

Demo  
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Music Life

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INT: HADDOX HOUSEHOLD - DAY

MARISOL HADDOX 11, pigtails, sundress, enters her bathroom equipped with a video camera, boombox, microphone. She preps herself before starting the compact disc. She sings to the instrumental of 'Saving All My Love for You.'

MARISOL (SINGING)

A few stolen moments is all that we  
share, You've got your family and they  
need you there, though I've tried to  
resist being last on your list, but no  
other man's gonna do, so I'm saving  
all my love for you.

She dances along to the song.

MARISOL

It's not very easy living all alone,  
my friends try and tell me find a man  
of my own, But each time I try I just  
break down and cry', Cause I'd rather  
be home feeling blue, So I'm saving  
all my love for you.

She falls, gets up on tune.

MARISOL

You used to tell me we'd run away  
together, love gives you the right to  
be free, You said be patient just wait  
a little longer, But that's just an  
old fantasy.

Marisol thinks she hears someone. Stops listen, resumes.

MARISOL

I've got to get ready just a few  
minutes more, Gonna get that old  
feeling when you walk through that  
door', Cause tonight is the night for  
feeling alright, We'll be making love  
the whole night through, So I'm saving  
all my love for you, Yes, I'm saving  
all my love, Yes, I'm saving all my  
love for you!

The bathroom door suddenly caves in. Her mother, HENRI ETTA HADDOX bursts in, disheveled, upset, dressed in a bathrobe, hair in curlers.

HENRI ETTA

You demon child! What did I tell you  
about that devil's music! Blasphemy!  
You must repent now!

MARISOL

Mother! Oh my goodness!

Henri Etta starts whooping Marisol with a belt hard. The boombox and microphone fall.

MARISOL

Noooo!!!

Marisol tries to run as her mother whoops her butt.

INT: HADDOX HOUSEHOLD - DAY - SIX YEARS LATER

Marisol has a dress on, makeup, sets up a webcam, flowers, and candles around her. She sticks a flower in her hair. She takes a deep breath, pulls out her keyboard, presses live stream.

MARISOL

Don't worry about a thing', Cause  
every little thing gonna be alright,  
Singing' don't worry about a thing',  
Cause every little thing gonna be  
alright.

Marisol checks the time.

MARISOL

Rise up this mornin', Smiled with the  
risin' sun, Three little birds Pitch  
by my doorstep, Singin' sweet songs Of  
melodies pure and true, Saying', (this  
is my message to you).

Marisol smiles seeing her followers watching her performance.

MARISOL

Singing' don't worry 'bout a thing',  
Cause every little thing gonna be  
alright, Singing' don't worry (don't  
worry) 'bout a thing', Cause every  
little thing gonna be alright.

She glances out of a shade covered window, hearing something.

MARISOL

Rise up this mornin', Smiled with the  
risin' sun, Three little birds, Pitch  
by my doorstep, Singin' sweet songs Of  
melodies pure and true, Sayin', this  
is my message to you.

Singing' don't worry 'bout a thing',  
Cause every little thing gonna be  
alright, Singing' don't worry (don't  
worry) 'bout a thing', Cause every  
little thing gonna be alright.

She looks outside again worriedly, smiles, and blows a kiss  
to her audience.

MARISOL

Thanks so much for watching! Be sure  
to like and follow and tell a friend!  
Most of all, remember everything's  
going to be all right! Got to go!!

She stops the recording, covers up her keyboard and props  
quickly, slips off the dress revealing her school outfit.  
Turns out the light and escapes down a back ladder.

INT: HADDOX HOUSEHOLD - GARAGE - DAY

Henri Etta opens the garage door looking around frantically.

HENRI ETTA

Marisol? Marisol where are you?

Marisol emerges from behind the car, backpack on, a bottle of  
glue in her hand, acting nonchalantly.

MARISOL

I'm right here, are you ready?

HENRI ETTA

What? Why do you disappear like that!  
And why do you always end up in the  
garage? Make me feel like I'm losing  
my mind.

MARISOL

Mother! You know I want to ace my  
driving exam! Plus I left my glue  
stick in dad's car. It's still, I  
mean, I still think he's taking me.

HENRI ETTA

Baby, it's been over a year.

MARISOL

I know, I know. It's still a huge void in my life.

HENRI ETTA

Ugh, I know baby, I miss him too. I keep thinking he'll be walking in that door demanding dinner. After a year! Oh, I'm so sorry.

They embrace for a moment.

HENRI ETTA

Okay, we need to go or you'll be late. I hope you ate, I didn't see you eat anything. A growing young lady needs to eat properly...

Marisol realizes she still has the flower in her hair. Walking behind her mom she fumbles with the stem pulling it out as her mother is preoccupied.

HENRI ETTA

Need to keep a proper diet, not all of that damn cupcakes and brownies I know you young people love to inhale. Got to keep your mind strong for your studies, getting into a good college...

MARISOL

Yes, mother.

HENRI ETTA

What in pray tell are you doing to your hair? God bless it!

Marisol has managed to get rid of the flower but still struggles with leaf remains.

MARISOL

That bush was too close...

HENRI ETTA

Oh, Marisol.

Henri Etta gives Marisol the keys to the car.

MARISOL

Are you sure?

HENRI ETTA

Can you get us there in one piece? Or will we have to fight bushes?

MARISOL

I got you! Let's go.

They climb in as Marisol checks everything in the driver's seat to be correct as Henri Etta rolls her eyes.

HENRI ETTA

If you don't get this car started and be on our way. Goodness.

MARISOL

Yes, mother.

She turns on the car, rap music comes on. Marisol looks in shock as Henri Etta sneers, turns it off violently.

MARISOL

It wasn't me!

HENRI ETTA

Who let the devil enter this vehicle! This is my vehicle! Demon be gone!

MARISOL

You let MAURICE drive to the corner store last night! Just because he has his driver's license you let him do what he wants!

HENRI ETTA

Your brother and I will be having a serious talk! Let's go!

Henri Etta turns on the gospel music station and relaxes on the drive to school.

INT: DARK MUSIC CLUB - NIGHT (DREAM)

A WOMAN in silhouette, the stage lights envelop her, she faces the AUDIENCE with her back to a young Marisol, sitting on a speaker, playing with dolls. STAGEHANDS run around. The audience claps until the Woman raises her arm, and sings.

WOMAN

Morning light, silken dream take  
flight, As the darkness gives way to  
the dawn, You've survived, now, your  
moment has arrived, Now, your dream  
has finally been born...

Marisol is suddenly pelted by flower stems, she looks to see  
the woman trying to sing but the audience has turned hostile.

INT: HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Marisol is pelted by fruit snacks. It's fourth-period  
geometry. Her friend KANDACE is attempting to get her  
attention.

KANDACE

Girl, you best be woke in Mr.  
CRAFORD's class! He will have you in  
detention in pelican bay!

MARISOL

Swimming with the fishes. Haha.

KANDACE

Working on the chain gain.

MARISOL

Sent to purgatory!

KANDACE

OH hell, he's looking over this way!

Kandace flips through her textbook-like she's actually  
reading.

CRAFORD

And in the primitive operations convex  
hull the closest pair is a Voronezh  
diagram...

He walks the opposite way.

KANDACE

Foreign language class makes more  
sense than here! I see why you sleep!

INT: HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAYS - DAY

Marisol and Kandace leave for the next classes among other  
STUDENTS.

MARISOL

Do you ever have a recurring dream  
that bothers you immensely but doesn't  
make any sense?

KANDACE

I have one about Dave East but that's  
here nor there.

MARISOL

Ew! Kandace! As if!

KANDACE

What? He fine!

MARISOL

Too many tattoos, can't do it. He  
cute, but I hate it when they cover  
natural skin up.

KANDACE

Sound like an old bidy.

MARISOL

Shut it.

A friend BAILEY pushes by.

BAILEY

Marisol. Marisol. Marisol.

MARISOL

What the hell Bailey.

KANDACE

Nerd!

BAILEY

Kick rocks Kandy!

They push each other as Marisol breaks it up.

MARISOL

What is up Bailey?!

BAILEY

Did you hear about it huh? Did you  
hear?

MARISOL

Hear what? You're not making sense.



Bailey!

KANDACE

Oh, I hate her!

Bailey swings around Marisol, Kandace jabs at her as they scuffle. Marisol has to break it up again. The bell rings.

MARISOL

Bailey! Focus!

BAILEY

Right! The talent competition! They're doing auditions this Friday in the gym! The top prize is the \$1000 scholarship for college! You in? You in? You in?

KANDACE

I will kill!

MARISOL

Talent completion? Really?

BAILEY

They said something about qualifying for the big Demmo America competition at the mall!

KANDACE

Wait, the TV show? With that dreamy VERTY GREEN? It's better than the Voice and Idol!

The principal MR. GUDGEL is waving his hands in the hallway.

BAILEY

Gotta go!

KANDACE

Crazy white girl gave a good idea. Maybe we can get the band back together?

MARISOL

I don't have songs ready!

KANDACE

We can get 'em!

GUDGELO

Get to class!

Marisol gazes over the competition poster on the wall. She nods to the principal as they make it to class.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - END OF DAY - DAY

The bell rings as hundreds of students pour out to waiting for school buses and rides home. Marisol walks towards her brother Maurice who is huddled with his friends ANTWAN and JORGE rap freestyling. Jorge is on the beatbox and slaps. Kandace and IRRIH are cheering them on.

ANTWAN

When they see us it's neglectful, we not up to their so-called standards so we expendable, look at us cross-eyed we must be cannibals, they capped and napped us here we were treated lower than animals, less humane than the damn carnivores, the blue enemy ends a brother it's simply 'what did he do', don't let Fido get got than it's full domestic warfare, maybe I need to be one of those freak suckas in a furry, then I'll get my God-given rights in a hurry, when they see the real me damn it then I'll be run over like roadkill, can't win in this game it's too stressful, no wonder we turn to narcotics and be alcoholics, they love keeping us down and be traumatic, I got something for them, it will be automatic...

CROWD

Ooooh!

MAURICE

Speak on it, God. The precious commodity is life, the ultimate gift, some of us cherish it, some of us don't give a shit, we sour his name stressing over riches and material filth, who's got the biggest Johnson, who keeps up with the bitch ass Jones, forget the Jones and let love rule over who Trumps who, don't trip over that sour milk, it's not time to consume forbidden fruits, wasting

precious time denying the truth, the truth is deep inside you, the tree of life, keep it pushing and push past strife, you only live once - 100% yolo not to be brushed off, leap over those obstacles, no delaying, keep slaying, the true game not virtual insanity, finish him it's a fatality, my plea is a simple formality, conquer this shit king, its no analogy, the world is yours, my God, let's finale it!

MARISOL

To the hippity hop, don't stop get it get it!

KANDACE

Marisol! Stop!

MAURICE

Ahh, Sis, you got jokes.

He laughs and gives her a hug.

ANTWAN

Was killing that flow homie!

IRRIH

I heard we're entering that competition. You guys on it?

MARISOL

Oh, who's we?

IRRIH

Uh, tadow, us! We putting back Femme Fatale or mama going to nix us again?

MAURICE

Really sis, you going to rock that competition? You know I have your back moms get wind of it.

MARISOL

Are you entering it?

ANTWAN

Hell ya. We will decimate! You should join us, Marisol.

Antwan has been crushing on Marisol.

MARISOL

Sorry, Twan, we ladies got our own thang, don't we?

KANDACE

Oh yes! We back at it! Not inviting that loony tunes Bailey are you?

JORGE

Hey Irrih, you pulling out those tables? We should battle.

MARISOL

Bailey has those drum skills you know this Kandy.

KANDACE

Ughhhh.

IRRIH

And, hmmm if I pull out my tables you may just show lil ol me up huh Jorge.

MAURICE

There's mom, wouldn't want the wrath of Kahn.

KANDACE

Oh, tell Miss Haddox I say hi guys! Bye Maurice!

MARISOL

Quit it Kandace! So boy crazy! Hmmm, boy crazy...

Henri Etta is waving from the parking lot, they start to walk towards her waving goodbye to their friends. Kandace and Irrih walk in the opposite direction as the boys board a bus.

IRRIH

I've been practicing, I would decimate him. He just don't know!

KANDACE

Irrih mon! You go!

MARISOL

Say anything to mom and I will gut you in your sleep.

MAURICE

Hey, I have my own habits to hide.  
It's like she has extra eyes all over.  
You sure the house isn't wired?

MARISOL

Mom is too old school for Big Brother.  
I did see her eavesdropping by your  
door the other day.

MAURICE

What! Why didn't you throw up a smoke  
signal or something? Crap! What did  
she hear?

MARISOL

Check your missed calls, you always  
pick up, don't you? Brother!

MAURICE

Got damn! Sister!

HENRI ETTA

What was that? Reece?

They are still several paces away.

MAURICE

How she hear that?

INT: HADDOX FAMILY CAR - DAY

They climb into the sedan as Henri Etta nods her head to  
Gospel tunes. The kids slouch in their seats.

HENRI ETTA

So how was school today kids, anything  
new?

MAURICE

No.

MARISOL

No mother, same thing.

HENRI ETTA

What did you say, boy? I didn't  
understand.

MAURICE

I said no. Nothing. Nothing at all.

HENRI ETTA

Quit mumbling son, and stop slouching.  
Ruin your posture.

MARISOL

I just have some English homework I need to do. If you could drop me off at the mall earlier I could get it done before work.

HENRI ETTA

No no. I need your help children to drop off a few care packages for the church. I know your homework is important but I need this done quickly before these food packages perish. Homework can be finished as soon as your jobs are done.

MAURICE

Oh goodness, we're not going by that creep SAMMEST home, are you? I'm not about that, no uh.

HENRI ETTA

Maurice! God would strike you down speaking about his people like that. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people...

MAURICE

I know, I know, ...but you shall love your **neighbor** as yourself; I am the Lord. Leviticus 19:18. I know, I know moms, you've repeated since birth. I still don't want to see that creep!

Henri Etta glares at him in the rear view.

HENRI ETTA

Kids, I simply need your assistance. I can't do all this by myself. Help your mother, is that the least you can do for all I've done for you ungrateful kids.

MARISOL

I'll take it up to her.

MAURICE

Him.

She glares at him again.

HENRI ETTA

Thank you Marisol, you know God's light will shine down on you. God doesn't like ugly.

She stops the car in front of a nondescript cottage home. A HOME HEALTH AIDE scurries down the walkway disheveled. She looks at them, shudders before escaping in her car quickly.

MAURICE

That aide looks shook, I don't know about this mom. That thing could be skipped this time.

HENRI ETTA

Maurice! Enough!

EXT: SAMMEST HOME - DAY

Marisol gets out of the car and looks nervously around the small will keep grounds.

MARISOL

Which bag is it mom?

HENRI ETTA

It's marked gluten-free, sugar-free, no salt, extra antioxidants.

MAURICE

Might as well take him a piece of cardboard.

HENRI ETTA

No more Maurice!

Marisol gulps holding the bags, stares at the cottage before walking the seemingly long walk through the small yard. She puts the bags down and rings the doorbell. Waits, rings again, finally she hears some scuffling, a loud snort. Long black fingernails grip the door as SAMMEST fumbles with it.

SAMMEST

Yes, child, what the hell do you want? I don't have no got damn money.

Sammest merely peers halfway up through a small crack in the door. Large eyes stare Marisol down as she gulps.

SAMMEST

Speak Damn it!

MARISOL

Uh, uh, my mom sent me over, this is from United C.M.E.

SAMMEST

Who the hell? I don't need no got damn handouts lil bitch! Who sent you? Who sent you?

Sammest starts to rise behind the door, gripping it with the long fingers harder. Marisol starts to back up nervously.

SAMMEST

Henri Etta! Henri Etta!

Sammest stops, standing more erect behind the door, glares at Marisol. Sammest looks out towards the car, softens.

SAMMEST

Heifer why didn't you say Miss Haddox. Wait, are you her daughter?

MARISOL

Yes, yes uh...

SAMMEST

Thanks.

Marisol backs up slowly watching. Sammest reaches a long scaly arm slowly, long stringy dark hair drapes along with the door. Sammest fondles the bags, drags them in. Marisol makes it back to the car shaken up.

HENRI ETTA

See, that wasn't so bad. I don't know what's wrong with you kids.

Maurice snickers and looks at Marisol.

MAURICE

Sis, you okay?

Marisol nods.



MAURICE

White as a ghost. Those long-ass scaly tentacles got you huh.

Marisol nods and bites her lip, slouching down in her seat. Henri Etta sighs.

EXT: TOWNE MALL - DAY

Marisol rushes out of the car.

HENRI ETTA

Tell them we had something important to do. Put it on me! I'm sorry dear!

MARISOL

That's not going to work mother!

Marisol yells rushing into work. Maurice shakes his head and pats his mother's back as she brushes him off.

INT: FASHION STORE - TOWNE MALL - DAY

Marisol rushes into work, puts her backpack down, clocks in. Her co-worker IDA tries to approach.

IDA

Hey, heads up KATHLEEN has been on warpath.

Before she can reply Kathleen comes out of the storeroom.

KATHLEEN

So elated you could join us.

MARISOL

I'm so sorry, we hit traffic on the way over.

KATHLEEN

What, a flock of cheerleaders crossed your path? The track team speared your car with the javelin? It does not take that long to get here from your high school.

MARISOL

I said I'm sorry, it won't happen again. I'm just a few minutes late.

KATHLEEN

Few minutes my ass. That's a few minutes of missed sales. Several of your people were already in here.

MARISOL

Wait, what? My people? What people?

KATHLEEN

Don't let it happen again! I can get another girl easily like you that will take your spot happily!

MARISOL

I...

Kathleen has already stormed out of the backroom.

IDA

I'm so sorry.

INT: FASHION STORE TOWNE MALL - DAY

Marisol folds clothes on the sales floor as Ida and another crew MEMBER help CUSTOMERS. Loud popular music plays as KATHLEEN oversees from the register. Kandace and Irrih arrive.

KANDACE

I'm a savage classy, bougie, ratchet Sassy, moody, nasty. Acting stupid, what's happening? Bitch (whoa, whoa) What's happening?

Marisol joins Kandance and Irrih in the 'Savage' dance.

MARISOL

Ah, you all so crazy.

KANDACE

So bougie bitch are we doing this competition or what? Or worried moms going to kill you? Oh, snap this outfit is lit!

IRRIH

Did you see phase two of the event?

MARISOL

No, should I?

KANDACE

Oh, I would look sexy in this outfit!  
I should wear them for the  
competition!

IRRIH

Uh, yeah. It's right here in the mall.  
The judges from Demmo America will be  
right here.

KANDACE

OMG! I gots to look good for Verty  
Green!

IDA

Isn't that the creepy old singer who  
was with all those underage groupies  
back in the 90s? Nasty old man. I  
can't believe they put him back on  
television.

KANDACE

Who asked you? Go back to folding, or  
vacuuming whatever you were doing.

IRRIH

He was the leader of that one grimy  
band, what was it...

KANDACE

H-Town, Jodeci? They had some hot men.

MARISOL

As if Kandy. All those trifling old  
men could be your daddy. You're so boy  
crazy.

KANDACE

Who's your daddy, who's your daddy.  
Shit, could be your daddy.

IRRIH

Oh yah they were that Slyp and Slyde  
group. Slyp and Slyde In was their  
like one and only hit haha yes they  
were nasty. I think I was born to that  
eww.

IDA

Ugh, I think I was too also.

KANDACE

You? Really?

They laugh. Kathleen is upon them.

KATHLEEN

What is this, a native party? Let's go, ladies. Marisol, that couple needs your help. Go.

The girls all follow the gaze towards a BLACK COUPLE shopping.

KANDACE

Oh no she didn't?

KATHLEEN

Good day ladies.

MARISOL

We'll talk later girls. Kandy I believe I have a song for us to practice.

IRRIH

Well, let's get together at my house. We can brainstorm and practice. My dad already said I could use the garage. He said he used to have a garage band. Runs in the family.

MARISOL

Okay, that sounds cool. Yeah, let's do that.

KANDACE

Not that crazy girl Britni.

IRRIH

She is nice on those drums!

KANDACE

Ughhh.

They frown seeing Kathleen obviously nodding towards the couple. Irrih and Kandace start to leave.

KANDACE

Good, let's make it happen. We need to get you out of this trifling place.

KATHLEEN  
I said, good day ladies.

KANDACE  
Good day bitch!

Kandace dances to the hip-hop playing and throws a hip into a mannequin rocking it over.

KANDACE  
Hey all, don't let the hip-hop fool  
you, they racist!

Several ONLOOKERS peer into the store. Walk the opposite way. The black couple frown and leave. Kathleen stomps her feet.

KATHLEEN  
She comes back in here I'm calling  
robbery and trespassing and you'll be  
fired. Don't try me!

MARISOL  
What? Robbery? What? Are you  
seriously!

Kathleen is storming to the storeroom.

KATHLEEN  
Yes! Don't try me! I've had enough of  
this! I need a damn smoke! Go pick  
that up! Now!

Kathleen storms to the back as the other worker looks in shock. Marisol shuffles over to the mannequin.

MARISOL (MUTTERING)  
Crazy woman. And her behavior is okay?  
Really?

The clothes are dropping off of the mannequin as she struggles with it. Ida comes to her aid.

IDA  
Here, I got this side. I think you  
managed to have it backward.

MARISOL  
OH my goodness. What did you hear?

IDA  
Oh you're fine sweetie. You know

Kathleen isn't right. I'm so sorry she treats you this way. Someone needs to do something about her. What I heard earlier was more upsetting.

MARISOL

Oh, what was that?

IDA

You were what two-three minutes late? Kathleen was all over your shit. So, Miss prissy CLARICE over there arrived about an hour late... Guess what Kathleen did.

Marisol bites her lip, shakes her head no.

IDA (HIGH-PITCHED)

Oh is everything okay? Hopefully so, we were worried about you. Please call next time okay? Go get some sales!

MARISOL

Are you serious?

IDA

I swear on everything I love. I witnessed myself. Total double standards! My boyfriend even heard it over the phone you want me to get the second opinion. I have no reason to lie...

Marisol glares over at Clarice working, looking back at them. Kathleen walks past looking back over. Ida has her phone out, the boyfriend collaborating. Marisol frowns angrily.

INT. HOTEL - DAY

The hotel room is a complete wreck. Littered with empty alcohol bottles, half-eaten food, card games tossed about, smoking utensils, men, and women's clothes. The door card key activates and is struggled to push open with the weight of crap behind it. LEIGHMIKA NILES is well dressed in a professional blouse and skirt publicist for Demmo America.

LEIGHMIKA

Verty? What the hell? Oh, we'll never get the deposit back from this room. Verty!

She stumbles over clutter in the room, she hears him snoring loudly. She makes her way to the noise.

LEIGHMIKA

Verty! Hello! Where are you? Oh my, is that vomit?

Verty is lying face down in a drained hot tub covered only with Chinese take out cartons. He snores louder, farts.

LEIGHMIKA

Verty! Hello! Wakey wakey eggs and bakery! Ugh, you're baked alright. And stink.

She digs in her purse for a small blow horn. She blows loudly, he finally snorts and raises his head.

VERTY

No! It's not mine!

LEIGHMIKA

What? Oh for heavens sake.

She stumbles over to the window and fumbles with the digital curtain opener before finally letting in sunlight. Verty blinks, sunlight in his face.

VERTY

Mama, is that you?

LEIGHMIKA (SCREAMING)

I'll be that right now. And Mama said wake the hell up!

Verty groans and holds his head. Opens one eye.

VERTY

Ah shit, Leighmika, morning. Come back at check out. For real. I'll have this place cleared out.

LEIGHMIKA

Check out was five hours ago meathead! The network already paid for another night to give you extra time, and they're pissed. This time it's coming out of your advance.

VERTY

Ah damn. Well, shit, I can sleep now.

Good night.

LEIGHMIKA

Think again moron, you have a press junket with the other judges at five and the reporter from Rolling Stone is here for that exclusive interview you granted. You were supposed to be on a plane tonight for your next auditioning! Damn Verty, oh goodness, aren't you too old for all this? You didn't get enough of this when you were in your uh, heyday.

VERTY

Hey, hey, you're only as old as you feel. I have plenty of good years left. I resent your candor.

LEIGHMIKA

What? Do you even know what you're saying? Isn't it time to settle down, have time for that special someone? Slow it down. You've told me before about...

VERTY

Mika! Shut it down! That time you caught me was a vulnerable time! Don't speak it again! I don't have anyone!

LEIGHMIKA

Well, typically you still have some trifling young groupies still in here. With your old ass. Could be their damn daddy.

Leighmika steps on a lump of clutter. A random groupie exits.

RANDOM GROUPIE

Fils de pute!!

LEIGHMIKA (SCREAMING)

OH heavens!

The woman kisses her hand in pain, glares at Leighmika.

RANDOM GROUPIE

Qui êtes vous! ça fait mal!



LEIGHMIKA

French huh? I should have known. Lady  
- Sors ton cul maintenant ou sois  
arrêt!

Verty groans and nods.

VERTY

Go on doll, get your friend. We'll  
hook up again. It was a blast. / What  
did you say to her?

LEIGHMIKA

Get your ass out of here or you'll be  
arrested. Something to that effect.

Random groupie sucks her hurt hand as she pouts, angrily  
walking towards the bedroom. Verty shakes his head.

RANDOM GROUPIE

Je vais te botter le cul en premier!

LEIGHMIKA

Your mama.

Leighmika watches as she wanders around oddly gathering her  
things. She finally opens the closest door and partial  
clothed RANDOM GROUPIE II falls over onto the floor.

LEIGHMIKA

What in Sam hill?

RANDOM GROUPIE II

Qui c'est? Qui est là?

RANDOM GROUPIE

Cette salope nous met dehors!

LEIGHMIKA

Let her call me a bitch again. Did you  
get I.D?

VERTY

Ayo, send that reporter away. I don't  
have time for all that. My head is  
banging. Tell her I got a funeral to  
attend or something. I don't care.

ANTOINETTE

Is this how you always treat the  
press? You were already blacklisted

back in the early 2000s after slugging  
a cameraman.

VERTY

Antoinette Lanier, where the hell did  
you come from?

LEIGHMIKA

Miss Lanier! You were supposed to be  
waiting for him in the lobby! Wait, oh  
no! I'm not signing off for non-  
authorized pictures!

The journalist's cameraman FREDDY FINCH is navigating clutter  
while snapping pics. Leighmika shakes him down.

LEIGHMIKA

Give me that camera! Hand it over!

FREDDY

You crazy lady!

ANTOINETTE

Good to see you also Verty. Happy to  
see me or is that your daytime casual  
attire?

VERTY

Funny Antoinette. You have me a bit  
disposed at the moment. Can we reset  
and do this a bit later? I didn't mean  
any harm. I just wasn't ready.  
Obviously.

ANTOINETTE

Maybe a drink after the press junket?  
Still a scotch man? I'm buying.

VERTY

Don't be trying to get me intoxicated,  
never know what may happen.

ANTOINETTE

You. On a plane. Heading for your next  
auditioning. No worries.

LEIGHMIKA

No! No! No!

FREDDY

Watch it lady!

RANDOM GROUPIE  
Femme folle!!

Verty and Antoinette watch the chaos around them as Freddy uses the groupies as a shield to escape. Leighmika boxes with Groupie II.

VERTY  
We did have a blast in Amsterdam.

ANTOINETTE  
Uh huh. Never again. No chance in hell  
Verty Green. Good seeing you though.  
Drinks on me.

VERTY  
Holding you to it. Good to see you  
again.

Verty watches her walk out of the room as Leighmika chases Freddy and the French groupies escape out of the back door.

INT. HADDOX HOUSEHOLD- GARAGE

Marisol sets up a live stream in her secret studio.

MARISOL  
So, guess what guys. My band Femme  
Fatale is going to be auditioning for  
the one and only Demmo Competition  
coming here! Yes, that tv show with  
Verty Green, DIAMOND REYNOLDS, and  
DANNY GROOVES. I can't wait. We're  
working on an original song I'm sure  
you're going to love. For now, check  
me out doing ALICIA KEYS.

Marisol plays the keys to No One on her keyboard.

MARISOL  
I just want you close, Where you can  
stay forever, You can be sure, That it  
will only get better.

You and me together, Through the days  
and nights, I don't worry 'cause,  
Everything's gonna be alright, People  
keep talking, they can say what they  
like, But all I know is everything's  
gonna be alright

And no one, no one, no one Can get in  
the way of what I'm feeling, No one,  
no one, no one Can get in the way of  
what I feel for you, you, you, Can get  
in the way of what I feel for you

When the rain is pouring down, And my  
heart is hurting, You will always be  
around, This I know for certain.

You and me together, Through the days  
and nights, I don't worry 'cause,  
Everything's gonna be alright

Henri Etta is yelling up the attic ladder.

HENRI ETTA

Marisol! Are you up there! Do you hear  
me!

Marisol bites her lip, looks into the live stream camera  
unsure. Her followers responded with her.

FOLLOWERS

Oh no! Big bad mama!

FOLLOWERS

Run! Hide! Scatter!

HENRI ETTA

I heard music up there! Marisol now!

MARISOL (WHISPERS)

Bye guys! Love you!

She turns off the live stream and hurriedly hides her music  
stash.

MARISOL

Mom? Is that you? I didn't hear you  
calling.

HENRI ETTA

You damn well did! You best not be  
playing that devil music up there! Get  
down here now!

Marisol grabs an old book before coming down the ladder.

HENRI ETTA

What were you doing up there? Why do I

always find you somewhere near the dank garage? Think you want to move in there or something. Bring you a cot in here baby?

MARISOL

I was looking for this old book from 5th grade! I'm going to use it for a report on Astrology.

HENRI ETTA

Really? An old 5th-grade book? I wasn't born yesterday now. Don't lie to me.

MARISOL

I'm not, it has great information!

HENRI ETTA

Uh huh, sure. Look we need to go.

MARISOL

Wait, go where? I had a study session with my friends tonight.

HENRI ETTA

That will have to wait. We need to go across town and see your grandmother. She's not feeling well and we may need to take her to the doctor. I'll need you there for any help.

MARISOL

Seriously? You can't help her on her own?

HENRI ETTA

Marisol! Don't get sassy with me! I know school is important but your family is not in your way! You will have plenty of time for your schoolwork.

MARISOL

Grandma doesn't even like me. I don't understand why you do so much for mean people!

HENRI ETTA

Marisol! Remember **Joshua 24:15** And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the

Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

MARISOL

Ugh! I've heard it! I get it! What about Maurice? What's he got so important to do?

HENRI ETTA

Marisol! Don't you mock your mother and don't you mock the Lord! You're not too old to whip! Your brother is working! Now get in that car so we can go!

MARISOL (MUTTERING)

I bet. He playing video games with his stupid friends.

HENRI ETTA

What was that? Speak up!

MARISOL

Nothing Mom!

They climb into the car, Marisol texts Kandace, Britni, and Issih.

MARISOL

I'm stuck with moms! Practice without me, please!

Marisol sits back and sulks in the car as Henri Etta looks at her sideways.

INT: IRRIH'S GARAGE -AFTERNOON

Irrih cuts record's back and forth on a turntable as Kandace attempts to keep up with the guitar.

KANDACE

Where's these brats at?

Irrih grabs her phone. Frowns.

IRRIH

Marisol is stuck at her grandmother's.

She's not coming.

KANDACE  
 Seriously? That lil cunt!

IRRIH  
 I'm asking if she can share any files  
 with us.

KANDACE  
 As if.

IRRIH  
 Nothing. Do we have anything? Anything  
 ready?

KANDACE  
 No, screw it. I'm out.

IRRIH  
 Wait, Kandace...

KANDACE  
 Peace!

Kandace packs up her guitar and storms out of the home right  
 when Bailey comes in with her drumsticks.

BAILEY  
 What did I miss?

IRRIH  
 Looks like our fabulous girls band is  
 done before it's even began.

Irrih scratches 'No Mistakes Allowed' on the turntables.

EXT: MOTHER'S CAR - EVENING

Marisol receives a frantic text from Irrih.

IRRIH  
 Everything is melting.

Marisol sighs, looks at the passing by landscape.

MARISOL (SINGING)  
 After all that we've been through I  
 will make it up to you, I promise to  
 after all that's been said and done  
 Your just a part of me I can't let go