

QUEEN & SLIM

Screenplay by

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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:

2

INT. CAR - AN HOUR LATER - NIGHT 1

2

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.

3 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 1

3

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.

4

INT. SQUAD CAR - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT 1

4

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.

5 INT. SLIM'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT 1

5

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:

6 INT. SLIM'S CAR - PASSENGER SEAT - SAME TIME - NIGHT 1 6

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:

7 EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT 1 7

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

8

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT 1

8

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!

9

EXT. STREET - NIGHT 1

9

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:

A10 INT. SLIM'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

A10

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.

10 INT. SLIM'S CAR - HOURS LATER - NIGHT 1 10

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:

11 EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT 1 11

As the car gets closer and closer, Queen realizes -

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

SLIM  
Dammit.

Slim crosses himself. Hoping for the best.

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:

12 INT. DRIVER'S TRUCK - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT 1 12

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:

A13 INT. SHERIFF'S TRUCK - MOMENTS LATER A13

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 1

13

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:

14 INT. GAS STATION - COUNTER - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT 1 14

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:

15 EXT. GAS STATION - SAME TIME - NIGHT 1 15

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:

16 INT. GAS STATION - COUNTER - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT 1 16

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:

17 EXT. GAS STATION - NIGHT 1 17

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:

18

INT. SHERIFF'S TRUCK - MOMENTS LATER

18

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:

19

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT 1

19

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:

20

INT. TRUCK - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT 1

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:

21 EXT. MCDONALDS DRIVE THRU - FORTY MINUTES LATER - NIGHT 1 21

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:

22 EXT. TRUCK - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT 1

22

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:

23 INT. TRUCK - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT 1

23

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 killllllaaaaasssss!!!

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!

24 EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT 1

24

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:

25 EXT. STREET - DAY 2 (DAWN)

25

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:

26

INT. GAS STATION - MOMENTS LATER - DAY 2

26

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:

27

EXT. HOUSE - FIVE HOURS LATER - DAY 2

27

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 28

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 29

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?

30

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER - DAY 2

30

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:

31 INT. HOUSE - BATHROOM - LATER - DAY 2 31

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:

32

INT. HOUSE - GODDESS' BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS - DAY 2

32

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:

33 INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER - DAY 2

33

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:

34 INT. UNCLE EARL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT - ~~34~~

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:

35 INT. UNCLE EARL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - SAME TIME - NIGHT 2 35

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:

36

INT. UNCLE EARL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 2

36

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 2 37

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 38

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:

39 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:

40 EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT 2 40

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.

41 INT. CADILLAC - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT 2 41

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.

42 EXT. OPEN ROAD - DAY 3 (DAWN) 42

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:

43 EXT. OPEN ROAD - NIGHT 3

43

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:

44 INT. JUKE JOINT - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT 3

44

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:

45 INT. CAR - NIGHT 3

45

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:

A46 EXT. STREET - LATER

A46

Slim pulls into a gas station.

CUT TO:

46 INT. GAS STATION - BATHROOM - DAY 4

46

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:

47 EXT. GAS STATION - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS - DAY 4

47

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

48

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.

49 EXT. FIELD - MOMENTS LATER - DAY 4

49

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!

50 INT. CAR - LATER THAT AFTERNOON - DAY 4 50

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

The smoke is coming from UNDERNEATH the car.

Slim pulls over.

51 EXT. SIDE OF THE ROAD - CONTINUOUS - DAY 4 51

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:

52 EXT. GAS STATION - GARAGE - 45 MINUTES LATER - DAY 4 52

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:

53 INT. OLDER BLACK MAN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 4 53

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:

54 INT. SLIM'S CHILDHOOD HOME - CONTINUOUS - DAY 4 54

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:

55 INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 4

55

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.

56 EXT. DIRT ROAD - AFTERNOON - DAY 4

56

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 57

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 58

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:

59 EXT. CEMETERY - MOMENTS LATER - DAWN

59

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.

60 INT. CAR - HOURS LATER - DAY 5

60

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.

(MORE)

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:

61 EXT. STREET - SAME TIME - DAY 5

61

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:

62 INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS - DAY 5 62

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:

63 EXT. STREET - SAME TIME - DAY 5 63

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:

64 INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS - DAY 5 64

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:

65 EXT. STREET - SAME TIME - DAY 5

65

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:

66 INT. CAR - SAME TIME - DAY 5 66

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

CUT TO:

67 EXT. STREET - SAME TIME - DAY 5 67

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:

68 INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS - DAY 5 68

Queen and Slim lay intertwined in the backseat.

Naked. Spent. Sweaty.

Completely unaware the world is burning around them.

69 INT. CAR - LATER - DAY 5 69

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.

70 EXT. HOUSE - IN GEORGIA - LATER THAT DAY - DAY 5 70

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:

71 INT. SHEPHERD HOME - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 71

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:

72 INT. SHEPHERD HOME - DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT 5 72

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

Amen.

MRS. SHEPHERD

Amen.

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:

73

EXT. SHEPHERD HOME - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT 5

73

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:

74 INT. HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - SECONDS LATER - NIGHT 5 74

They swarm the house like bees. Tearing it apart.

They break antiques and damage the wood floors.

CUT TO:

75 INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - SAME TIME - NIGHT 5 75

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.

76 INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - UNDERNEATH THE FLOOR - SAME TIME - ~~N56~~

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

77 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:

78 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.

79

INT./EXT. SHEPHERD HOME - BEDROOM / BACKYARD - DAY 6

79

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.

80 INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 6

80

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:

81 EXT. FRONT OF THE HOUSE - SAME TIME - DAY 6

81

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:

82 INT. GARAGE - SAME TIME - DAY 6

82

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

83

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

84

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.

85 INT. FRONT OF THE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 6

85

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:

86 INT. STATION WAGON - HOURS LATER - DAY 6

86

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:

87 INT. STATION WAGON - MOMENTS LATER - DAY 6

87

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:

88 INT. STATION WAGON - NIGHT 6

88

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:

89

INT. STATION WAGON - DAY 7 (DAWN)

89

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, playa.

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:

90

INT. TRAILER - MOMENTS LATER - DAY 7

90

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)

Sorry bro, they trippin. They said they gotta go today, nigga. That's what I told 'em. Aight. Bet.

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:

91

INT. TRUCK - MOMENTS LATER - DAY 7

91

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

Police. Niggas. Everybody.

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.

92

EXT. PLANE - DAY 7

92

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.

93

INT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY 7

93

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:

94

INT. MORGUE - LATER THAT DAY - DAY 7

94

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.

95 EXT. OHIO STREET - THREE DAYS LATER - DAY 9 95

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:

96 [OMITTED] 96

97 EXT. STREET - DAY 9 97

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.