QUEEN & SLIM

Screenplay by
Lena Waithe

Story by
James Frey and
Lena Waithe
INT. DINER - NIGHT 1 (SOMEBWHERE IN OHIO)

We’re in the kind of place that feels like everyone should know your name. But they don’t. Families frequent this spot when they’ve fallen on hard times. It’s practically empty on this boring Thursday. SERVERS drop off hot plates while ELDERLY PEOPLE sip cheap coffee at the counter.

Our focus is directed toward a BLACK MAN and a BLACK WOMAN sitting in a small booth in the back.

The MAN: has a slender frame and a laid back demeanor. He’s not a fan of rocking the boat or ruffling feathers, but he ain’t no punk either. For the purpose of this story we’ll call him SLIM.

The WOMAN: She’s regal as fuck. She’s not an easy laugh and she’s always waiting for the other shoe to drop. For the purposes of this story, we’ll call her QUEEN.

Not unlike most first dates there are long silences and a lot of forced small talk.

The WAITRESS quickly drops off their food and walks away without uttering a word. Queen examines the spread.

Slim prays over his food. This is how he was raised. Queen sits awkwardly waiting for him to look up.

As soon as he does --

QUEEN
Didn’t you ask for scrambled eggs?

SLIM
Yeah.

She clocks the two sunny side up eggs on his plate.

SLIM (CONT'D)
It’s all good.

QUEEN
No, it’s not.

SLIM
It’s just eggs.

QUEEN
I have a thing about that.

SLIM
Eggs?
QUEEN
No, about people not doing their job well.

SLIM
She’s got four kids and an alcoholic husband at home. She’s doing the best she can.

QUEEN
How do you know that?

SLIM
She comes through my line every Sunday, yelling at her kids and giving me a stack of coupons. She can never find her Costco card so I always let her use mine so she can get the discount.

QUEEN
That’s nice of you.

SLIM
Can I ask you something?

QUEEN
I don’t know, can you?

SLIM
Easy, I know good grammar.

QUEEN
Do you?

SLIM
We not in a classroom.

They have a quick standoff.

QUEEN
You gonna ask me your question or not?

SLIM
What took you so long to respond to me?

QUEEN
I didn’t realize that much time had passed.
SLIM
I sent you a very well crafted message three weeks ago. I spell checked it and everything and got crickets. Then today, out of the blue, you hit me up asking if I wanna grab dinner. What changed?

QUEEN
I had a shitty day.

SLIM
What was so shitty about it?

QUEEN
The state decided to execute my client.

Queen says that as if she were giving him the logline to her least favorite movie.

In an instant Slim loses his appetite.

SLIM
I didn’t know that was still legal here.

QUEEN
Yup. It’s legal in 31 states. And Ohio happens to be one of ‘em.

SLIM
Was he innocent?

QUEEN
Even if he’s not - the state shouldn’t decide whether he lives or dies.

SLIM
I’m sorry.

QUEEN
Me too.

(then)
Normally, I’d just go home and have a glass of wine by myself. But I didn’t feel like being alone. Not tonight.

Slim can’t tell if this is a cry for help or a proposition.
SLIM
You didn’t have any friends or family you could call?

QUEEN
No.

SLIM
So you turned to Tinder?

QUEEN
Yeah.

Slim sips his soda.

SLIM
Why’d you pick me?

QUEEN
I liked your picture.

SLIM
(flattered)
Word?

QUEEN
You had this sad look on your face. I felt sorry for you.

SLIM
Damn.

QUEEN
I didn’t mean for that to sound shady.

SLIM
Well it did.

Then --

SLIM (CONT'D)
My dad took that picture of me.

QUEEN
Why aren’t you smiling?

Slim shrugs. Not ready to divulge the reason just yet. They’re still getting to know each other.

SLIM
To be honest, I don’t have that many photos of myself.
QUEEN
Why not?

SLIM
I know what I look like.

QUEEN
Pictures aren’t just about vanity. They’re proof of your existence.

SLIM
My family knows I exist. That’s enough.

The idea of not having to prove oneself to the world is foreign to Queen.

Slim stares at Queen’s plate. Most of her food is untouched. Particularly her Caesar salad.

SLIM (CONT'D)
You gon eat that?

QUEEN
You can have some.

He reaches over and stabs a few big pieces of lettuce with his fork.

SLIM
They always use just the right amount of dressing.

Then --

QUEEN
Do you really like this place or is it the only spot you could afford?

SLIM
It’s black owned.

She wasn’t expecting that answer. Queen can appreciate this small token of righteousness.

QUEEN
Touché.

CUT TO:
INT. CAR - AN HOUR LATER - NIGHT

Slim drives a WHITE HONDA ACCORD. Yeah, he don’t give a fuck about cars. He tries to create a vibe by playing some neo-soul music. Which is regular soul music with a hint of patchouli.

He keeps looking down at his phone. Checking the directions.

QUEEN
You shouldn’t text and drive.

SLIM
Ain’t nobody texting. I’m making sure I don’t get lost.

She grabs Slim’s phone from his lap.

QUEEN
I can tell you how to get to my hotel.

SLIM
Give me my phone!

QUEEN
Relax. I’m gonna give it back.

SLIM
You gon tell me where to turn?

QUEEN
Yeah.

Queen points left.

SLIM
Oh so now you gon point the directions?

QUEEN
I’m telling you where to go.

Slim is visibly annoyed. Queen starts sifting through his phone.

QUEEN (CONT’D)
You made a playlist? That’s cute.

Slim tries to grab his phone back, unsuccessfully.

SLIM
Don’t go through my phone!
She smiles.

QUEEN
Did you like “In a Sentimental Mood” before or after “Love Jones”?

SLIM
I knew about that shit way before “Love Jones.”

QUEEN
Don’t lie.

SLIM
Okay - I fucked with it more after I saw the movie.

QUEEN
I appreciate your honesty.

Then --

SLIM
So what happens tonight?

QUEEN
You’re gonna drop me off and you’ll go home, I guess.

SLIM
Oh.

QUEEN
Did you think we were gonna have sex?

Slim is embarrassed.

SLIM
No. I thought we were gonna hang out. Maybe get to know each other.

QUEEN
Nah, I’m good.

Slim takes his phone back from Queen causing him to SWERVE a bit. Then he SWITCHES LANES without signaling.

Just as he starts to pick up speed. He hears a horrifying sound. WOOP WOOP. Every black person’s worst nightmare.
We hear a robotic voice muffled through a loud speaker: “Pull over. That corner right there.”

Slim’s heart starts to race. Queen’s heart beats at its usual speed.

QUEEN (CONT’D)
Do you have any warrants?

SLIM
Really?

QUEEN
Do you?

SLIM
Nah, I ain’t got no warrants.

QUEEN
Do you have any weapons in the car?
Any narcotics?

SLIM
I got a pocket knife in the glove compartment.

QUEEN
That’s fine.

SLIM
I know it is.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT 1

The POLICE OFFICER steps out of his car and makes his way to Slim’s door.

He motions for Slim to roll down his window. He does.

POLICE OFFICER
Can you turn the radio down?

Slim pauses for a beat. Then he does as he’s told. He’s always been good at being obedient.

The Police Officer aims the light directly in Slim’s eyes. Slim quickly shields his face so he can see what’s in front of him.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT’D)
Put your hand down.

He does as he’s told.
QUEEN
He only had it up because you were shining a light in his eyes.

POLICE OFFICER
I’m trying to see inside the vehicle.

QUEEN
It’s just us.

POLICE OFFICER
License and registration.

Slim reaches for his wallet.

SLIM
I’m grabbing my wallet.

POLICE OFFICER
I can see that.

QUEEN
(under her breath)
Well, y’all like to shoot first and ask questions later.

POLICE OFFICER
Do you have something you wanna say to me?

QUEEN
No, I don’t.

Slim hands over his license. Slowly. As he reaches over to rummage through his glove compartment his hand accidentally grazes Queen’s thigh. He’s not being fresh. Just nervous. He finally finds his crumpled up registration and hands it over.

POLICE OFFICER
Do you know why I pulled you over?

SLIM
No, sir.

POLICE OFFICER
You forgot to use your signal back there. And you swerved a bit.

Queen shakes her head.

SLIM
Oh, my bad.
POLICE OFFICER
Yeah, it is.
The Police Officer takes Slim’s license and registration and slowly walks back to his squad car.
Queen sits there. Seething. Slim is calm as a cucumber.

QUEEN
I can’t believe this shit.

SLIM
Just chill.

She doesn’t like being told what to do.

QUEEN
Excuse me?

SLIM
I told you to chill out.

QUEEN
I have a right to be angry.

SLIM
I ain’t tryna die tonight.
The weight of that statement leaps out of Slim’s soul and lands in Queen’s lap.

INT. SQUAD CAR - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT 1

The Police Officer talks to his DISPATCHER.
On his dashboard we see a PHOTO. It’s a picture of his WIFE and KIDS.
The Kids are TWIN BOYS. They both have blonde hair and green eyes. They’re completely unaware of how privileged their lives will be simply because they were born white and male.
The Wife is a bored brunette whose dreams are no bigger than her backyard.

DISPATCHER
Whattya got?

POLICE OFFICER
Black male. Black female. Both late twenties. They’re in a white Honda.
(MORE)
POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)
Driver changed lanes without signaling. He was driving erratically.

DISPATCHER
Is he under the influence?

POLICE OFFICER
I don’t know yet. I’ll make him do a breathalyzer.

DISPATCHER
Let me know if you need anything.

POLICE OFFICER
Will do.

INT. SLIM’S CAR - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT 1

The Officer is back at Slim’s window - leaning in a little too close.

POLICE OFFICER
Will you step out of the vehicle, please?

QUEEN
(under her breath)
Shit.

SLIM
Can I ask why, Officer?

POLICE OFFICER
No, you can’t. Step out of the car.

Before he gets out of the car Queen and Slim lock eyes. He doesn’t know Queen very well, but he can tell she has the spirit of Nat Turner wrestling inside of her.

Slim steps out and puts his hands on the roof of the car. The Police Officer proceeds to search him, aggressively.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT’D)
You got any sharp objects in your pockets I should know about?

SLIM
No, sir.

POLICE OFFICER
Any illegal substances?
SLIM
No, sir.

POLICE OFFICER
What about in the vehicle?

SLIM
No, sir.

CUT TO:

INT. SLIM’S CAR - PASSENGER SEAT - SAME TIME - NIGHT 1

Queen’s left knee bounces uncontrollably. Her chest goes up and down.

Queen looks in the rearview mirror and sees the Police Officer interrogating Slim on the side of the road.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT 1

The Police Officer finishes patting Slim down.

POLICE OFFICER
Have you been drinking tonight?

SLIM
No.

Slim laughs.

POLICE OFFICER
Why is that funny?

SLIM
Cause I don’t drink.

POLICE OFFICER
Do me a favor, pop the trunk.

SLIM
Why?

POLICE OFFICER
Because I asked you to.

Slim hesitates.
SLIM
Ain’t nothing in there but some shoe boxes.

POLICE OFFICER
Let’s see ‘em.

SLIM
Okay.

Queen HONKS the horn in an effort to get the Police Officer’s attention.

POLICE OFFICER
Can I help you?

QUEEN
Do you have a warrant?

POLICE OFFICER
Ma’am, he’s already agreed to the search. So I don’t need one.

Slim pops the trunk.

He was telling the truth. The only thing in his trunk are a bunch of sneakers. Consumerism is his only vice.

Slim feels vindicated and violated at the same time.

SLIM
Told you.

QUEEN (O.S.)
Can we go now?

The Officer’s cheeks turn bright red.

POLICE OFFICER
What’s in the boxes?

SLIM
Shoes.

POLICE OFFICER
I’m gonna check just to be sure.

SLIM
Fine.

Then.

SLIM (CONT’D)
Can you please hurry up?
And just like that a SWITCH GOES OFF in the Police Officer’s head. He feels disrespected. His uniform isn’t as intimidating as he thought it was. His super powers are imaginary. So he goes from 2018 to 1953 real quick.

He PULLS OUT HIS GUN and AIMS IT AT SLIM.

    POLICE OFFICER
    Get on the ground and put your hands behind your back, now!

    SLIM
    Are you serious?

    POLICE OFFICER
    Get on the ground!

Slim does as he’s told.

The Officer keeps the gun pointed at Slim’s head while looking at Slim’s car to make sure Queen stays inside.

But after a beat she GETS OUT OF THE CAR to see what the fuck is going on.

    QUEEN
    Why is he under arrest?

The Officer turns around and AIMS HIS GUN AT HER. With one hand. The other hand stays planted on Slim’s shoulder.

    POLICE OFFICER
    Ma’am if you don’t get back in the car I’m gonna have to arrest you too.

    QUEEN
    I’m happy to get back in the car, but would you mind telling me why you’re arresting him?

    POLICE OFFICER
    Get back in the vehicle now!

    QUEEN
    I’m reaching for my cell phone --

    POLICE OFFICER
    Keep your hands where I can see them!!

    QUEEN
    I have the right to record this arrest.
Queen REACHES in her pocket.

Officer Reed AIMS HIS GUN AT HER and FIRES OFF TWO SHOTS. BOOM! BOOM!

The first shot misses her, but the SECOND SHOT GRAZES HER RIGHT THIGH. She collapses to the ground. And hits her head on the pavement.

Slim SCREAMS for her. He tries to run toward her, but Officer Reed grabs him by the shoulders and slams him on the ground.

Officer Reed and Slim roll around on the ground for a few seconds. Until Officer Reed finally pins Slim to the ground and points the gun at his face.

OFFICER REED
Don’t move!

Officer Reed sees Queen trying to get up. He points his gun at her again - while the Officer’s attention is diverted - Slim KNOCKS the firearm out of his hand.

When the gun goes flying - Officer Reed reaches for it, but Slim gets to it first.

When Slim turns around he sees Officer Reed LUNGING toward him.

Slim FIRES the gun! BOOM.

HE SHOOTS OFFICER REED IN THE NECK. Killing him instantly.

Slim drops the gun and stops breathing. Queen muffles her own scream.

Officer Reed’s lifeless body lies on the pavement. A pool of blood quickly forms around him.

Queen applies pressure to her fresh wound and winces in pain. Slim gets up and runs to her side. He sees the blood running down her leg.

SLIM
Oh shit!

He tries to help her up, but she doesn’t want his assistance.

QUEEN
I got it.

She slowly stands up. Gritting her teeth the entire time. Independence hurts.
Queen looks at the dead Police Officer.

QUEEN (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

Physically yes. Emotionally no.

SLIM
Yeah.

Slim puts Queen’s arm around his neck. He knows she’s struggling to stand on one good leg.

She kneels down and grabs the gun. Then she gently shoves it in his pants.

It’s their gun now.

Queen turns to face Officer Reed’s squad car. The headlights are still on. Giving the small CAMERA on the DASHBOARD a perfect view of her face.

QUEEN
Let’s go.

Slim looks at her for a long beat.

SLIM
We can’t just leave him here.

QUEEN
Yes, we can. Now let’s go.

Slim walks Queen back to the car. The engine is still purring. He helps her into the passenger seat.

Slim walks around to the other side and gets in the driver’s seat. Still in shock.

As they drive off into the darkness all we hear is the static filled radio coming from the squad car.

MALE VOICE
Officer Reed? Officer Reed, do you need back up? Officer Reed, do you copy?

As we hear sirens far off in the distance, we --

CUT TO:

OPENING CREDITS
INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

Slim drives faster than his car is used to going. No music is playing. They’re no longer wrapping up a date. Now they’re fugitives, on the run. And one of them is wounded.

Slim has no idea where they’re going. Neither does Queen. He’s just driving. Aimlessly.

Slim grabs his phone.

SLIM
I gotta call my dad.

Queen snatches his phone and tosses it out the window. She chucks hers as well.

SLIM (CONT’D)
What the fuck are you doing?

QUEEN
We can’t call anybody. It’ll make them accomplices.

SLIM
You could’ve just said that shit. Now we ain’t got no phones.

QUEEN
A phone ain’t nothing but a tracking device anyway.

Slim is shell shocked as Queen tries to take deep breaths.

SLIM
You’re bleeding a lot.

QUEEN
It’s okay it only grazed me.

The severity of what they did starts to sink in.

SLIM
Fuck! Why didn’t you just stay in the car?

QUEEN
So this is my fault?

SLIM
You should’ve just let me handle it.
QUEEN
If I didn’t get out the car you’d be dead right now.

Slim looks at her wound. There’s a big gash.

SLIM
We gotta get you to a hospital.

QUEEN
No! We can’t. Just keep driving.

SLIM
Here --

Slim takes off his jacket while driving.

SLIM (CONT’D)
Use my jacket as a bandage.

She balls it up and presses it against her leg. It hurts like hell.

QUEEN
Fuck!

SLIM
I have a small bottle of bourbon under the seat.

She looks at him with judgmental eyes.

QUEEN
I thought you didn’t drink.

SLIM
I don’t. My cousin stole that from a hotel and left it in my car.

She grabs it and pours some on her open wound. Queen grits her teeth and presses against it to stop the bleeding.

Slim’s mind starts to race. He can’t sit still.

SLIM (CONT’D)
What if he was wearing a body cam? Or had a camera in his car. This shit bout to be all over the fucking news.

QUEEN
That’s why we have to keep going.
SLIM
We can’t run forever.

QUEEN
I know that. But right now we have
to run until we come up with a
better plan.

SLIM
Well, start throwing out some
ideas.

QUEEN
Since when am I in charge of coming
up with the ideas?

SLIM
Since you made the decision to run.

QUEEN
We made that decision together.

SLIM
I don’t remember that.

QUEEN
We ain’t turning ourselves in, I
know that much.

SLIM
If people watch the tape they’ll
see what happened.

QUEEN
Yeah – they’ll see you shooting a
police officer, you idiot!

SLIM
Man, fuck this!

EXT. STREET – NIGHT

Slim pulls the car over. He gets out and just starts walking.

QUEEN
What the fuck are you doing? Are
you crazy?

Queen limps out and hurries after him. Slim walks aimlessly
up the road.

QUEEN (CONT’D)
Where are you going?
SLIM
I’mma find somebody with a phone so I can call my family.

QUEEN
If you do that they’ll know where we are.

SLIM
Great.

QUEEN
What if they kill us?

That stops Slim in his tracks. He turns to look at her.

SLIM
Don’t say that.

QUEEN
There’s no guarantee they won’t.

Then.

QUEEN (CONT'D)
You’re a black man that killed a cop and then you took his gun.

SLIM
We took it for protection.

QUEEN
Exactly.

SLIM
I’m not a criminal.

QUEEN
You are now.

Slim stares at her.

SLIM
I just want to go home. I wanna see my family.

Slim’s eyes start to water. Queen grabs his hand.

QUEEN
If you turn yourself in - you’ll never see them again.

And just like that. Something in Slim shifts. He feels powerless and small.
QUEEN (CONT'D)
All we can do is go forward.
There’s nothing back there for us.
Please. Let’s just keep going.

SLIM
What about your family? You don’t care about leaving them behind?

QUEEN
No. I don’t.

SLIM
We can’t just keep driving. We need to figure out what the fuck we gon do.

QUEEN
Alright, let’s go to my uncle’s house. We can stay there for a few days. Then we can figure out our next move.

SLIM
Where does your Uncle live?

QUEEN
New Orleans.

SLIM
That’s hours from here.

QUEEN
Then we should get going.

They slowly walk back to the car. Hand in hand.

CUT TO:

INT. SLIM’S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Slim blasts GOSPEL music. Queen stares out the window. Pissed.

QUEEN
Can you please turn that shit down?

SLIM
It’s the only thing that calms me.

QUEEN
Well I can’t hear myself think.
SLIM
I don’t care.

She turns it down.

SLIM (CONT’D)
Don’t touch my shit.

QUEEN
Pull over.

SLIM
Why?

QUEEN
So I can get out.

SLIM
You ain’t going nowhere. We in this together now.

All she can do is fold her arms and roll her eyes - because she knows he’s right.

INT. SLIM’S CAR - HOURS LATER - NIGHT 1

Slim and Queen’s hearts are still racing. Then the car starts to slow down.

QUEEN
Why you slowing down?

SLIM
I’m outta gas.

Then the car comes to a complete stop. They can no longer ride on fumes.

QUEEN
Why didn’t you say something?

SLIM
What you mean why ain’t I say something? I had other shit on my mind.

They sit there quietly for a beat. Then they see a flash of light. Headlights to be exact.

QUEEN
Okay, we gotta flag this car down.
SLIM
I hope they black.

QUEEN
(to herself)
That’s not always a good thing.

They both step out of the car. Nervous as hell.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT 1

As the car gets closer and closer, Queen realizes -

QUEEN
Oh fuck. The driver’s wearing a cowboy hat.

SLIM
Dammit.


The DRIVER is Mexican. His smile is friendly and his demeanor is warm.

DRIVER
Y’all having car trouble?

QUEEN
Uh, yeah, we ran out of gas.

The Driver sees Queen’s leg is covered in blood.

DRIVER
Ma’am, are you okay?

QUEEN
Yeah, I accidentally cut myself.

He looks at Slim and wonders if he’s stumbled upon a domestic dispute.

DRIVER
Why don’t you guys hop in my truck? I’ve got a first aid kit in my backseat. And there’s a gas station up the road. I’ll give you a ride.

SLIM
We don’t mind walking.
DRIVER
Come on. I won’t bite.

CUT TO:

INT. DRIVER’S TRUCK - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT 1

They get in the truck. Slim immediately spots a SHERIFF’S BADGE sitting on the dash. While Queen climbs in the backseat.

SLIM
Fuck.

SHERIFF
What?

SLIM
What?

SHERIFF
Something wrong?

SLIM
Uh no. I just didn’t know you were a sheriff.

Queen looks up. Freaked out.

SHERIFF
Oh yeah, I’m off duty today.

He pulls off.

CUT TO:

INT. SHERIFF’S TRUCK - MOMENTS LATER

Queen tries to take deep breaths while she bandages herself up. The bleeding has finally stopped. She uses a lot of gauze and tape because she doesn’t know when she’ll be able to re-bandage it. It looks a mess – cause she obviously doesn’t know what she’s doing.

Slim sits up front, sweating bullets.

SLIM
You know what. We can walk the rest of the way.
SHERIFF
Nah, I’ll let this be my good deed for the day.

SLIM
Uh okay.

SHERIFF
Y’all okay? You seem jumpy.

QUEEN
No, we’re fine. We just made a wrong turn somewhere and got lost.

SLIM
Where are we?

SHERIFF
You’re in Kentucky, my friend, but don’t worry – we’ll get you some gas and you’ll be on your way.

(then)
How’s your leg?

QUEEN
Much better. Thank you.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. GAS STATION - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

The Sheriff looks at them for a beat. They stare back, confused.

SHERIFF
Gas costs money.

SLIM
Oh shit, I left all my stuff in the car.

QUEEN
Me too.

SLIM
I can pay you back when we get to the car.

The Sheriff takes pity on them and walks into the gas station.

CUT TO:
INT. GAS STATION - COUNTER - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

The Sheriff grabs a red jug for the gas to go in and then he walks up to THE CASHIER.

SHERIFF
I need to fill this up.

CASHIER
That’ll be ten bucks.

The Sheriff hands him the money. Then he looks out the window and sees Queen and Slim standing by his car.

A VOICE from his walkie gives him an update.

VOICE
A Police Officer was shot and killed by two assailants in Ohio. A male and a female. Both African-American. One of the suspects was wounded by the officer. They’re said to be armed and dangerous. Let’s just keep our eyes open.

He stares daggers at Queen and Slim. They can feel his eyes on them.

CUT TO:

EXT. GAS STATION - SAME TIME - NIGHT

Queen has her hand on the passenger door. Slim paces back and forth.

QUEEN
Stop pacing.

SLIM
I can’t help it.

QUEEN
You look guilty.

SLIM
I am guilty.

QUEEN
Have you been charged with something?

SLIM
No.
QUEEN
Then you’re not guilty.

SLIM
Why is he staring at us like that?

QUEEN
I don’t know.

CUT TO:

INT. GAS STATION - COUNTER - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT 1

The Cashier hands the Sheriff a receipt.

CASHIER
Do you need anything else?

SHERIFF
Hold on a second.

He grabs his walkie and talks into it.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
What kind of car were they in?

VOICE
A white Honda.

SHERIFF
Any other info?

VOICE
We’re still waiting for the dash cam footage to come in.

CUT TO:

EXT. GAS STATION - NIGHT 1

QUEEN
Get in the driver’s seat.

SLIM
Are you crazy?

QUEEN
Just do it. Quick.

Slim hops into the driver’s seat. Queen gets in the passenger side. Before Slim can turn the key - BAM!
The Sheriff holds the red jug up to the driver side window. Startling them.

SHERIFF
Were y’all gon leave without me?

And before he can blink - Queen holds the dead police officer’s gun to his head.

QUEEN
Get in the car.

The Sheriff does as he’s told. Without alarming anyone.

CUT TO:

INT. SHERIFF'S TRUCK - MOMENTS LATER

The Sheriff is driving while Queen holds a gun to the back of his head from the backseat. Slim is in the passenger seat wishing he could make himself disappear.

SHERIFF
My name is Edgar. I’ve lived in Kentucky all my life. My wife died three years ago and now I’m raising our son by myself. I’m all he has in the world. Watching him grow up has been the greatest blessing of my life.

QUEEN
Don’t worry. I’m not gonna kill you.

After a beat.

SHERIFF
Did y’all kill that police officer?

SLIM
It was self defense.

SHERIFF
I’m sure it was. I have some colleagues that have gotten out of line more than once.

CUT TO:
They’re back at Slim’s car. Queen keeps the gun to his head. The Sheriff keeps his hands where she can see them. Queen looks at the Sheriff’s truck and then she looks at Slim’s car.

Then --

**QUEEN**
Pop the trunk.

**SLIM**
Why?

**QUEEN**
Just do it.

Slim does as he’s told. Then she looks at The Sheriff.

**QUEEN (CONT’D)**
Get inside, please.

The Sheriff struggles to get inside Slim’s trunk. There’s a lot of shoeboxes in there.

He finally gets inside.

Once he’s in the trunk Queen leans over him.

**SHERIFF**
I don’t know what happened. But whatever it was, I’m sure you had good reason for doing what you did. Please. Let me help you.

Queen just looks at him, with hurt and anger in her eyes and SLAMS the trunk closed.

**SLIM**
What’d you do that for? He wanted to help us.

**QUEEN**
He ain’t gon help us.

Slim takes a deep breath trying to calm himself down.

**QUEEN (CONT’D)**
It’s their job to make you feel like everything will be okay. But the second you confess you become property of the state. Is that what you want? You wanna be the state’s property?
SLIM
No.

Queen gets in the driver’s seat of the pick up truck and leans her head out the window.

QUEEN
You coming?

Slim hops in the truck - and they’re off.

CUT TO:

INT. TRUCK - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

20

Queen is speeding down the highway.

SLIM
Slow down.

QUEEN
I got it.

SLIM
I’m just tryna keep us from getting pulled over again.

Queen wants to run away so bad. That’s her pattern. But she can’t this time. She’s trapped.

QUEEN
I’m hungry.

SLIM
Me too.

He sees a few fast food spots up ahead.

SLIM (CONT'D)
Just stop at McDonalds or something.

QUEEN
That’s disgusting.

SLIM
Now ain’t the time to be choosy.

CUT TO:
Queen spots a few BROWN BOYS failing miserably at skateboard tricks in the parking lot. She sits up in her seat and locks eyes with one of them.

He has a lot of meat on his bones and a face covered in freckles. We’ll call him CHUBBY. She WAVES him over. Slim clocks this and freaks out.

SLIM
What you doing?

The BOYS don’t even try to stop Chubby from walking over. They just keep busting their asses on the pavement.

QUEEN
You wanna get some free food and make a little money?

CHUBBY
What’s the catch?

SLIM
Ain’t no catch, lil man.

CHUBBY
Aight.

Queen hands him the last twenty dollar bill from her wallet.

SLIM
Let me get a double cheeseburger and the ten piece chicken nuggets with sweet and sour sauce.

QUEEN
I’ll have a chicken sandwich with no condiments and a small fry. You can keep the change.

CHUBBY
Ain’t gon be much left after all that.

CUT TO:

They’re sitting on the bed of the truck - under the stars.
Slim eats fast and loud. Queen eats like a rabbit. She watches him devour his food with a disgusted look on her face.

**QUEEN**
You make a lot of noise when you eat.

**SLIM**
Woman, this could be my last meal - would you just let me be?

**QUEEN**
It’s hard for me to eat with you making so much noise.

Slim tries to eat quieter. He fails, but Queen appreciates the gesture.

**SLIM**
I’ve never heard of someone not being able to eat because they’re disgusted by the sounds of other people eating.

**QUEEN**
I know it’s weird, but I have a thing about it.

**SLIM**
How do you avoid the sounds of people eating?

**QUEEN**
I eat alone most of the time.

**SLIM**
That’s not surprising.

She cuts her eyes at him. Slim stops eating for a second.

**SLIM (CONT'D)**
You scared?

**QUEEN**
No.

**SLIM**
You’re lying.

**QUEEN**
How do you know?
SLIM
You answered too fast.

QUEEN
I thought if a person answered too fast it meant they were telling the truth.

SLIM
My dad always told me if a person answers too quick it means they had the lie ready to go.

QUEEN
Wow. Well that’s good to know.

SLIM
How do you know if your clients are telling the truth?

QUEEN
I don’t.

SLIM
Then how can you defend them?

QUEEN
That’s my job.

SLIM
But why do you do it?

QUEEN
I refuse to let certain states swap out a southern tree for an electric chair and call it justice.

A beat.

SLIM
Are you a good lawyer?

QUEEN
I’m an excellent lawyer.

SLIM
Why do black people always feel the need to be excellent? Why can’t we just be ourselves?

QUEEN
We should go.
She hops down and gets in the passenger side. Slim wonders why she was so abrupt just then. Maybe he struck a nerve.

He shakes it off and hops in the drivers seat. But before they can pull off he hears --

CHUBBY (O.S.)
Hey, is this y’all?

Chubby plays them a video on his phone. It’s the DASH CAM FOOTAGE of Slim shooting Officer Reed in the neck.

The video has already been viewed by over a hundred thousand people.

SLIM
Nah, man. That ain’t us.

Slim gets spooked and quickly starts the car. Chubby keeps banging on the window.

CHUBBY
Hold on, my dad wanna talk to y’all!

As soon as he pulls forward he feels an IMPACT. He HIT something. Or someone.

CHUBBY (CONT’D)
Daddy!!!

Slim gets out of the car. Queen stays inside.

Slim spots a LARGE BLACK MAN laying on the ground. Slim goes to touch him, but he flinches.

SLIM
I’m so sorry. I didn’t see you.

CHUBBY
You almost killed my daddy!

LARGE BLACK MAN
I think you hit my bad knee.

SLIM
Can you move it?

He tries to and then he SCREAMS in pain. Chubby starts crying.

CHUBBY
You broke my daddy leg!
LARGE BLACK MAN
Stop crying like a lil bitch. I’ll be alright.

CHUBBY
Mommy told you to stop calling me a lil bitch.

LARGE BLACK MAN
Nigga, I’ll call you whatever the fuck I want.

Queen hops out of the car to move this along.

QUEEN
We have to go now.

CHUBBY
Y’all gotta take him to the hospital.

QUEEN
We can’t go to a hospital.

CHUBBY
So I can get y’all food, but you can’t take my daddy to the hospital?

Large Black Man moans in pain every time he tries to move his leg.

SLIM
Where’s the nearest hospital?

QUEEN
We don’t have time for this.

SLIM
Would you calm down!

QUEEN
Don’t talk to me like that.

SLIM
I’ll talk to you however I wanna talk to you.

LARGE BLACK MAN
Ya’ll sound like me and my bitch.

CHUBBY
Don’t call my mama a bitch!
LARGE BLACK MAN
I ain’t talking bout yo mama.

Slim tries to help the Large Black Man to his feet.

SLIM
Come on, we’re gonna take you to a hospital.

Slim, Queen, and Chubby all grab a limb and help him into the back of the pick up truck.

CUT TO:

INT. TRUCK - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

Slim drives carefully as to not irritate the Large Black Man’s injury. Chubby holds his dad’s hand the whole way.

LARGE BLACK MAN
I support what y’all are doing.

QUEEN
What do you mean?

LARGE BLACK MAN
Killing these crooked ass cops. We need to take all these muthafuckas out.

SLIM
That’s not what we’re doing.

LARGE BLACK MAN
I saw the video, okay. If a cop shot at my bitch, I’d kill his ass too.

Queen and Slim look at each other. Their hearts are racing.

LARGE BLACK MAN (CONT’D)
Cop killllllaaaaaaassssss!!

SLIM
Shut the fuck up, man!

LARGE BLACK MAN
Are y’all the new Black Panthers!? Is that what this is?

SLIM
No!
LARGE BLACK MAN
This is revenge.

SLIM
For what?

LARGE BLACK MAN
For that nigga he kilt two years ago.

QUEEN
What?

CHUBBY
Some dude was taking his daughter to school, minding his own business, and that cop killed him for no reason.

Queen remembers the case. Slim cuts his eyes at her.

SLIM
Did you know about this?

QUEEN
Of course not.

He doesn’t know what to believe. Then --

QUEEN (CONT'D)
The hospital’s on the left, pull over!

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT
Slim swerves into the driveway.

SLIM
Alright. We’re here.

CHUBBY
Y’all gon help me with him or nah?

LARGE BLACK MAN
They gotta lay low. It’s probably cameras all up and through this bitch.

Chubby opens the car door and drapes his dad’s arm around his neck. He stumbles a little bit, but eventually he makes it out and walks up to the sliding doors of URGENT CARE.
Before Slim can pull off, the Large Black Man turns around and says --

LARGE BLACK MAN (CONT'D)
Power to the people.

He raises his right fist then he limps inside.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY 2 (DAWN)

Slim and Queen continue driving through Kentucky. They see rolling hills and tall phone lines that look like crosses.

SLIM
How long before a helicopter starts flying over us?

QUEEN
I don’t know.

SLIM
Please tell me you didn’t fuck with that cop on purpose.

QUEEN
Of course not.

SLIM
You seemed real calm when you saw his dead body.

QUEEN
He shot at me.

SLIM
You’re crazy, man.

QUEEN
It should be a sin to call a black woman crazy.

SLIM
You one of those people that thinks God is a black woman?

QUEEN
I don’t believe in God.

SLIM
Lord help me.
Queen clocks the almost empty gas tank.

QUEEN
You’re on E.

SLIM
Fuck.

QUEEN
I really need you to start paying attention to that shit.

SLIM
Why don’t you pay attention?

QUEEN
You driving.

A beat.

SLIM
I don’t think it’s smart for us to be walking into gas stations.

QUEEN
It’s not that scary. I told you what to do.

SLIM
You only saying that cause you don’t have to do it.

QUEEN
You got this. I believe in you.

SLIM
Don’t patronize me.

QUEEN
I’m not.

CUT TO:

INT. GAS STATION - MOMENTS LATER - DAY 2

Slim stands in front of a TEENAGE WHITE BOY. This is his part time job. And he hates it.

Slim looks at the newspapers stacked in front of him. Him and Queen’s faces are on the cover.

The word “WANTED” rests above their heads in bold black letters.
SLIM
Let me get forty on pump nine.

The Teenager waits for Slim to hand over the money.

But instead - Slim lifts up his shirt and shows his gun. That’s his currency.

TEENAGE WHITE BOY
Is that a .45?

SLIM
Yeah.

TEENAGE WHITE BOY
Can I hold it?

SLIM
No, you can’t.

TEENAGE WHITE BOY
I’ll pay for your gas if you let me hold it.

SLIM
That’s not a fair trade.

TEENAGE WHITE BOY
If you don’t let me hold it - you’ll have to stick up another gas station.

SLIM
I could kill you right now.

TEENAGE WHITE BOY
You don’t look like a killer to me.

Slim appreciates the fact this young man can see he’s not a cold blooded killer.

After a beat he takes the gun out of his pants and hands it over. The kid goes from being an innocent Teenager to John Wayne in a matter of seconds.

TEENAGE WHITE BOY (CONT’D)
Why does holding a deadly weapon make me feel so alive?

Then he aims the gun at Slim’s head. They stare at each other for a long beat. Slim starts to shake. The teenager holds the gun steady. Barely shaking at all. While Slim fears for his life.
SLIM
What the fuck is you doing?

The Teenager starts laughing and puts the gun down.

TEENAGE WHITE BOY
I’m just messing with you.

The Teenager puts forty bucks in the register and activates the gas pump. Then hands the gun back to Slim.

And just like that he goes back to being a kid again.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - FIVE HOURS LATER - DAY 2

They arrive in New Orleans.

They pull up to a house far off the beaten path. It’s big, but not well kept. This house used to be owned by people who cared for it, but its new inhabitants could care less.

Queen BANGS on the door.

SLIM
Damn, why you knocking like you the police?

No answer. She knocks again.

SLIM (CONT’D)
If you didn’t throw our phones out the window we could’ve called.

QUEEN
If I didn’t throw our phones out the window the police would’ve caught us by now.

SLIM
Touché.

This brings a small smile to Queen’s face.

Then she keeps knocking. Until a TALL BLACK GIRL, with a fire in her belly and a glimmer in her eye, answers the door. She looks like the romantic interest in every hip hop music video ever made.

TALL BLACK GIRL
Can I help you?
QUEEN
Is my uncle here?

TALL BLACK GIRL
Who’s your uncle?

QUEEN
Bitch, don’t play with me.

The Tall Black Girl opens the door to let them in.

TALL BLACK GIRL
He in the back.

CUT TO:

28 INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 2
Queen walks through the house like she owns it. Slim trails behind her. She makes her way down a few hallways, and brushes by GODDESS - a half black, half Asian twenty-something girl. There’s no glimmer in her eye - just stars.

Her eyes widen as Slim and Queen walk by.

GODDESS
Oh shit! It’s them!

29 INT. HOUSE - BACK ROOM - CONTINUOUS - DAY 2
Queen opens the door to find her UNCLE EARL peeling shrimp. He’s rocking a red velour track suit and has a bald head. He stands up and looks at Queen.

From the look on his face they haven’t seen each other in a while.

Uncle Earl wipes his hands and walks over to give her a hug. The embrace is one-sided.

UNCLE EARL
Well, if it isn’t the black Bonnie and Clyde.

Earl reaches out to shake Slim’s hand. Earl’s hand is twice the size of his.

QUEEN
I don’t know what the news is saying, but whatever it is - it’s not true.
UNCLE EARL
You know I don’t fuck with the
news. I keep my ear to the streets.

QUEEN
The streets lie too.

UNCLE EARL
They know better than to lie to me.
Y’all hungry?

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER - DAY 2

Uncle Earl cooks up some CREAMY SHRIMP SCAMPI ALFREDO. It
looks amazing. He makes plates for Slim, Queen, and the two
beautiful girls we saw earlier.

UNCLE EARL
I always hoped you’d escape this
life without getting shot at.

He leans back.

UNCLE EARL (CONT'D)
Who patched you up?

SLIM
She did.

UNCLE EARL
You ain’t do a good job.

Earl stares at Queen for a long beat. A little too long.
Causing her to look away.

UNCLE EARL (CONT'D)
What’s your plan?

QUEEN
We need to figure that out.

UNCLE EARL
Well, y’all need to hurry up cause
the cops are like slave catchers.
They can smell a runaway from miles
away.

QUEEN
I’m aware.

UNCLE EARL
How you gon outrun the police?
QUEEN
We don’t have to outrun them. We just have to make sure they don’t know where we are.

UNCLE EARL
That ain’t hard to do. Cops are dumb as shit.

TALL BLACK GIRL
Not all of ‘em.

UNCLE EARL
She only saying that cause she used to fuck one of them muthafuckas.

TALL BLACK GIRL
Don’t be jealous.

UNCLE EARL
I ain’t jealous of nobody. Niggas jealous of me.

Before this turns into a bigger fight Queen interrupts.

QUEEN
We might need to stay here for a little while.

UNCLE EARL
Hell nah. The SWAT team probably already on they way. And I can’t have them muscle neck muthafuckas sniffing around my shit.

This puts the fear of God in Slim.

QUEEN
So what are we supposed to do?

UNCLE EARL
I don’t know.

QUEEN
So you just gon let us get killed?

UNCLE EARL
That’s the risk you take.

QUEEN
Fuck you, Earl.

She gets up to leave. Slim follows her. Goddess looks at Earl with puppy dog eyes. Her charm is hard to resist.
UNCLE EARL
How long y’all need to stay?

QUEEN
A night or two.

UNCLE EARL
Well which one is it?

QUEEN
Two nights.

UNCLE EARL
Fine.

QUEEN
We need some cash.

UNCLE EARL
How much?

QUEEN
Enough to last us for a few days.

UNCLE EARL
What else?

QUEEN
We need one of your cars.

UNCLE EARL
You can kiss my black ass.

TALL BLACK GIRL
He love those cars more than he love us.

QUEEN
You want me to sign the house over to you or not?

UNCLE EARL
You always tryna blackmail somebody.

Then --

UNCLE EARL (CONT'D)
I ain’t got no extra cars just laying around.

GODDESS
What about the Cadillac?
UNCLE EARL
Goddess, if you don’t shut the fuck up.

SLIM
I don’t know how inconspicuous we gon be riding around in a Cadillac.

QUEEN
That’s the whole point. We’ll be hiding in plain sight.

Goddess sits on Earl’s lap.

QUEEN (CONT’D)
Do you agree to my terms or not?

UNCLE EARL
I’m not giving you no car.

She gets in his face.

QUEEN
You owe me.

Those three words stab him in his stomach. Slim tries to read the situation, but can’t make sense of it.

UNCLE EARL
You sure this how you want me to pay you back?

Queen nods.

UNCLE EARL (CONT’D)
Okay.

Earl gets up and grabs the CAR KEYS from a drawer nearby. He tosses them to Slim. Slim doesn’t catch them.

UNCLE EARL (CONT’D)
You need to figure out what the fuck you gon do when you leave here.

QUEEN
We will.

Earl looks at Slim.

UNCLE EARL
She talk for both of y’all?
SLIM

No.

UNCLE EARL
Could’ve fooled me.

QUEEN
Don’t do that.

UNCLE EARL
I just wanna know what the nigga’s thinking. Cause he look kinda slow to me.

SLIM
I think we should go to Cuba.

UNCLE EARL
Now we talking! Ain’t that where Assata went after she killed that state trooper?

QUEEN
Allegedly killed.

SLIM
We just gotta keep driving until we get to Miami and then --

QUEEN
We’ll be standing in front of a large body of water. How are we supposed to cross that?

SLIM
I don’t know yet.

QUEEN
Of course you don’t.

UNCLE EARL
You got a better idea?

For once she doesn’t. She gets up to leave.

UNCLE EARL (CONT'D)
Where you think you going?

QUEEN
To lay down. I’m exhausted.

UNCLE EARL
Y’all ain’t going nowhere until we shave yo heads.
QUEEN
We’re not doing that.

UNCLE EARL
You wanna keep walking around
looking how you look in that video?

QUEEN
We’ll be fine.

UNCLE EARL
No, you won’t.

QUEEN
You’re not shaving my head.

UNCLE EARL
Fine. I believe women have the
right to choose – but you don’t.

UNCLE EARL (CONT’D)
Naomi, use the cheap razor on his
ass.

Tall Black Girl has a name. It’s Naomi. She goes looking for
the cheap razor.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE – BATHROOM – LATER – DAY 2

Slim sits on a stool while Naomi takes a razor to his head.
He’s pissed.

SLIM
Man, this is fucked up.

UNCLE EARL
This what happens when you on the
run from the law.

Earl motions for Naomi to keep shaving.

QUEEN
Do you guys have any wigs?

UNCLE EARL
I live in a house full of
strippers. Of course we got wigs.

CUT TO:
There’s a row of about TWENTY WIGS. They all come in different colors, lengths, and types. It looks like a museum in there. Queen walks by them. Touching a few. Smelling others. She’s fascinated.

GODDESS
Take whatever you want. You can have some of my clothes too.

QUEEN
Thank you.

Then --

GODDESS
Can I look at your leg?

QUEEN
Nah, I’m okay.

GODDESS
I took a year of nursing school. I know what I’m doing.

Queen feels bad for judging her.

QUEEN
Alright.

Goddess helps Queen take her pants off. Goddess slowly pulls the bandage away. Queen winces.

GODDESS
Don’t worry. I got you.

They lock eyes. Goddess smiles at her. Queen smiles back.

GODDESS (CONT’D)
I didn’t know Earl had a niece.

QUEEN
We’re not close.

GODDESS
Is he related to your mother or your father?

QUEEN
My mother. She and I weren’t close either.
GODDESS
Damn, who are you close to?

She shrugs.

QUEEN
Are you close to your family?

GODDESS
Yeah. They don’t care how I make my money as long as I’m happy.

QUEEN
Are you?

GODDESS
Sometimes.

QUEEN
What makes you happy?

GODDESS
Robes at fancy hotels. A good lace front. And when your uncle kisses me on my forehead.

Queen wasn’t expecting that answer.

GODDESS (CONT’D)
What?

QUEEN
Nothing. I’m just surprised by the amount of love he has in his life.

GODDESS
He don’t always deserve it, but he needs us to worship him. Out there he ain’t shit. But in here - he a king.

Queen let’s that sink in. She marvels at Goddess’ thin frame as she cleans her leg with precision.

In another life Goddess could’ve been a nurse with an affordable mortgage, but in this one she occupies the fantasies of working class men who will never understand how innocent she really is.

CUT TO:
INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER - DAY 2

Queen walks into the kitchen wearing a Tina Turner wig. From her early Ike & Tina days. She looks more regal than before.

She looks up and sees Slim leaning against the stove. With his newly shaved head. He looks like the second lead vocalist in an R&B group from the nineties.

SLIM
You like it?

QUEEN
I don’t know yet.

SLIM
You like this shit.

QUEEN
Shut up.

CUT TO:

INT. UNCLE EARL’S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT - N34

Uncle Earl is smoking a cigar while Naomi watches TV. She’s watching a cable news channel and the focus is on Queen & Slim. There’s talk of support for the two fugitives and the police being on their trail.

She looks nervous.

UNCLE EARL
I know you stole my pinky ring.

NAOMI
Whatever nigga.

UNCLE EARL
It’s one of a kind. I designed it myself.

NAOMI
Don’t nobody care about yo fake ass ring.

UNCLE EARL
That’s your problem. You don’t care about shit.

NAOMI
Oh that’s my problem?
UNCLE EARL
Yeah, that’s your problem.

NAOMI
My problem is yo ass.

Earl gets up and slaps her with the back of his hand. She falls out of the chair and hits the floor hard.

Then she quickly gets up and smacks his face.

He flings her across the room. She then throws a lamp at his head. He ducks just in time and it crashes into the wall.

UNCLE EARL
My mama gave me that lamp!

As they continue to brawl, we --

CUT TO:

INT. UNCLE EARL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - SAME TIME - NIGHT

Slim and Queen lie next to each other on a cozy bed.

QUEEN
You hear that?

SLIM
Yeah, it sounds like somebody’s fighting.

Queen gets up and walks over to the door. She peeks out and sees Naomi and Earl yelling at each other.

SLIM (CONT'D)
You want me to talk to him?

QUEEN
Please don’t.

Queen walks back to bed.

QUEEN (CONT'D)
He didn’t used to be like this. Iraq fucked him up.

She lays back down.

QUEEN (CONT'D)
I don’t wanna deal with this shit. Let’s leave first thing in the morning.
Slim and Queen lie next to each other in silence.

Slim stares up at the ceiling. In a daze.

QUEEN (CONT'D)
You okay?

SLIM
Yeah.

QUEEN
How is that possible? You took somebody’s life yesterday.

SLIM
I guess, I’m just used to saying I’m okay even when I’m not.

QUEEN
I know the feeling.

SLIM
What if God wanted me to die and I messed up His plan?

QUEEN
I don’t think that’s what He wanted.

SLIM
How you know?

QUEEN
I just think you were meant to be here.

A beat.

SLIM
I’m making an executive decision. We’re going to Cuba.

QUEEN
Executive decision? What do you think this is “Mad Men”?

SLIM
We can’t leave here tomorrow and not know where we’re going.

QUEEN
What about that large body of water?
SLIM
We’ll figure it out.

Queen has never been great at letting men lead. Right now, she doesn’t have much of a choice.

QUEEN
I’m scared.

SLIM
That’s alright. I’ll be brave enough for both of us.

Queen lets out a sigh of relief.

SLIM (CONT’D)
Hey, why does your uncle owe you?

QUEEN
I got him out of prison once.

SLIM
For what?

QUEEN
He killed somebody.

SLIM
Damn, who’d he kill?

QUEEN
My mother.

Slim is stunned by that answer. But he knows better than to ask a follow up question.

Slim turns off the light and turns over. Queen’s hand finds its way to his newly shaved head. She rubs it, gently.

QUEEN (CONT’D)
I’m rubbing your head for good luck.

SLIM
I don’t believe in luck. I think everything is destined.

Just as they start to relax - there’s a LOUD KNOCK on the door downstairs.

CUT TO:
Earl opens the door to find a BLACK POLICE OFFICER standing there. He was picked on as a child so now he spends all his time in the gym.

UNCLE EARL
Who the fuck called you?

BLACK POLICE OFFICER
I’m just here to make sure everybody’s okay.

Earl turns to look at Naomi. Whose face is starting to bruise.

UNCLE EARL
You still fucking this nigga?

NAOMI
No!

UNCLE EARL
Then why the fuck is he here?

NAOMI
I ain’t call him.

Earl turns to look at the Black Police Officer.

BLACK POLICE OFFICER
A neighbor heard some commotion and got concerned.

UNCLE EARL
Don’t worry. I take good care of my property.

BLACK POLICE OFFICER
Do you?

UNCLE EARL
Oh yeah. She’s my biggest draw.

The Officer looks at the side of the house and sees the Sheriff’s truck.

BLACK POLICE OFFICER
You got a new truck?

Earl is pissed Slim didn’t park that shit in the back.

UNCLE EARL
I don’t know whose truck that is.
BLACK POLICE OFFICER
You mind if I come in?

UNCLE EARL
Not without a warrant, nigga.

The Officer smiles.

UNCLE EARL (CONT'D)
When you got the proper paperwork
I’ll give you a grand tour.

CUT TO:

37 INT. UNCLE EARL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT
Slim peeks out the window and sees the police car.

SLIM
Oh shit! The cops are here.

QUEEN
Get down!

CUT TO:

38 INT. UNCLE EARL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT
The Police Officer takes a closer look at the license plate
on the truck. The Kentucky license plate gives him pause.

BLACK POLICE OFFICER
I think I will come back with that
warrant.

UNCLE EARL
Make sure they use the big font. I
can’t see shit.

BLACK POLICE OFFICER
Keep your hands to yourself, Earl.
I don’t wanna have to come back
here again.

UNCLE EARL
I ain’t want you here no way.

The Officer looks at the license plate on the truck. Then he
takes a picture of it.

CUT TO:
INT. UNCLE EARL’S HOUSE – LIVING ROOM – MOMENTS LATER – N2 39

Slim and Queen run around the house frantically.

They quickly change their clothes. Slim puts on one of Earl’s track suits. Queen squeezes into one of Goddess’ dresses.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE – CONTINUOUS – NIGHT 2

The truck that the black police officer just took a picture of is currently ENGULFED IN FLAMES. Earl stands back and watches it burn with glee. He likes destroying things.

Goddess hands Earl a small piece of paper.

He looks at it for a beat. Then hands it off to Queen, along with an envelope full of cash.

UNCLE EARL
Take this.

The piece of paper has an address written on it.

UNCLE EARL (CONT’D)
That should cover your gas for most of the way. And the guy at that address will take care of you. His wife ain’t shit, but he’s cool.

The address is in Florida.

QUEEN
Johnny Shepherd? Who’s he?

UNCLE EARL
We served together. I saved his life once. He’ll be expecting you. And he know a guy with a plane that can get you over that body of water.

Queen hugs Earl as if she’ll never hug him again.

Then Earl hands Slim the keys to his BRIGHT RED CADILLAC. The interior is ALL WHITE. It’s straight out of a blaxploitation film.

SLIM
Thank you, Uncle Earl.
UNCLE EARL
Nigga, I ain’t yo uncle!

And with that Slim gets in the car.

Queen gives Goddess a hug goodbye. Goddess holds onto her for dear life while Earl leans down and whispers into Slim’s ear.

UNCLE EARL (CONT'D)
Take care of her.

Then he taps the roof of the car.

UNCLE EARL (CONT'D)
Love you, baby girl.

QUEEN
Love you too.

Slim backs out of the driveway carefully.

INT. CADILLAC - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

Slim and Queen speed down a dirt road.

Queen sees some CDs by her feet. Uncle Earl is old school so he has albums by: FRANKIE BEVERLY & MAZE / THE OJAYS / GEORGE CLINTON.

He also has albums by: TUPAC, TRU, and JOE.

She picks one up and sticks it in the player.

An old song starts to blast through the speakers. She turns it down - not wanting to draw too much attention, but Slim turns it back up.

He looks at her and smiles.

EXT. OPEN ROAD - DAY 3 (DAWN)

Slim and Queen drive through the bible belt. It’s a mix of beautiful landscapes and poverty.

SLIM
It’s beautiful out here.

Then they see a bunch of PRISONERS working the land. They’re in a long line. Moving in unison.
Queen’s heart aches for the men in blue jumpsuits who mean nothing more to this country than a pair of strong hands that can do cheap manual labor.

QUEEN
Is it?

SLIM
I’m just tryna make conversation.

QUEEN
I’m just being honest.

SLIM
Do you have to be honest all the time?

QUEEN
Do you want me to be silent?

SLIM
I didn’t say that.

There’s an awkward silence. Then Queen stares out the window for a bit. She takes in the fields, the colorful sky, and the birds chirping. He’s right. It is beautiful. But there are still some ugly parts she can’t ignore.

Queen searches through the CDs and finds a pleasant surprise. She shoves it in and hits play.

Queen climbs into the backseat and lays on her back. Letting the wind blow through her long flowing wig.

SLIM (CONT'D)
What you doing?

QUEEN
I’m gon try to get some sleep.

Slim has gotten more comfortable driving the Cadillac. He drives it like he bought it with his own money.

Queen’s eyelids become heavy. Eventually she falls asleep. Slim watches her in the rearview mirror.

He’s never been more frustrated and enamored by anyone in his life.

CUT TO:
EXT. OPEN ROAD - NIGHT 3

Queen is awakened by loud music. But it’s not coming from the car stereo - it’s coming from outside.

There’s a club a few feet away in the middle of the woods. It looks like the JOOK JOINT from THE COLOR PURPLE.

Slim pulls over and slows down.

QUEEN
What are you doing? Are you crazy?

SLIM
I heard a band playing, I wanted to see where it was coming from.

QUEEN
We need to keep going.

SLIM
I know, but I’m exhausted. And you in the back knocked out while I’m tryna stay awake.

QUEEN
Fine, I’ll drive.

SLIM
When was the last time you heard some live music?

QUEEN
I don’t know.

SLIM
We’re only a few hours from Florida. We got time.

Queen listens to the music. Then --

SLIM (CONT'D)
Would you have gone on a second date with me?

QUEEN
No.

SLIM
Damn.

QUEEN
It’s not personal. I just like being alone.
SLIM
I get it.

QUEEN
What was the second date gonna be?

SLIM
I’m not telling you.

QUEEN
Come on. Don’t do me like that.

SLIM
Nah, you should’ve said yes.

QUEEN
Okay, fine. I’ll go.

SLIM
It’s too late now.

QUEEN
I have the right to change my mind.

Slim looks away.

QUEEN (CONT’D)
Okay – I’m officially saying yes to the second date. Now, where we going?

SLIM
I’m taking you dancing. Let’s go.

Slim gets out of the car.

QUEEN
Can we dance once we get to where we’re going? Just to be safe.

SLIM
I’m tired of playing it safe.

Slim extends his hand to her.

QUEEN
You’re willing to risk getting caught just so we can dance?

SLIM
Hell yeah.

Queen isn’t convinced.
SLIM (CONT'D)
One dance and we can leave. I promise.

She refuses to budge.

SLIM (CONT'D)
I’ll buy you a drink.

And with that, she grabs his hand and we --

CUT TO:

INT. JUKE JOINT - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT 3

This place is so crowded the walls are sweating. This small establishment feels like it was built during a time when black folks still had to drink from the shitty water fountain.

The lighting is pretty dim. And everyone is on the dance floor grinding slow and hard to a THREE MAN BAND playing B.B. King’s “How Blue Can You Get.”

Slim takes Queen’s hand. Startling her.

SLIM
Why you so jumpy?

QUEEN
I’m nervous.

SLIM
Ain’t nobody in here thinking ’bout us.

She rolls her eyes. Slim leads her to the middle of the dance floor and pulls her in close. She shoves him away.

QUEEN
Watch your hands.

Queen slowly puts her arms around Slim’s neck. He puts his arms around her waist, careful not to touch her ass. The music gets louder and even more soulful as Queen and Slim start to find their groove.

Slim looks around and realizes the prettiest girl in this place is in his arms. He can’t help but grin from ear to ear.

Then he looks down and sees Queen has rested her head on his chest. She’s so close she can hear his heartbeat.
And right now it’s beating pretty fast. So is hers. Slim holds Queen a little tighter. She wipes the sweat from his brow.

As the song reaches a thunderous CRESCENDO Slim leans in for a kiss — caught in the moment — Queen denies him.

    QUEEN (CONT'D)
    Don’t you owe me a drink?

    SLIM
    What do you want?

    QUEEN
    Bourbon. The expensive kind.

Slim makes his way through the crowd. A few people look at him longer than they should.

He makes it to the bar and finds a HEAVY SET BLACK WOMAN slinging drinks. She recognizes Slim right away.

    HEAVY SET BLACK WOMAN
    Hey handsome!

Slim has never been referred to as handsome before.

    SLIM
    Hi.

He is out of his depth as he tries to pick the right alcohol.

    HEAVY SET BLACK WOMAN
    What can I get you?

    SLIM
    Bourbon.

She grabs a dusty bottle of bourbon from high on the shelf and pours two shots.

    SLIM (CONT'D)
    I don’t drink.

    HEAVY SET BLACK WOMAN
    Maybe you should start.

He looks at her perplexed.

    HEAVY SET BLACK WOMAN (CONT'D)
    These are on the house.

Slim grabs the drinks, but before he can leave she touches his hand.
HEAVY SET BLACK WOMAN (CONT'D)
Don’t worry. You’re safe here.

They share a head nod.

Then Slim quickly grabs the drinks and goes to find Queen.

SLIM
The bartender recognized me.

QUEEN
Oh shit. We gotta go.

Slim looks around and sees nothing but friendly and supportive faces.

Queen drinks the shot. Slim drinks his too. It burns the fuck out of his throat. Queen pats his chest and pulls him in close.

SLIM
I think we good.

QUEEN
I don’t know.

SLIM
Trust me.

She looks him deep in the eyes and allows herself to let go.

The band plays a slower song. It’s romantic yet rough.

Queen and Slim sway back and forth. Holding each other tight. Burying their faces in each other’s shoulders.

Some of the crowd backs away. Watching them. Admiring them. Rooting for them. Praying for them.

This looks like the first dance at a small wedding. Queen and Slim look like a happy couple with their whole lives ahead of them.

As the song comes to a close the crowd applauds the band.

Then --

QUEEN
We should go.

CUT TO:
Queen has her bare feet up on the dashboard. Slim gives her the side eye.

SLIM
You lucky you got cute feet.

QUEEN
Even if they weren’t they’d still be sitting right here.

SLIM
Nah, I would’ve stopped and got you some gym socks or something.

QUEEN
That’s messed up.

SLIM
Honestly, I don’t think dudes even cared about women’s feet until Eddie Murphy made it a thing.

QUEEN
I know. But the difference is he can be picky about a woman’s feet. The rest of y’all need to be happy somebody’s even laying next to yo ass.

She can see Slim is falling asleep at the wheel again.

QUEEN (CONT’D)
You need me to drive?

SLIM
Nah, I got it.

QUEEN
No, you don’t.

SLIM
I’m good.

QUEEN
Explain something to me. Why do dudes not like asking for help?

SLIM
It’s a sign of weakness.
QUEEN
That’s the dumbest shit I’ve ever heard.

SLIM
You say that but then turn around and want a strong mandingo type muthafucka.

QUEEN
I don’t want that.

SLIM
What do you want?

QUEEN
That’s a loaded question.

SLIM
We ain’t got nothing but time.

Queen leans back in her seat. She’s so far back she’s practically lying down. Like she were at a therapy session.

QUEEN
I want a guy to show me myself.

Slim glances at her. Her legs are on full display.

QUEEN (CONT'D)
I want him to love me so deeply I’m not afraid to show him how ugly I can be. I want him to show me scars I never knew I had. But I don’t want him to make them go away - I want him to hold my hand while I nurse them myself - and then I want him to cherish the bruises they leave behind.

SLIM
Damn, no wonder you still single. That’s a lot of shit.

She can’t help but crack a smile.

QUEEN
Maybe it is.

SLIM
But you deserve that.
QUEEN
I don’t think we deserve anything in this life. We get what we work for. That’s it.

She watches him drive. Drinking him in.

QUEEN (CONT'D)
What do you want?

He breathes deep.

SLIM
I want somebody that’s ride or die.

QUEEN
Oh God. What does that even mean?

SLIM
I just want somebody that’s always gon love me. No matter what. I want someone that’s gon hold my hand and never let it go.

He looks over at Queen. They lock eyes. She wants to look away, but can’t.

She’s never heard someone describe love in such simple terms.

SLIM (CONT'D)
She gotta be special though - cause she gon be my legacy.

QUEEN
What do you mean?

SLIM
Look, I ain’t gon bend the world. As long as my lady remembers me fondly. That’s all I need.

As Queen lets that sink in, we --

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - LATER

Slim pulls into a gas station.

CUT TO:
INT. GAS STATION - BATHROOM - DAY 4

Queen tries not to touch anything while washing up in a disgusting bathroom.

She looks in the mirror for a long beat. Wondering how she got here. Wondering what the future holds.

Queen looks around the bathroom and realizes she’s all alone in the world.

Then - KNOCK KNOCK.

SLIM (O.S.)
You okay in there?

For the first time in her life a man’s voice reassures her that she’s not alone.

The sound of Slim’s voice reminds her there’s a chance everything will be okay.

QUEEN
Yeah, I’m good.

CUT TO:

EXT. GAS STATION - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS - DAY 4

Slim leans against the wall outside the bathroom door.

He watches people as they walk by. He wonders if they recognize him. He wonders if they’re going to turn him in.

Then he spots a LITTLE BLACK GIRL walking with her MOTHER.

The Little Girl locks eyes with Slim. She gives him the stink eye for staring at her.

Then she laughs at him. As if to taunt him for losing a staring competition he never knew he was a part of. The Little Girl’s sassy demeanor reminds him of Queen. This brings a smile to his face.

As he stands there in a daze - Queen bursts out of the bathroom. Almost as if she’s reborn.

They look at each other. Both smitten. Unsure of what the future holds. Then - Queen extends her hand to him.

QUEEN
Come on.
SLIM
You wash your hands?

She grabs his hand with glee and they both rush to get back in the car.

48 INT. CAR - LATER - DAY 4

Queen is driving now. Slim rubs his bald head.

SLIM
Skinny Luther or fat Luther?

QUEEN
Uh, skinny Luther.

SLIM
Ah fuck.

QUEEN
What?

SLIM
I don’t trust people that like skinny Luther.

QUEEN
Skinny Luther was dope. He had a lot more energy. He sang better. And his clothes fit.

SLIM
You crazy as hell. Fat Luther was the shit. Who else you know can pull off a jheri curl and a three piece suit at the same damn time?

She’s quiet.

SLIM (CONT'D)
Right, nobody.

As she continues to drive she sees a few HORSES grazing the land. She immediately pulls over.

SLIM (CONT'D)
What you doing? I thought you said no more stopping.

QUEEN
I changed my mind.
SLIM
You can’t change your mind. We gotta go.

She puts her hand on his thigh.

QUEEN
Relax.

He does. She slowly gets out of the car.

EXT. FIELD - MOMENTS LATER - DAY 4

Queen walks up to the horses. Judging by her demeanor she’s more comfortable around animals than she is people.

She goes up to one and takes the horse’s nose in her hands. She becomes one with this beautiful living creature.

SLIM
You crazy? What if it gets scared and kicks you in the face?

QUEEN
They’re not wild.

Queen takes his hand and forces him to pet the horse. The horse is calm and so is Slim.

It’s quiet all around them.

SLIM
How you know so much about horses?

QUEEN
My uncle used to take me horseback riding when I was a kid.

SLIM
Really?

QUEEN
I told you he didn’t used to always be like that.

Queen walks over to the other horse and looks in its eyes.

QUEEN (CONT’D)
He told me nothing scares a white man more than seeing a black man on a horse.
SLIM
Why?

QUEEN
Because they have to look up at him.

SLIM
I’ve never been on a horse.

QUEEN
You should try it sometime.

Queen starts walking back to the car. Slim doesn’t follow her.

SLIM
Maybe I should do it right now.

QUEEN
You can do it when we have more time. I’ll take you.

SLIM
When?

QUEEN
I don’t know.

SLIM
What if we don’t make it?

The weight of his question renders them both speechless.

QUEEN
We will.

SLIM
You don’t know that.

He’s right. She doesn’t.

SLIM (CONT'D)
Help me get on the horse.

Queen walks over to him.

SLIM (CONT'D)
Which one is the calmest?

Queen chooses the one that’s still grazing. She holds Slim’s hand and helps HOIST him up onto the horse.
The horse BUCKS at first. Then Queen whispers to the horse and eventually the stallion calms down.

Slim is nervous at first, but eventually he relaxes. After a moment Slim’s posture shifts. He puffs out his chest and looks out into the world like the king he is.

Queen looks up at him. They hold each other’s gaze for a long beat.

QUEEN
It’s nice isn’t it?

SLIM
Yeah.

Then -

MAN’S VOICE (O.S.)
Hey!

The horse BUCKS again. But only this time Queen can’t calm him down. The horse knocks Slim off his back. Slim hits the ground HARD. Getting the wind knocked out of him.

Queen helps him up and they run to the Cadillac.

They hop in the car and speed off!

INT. CAR - LATER THAT AFTERNOON - DAY 4

As the sun starts to set, the Cadillac starts to smoke.

The smoke is coming from UNDERNEATH the car.

Slim pulls over.

EXT. SIDE OF THE ROAD - CONTINUOUS - DAY 4

Slim is under the car. It’s smoking like crazy. Queen stands over him. Freaking out.

QUEEN
I think there’s a body shop up the road.

SLIM
Really far up the road.

Queen walks to the back of the car and assumes the position.
QUEEN
Then we should start pushing.

Slim gives in and they both start pushing the car up the road. They try to hurry while they still have light.

CUT TO:

EXT. GAS STATION - GARAGE - 45 MINUTES LATER - DAY 4

Slim and Queen are spent. An OLDER BLACK MAN chews tobacco and blinks at them.

OLDER BLACK MAN
Your transmission’s fucked.

SLIM
That don’t sound good.

OLDER BLACK MAN
I can have it back to you tomorrow for about two grand.

SLIM
Two grand?

QUEEN
We need it back today.

OLDER BLACK MAN
Y’all in a rush?

He looks at them suspiciously.

QUEEN
Yeah, we’re on our way to visit family.

OLDER BLACK MAN
Why y’all in a rush to do that?

He lets out a hearty laugh and then spits tobacco juice in a cup.

OLDER BLACK MAN (CONT'D)
I can try to get it back to you tonight but that’ll cost you a little mo.

SLIM
How much mo?
OLDER BLACK MAN
Another five hundred.

Slim pulls Queen to the side.

QUEEN
That’s all of our money.

SLIM
Then fuck it - let’s just hop on a bus or something.

QUEEN
That’s too risky.

SLIM
You wanna give him all our money?

QUEEN
We need to get the car fixed.

Then --

OLDER BLACK MAN (O.S.)
Yo, we doing this or not?

Queen walks over and hands him the envelope full of cash.

QUEEN
Here. This is all we have.

SLIM
We just need the car fixed as soon as possible.

OLDER BLACK MAN
I’ll move as fast as I can.

Slim looks up and sees the mechanic’s office. He clocks a ROTARY PHONE sitting on his desk.

SLIM
Can I use your bathroom?

OLDER BLACK MAN
Yeah, it’s right through there.

Queen sits on a bench. Arms folded. Looking at the clock.

CUT TO:
INT. OLDER BLACK MAN’S OFFICE – CONTINUOUS – DAY 4

Slim sits in the bathroom holding the rotary phone on his lap. He takes a deep breath.

Then he dials. Slowly. We hear the phone ring.

MAN’S VOICE
Hello.

SLIM
Dad?

MAN’S VOICE
Are you okay, boy?

SLIM
Yeah, I’m fine.

MAN’S VOICE
This ain’t like you.

SLIM
I know.

Then --

SLIM (CONT’D)
I just wanted you to know I’m okay.
And that I love you.

MAN’S VOICE
I love you too, son.

SLIM
We’re tryna get to --

His father hangs up. Slim looks at the phone. Wondering what happened.

CUT TO:

INT. SLIM’S CHILDHOOD HOME – CONTINUOUS – DAY 4

We see a POLICE OFFICER was listening to their conversation.

SLIM’S MOTHER, a dignified woman who never leaves the house without makeup on, sits next to her husband – defiantly.

POLICE OFFICER
Why the fuck would you do that?!

The Police Officer snatches the phone from Slim’s Father.
SLIM’S FATHER
Get outta my house.

POLICE OFFICER
You’re under arrest for helping a fugitive.

SLIM’S FATHER
Do what you gotta do.

POLICE OFFICER
We’re going to find them.

SLIM’S FATHER
Not with my help.

CUT TO:

INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 4

The Older Black Man fixes the transmission while Slim and Queen wait impatiently.

OLDER BLACK MAN
Y’all are making me nervous. Why don’t y’all go take a walk or something?

QUEEN
We’re not leaving you alone with this car.

OLDER BLACK MAN
Ain’t nobody tryna steal your car.

QUEEN
Well I just wanna make sure.

OLDER BLACK MAN
You got bigger problems than me.

SLIM
So you know who we are?

OLDER BLACK MAN
I’m old not blind.

SLIM
Then why ain’t you give us a discount?
OLDER BLACK MAN  
Cause unlike the rest of these simple ass niggas I don’t approve of what y’all did.

QUEEN  
We didn’t do it on purpose.

OLDER BLACK MAN  
It don’t matter if it was on purpose or not. You gave them a license to kill us.

QUEEN  
That cop shot at me.

OLDER BLACK MAN  
You gave ‘em an excuse.

QUEEN  
You weren’t there.

OLDER BLACK MAN  
No, I wasn’t. But if I was I would’ve taken the ticket and been on my way.

QUEEN  
Can you work more and talk less?

OLDER BLACK MAN  
I could work faster if y’all left me the fuck alone.

QUEEN  
I’m not leaving this car.

OLDER BLACK MAN  
What if I gave you some insurance?

QUEEN  
I don’t want no house keys or no drivers license cause all that can be replaced.

The Older mechanic walks to the garage door and knocks on it.

After a beat a SKINNY BROWN KID no more than seventeen lifts it up. The young man looks like Barack Obama long before he fell in love with Michelle. He wears a dirty T-shirt and skinny jeans.

SKINNY BROWN KID  
Yes, sir?
OLDER BLACK MAN
You wanna take these nice folks on a walk?

One look at Queen and Slim and he lights up like a Christmas tree. He obviously doesn’t share his father’s views about them.

SKINNY BROWN KID
Yeah!

Then –

SKINNY BROWN KID (CONT’D)
Yes, sir.

OLDER BLACK MAN
I need some time to fix their car. Keep ‘em occupied until then.

SKINNY BROWN KID
Yes, sir.

Slim walks over and shakes the young man’s hand.

SLIM
I’m –

SKINNY BROWN KID
I know who you are. It’s an honor to meet you.

SLIM
What’s your name?

SKINNY BROWN KID
Everybody calls me Junior.

His father beams with pride.

Then Junior takes Queen’s hand and kisses it, sweetly.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - AFTERNOON - DAY 4

Queen and Slim walk hand in hand. Junior leads the way.

SLIM
Where is everybody?

JUNIOR
There’s nothing to do around here. People just go to work and go home.
SLIM
I know the feeling.

JUNIOR
I can’t believe y’all are here. I was just watching you on TV and now you’re right here next to me. Shit is crazy.

Slim remembers what it was like to be Junior’s age. When the weight of the world wasn’t on his shoulders and everything was exciting.

JUNIOR (CONT’D)
I hope y’all make it.

Without knowing it Junior reminds them their days could be numbered – and every breath should be cherished.

SLIM
Me too.

JUNIOR
Even if y’all don’t it’ll be okay.

QUEEN
How so?

JUNIOR
Cause then you’ll be immortal.

Slim walks quietly – digesting the thought.

SLIM
I like that.

Queen takes a deep breath. Drinking in her simple surroundings. Appreciating the quiet. For once. Then --

QUEEN
I’d rather live.

They finally arrive at Junior’s secret spot. It’s a small hill with a perfect view of the sunset.

Queen, Slim, and Junior sit on the grass and marvel at the sun as it prepares to say goodnight.

Queen looks at the purple and orange sky – then she looks at Slim. He’s so serene. He’s made peace with whatever the outcome will be. Junior looks up to him. Literally and figuratively.

And for the first time in her life – she sees God.
CUT TO:

57 INT. GARAGE - LATER THAT NIGHT - NIGHT 4

Queen and Slim get back in their newly repaired Cadillac. She turns on the car and it hums like it just came off the factory line.

SLIM
Yo, Junior. Can you take our picture?

JUNIOR
Yeah.

QUEEN
I don’t think that’s a good idea.

SLIM
Come on, I want proof we were here.

This is proof Slim remembers everything. She likes that he’s using her own logic against her.

She gives in. And they both look at Junior - ready to be captured.

Queen has her hand on the wheel. Her toned arm on full display. Slim leans forward. He doesn’t look at the camera - he looks at her as if she were his bride to be.

Queen stares directly into the lens, the look in her eyes is the perfect combination of fear and pride.

We linger on them long enough to realize they’re no longer the people we met at the diner.

CUT TO:

58 INT. CAR - NIGHT 4

Queen is driving. Deep in thought. Slim is fast asleep.

They drive by a sign that reads WELCOME TO GEORGIA.

Queen stares at it for a long beat. It brings back an unwanted memory.

She makes an impulsive turn. Jolting Slim awake.
SLIM
Yo.

She’s on a mission.

QUEEN
Do you mind if we make a detour?

SLIM
I do actually.

Queen doesn’t care and makes a hard left turn. She drives down a winding road. Tears in her eyes.

SLIM (CONT'D)
You okay?

QUEEN
Not really.

He sits up and wipes the sleep out of his eyes.

Slim can tell she needs to be held in this moment, but he doesn’t know if that’s permitted. He reaches out and touches the small of her back. She allows it.

His hand is bigger than she realized. He rubs her back softly at first - then he applies more pressure to help her relax and to make sure she feels his presence in a way she hasn’t before.

Her heart is beating so fast he can feel her body pulse. His heartbeat syncs up with hers. They are connected.

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY - MOMENTS LATER - DAWN

Queen stares at a tombstone.

ETTA JOHNSON - BELOVED MOTHER AND DAUGHTER.

Slim stands a few feet behind her. Far enough to give her space. But close enough to let her know she’s not alone.

QUEEN
We were close when I was younger, but when I got older I felt like I didn’t know her anymore. She didn’t know me either. We could go months without talking. And when we did - I hated it. I had nothing to say to her.

(MORE)
QUEEN (CONT'D)
She wanted a connection so badly, but I just didn’t care. I didn’t need her anymore.

She turns to look at Slim. Searching for judgement in his eyes. There is none.

QUEEN (CONT'D)
I used to call her the great pretender.

SLIM
Why?

QUEEN
She was really good at acting like everything was okay.

Queen extends her hand to Slim. He takes it and moves in closer.

She kneels down and pulls up a few weeds crowding her mother’s resting place - all the while still holding onto Slim’s hand. Queen kisses her palm and touches the cold tombstone.

This is what closure looks like.

She lets go of Slim’s hand and makes her way back to the car.

Slim hangs back. He stares at her mother’s grave a little longer.

INT. CAR - HOURS LATER - DAY 5

Queen and Slim sit in a parked car. Slim is in the driver’s seat. Queen is in the passenger seat.

QUEEN
My grandma left the house to both of them. My mom wanted to sell it. My uncle wanted to live in it. Typical family bullshit.

SLIM
Yeah.

QUEEN
One night they were at the house fighting, he was really fucked up, and he pushed her down a flight of stairs. She cracked her skull.
QUEEN (CONT'D)
She bled out so quick that by the time the ambulance got there she was already dead.

Slim hangs his head. Unsure of what to say.

QUEEN (CONT'D)
I had just passed the bar. I was excited to try my first case. I never thought that would be it.

SLIM
How could you defend the person that killed your own mother?

QUEEN
I knew it was an accident.

SLIM
Does it ever piss you off that he’s alive and she isn’t?

QUEEN
All the time.

Queen turns on the RADIO. We hear a journalist ON THE RADIO reporting on a NATIONWIDE PEACEFUL RALLY in progress.

RADIO PERSONALITY
People are in support of the two fugitives accused of killing a police officer in cold blood.

Slim and Queen aren’t really listening to the radio. It’s just background noise to them.

Then Slim takes Queen’s face in his reliable hands and kisses her. It’s so pure and innocent - it’s unclear if sex will follow.

But then he pulls her in close and kisses her again. The second kiss is anything, but innocent. It’s the perfect combination of lust and melancholy. Slim pulls Queen on top of him. Rather than entering her right away - he lifts her up to his face - her hands press up against the ceiling while he DEVOURS her.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - SAME TIME - DAY 5

We’re following Junior walking down the street with purpose.
We watch as he walks up on a protest. The same one the journalist spoke of on the radio.

He joins - A SEA OF BLACK and BROWN BODIES are MARCHING in PROTEST. They are full of PRIDE and VENOM.

They hold up signs in support of Queen and Slim. They chant and walk proudly.

The PROTESTORS are surrounded by POLICE OFFICERS. The Officers are dressed in SWAT GEAR. Ready for war.

The Officers form a line. The Protestors form a line opposite them.

The Police stand completely still like statues of oppression in the South. The Protestors are vibrant not violent.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS - DAY 5

Slim pulls Queen’s hair back and bites her neck. He follows each bite with a kiss.

Queen reclines the drivers seat as far back as it will go and kisses Slim deeply. As they continue to have sex, we --

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - SAME TIME - DAY 5

A POLICE OFFICER THROWS TEAR GAS INTO THE CROWD.

Protesters cover their faces with t-shirts and hoodies.

Some Protestors run for their lives while others run toward the Police.

The Police Officers start BEATING protestors with BATONS and chase after them while on HORSEBACK.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS - DAY 5

Queen is now gripping onto the steering wheel. Hands and arms sweating. Slim grips her waist and pulls her back and forth.
Windows fogged. Both gasping for air.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - SAME TIME - DAY 5

Junior stands in front of the crowd. He looks like a young Eldridge Cleaver.

A BLACK POLICE OFFICER stops him from going any further. The Officer is dressed in bullet proof gear from head to toe.

Junior is only wearing a hoodie and sweatpants to protect him. It’s David and Goliath all over again.

BLACK POLICE OFFICER
If you don’t vacate the premises
I’m gonna have to arrest you, son.

JUNIOR
I’m not your son.

BLACK POLICE OFFICER
What’s your name, young man?

JUNIOR
I don’t have to tell you that.

BLACK POLICE OFFICER
I don’t want to hurt you. Trust me. But it’s my job to clear the streets. Which means you can’t be here.

JUNIOR
I have a right to protest.

BLACK POLICE OFFICER
I understand that, but you don’t have a permit. So that means you’re breaking the law.

JUNIOR
What you gon do, kill me?

BLACK POLICE OFFICER
No, but I will arrest you.

The Police Officer LIFTS UP THE BULLETPROOF SHIELD ON HIS HELMET - so there’s one less barrier between them.

BLACK POLICE OFFICER (CONT’D)
I’m begging you. Go home.
The Police Officer GRABS Junior by his arms -- in an attempt to calm him down. But he wrestles free.

Junior pulls out a SMALL HAND GUN. He aims it at the only part of the Officer’s body that’s not covered.

He SHOOTS him in the face. Causing the Officer’s head to EXPLODE IN HIS HELMET.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - SAME TIME - DAY 5

Slim thrusts his pelvis against Queen’s again and again until she finally throws her head back and SCREAMS with pleasure.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - SAME TIME - DAY 5

Junior watches the Police Officer fall to the ground in front of him. He has succeeded in killing a giant that meant him no harm, but he feels justified just the same.

A SEA of SWAT MEMBERS descend on Junior and tackle him to the ground. His future is uncertain.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS - DAY 5

Queen and Slim lay intertwined in the backseat. Naked. Spent. Sweaty.

Completely unaware the world is burning around them.

INT. CAR - LATER - DAY 5

They drive along a winding road. They’re quiet and serene.

Slim reaches for Queen’s hand while she drives. She takes his hand and doesn’t let it go.

EXT. HOUSE - IN GEORGIA - LATER THAT DAY - DAY 5

Slim rings the doorbell of a very middle class home. The grass is pristine. The windows are sparkling. An American flag blows in the wind.
It’s safe to assume a soldier that came home with a purple heart on his chest and a wounded heart behind it - lives here.

The door opens. JOHNNY SHEPHERD is standing there. He is that soldier. And he has the scars to prove it.

MR. SHEPHERD
We’ve been expecting you.

Before they walk in Slim notices a NOSEY NEIGHBOR peeking out the window.

CUT TO:

INT. SHEPHERD HOME - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

THE SHEPHERDS sit on a couch across from Queen and Slim.

MRS. SHEPHERD is a college educated with views more conservative than she’d like to admit.

Mr. Shepherd has just given them a devastating update.

SLIM
What do you mean they killed him?

MRS. SHEPHERD
He shot a police officer in the face.

Slim is shaken to his core.

SLIM
We were just with him.

MR. SHEPHERD
You knew the boy?

QUEEN
We spent some time with him.

MRS. SHEPHERD
Did you order him to do it?

Slim stands up. He wants to strangle her.

SLIM
Are you crazy?

Queen grabs his arm and tries to calm him down.
QUEEN
We would never do that.

MRS. SHEPHERD
These kids think it’s okay to kill cops because of you.

SLIM
Who made cops think it was okay to kill us?

QUEEN
We didn’t want this.

MRS. SHEPHERD
(to her husband)
There’s a war going on out there and you’ve welcomed it into our home.

MR. SHEPHERD
They didn’t start it.

She cuts her eyes at his husband.

MRS. SHEPHERD
I want them gone by morning.

SLIM
We can leave right now.

Slim stands up.

SLIM (CONT’D)
Let’s go.

This time Queen does as she’s told. The roles have reversed. As they start for the door.

MR. SHEPHERD
Don’t let your pride get you killed.

SLIM
I ain’t staying here.

MR. SHEPHERD
I got secret hiding spots all over this place. Even if the cops come here – they won’t be able to find you.

He thinks for a beat.
QUEEN
Thank you.

Then --

MR. SHEPHERD
Y’all hungry?

QUEEN
Starving.

CUT TO:

INT. SHEPHERD HOME - DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

The four sit at an old dining room table. This is the most unusual double date we’ve ever seen.

But the room is peaceful. The spread is something straight out of the 1950s. A protein. A veggie. And mashed potatoes. The only beverage available to drink is milk. Whole milk.

MRS. SHEPHERD
There’s a bounty on your heads.

SLIM
How much are we worth?

MRS. SHEPHERD
Two fifty.

SLIM
Total?

MRS. SHEPHERD
Each.

QUEEN
That ain’t much.

MRS. SHEPHERD
That could pay off our mortgage.

QUEEN
You gon turn us in?

MR. SHEPHERD
No.

Queen cuts her eyes at Mrs. Shepherd.

MR. SHEPHERD (CONT’D)
Earl told me you needed a plane.
SLIM

Yeah.

MR. SHEPHERD

I know a guy. I already gave him a call.

Mr. Shepherd gets up from the table and grabs a notepad. He writes down an address and hands it to Queen.

MR. SHEPHERD (CONT'D)

Tell him I sent you.

Queen slips it in her pocket.

MRS. SHEPHERD

We should eat before it gets cold.

Everyone grabs hands and bows their heads.

MR. SHEPHERD

I’ll lead us in a prayer.

QUEEN

May I do it?

MR. SHEPHERD

Of course.

Queen takes a deep breath. She’s never done this before.

QUEEN

I’d like to start by thanking God for the breath in my lungs. And the breath in the lungs of everyone at this table. I’m grateful we have a place to sleep tonight and food to put in our bellies. Thank you for bringing us this far. Thank you for this journey. No matter how it ends.

SLIM

Amen.

MR. SHEPHERD          MRS. SHEPHERD


Everyone starts to eat. Queen looks up at Slim and notices for the first time he’s not shoveling food into his mouth. He’s not chewing like a cow. He’s taking his time and savoring every bite. This is a change he isn’t aware of, but she is. Queen stares at him for a long beat and smiles.
Then AN AGGRESSIVE VOICE COMING FROM OUTSIDE interrupts their peaceful dinner.

**VOICE (O.S.)**
The house is surrounded. Come out with your hands up.

Mrs. Shepherd looks like she’s about to piss herself. Mr. Shepherd is no stranger to this type of situation. He is calm and collected.

**MR. SHEPHERD**
Okay, I want you two to run upstairs and go into the yellow bedroom on the left. Hide under the bed.

**QUEEN**
They’ll find us there.

**MR. SHEPHERD**
There are loose panels under the bed. Hide under there and don’t make a sound.

**QUEEN**
Okay.

**MR. SHEPHERD**
Go. Now!

Queen and Slim run upstairs in search of the yellow bedroom. While Mr. Shepherd quickly gets rid of Queen and Slim’s plates to make it look like there were only two people breaking bread instead of four.

**VOICE (O.S.)**
You have three seconds to come out or we’re coming in!

Mr. Shepherd grabs his wife’s trembling hand and walks her to the front door.

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. SHEPHERD HOME - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT**

Mr. & Mrs. Shepherd walk outside slowly with their hands raised.

The SWAT LEADER immediately starts searching them both. Mrs. Shepherd dissolves into tears. Mr. Shepherd is stoic.
MR. SHEPHERD
Do you have a warrant?!

He holds one up.

MR. SHEPHERD (CONT'D)
I want to read that.

SWAT LEADER
Take all the time you need.

Mr. Shepherd reads the warrant carefully. It’s legit.

He nods at the police. Then with the flick of a finger the Swat Leader commands his team to enter the house.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - SECONDS LATER - NIGHT

They swarm the house like bees. Tearing it apart.

They break antiques and damage the wood floors.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - SAME TIME - NIGHT

Queen and Slim make their way to the MASTER BEDROOM. They try to lift up the panels under the bed. Some of them lift easily while others are stuck and won’t budge. Slim starts to sweat bullets. Queen does her best to loosen them up as fast as she can.

They move quickly - but they aren’t fast enough.

Determined FOOTSTEPS make their way into the bedroom. The bedroom door SWINGS OPEN. Silence.

We follow the FEET looking in the closet and then out the window to see if they jumped.

Then we PAN UP to reveal the feet belong to the Swat Leader that shoved a warrant in Mr. Shepherd’s face.

He stares at the bed and grins. Then he lifts it up with one quick swoop, and -- Nothing. They aren’t there.

SWAT LEADER
Fuck!

He lets go of the bed and it CRASHES against the floor.
INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - UNDERNEATH THE FLOOR - SAME TIME - N56

Queen and Slim lay close together. Shaking. Trying not to breathe.

EXT. HOUSE - FRONT LAWN - LATER - NIGHT 5 77

The Police are loading the bright red Cadillac that Queen and Slim have called home - for most of their journey - onto a tow truck.

It’s evidence now. The Shepherds are handcuffed and sitting in the back seat of a Swat Truck. The Swat Leader from before looks down at them.

   SWAT LEADER
   If you tell me where they’re going
   we can let you go and you can enjoy
   the rest of your evening.

Mrs. Shepherd looks at her husband.

   MR. SHEPHERD
   We don’t know where they’re going.

He kneels down and gets in Mrs. Shepherd’s face.

   SWAT LEADER
   How bout you? You look a lot smarter than your husband.

As we linger on her face, we --

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - UNDERNEATH THE FLOOR - HOURS LATER - 78 DAY 6

Queen and Slim are half asleep. She turns to him.

   QUEEN
   We have to leave at some point.

   SLIM
   I’m not tryna walk into an ambush.

   QUEEN
   I heard cars leave hours ago.

   SLIM
   I’m sure they left some folks behind to keep an eye on the house.
QUEEN
You can stay and die of starvation if you want to - but I’m getting the fuck outta here.

Queen lifts the panels up one by one. They both take in the fresh air. They roll from up under the bed.

INT./EXT. SHEPHERD HOME - BEDROOM / BACKYARD - DAY 679

Queen walks over to the window that faces the back of the house. All that’s back there is a GARAGE and a small backyard. Queen lifts up the window and looks down.

It’s low enough so they can’t kill themselves, but high enough that they could break a leg if they landed wrong.

QUEEN
We gotta jump.

Slim looks out.

SLIM
It’s too high.

QUEEN
All you have to do is bend your knees as soon as you hit the ground. Bend and roll.

SLIM
This ain’t no damn fire drill.

Queen climbs onto the window seal, takes a deep breath, and JUMPS out of the window. But she doesn’t take her own advice and forgets to bend her knees.

She hits the ground HARD and lands flat on her back knocking the wind out of her body and her LEFT SHOULDER OUT OF ITS SOCKET. Queen grabs her arm and rocks back and forth trying not to scream. She’s in excruciating pain.

SLIM (CONT’D)
Fuck!

Seeing Queen in pain is the push he needed. He walks back a few feet and runs toward the window LEAPING to the ground. He follows Queen’s instructions and lands perfectly.

Rather than rejoicing he rushes over to Queen’s aid and pulls her into the garage.
Queen is in so much pain she can’t speak.

SLIM
Okay, I know how to do this. But you have to promise not to scream. Can you do that?

She shakes her head no.

SLIM (CONT’D)
I believe in you.

She continues to shake her head and backs away from him.

SLIM (CONT’D)
I think there are cops out front and if they hear you – it’s over. We’re done. I know how strong you are.

Those words give her the strength she needs.

QUEEN
Give me your shirt.

He takes it off and balls it up. She stuffs it in her mouth and gives him a nod to let him know she’s ready.

Slim grabs her elbow with one hand and grasps her neck with the other.

SLIM
1... 2...

Then YANK! She SCREAMS but it’s muffled by his shirt.

CUT TO:

Two POLICE OFFICERS are standing guard out front. Police Officer 1, is out of shape and always in a good mood. Police Officer 2, is too intense for his own good.

Police Officer 1 hears Queen’s muffled groans.

POLICE OFFICER 1
Did you hear that?

POLICE OFFICER 2
Hear what?
POLICE OFFICER 1
It sounds like somebody’s crying.

POLICE OFFICER 2
No, it’s just nature. You city boys ain’t used to that shit.

POLICE OFFICER 1
Don’t refer to me as a boy.

POLICE OFFICER 2
You know what I meant.

POLICE OFFICER 1
Look, I know the difference between a person and an animal.

POLICE OFFICER 2
Then go walk around.

POLICE OFFICER 1
Man, watch how you talk to me.

POLICE OFFICER 2
Touchy touchy.

Police Officer 1 starts to walk around the property.

CUT TO:

INT. GARAGE - SAME TIME - DAY 6
Queen rubs her shoulder - still in pain. While Slim searches for a key to the STATION WAGON parked in the garage.

SLIM
Help me find a screwdriver.

They both start searching.

QUEEN
You know how to jumpstart a car?

SLIM
I used to. My older brother taught me one summer.

QUEEN
I didn’t know you had a brother.

SLIM
Yup.
They lock eyes for a second – realizing there’s so much about each other they may never know.

Then Queen finds an old toolbox. Slim digs through it.

**SLIM (CONT’D)**
The only car we ever jump started was my dad’s. He used to take his keys with him everywhere he went. He knew better than to leave that Acura around us.

**QUEEN**
I see why.

Slim finally finds what he’s looking for and hops in the driver’s seat. Queen gets in the passenger. This is a far cry from Uncle Earl’s fly caddy. But they’ll take what they can get.

Slim tries to convince the ignition the screwdriver is a key but it doesn’t work.

**SLIM**
Dammit.

He takes it out and tries again. Nothing.

**CUT TO:**

83 **EXT. SIDE OF THE HOUSE – SAME TIME – DAY 6**

Police Officer 1 walks around, looking to see if anyone’s there. He sees the garage. But doesn’t hear anything. He cocks his gun, and walks over to the garage.

**CUT TO:**

84 **INT. GARAGE – SAME TIME – DAY 6**

Queen digs through the toolbox again and finds a smaller screwdriver and gives him that.

Slim puts that in the ignition and it works. The engine is louder than they thought it would be.

**SLIM**
Now how we supposed to get outta here?

Before she can answer.
POLICE OFFICER 1 LIFTS UP THE GARAGE DOOR.

They turn to look at him. They’re caught.

The Police Officer looks around and realizes his colleagues are out front – chatting with each other. He looks back at Queen and Slim and sees two faces that remind him of his own.

He remembers why he became a cop. To help people. And at the moment, no one needs his help more than the two people in front of him.

They have a staring contest for about three seconds.

Then he takes a few steps back and gives them room to back up.

Slim puts the car in reverse and moves the car back slowly.

Queen sinks low into her seat.

Police Officer 1 nods his head as a way to say, “go head”.

They pull off and drive onto a SECLUDED side street.

And just like that they’re on the road again.

Police Officer 1 watches them go. Confident in his decision. He walks back around to the front of the house.

INT. FRONT OF THE HOUSE – CONTINUOUS – DAY 6

POLICE OFFICER 2
What was it?

POLICE OFFICER 1
A couple deer got caught in some branches. I set ‘em free.

POLICE OFFICER 2
Told you.

As Police Officer 1 grins, we --

CUT TO:

INT. STATION WAGON – HOURS LATER – DAY 6

They’re almost in Miami.
Queen sticks her head out the window and lets the wind hit her face. For the first time in her life she feels completely free. No fear.

SLIM
What you doing?

She doesn’t respond. Queen unbuckles her seatbelt and hoists herself up onto the window sill and leans on the roof of the car.

SLIM (CONT'D)
Are you crazy?! Get back in the car!

She looks up at the sky. The stars seem bigger to her. Queen takes a deep breath - then gets back in her seat.

SLIM (CONT'D)
Are you tryna get caught?

QUEEN
No, I just always wanted to do that.

SLIM
Well, don’t do it while I’m driving.

QUEEN
You should try it.

SLIM
Nah, I’m good.

QUEEN
Pull over.

SLIM
No.

She grabs the steering wheel and YANKS it to the left. They almost crash into another car.

SLIM (CONT'D)
If I do it will you please let me drive the rest of the way in peace?

QUEEN
Swear to God.

SLIM
Swear on something you believe in.
QUEEN
Okay fine, I’ll swear on you.
And just like that a wave of freedom washes over Slim.
She kisses him. As he pulls over, we --

CUT TO:

INT. STATION WAGON - MOMENTS LATER - DAY 6

Queen gripping the steering wheel while Slim tries to hoist himself up and out of the car window. He’s not as graceful as she is.

He finally gets up there and tries to hold onto the roof of the car, but his hands are sweaty so he loses his grip and FALLS BACK - with his arms flailing in the air.

QUEEN
Oh shit!
Before he flies out of the car he grabs a hold of the rearview mirror and regains his balance.

SLIM
Fuck this, I’m coming back in.

QUEEN
No, you got it. You’re good. I’ll drive slow.

She slows down a bit and Slim finally gets a firm hold of the roof.

Queen picks up a little speed and Slim gets a whiff of the freedom she just got. Slim doesn’t know if he’ll ever feel this free again - so he cherishes the moment.

CUT TO:

INT. STATION WAGON - NIGHT 6

Queen and Slim are parked in an empty field - somewhere in Miami.
It looks like an abandoned plantation.

QUEEN
Are you sure this is the address?
Slim gets out of the car and looks around. There’s no sign of human life anywhere.

QUEEN (CONT’D)
Will you please just get back in the car before you get shot.

SLIM
Ain’t nobody out here.

Slim gets back in the car. They’re both exhausted from driving all day.

SLIM (CONT’D)
I was hoping we’d pull up to a house so we could get some sleep.

QUEEN
Well, there isn’t one.

SLIM
I can see that.

QUEEN
They’re gonna find us.

SLIM
No they’re not.

Queen shakes her head.

SLIM (CONT’D)
How about you get in the back and get some sleep and I’ll sit up here and make sure nobody kills us.

She gets out of the car and climbs in the back.

The backseat is practically a bed anyway. Slim takes off his jacket and places it behind her head from the front seat.

Queen curls up in a ball and closes her eyes. Slim stares off into the night. While he looks up at the stars, he hears --

QUEEN
I can’t sleep.

SLIM
You want me to turn on the radio?

QUEEN
No. I want you to tell me a story.

He turns to look at her. Confused and annoyed.
SLIM
What kind of story?

QUEEN
Any story. I don’t care.

He fidgets with his hands as he begins to speak.

SLIM
When I was little I asked my mom where babies come from. She said I was too young to know. So I went asked my dad. He said babies are the product of two people that needed something from each other. I didn’t know what that meant. So I said -- needed what? He said maybe they needed to feel seen. Maybe they needed to feel loved. Maybe they needed to feel human.

QUEEN
And then what?

SLIM
Then I asked my grandmother and she said -- babies come from God. They’re His way of making sure no one ever really dies. I remember her saying “through our children we are reborn.”

Queen smiles.

SLIM (CONT’D)
Then I went to my older brother and asked him and he said, nobody knows. You’re just born. That’s it. Now leave me alone.

Slim chuckles at the memory.

SLIM (CONT’D)
I wasn’t satisfied with that answer either, but I’d run out of family members to ask - so he got the last word.

QUEEN
So whose right?

Tears well up in Slim’s eyes. He wonders if he’ll ever see them again.
SLIM
None of ‘em. Babies come from fucking. Plain and simple.

They both chuckle.

Then Queen’s eyelids become heavy. She eventually closes her eyes and falls asleep.

Slim stares at her. Grinning. Watching her sleep has quickly become one of his favorite pastimes. After a moment he finds it hard to keep his eyes open as well.

Soon – they’re both fast asleep. In a station wagon. In the middle of a field. Somewhere in Florida.

CUT TO:

INT. STATION WAGON – DAY 7 (DAWN)

Slim is in a deep sleep. Mouth open. Head tilted.

Then we hear – CLICK CLACK. Slim JOLTS awake.

There’s a RIFLE aimed at Slim’s face. Once his brain computes what’s happening he scoots over into the drivers seat – this causes Queen to wake up too.

QUEEN
What’s going on?

She looks at the man holding the rifle. He’s a BLACK MAN with a scruffy BEARD and inquisitive eyes.

He’s wearing an oversized white t-shirt and his teeth are covered in 14 karat GOLD grillz.

Queen and Slim aren’t sure if they should feel anxious or at ease.

BLACK MAN
Why y’all acting all scared and shit?

SLIM
Cause you pointing a gun at my face?

He joyfully swings it over his shoulder.

BLACK MAN
Oh I’m just fucking wit you, play. 
He opens the door on the driver’s side. Slim gets out, cautiously.

SLIM
You know the Shepherds?

BLACK MAN
Hell yeah.

QUEEN
They were supposed to call you.

BLACK MAN
Y’all the ones that killed the cop, right?

Slim doesn’t want to confess to this.

BLACK MAN (CONT'D)
I got you. Follow me.

He walks pretty fast. Queen and Slim trail behind him. Then --

SLIM
How do you know the Shepherds?

BLACK MAN
From way back.

SLIM
How long?

BLACK MAN
Man, I don’t know – why you giving me the third degree. I’m just tryna help you.

Queen and Slim try to keep up with him.

QUEEN
They said you had a plane.

BLACK MAN
They lied about that.

Slim stops his tracks. Queen and the Thin Black Guy stop too.

SLIM
If you don’t have a plane we not going with you.

BLACK MAN
Look man, I ain’t got that kind of money. But I got a friend that do. (MORE)
BLACK MAN (CONT'D)
He a baller. He can get whatever you want. When we get to my trailer Imma call him.

QUEEN
Why can’t you call him right now?

BLACK MAN
Cause I ain’t got my phone on me.

Queen looks skeptical.

BLACK MAN (CONT'D)
Look, y’all can either roll with me or stand here like some dummies and wait for the police to come get you.

CUT TO:

INT. TRAILER - MOMENTS LATER - DAY 7

Queen and Slim sit in the Black Man’s tiny trailer. He’s smoking a blunt while he wraps up his call.

BLACK MAN
Aight - he gon have the plane ready to go first thing tomorrow morning.

SLIM
We can’t wait until tomorrow. We gotta go now.

BLACK MAN
Damn, y’all some bossy muthafuckas.

SLIM
Call him back.

Slim grabs the cordless phone and hands it to him.

BLACK MAN
(on the phone)

He looks at Queen and Slim and shrugs his shoulders. Then he hangs up.

BLACK MAN (CONT'D)
He said meet him in a hour.
SLIM
Okay cool.

Slim and Queen settle in.

BLACK MAN
What the fuck is y’all doing? It’s a hour away - we gotta go.

CUT TO:

INT. TRUCK - MOMENTS LATER - DAY 7

Queen and Slim sit in the backseat holding hands while the bearded Black Man drives. He rolls another blunt while he drives. He’s great at multitasking.

BLACK MAN
Y’all wanna hit this shit?

SLIM
I don’t smoke.

BLACK MAN
Word?

BLACK MAN (CONT'D)
What about you, sis?

QUEEN
I’m good.

BLACK MAN
Shit, if I was y’all I’d be smoking like a muthafucka.

He lights the blunt and brings it to his lips and blows out a large cloud of smoke.

BLACK MAN (CONT'D)
That’s why I smoke all the time. Shit, I’m paranoid as fuck. I always think somebody tryna kill me.

QUEEN
Who?

BLACK MAN

QUEEN
That’s no way to live.
BLACK MAN
What you gon do?

That sticks to Slim’s ribs.

SLIM
Yeah.

BLACK MAN
I’m glad I met y’all, though.

He reaches out his hand for Slim to grab. They quickly dap each other up.

SLIM
So are we, man.

BLACK MAN
Y’all really gave niggas something to believe in.

This brings a proud grin to Slim’s face.

BLACK MAN (CONT’D)
We needed that. For real.

Queen reaches forward and grabs the blunt out of the Bearded Black Man’s hand. She takes a huge hit. As she blows it out --

BLACK MAN (CONT’D)
I knew you wanted to hit that shit.

They all laugh.

BLACK MAN (CONT’D)
Live yo life, sis!

Then she passes it to Slim. Nudging him to do it. He waves her away at first.

QUEEN
Come on. For me.

That does it. Slim takes the blunt and hits it a little too hard. They both laugh at him.

Then the Bearded Black Man looks out the window and sees a small PLANE up ahead.

BLACK MAN
There that nigga go.
EXT. PLANE - DAY 7

It’s the kind of plane famous people get on to die. He pulls up along side it. Queen and Slim hop out.

They both shake his hand with gratitude.

BLACK MAN
Power to the muthafucking people.

Queen grabs Slim’s hand and they both start walking toward the plane.

It’s been a long road to this point. They’re ready to leave it all behind. Then --

They can hear HELICOPTERS floating above them. They both look up. Fuck!

They turn around to find FIVE SQUAD CARS lined up.

TWO COPS step out of each vehicle. GUNS DRAWN.

The Bearded Black Man with the kind eyes was a Judas after all.

One of the Police Officers gets on the bullhorn.

POLICE OFFICER
Get on the ground now! Put your hands behind your head.

Queen and Slim look at each other. Never letting go of each other’s hand.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)
Get on the ground now!

QUEEN
There’s no getting out of this, is there?

Slim says “no” with his eyes.

Queen looks up at the sky - and somehow manages to muster a smile.

QUEEN (CONT'D)
Well. I’m not letting go of your hand.

SLIM
If I had the chance I would’ve kissed all your scars.
QUEEN
I know you would have.

Queen looks at him with tears in her eyes.

QUEEN (CONT'D)
Can I be your legacy?

SLIM
You already --

BOOM!

A BULLET – traveling faster than the speed of light – pierces through Queen’s chest. Causing her body to DROP.

And just like that... a complex beauty with beautiful brown skin and a tortured past is gone.

Slim kneels down and takes her in his arms. He stands up holding her lifeless body.

With tears streaming down his face he walks toward the police slowly and deliberately. The police are stunned and confused.

What the fuck is he doing?

It doesn’t matter. All we know, is his death is imminent.

POLICE OFFICER
Stop walking!

He doesn’t.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)
Put your hands up, now!

He doesn’t.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)
Stop or we’ll shoot!

He keeps walking. Defiantly.

Then -- BOOM! BOOM!

Two bullets BLOW through his chest. He plummets to the ground. Never letting go of her.

He died just as he had lived – with pride and a quiet dignity.

They both lay there on the pavement. In a pool of their own blood. Their bodies making an unintentional cross.
The COPS put their guns down. Feeling powerful and guilty at the same time. It’s an adrenaline rush they can’t describe.

The Police Officers look at Queen and Slim’s dead bodies. Observing them. Not unlike a hunter observes his prey.

INT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY 7

We see thousands of people glued to their TV and iPhone screens as they watch what just took place. This is public theater.

It’s like the OJ Simpson verdict all over again. Only this time black people are on the losing end.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)
Angela Johnson and Ernest Hinds were shot and killed today by Miami Police. The two suspects have become quite infamous for their ability to escape authorities after killing a police officer four days ago in Columbus, Ohio. Miami Police Department released a statement saying they hoped to arrest the suspects so the they could have their day in court, but they had no choice but to open fire.

We’ll see THE SHEPHERDS watching from home. Mrs. Shepherd watches with conflicted eyes. Mr. Shepherd has to look away.

We’ll see GODDESS and NAOMI watching on their phones in Earl’s overcrowded house. Earl smokes a cigarette and pretends to be unfazed. But he is. He’s never felt more alone in the world than he does right now.

We’ll see Junior’s father watching from his shop. He doesn’t have much space to mourn other people’s children when he’s still mourning his own.

Finally – we’ll see the Bearded Black Man watching. He sits in his trailer with a blunt dangling from his lips while counting his reward money. We’ll search for remorse behind his eyes, but we won’t find it.

CUT TO:

INT. MORGUE - LATER THAT DAY - DAY 7

The floor is covered in blood and water.
The CORONER is a dignified black man with salt and pepper hair.

He washes Queen and Slim’s bodies as if they were his favorite cousins. He prays over them.

He does it in a voice low enough so he won’t get in trouble, but loud enough so God will hear him.

EXT. OHIO STREET - THREE DAYS LATER - DAY 9

HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE, mostly Black and Latino, stand in the streets holding flowers with sad eyes. They pour into the streets to pay their respects to two ordinary people that became sacrificial lambs.

It’s reminiscent of BIGGIE’S funeral. Only this time there’s no music being played from boom boxes. There’s no animation or joy to be found.

We see Slim’s beloved father in the crowd. He bows his head and takes off his hat as his son’s casket rolls by.

Slim’s family consists of his OLDER BROTHER, his ELEGANT MOTHER and HIS BROTHER’S CHILDREN – two nephews and one niece.

The only person there to grieve QUEEN is Earl. He cries uncontrollably as he reaches out to touch her casket. It’s covered in white hydrangeas. Her favorite.

YOUNG KIDS hold up the PHOTO Junior took of Queen & Slim in the car.

As we linger on the photo and their innocent faces, we --

CUT TO:

[OMITTED]

EXT. STREET - DAY 9

FIVE LITTLE BLACK BOYS, run through an apartment complex. They’re making their way to a basketball court.

As they play – we notice one of the boys is wearing a t-shirt with Queen and Slim’s faces on it.

And just like that they’ve gone from skin and bones to mythical beings that everyone wishes they knew.
Heroes that everyone admires and young people will emulate for generations to come.

Whether you call them sacrificial lambs, revolutionaries or just two innocent people that defended themselves -- their names will live on forever.

But for the purposes of this story -- they will always be known as Queen and Slim.

FADE TO BLACK.