah, fire'r his ass up, JJ...

JJ hesitates. Then:

JJ
I'll fuck you up!

Suddenly, Queen runs in and starts to attack the boys. She's kicking ass! The boys all start to run. Drea is relieved.

BACK TO:

INT. DREA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Drea smiles.

DREA
Girl, you lucky you my people, or --

QUEEN
Or what?!

DEF
Ya'll chill!

DREA
(to Queen)
You ready to die?

Queen looks hard at Drea. A beat, then:

DREA (CONT'D)
We'll see...

QUEEN
Nobody's dying. I've been thinking about how to get the money we need without robbing or killing... I have a few ideas, but there's someone I need to talk to first.

LIL' RICKY
How fuckin' long will that take?

QUEEN
I'm not sure... let's circle back
in a few hours.

Puppet looks at his watch.

PUPPET
A few hours?! Shit, all we got is
twenty-four...
(realizing)
Well, shit... twenty-three now.

QUEEN
Just sit tight... and I mean don't
start no shit! Y'all hang until I
get back.

Queen rushes out.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Drea, Def, Lil' Ricky, and Puppet are playing Fort Night.
Drea suddenly slams his controller on the floor.

DREA
Fuck, I'm bored! Man, we just
sittin' around like some mark-assed
Negroes...

Drea stands and walks toward a window. He draws the curtain.

DREA (CONT'D)
Cortez' people know where we are;
they could hit us at any time.

Drea turns to face his crew. A beat, then:

DREA (CONT'D)
We going to the club as planned.
Fuck sittin' around!

CUT TO:

INT. BERNADETTE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sandy rushes around the apartment getting ready to leave.

CUT TO:

EXT. POP'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Compton. Queen parks her motorcycle, removes her helmet, and enters the house.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A very neat living room with a grand piano. On the wall and above the couch are three large photos: one of Jesus Christ, Martin Luther King, and John F. Kennedy. Queen looks around the room.

QUEEN
(yelling)
Hey... hey! Pops? Where you at?!

R&B music spins in the background as POPS (75) walks down the stairs. He's Queen's father and Drea's uncle, heavy set, and with processed hair, Al Sharpton style. He's always wearing a durag.

POPS
(yelling)
Hold on!

Queen heads for the...

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

...and opens the refrigerator. As she rummages through the refrigerator:

QUEEN
All you got in here is beer!

Then, Pops enters with a beer in hand.

POPS
That's all I need... cold beer!

Queen hugs her dad.

POPS (CONT'D)
Good to see my baby girl. You gettin' taller, or am I getting shorter?! They say the older you get, the shorter you get... but I hope they just talkin' about my height!

Pops chuckles.

QUEEN

You look the same to me.

POPS

Yeah, well, try telling that to my girls...

QUEEN

What girls?! You mean the one you got upstairs?

POPS

That's the one you know about.

Pops chuckles.

QUEEN

Okay, Don Juan...

POPS

So what do I owe this visit to?
You need somethin'? Hugs translate
into wants and needs...

Pops looks hard at Queen.

POPS (CONT'D)

That look. That's the face I would
see when you were little.

(realizing)

You're in trouble.

QUEEN

Not me, your dumb-assed nephew
again!

POPS

What else is new...

QUEEN

Well, for starters, he killed one
of Cortez' men.

POPS

Cortez?!

QUEEN

Put several bullets in him.

POPS

Ya know, you have what we call
Hustling backwards, sideways hustle
and fake 2.0 Hustles," and I think
he fits all of 'em...

Queen chuckles. Pops shakes his head in disgust.

POPS (CONT'D)

That boy needs to be in a mental institution! I did everything I could to help him grow up... but even as a child, he had emotional issues! He was kicked out of just about every school he attended; he was in and out of juvenile hall, set things on fire, beat up other kids... killed animals! Shit, he couldn't help it, I guess...

QUEEN

You got that right.

POPS

It didn't help that I ended up in prison with his daddy. Then, your momma passed, and you had to make it through grade school and watch him. How did you do it?

QUEEN

During your sit down, he basically just stayed in the studio you built and worked on his music.

POPS

Yeah, the studio calmed his nerves, I guess... but he needed to stay on his medication. That... whatcha call it?

QUEEN

Lithium.

POPS

Yeah, that's it. Imagine... he had nobody around except you to feed him that drug...

QUEEN

Yeah, he would vomit up green shit every time he took it. He couldn't hold it down, so I stopped giving it to him.

POPS

That boy... what a fucking waste. He real talented, ya know.

QUEEN

Yeah, I know. Genius. Musical savant!

POPS

I need to see him... have him call me.

Queen nods.

POPS (CONT'D)

So back to Cortez --

QUEEN

He gave us twenty-four hours to get him five million...

Pops looks up at the ceiling and shakes his head. Queen looks at her watch.

QUEEN (CONT'D)

...and now we have twenty-one, no, twenty hours to come up with the money.

POPS

Got damn!

Pops guzzles his beer, killing it. Then, he goes to the refrigerator and grabs another, immediately snapping the top and guzzling it down. Queen laughs.

QUEEN

Wait, Pops... slow down!

Pops puts down his beer and looks Queen in the eyes.

POPS

Shit... I think I need something a lil' stronger!

Pops moves uncomfortably in his seat.

POPS (CONT'D)

(yelling)

Paulette... baby, bring the Jack!

Soon after, Pop's girlfriend, PAULETTE (40) comes into the kitchen with a bottle of Jack Daniels.

POPS (CONT'D)

Baby, pour me a double.

PAULETTE

You better slow down...

POPS

Slow down?! Shit, when I was in Nam, the only thing that kept us alive was being fucked up every day! Ya know, listen... we had three basic ways to go. You could be a drinker, like me; they called us the "oil heads". You could be a smoker; they had the best weed and hashish. Or, you could shoot "boy," heroine, or "girl," cocaine.

(beat)

They had the best of everything! That's what kept us all alive. The Vietcong knew it, and so did the army brass. They let us get as fucked up as we wanted. Nobody ever said a damn thing about it. Why?

Paulette gets glasses from the cupboard and pours three stiff drinks. They all sit at the kitchen table.

PAULETTE

(to Queen)

Ya'll in trouble again?!

Queen rolls her eyes at Paulette.

QUEEN

Let us handle this.

POPS

(to Paulette)

It's okay, baby... don't worry 'bout it.

Paulette leaves the table, but stands at the kitchen sink. She continues to listen.

QUEEN

Pops, I need a plan to get five million dollars, and quick.

POPS

Yeah, real quick!

Pop smiles.

POPS (CONT'D)

I only know of one place to get that kind of cash fast...

Paulette leans in.

PAULETTE

(to Queen)

Your daddy has been out of that business for years. He no longer deals with low lives, drug dealers, con men, or other criminals. He owns a coffee shop, gets up, and goes to work every day. A legitimate businessman. He can't help you this time!

Queen looks at Paulette, then back to Pops.

QUEEN

Pops, they're going to burn us alive if we can't come up with the money.

Pops takes another shot of Jack and swallows loudly.

POPS

I won't let that happen.

Queen moves her chair closer to Pops.

POPS (CONT'D)

The Nigerians; they have it. They get the cash from all kinds of financial schemes they run here in the U.S., then move the cash through accounts to Africa. They have thousands of accounts set up in fictitious names all over the world, but Africa is the base.

QUEEN

I thought the feds shut all of that shit down?

POPS

They tried, but the Nigerians are too slick. Shit, Wells Fargo, for one, will never figure it out; the accounts are set up electronically from Africa. Their entire computer system is run by hackers. Imagine if that information got out! The Nigerians have their own people inside U.S. banks, and they ain't Nigerians. Corruption starts at the top... believe that!

QUEEN

How do we tap into that?

POPS

Let me ask you a question... did they teach you anything in college? You're a computer science major, right?

Queen nods her head.

POPS (CONT'D)

I paid a lot of tuition hoping to keep you away from the life I had to live. I had to risk it all for a few ends, but you can use your brain. Baby girl, you don't need this shit!

QUEEN

Well, I didn't go to school all of those years to sit in a cubicle either... and it's too late to turn back now! So how can I get their banking information?

POPS

That's easy. They love to brag about how much money they make, and how easy it is to rip off Americans. I sit and listen to them talk shit all day at the shop. All you have to do is listen.

Pops looks over at Paulette.

POPS (CONT'D)

I swear this is the last time I talk about this shit, honey.

Paulette shakes her head. Pops leans closer to Queen.

POPS (CONT'D)

You need to override the computer program they're using and dispense the cash into an untraceable account. Then, convert that cash into crypto currency, like bitcoin, Litecoin, or Monero. Why? Because it's untraceable, but spendable.

Queen takes a sip of her drink and raises her eyebrows as it goes down.

POPS (CONT'D)

The Nigerians won't report the stolen money because it would bring attention to their illegal operation... so they'll do some investigation, but at some point, they'll let it go. They'll have no choice.

Pops finishes his third drink, then pours another.

POPS (CONT'D)

You need one of those nerds you met in college to create the right hacker program. Hack into their money and wipe them out. They'll have a lot more than five million, but don't take it all. Take only what you need!

QUEEN

But how will I get the account information I need?

POPS

Use your imagination, and the gifts your momma left you.

Queen's face lights up.

POPS (CONT'D)

You're running out of time.

Queen stands to leave.

QUEEN

Thanks, Pops.

They hug.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WEST HOLLYWOOD CLUB - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

DEEP BASE THUMPS. There is a small crowd around a big, fat Asian doorman. It's a hip-hop club, and it looks very underground. The crowd is a mix of young blacks, Latinos, Asians, and whites.

Sandy stands near the rear with heels, a mask, and a tight skirt. Then, Drea exits the front door, signals the doorman, and points at Sandy. Sandy moves to the front of the line, then enters.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

As Sandy walks inside, Drea warmly smiles at her. She quickly discards her mask. Drea pulls her close; they embrace, then tongue kiss.

SANDY
I missed you.

DREA
Yeah? Say it again.

Sandy smiles. Drea looks into her eyes. For a moment, it looks like he's in love. Then, his mood quickly changes.

DREA (CONT'D)
The show is gonna be off the hook!

Drea grabs Sandy's hand and leads her into the...

INT. MAIN ROOM - CONTINUOUS

...which is full of dancing people. The music is very loud, and no one is wearing a mask! Drea shouts over the loud music:

DREA
Want a drink?!

Sandy nods.

SANDY
Yeah!

DREA
Okay, get one! See you after the show!

Drea quickly rushes off and toward the side of the stage. CAMRERA PANS to Lil' Ricky and Puppet standing nearby. Then, the music stops, and a DJ takes the stage. The crowd merges toward the stage. Sandy quickly rushes to the front.

ON STAGE

The DJ (M, 30's) grabs the mic.

DJ
(yelling)
Okay... all my hustlers, biaches,
and phat assed hoes...

The crowd screams!

DEEJAY

...on stage tonight is my playa
Drea, and his crew!

The mixed crowd loudly cheers. The energy is fever pitch!

Drea and his crew take the stage. Lil' Ricky goes to a mixing board and starts to mix a dope beat. Drea and Def grab mics. Puppet stands to the side. The music starts; it's west coast thug music. The crowd is dancing to the beat and going wild!

Drea steps up and starts to rap. He shows energy as a performer. It's easy to see why girls like him.

IN THE CROWD

Sandy stands at the front, dancing and wildly moving her hips to the beat. All of the girls are grinding their hips sexually. Guys dance gangster-style.

Everyone parties: dancing couples, girls grinding with girls, guys and girls dancing doggie-style.

ON STAGE

Puppet dances in the background like his body is being controlled by strings. The entire club is going completely wild! Def dances to the front of the stage and pulls out his iPhone. He films the audience while rapping.

IPHONE'S POV - THE CROWD

Dancing is a strange figure... it's Pablo! Def unknowingly captures the image on his iPhone.

BACK TO SCENE

Drea notices the strange dancer. It looks like Pablo to him. Drea freaks out and leaves the stage, while the entire club continues to go completely wild.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SANDY'S CAR - DAY (DRIVING)

It's Sunday. Sandy drives Casey, Spencer, and Ida to church. The boys sit in the back seat singing rap songs, while the adults laugh at their ability to know every word in exact syncopation.

IDA

You boys watch the foul language...
this is the Lord's day!

The boys keep rapping. Sandy just bobs her head to the beat and rolls her eyes. Ida opens her Bible.

EXT./INT. CHURCH - ROLLS-ROYCE - DAY

Sandy, Ida, Casey, and Spencer walk in the church parking lot when a car pulls up; its music is playing very loudly. REVEAL Drea and his crew: Def, Lil' Ricky, and Puppet. The window rolls down.

DREA

Yo, Sandy... come here!

Sandy immediately walks over to the car and puts her head in the window.

DREA (CONT'D)

(re: Bernadette)

Where's the snitch?

SANDY

Work.

DREA

Time for some payback!

SANDY

Please... just let it go.

CASEY (O.S.)

Sandy, let's go! We're gonna be late for Sunday school!

DREA

(screaming)

Shut your monkey mouth!

The crew laughs.

SANDY

(angrily)

Don't talk to him like that!

DREA

(yelling)

Go!

Before Sandy can pull away, Drea speeds off, causing her to fall on the ground. Casey, Spencer, and Ida run to help her up. They all walk inside of the church.

LATER

Bernadette arrives. The parking area is abuzz with pre-church conversation and kids running around playing games. A deep base rises... it's hip-hop music!

REVEAL Drea and his crew drive slowly past the church. The car U-turns. Suddenly, the barrel of a shot gun sticks out of Drea's window. Another barrel aims from the back window.

INT. ROLLS-ROYCE - SAME TIME

Drea smiles maliciously.

DREA

I got you now, snitch!

PUPPET

Wait! I ain't shooting up no damn church people! Are you fools crazy?!

LIL' RICKY

(to Puppet)

Yeah, player, we real crazy! Now what?!

Lil' Ricky has a comic book character look on his face.

PUPPET

I thought we was just goin' to wax that snitch!

The car stops. Drea turns and points his weapon at Puppet.

MEMORY HIT

Puppet is eight years old sitting in church with his friend, Jeff. They look at each other and burst out laughing. The preacher looks down and gives them a mean look.

BACK TO SCENE

Drea turns his head back.

DREA

Who's running this crew?!

LIL' RICKY

(to Puppet)

Say it!

PUPPET

Let me out! I ain't killin' kids
and old people... fuck that!

DEF

(to Puppet)

You want to be let out of here?
You're welcome to go, black man!

Drea extends his arm so that the weapon is against Puppet's head.

DREA

Your choice, black man!

Puppet slowly sits back down. Lil' Ricky chuckles.

LIL' RICKY

Word.

Drea resumes his aim on the church. Def pulls out his phone.

IPHONE'S POV - THE CHURCH

Without any warning, the crew opens fire on the church crowd.
We see fire coming from the barrels!

EXT. CHURCH

Bernadette and Ida hear the shots and run for Casey. Nelson and the parents all run for the children. Sandy is frozen and stiff from fear, but Drea keeps firing.

Then, the rap music fades. REVEAL Bernadette is on top of Casey. She's muttering.

BERNADETTE

Please, God... please, God...

IN SLOW MOTION

We see Bernadette roll off of her son. She looks first at her clothing... blood everywhere! Then, she looks at Casey. He's been shot; he's bleeding!

BACK TO SCENE

Bernadette screams! She quickly looks over at Ida. REVEAL she's been shot in the head and is dead!

BERNADETTE (CONT'D)

God! No!

PULL BACK TO REVEAL it's a war zone. Dead bodies are everywhere! SIRENS SOUND. The shooting has stopped, but more chaos begins. People are searching for their children. Some are alive; some are dead.

Sandy is sitting on the curb, crying hysterically. Nelson helplessly clings to a nearby pole. Below him is Spencer; he's hit, but still alive. Nelson's crying.

NELSON

Thank you, Jesus. Thank you...

An ambulance arrives. Casey, Spencer, and the others are quickly attended to, then rushed to the hospital.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

ANGLE ON several caskets. SOULFUL SINGING. PULL BACK TO REVEAL Nelson playing the piano on stage. Sandy stands beside him singing a song by Brandy, "I Dedicate".

IN THE FIRST PEW

Bernadette sits directly in front of her mom's casket, crying and mumbling in tongues. She looks different... very pale, like a woman possessed. The song fades, and Reverend Johnson takes the pulpit.

AT THE PULPIT

Reverend Johnson closes his eyes.

REVEREND JOHNSON

Turn your Bibles to Leviticus
24:20...

The Reverend opens his eyes and looks across the audience. His expression is very sad.

REVEREND JOHNSON (CONT'D)

"Whoever kills a man must be put to death."

FADE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - DAY

Bernadette stares through a window at her son and Spencer. Then, DOCTOR FORRESTER (M, 40) comes from behind.

DOCTOR
Hi. Excuse me... Bernadette?

Bernadette ignores the doctor.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
I'm Dr. Forrester. First, I'm so sorry about your mom. What happened out there was horrible. I know that this is a difficult time, but I need to ask you a few questions...

The doctor looks through the pages of a clipboard he's carrying. He clears his throat.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Your son, Casey, is in shock. He's in critical condition. He's lost a lot of blood. We removed two buck shots from his neck. He needs time to rest. The other boy, Spencer, sustained a wound to his leg... he'll be okay. By the way, do you know Spencer's parents? We have not been able to reach them.

Bernadette does not answer or even acknowledge the doctor.

INT. BERNADETTE'S APARTMENT - CASEY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Bernadette lays in Casey's bed, mumbling in tongues.

QUICK FLASH

Bernadette's dead mother appears. Ida slowly walks toward Bernadette...

BACK TO SCENE

Bernadette snaps awake!

INT. DREA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Drea and the crew are passed out in the living room.

THROUGH AN UNKNOWN POV

The entire room is being surveyed. Suddenly, there is a loud thump on the front door. Puppet jumps up.

PUPPET
What the...

Drea, Def, and Lil' Ricky all wake up.

DREA

What?

PUPPET

I heard something at the door.

DREA

Five-0?

PUPPET

Maybe...

DREA

Go check it out!

LIL' RICKY

Wait, get some fire power.

Puppet grabs a shot gun and walks to the door. Def pulls his iPhone out, but decides not to film. Puppet slowly opens the door until...

...he sees a large rock, which apparently hit the door. Relaxing for a moment, he steps outside to pick it up. As he rises, a figure suddenly appears directly in front of him!

EXT./INT. FRONT ENTRANCE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The figure suddenly grabs Puppet's head. With the strength of a demon, the figure twists it off of his body! Blood waterspouts from Puppet's neck. Puppet falls back into the house without his head!

The crew frozen by the graphic, killing stares in disbelief.

THE END

FADE TO BLACK.