

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO TIFFANY METTS?

Written by

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TITLE CARD:

20 years ago...

INT. BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

A geek chic and very colorfully dressed Black man in his late teens is listening to earphones. He's walking with a stack of books and singing Bell Biv Devo's "POSITION".

This is CORNIELUS SHARPE. He geeks over to a desk that has even more books on it. He tries to put his books on the table but drops them on the floor mistakenly.

He bends down to pick them up. He pauses when a slender manicured hand helps him. He picks up his books and then his jaw when he sees who's helping him.

She's a boundless ball of optimistic energy wrapped in a chocolate covered dream. TIFFANY METTS.

She's speaking to him but he can't hear because he still has his earphones on. She reaches out to him and gently takes his earphones off.

TIFFANY

Great voice! But I think you dropped these because you were screwing up the lyrics. It's "It's driviiiing me out of my miiiind. That's why she..."

She gestures her hands to him to continue the lyrics.

CORNIELUS

Oh uuuh "that's why IT'S hard for me to find..."

TIFFANY

Um, no. The lyrics are "That's why SHE'S hard for me to find."

CORNIELUS

Naaaaah. You may be right on a 1,000 things, but the lyrics to "POSITION"? I'll take that bet ten times out of ten.

TIFFANY

Ooooh, you're a betting man, huh?

CORNIELUS

Uh, only when I know I'll win.

TIFFANY

Well what's the fun in that?

CORNIELUS

What do you mean?

TIFFANY

I mean I'm looking at all these books and I'm wondering how can you possibly have any fun reading all of this? You seem like "Captain Non-Spontaneous" to me.

CORNIELUS

HAHA! "Captain Non-Spontaneous"? I'm plenty spontaneous!

TIFFANY

Yeah?

CORNIELUS

Yeah.

TIFFANY

Close your eyes.

CORNIELUS

What? Why?

TIFFANY

Um if I tell you than it wouldn't be spontaneous, would it, Captain?

CORNIELUS

Ok, hold on. I'm trusting you here.

He closes his eyes and squints his face, nervous.

CORNIELUS (CONT'D)

Can I open them now? Uh...hello?

He opens his eyes and looks around. He's disappointed that she's nowhere to be seen.

He looks over to his desk and sees his books are organized and a piece of paper with something scribbled on it.

Her name and phone number with a smiley face instead of the "A". He can't wipe the smile off his face. JORDAN CLARK, a muscular Black man similar in age to Corneilus but triple the swag, swaggers his way over.

JORDAN

Daaaamn, who is THAT?

CORNIELUS
Tiffany Metts? She's my future...

NOW:

INT. JO-JO'S PLACE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The place is jumping with PATRONS and there's a live JAZZ BAND playing. At one of the tables, a group of FEMALE PATRONS are arguing with CORNIELUS SHARPE now in his late 30's.

His geek chicness is cranked up past 11 now. Besides his colorful suit, he's delightfully uptight. The main woman arguing is ALLANA YOON. She's a blackanese fireball in her late 20's wearing a marathon medal. She's pissed.

CORNIELUS
Ma'am I understand your frustration. As the co-owner of this establishment I personally will comp' this meal for you.

ALLANA
That's not good enough. My friend here is allergic to peanuts and we specifically told the waiter that. I think you should comp' the meal AND the drinks.

CORNIELUS
Ma'am that's unreasonable. All you needed to do was switch plat-

ALLANA
-No I don't think so! Now I-

JORDAN CLARK, now in his late 30's, walks up to them. His swag is on Billy Dee "Mahogany" now.

JORDAN
Evening ladies. Corny. Is there anything I can do to help?

ALLANA
And you are?

JORDAN
Oh hey, darlin', I'm Jordan Clark. I'm the other owner of the place.

He reaches out and shakes her hand.

ALLANA

Wow you got quite the grip there.

CORNIELUS

He's overcompensating.

FEMALE PATRON #1

Jordan Clark the baseball player?!

JORDAN

Yup, that's me.

The ladies excitedly jump up and take selfies with him. Only Allana doesn't stand up. She's passionately staring at him. Jordan's soaking it up, annoying the hell out of Cornielus.

CORNIELUS

Well this has been great. Glad I could help, ladies.

JORDAN

Ok, I'll comp half the meal AND half the drinks. Is that ok? We opened recently and really want be known for our customer service.

ALLANA

Well maybe there's one more thing you can do for me.

JORDAN

Yeah? What's that?

ALLANA

Can you show me to the ladies room?

Jordan smirks devilishly at her and nods towards the restroom area. She gets up and follows him.

CORNIELUS

Uh yeah the restroom is a uhhh little crowded. I'd probably give your athletic looking friend there 15 minutes or so.

FEMALE PATRON #1

Wow she's had a helluva day, huh? First she wins her marathon now she meets a baseball legend.

CORNIELUS

Wait, she's a marathon runner?

FEMALE PATRON #1
Yup. She's a triathlete.

CORNIELUS
Actually nah, don't wait up.

Cornielus's pocket vibrates and he takes his phone out. He sees it's a Skype call from a white women in her 30's, JANE KELLY. He walks to the busy kitchen to answer it.

INT. JO-JO'S PLACE KITCHEN - NIGHT

CORNIELUS (CONT'D)
Hey baby! What's up? I should be back in about an hour.

JANE
Hey honey. I uuuhh yeah. I just...

CORNIELUS
What's up babe?

JANE
It's not working with us. I've filed for divorce.

CORNIELUS
I-I-what?!

JANE
Yeah this whole thing just isn't working for me. Sorry Cornielus!

CORNIELUS
You're divorcing me? Over Skype?!

JANE
Yeeeeeah I know but I just thought it would be less awkward, ya know what I mean?

He stares blankly at her as we see all the kitchen workers have paused their work to eavesdrop on their call.

CORNIELUS
Well uh no I don't know what you mean. What the fuck, Jane?!

JANE
You had to have seen this coming. Maybe you'll learn to be a little more exciting in the future? Being married to you makes me feel like I'm an old ass lady or something.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

When it comes to getting out of your comfort zone you can be a bit of a coward. I want more than that.

CORNIELUS

Yeah I-uh-wait I-I don't think-

JANE

-You'll be fine, though! You're a great guy! Just boring as fuck. Ok bye! Good luck, ok?

She hangs up. Cornelius is frozen with embarrassment and confusion. He looks around and the other workers are staring at him awkwardly. He storms out of the kitchen.

INT. CORNIELUS'S CONDO - NIGHT

Cornelius runs into his condo. Packed boxes are everywhere.

CORNIELUS

JANE?! JANE?! JANE ARE YOU HERE?!

He runs around the condo, checking every room as Jordan walks in. Cornelius turns to him with tears in his eyes.

CORNIELUS (CONT'D)

How did she...how did she pack so fast? I don't-I made her pancakes this morning, Jo. She told me she loved me and offered to wash the dishes so I wouldn't be late for work. We went Salsa dancing the other day. Said it would help me lighten up and be more "exciting". I...Why did she divorce me?! Why did she divorce me, Jo? She didn't even give us a chance to fix us!

Jordan says nothing and gives a strong hug as Cornelius cries on his shoulder.

INT. CORNIELUS'S CONDO - MORNING

Cornelius is sleeping on his couch as Jordan is over in the connected kitchen shirtless with his earphones on. Empty beer bottles and Chinese food cartons are strewn across the floor.

On the kitchen counter, Jordan's video chatting with a regal African American woman in her late 30's.

Nah not just regal. She's Regina King at the '19 Oscars regal. SANDRA FERNANDES. Jordan's cooking breakfast.

SANDRA

That's pretty sweet that you stayed over night with your friend. How can she just divorce him like that?

JORDAN

Well, Jane was never the warm fuzzy type. I never liked her to begin with to be honest with you.

SANDRA

Well maybe it was something HE did. You ever think about that?

JORDAN

Sure yeah it could be something he did but unlike SOME people I can admit when something is my fault.

SANDRA

WHOA! How did this become about YOU all of a sudden?

JORDAN

Oh please you know where this was going, Sandy.

SANDRA

Where it always does, about you.

JORDAN

About US! C'mon, how long are we doing this stupid split for? Didn't we have a good thing going?

SANDRA

You know what I want, Jordan. Have you changed your position?

JORDAN

I, uhhh...c'mon, Sandy.

SANDRA

Exactly. Have a good day, Jordan. You let ME know if and when you change your mind. I love you.

JORDAN

I love you too, babe.

Cornielus stirs and stumbles his way up.

CORNIELUS

Were you just speaking to Sandra?

JORDAN
How did you know that?

CORNIELUS
You're cooking breakfast with no shirt on. The very definition of "forcing it" and "trying too hard".

JORDAN
Yeah, she says "hi." How're you feelin', bruh?

CORNIELUS
Hungover. Hungthefuckover.

He looks around and doesn't see any boxes.

CORNIELUS (CONT'D)
W-wait. Where are all the boxes?

JORDAN
I threw that shit outside.

CORNIELUS
Wait, are you serious?

JORDAN
Fuckin' right.

Cornielus runs to the window and looks outside. All the boxes are out front with the trash.

CORNIELUS
Haha! Dude I-

JORDAN
-Don't think nothing of it. Woman's got some damn sort of nerve.

CORNIELUS
Hey I appreciate that. So. You and Sandra getting back together?

JORDAN
Nah. She hasn't changed her mind. She still wants the one thing I can't give her.

CORNIELUS
"Can't" or "won't"?

Jordan smokes out of a vape pen.

JORDAN

SO let's get back to your drive-by divorce. What are YOU going to do? I mean between now and wife #4?

CORNIELUS

The hell's that supposed to mean?

JORDAN

Man you've been married three times in six years. You've got more back to back rings than LeBron James.

CORNIELUS

So I believe in the institution of marriage. What the hell's so wrong with that?

JORDAN

Not a damn thing but you act like you're not a real man if you're not married or something, man.

CORNIELUS

Well damn, don't act like I'm the only one that needs a good woman around. You need a different good woman around every other day.

JORDAN

Damn right. Keeps the bed in shape.

CORNIELUS

Yeah, tell that to Sandra.

JORDAN

Look, this ain't about me! I told you when you met Jane that she's an obnoxious ditz who only cares about herself. I told you Terry was all about that loot and she damn near Bankrupt you. Oh and Maria? The Jury's still out on her, huh?

CORNIELUS

Not anymore. They convicted her of tax evasion and fraud last week.

JORDAN

...Well damn.

CORNIELUS

Yeah.

JORDAN

So, anyway. What are you going to do now? I would suggest you just take some time off to figure out what YOU want to do with YOURSELF.

CORNIELUS

Great. Here comes love advice from a former professional athlete who probably slept with as many women as he's had plate appearances.

JORDAN

More.

CORNIELUS

What?

JORDAN

Nothing. Look, all I'm saying is I think you should take at least the next month or so off from non restaurant business and focus on YOU. If you even remember who the hell "YOU" are.

CORNIELUS

She said I'm a boring coward. I wasn't exciting enough for her.

JORDAN

Oh wow, really? Hmmph. Wooow. What would make her say that? Crazy.

CORNIELUS

Jackass, I can hear the sarcasm. You agree with her?!

JORDAN

I mean yeah, kinda.

CORNIELUS

C'mon man-

JORDAN

-Dude, back in the day we had all types of fun. Remember those crazy karaoke nights? You had swag, man. "Geek chic" swag but swag none-the-damn-less. What did I tell you about how you should walk into a room?

CORNIELUS

"Walk into a room like you already
fucked every woman in it."

JORDAN

No see, you don't listen. "Like you
fucked EVERYONE in the room"! What
happened to that?

CORNIELUS

That was the worst advice ever!

JORDAN

It works for me.

CORNIELUS

Yes it works for YOU. Not so much
for Sandra but-

JORDAN

-Here we go. Trying to deflect back
to me because you know I'm right.
I'm just saying, you were a lot
more confident and exciting when we
were in college. Now me? I'm
exciting enough for both of us so
it don't bother me none.

CORNIELUS

Jo...I was with...Tiffany back then.
SHE made me those things. I was
never that on my own.

JORDAN

Oh. Right. Well...

Cornielus sinks into the couch. Jordan doesn't press the
issue anymore.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Alright. I need to get the
restaurant ready. Love, ya man.
Take the day off. We'll rap later.

Cornielus nods to him and Jordan leaves. Cornielus picks up a
picture of he and Jane. He hurls it and shatters it against
the wall in anger. He puts his face in his hands in despair.

FLASHBACK:

EXT. BOSTON COMMONS PARK - DAY

Cornielus and Tiffany are jogging.

Tiffany's laughing at him as he's barely keeping up with her. She starts jogging backwards.

TIFFANY

Hey c'mon, Baby Cakes, you can't keep up with little ole me?

CORNIELUS

"Baby Cakes?! I'm...j-j-ust trying to make you look good!

TIFFANY

Ooooh that's so sweet of you. Can we catch our breath over here at the bench? Uh for me?

CORNIELUS

Oh. Yeah for you, sure.

They pause over by a bench. She takes that time to stretch while he plops on the bench.

TIFFANY

Your best friend is one of the best athletes in the NCAA. You guys don't ever workout together?

CORNIELUS

Nah that dude's a gym freak. Probably juices up.

TIFFANY

Wow, way to throw your fiend under the bus! I watched that interview he did on ESPN. He seems pretty chill. Well, except when they asked about his father abandoning him.

CORNIELUS

Nah, he's a GREAT dude. His father bailed before he was born and he used that as fuel to get where he is now. I talk trash but he's the best guy I know. He wants me to be his agent when he goes pro.

TIFFANY

Word! Are you going to do it?

CORNIELUS

I don't know. I can't see myself doing business with a friend. It usually doesn't go well.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

But anyway, only YOU could get me out here like this.

TIFFANY

Yeah?

CORNIELUS

Yeah. You make me want to be better. Better than who I've been. You're amazing like that.

TIFFANY

Wow. That's the sweetest thing anyone has ever said to me.

She leans in to kiss him. Before she does, she smiles and pulls back up to start jogging away.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

If you want me come get me!

He laughs and chases after her.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. JO-JO'S OFFICE - MORNING

Jordan is in his office doing paperwork. On the wall there are pictures of him during his days playing for the Red Sox and a T.V. mounted on the wall playing SportsCenter.

He pauses from his paperwork when he notices baseball highlights. He stares at it with regret until his he grabs his back in pain and falls to the floor.

JORDAN

SHIT!

He tries to get up when the cell phone on his desk rings. He's able to reach it just barely and he falls back to the floor. He answers it.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Hey what's up? Yeah...oh ok that's a good time for me. No that's cool I've waited long enough for this appointment so I'm just ready to get it done...ok thank you.

He hangs up the phone. ELIZA GOMEZ, an underwhelmed, overqualified Latina in her 20's dripping sarcasm and chill, knocks on his partially opened door.

ELIZA

Mornin, boss. I-

She runs over to him and helps him sit in his seat.

ELIZA (CONT'D)

Where are your pills, dummy?

He points to his jacket hanging on the door. She goes over and pulls out a small prescription box of pills.

She hands it to him and he takes two. He pulls out a bottle of Vodka from the desk and washes the pills down with it.

ELIZA (CONT'D)

Uh might not be the best time but there's a chick out there who wants to talk to you.

JORDAN

We don't open for another hour.

ELIZA

I know. I told her that but she won't leave. Not being a bitch or anything. Just...persistent.

JORDAN

She's fine? You know how I am.

ELIZA

Wouldn't bother you if she wasn't.

JORDAN

Why can't all women be like you?

ELIZA

I'm a Van Gogh, babe.

INT. JO-JO'S PLACE RESTAURANT FRONT DOOR - MORNING

Jordan walks skeptically to the door. He smiles at the woman waiting for him. It's Allana. He opens the door.

JORDAN

Morning...?

ALLANA

"Allana".

JORDAN

Allana! What a pleasant surprise.

ALLANA

I'm surprised I'm here too. I don't usually do this sort of thing.

JORDAN

You mean have sex with a total stranger in a restaurant bathroom?

ALLANA

I meant coming back for more.

Jordan smiles and lets her in the restaurant. He follows her to the back room.

INT. CORNIELUS'S CONDO - MORNING

Cornielus is eating breakfast and looking through Jane's Instagram pictures. He's scrolling through them aggressively. He zeroes in on a meme.

It's a Marge Simpson "Awkward" meme with the caption "That look on your face when you're about to break your husband's heart." Cornielus becomes angry and slams his phone down.

He goes to his fridge and pours a glass of rum. He drinks most of it in one sip and picks his phone back up.

FLASHBACK:

INT. CINEMA 57 - NIGHT

Tiffany and Cornielus are sitting in a crowded movie theater watching "Love & Basketball" and eating popcorn.

The movie finishes. The crowd claps and starts to get up during the credits. Cornielus stands up.

CORNIELUS

Wow that was pretty sappy. "I'll play you for your heart"? C'mahn.

He looks to Tiffany and she's crying in her popcorn. He sits down and holds her tightly as the credits roll.

END FLASHBACK

Cornielus starts to type in Tiffany's name on Google. He gets halfway through her name but deletes it. He tosses his phone to the couch and finishes his drink.

INT. JORDAN'S OFFICE - MORNING

Allana is buttoning her pants as Jordan is putting his shirt back on.

ALLANA

You're not bad for breakfast.

JORDAN

You should try me for dessert.

She leans over the desk and kisses him on the cheek.

ALLANA

I think I will.

She opens the door and Eliza is there about to knock. Allana nods to her and walks out. Eliza walks into the office.

ELIZA

So...are you over Sandy yet?

Jordan playfully throws his baseball cap at her. She ducks it and runs out of the office.

INT. CORNIELUS'S CONDO SHOWER - DAY

Cornielus is drinking a beer in the shower.

FLASHBACK:

EXT. ARNOLD'S ARBORETUM - DAY

Cornielus and Tiffany are having a picnic.

TIFFANY

Can you believe we're graduating soon? I'm so excited!

CORNIELUS

Can't wait to get into debt! Yay!

TIFFANY

Haha! You're always so negative.

CORNIELUS

I'm just being realistic, Tiff.

TIFFANY

Why do people only say "being realistic" when they're being negative? You know what? From now on, I want you to be UNrealistic.

CORNIELUS

Uhhhh what?

TIFFANY

I want you to be "UNrealistic".
We're only limited by our own
imagination and ambitions. I want
you, no matter what happens after
we graduate, to promise me you'll
always at least consider doing the
"unrealistic". Deal?

Cornielus takes in what she says.

CORNIELUS

Deal.

TIFFANY

Pinky swear?

CORNIELUS

Uuuhhhh...

Tiffany starts to tickle him.

TIFFANY

Pinky swear damn it!

CORNIELUS

Haha! OK OK! Pinky swear!

She reaches her pinky out and they shake with their pinkies.

CORNIELUS (CONT'D)

Damn I love you.

TIFFANY

Yeah?

CORNIELUS

Yeah.

TIFFANY

I love you too...Baby Cakes.

CORNIELUS

Oh that's enough out of you!

He playfully bear hugs her. She playfully yells out.

END FLASHBACK:

INT. CORNIELUS'S CONDO SHOWER - DAY

Cornielus finishes his beer.

CORNIELUS

"Be Unrealistic."

INT. JO-JO'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Jordan is eating dinner and watching baseball.

JORDAN

C'mon, it's a hanging slider you idiot...strike two. Great...hey let's just swing at anything. That's good baseball...ok, ok...two seam...there you go! Damn amateur, that should have been a double.

His phone rings. He sees it's a Skype from an African American woman in her 60's who seems like she should be leading a protest in the 70's. She's VERNA CLARK. He turns down the volume and puts it on speaker.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Hey Ma! What's up?

VERNA

Jo. I, uh, spoke to your father today, honey. He wants to meet you.

Jordan freezes in shock.

INT. CORNIELUS'S CONDO - NIGHT

Cornielus is sitting on his couch drinking another beer and typing on his laptop. He goes to Google and starts to type in Tiffany's name. He pauses midway.

FLASHBACK:

INT. BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

Tiffany's smiling at Cornielus, helping pick up his books.

END FLASHBACK

He finishes typing in her name. He's surprised there's a lot of "Tiffany Metts" but not HIS Tiffany. He tries different variations of "Tiffany Metts" but still can't find her.

CORNIELUS

Where the hell are you, Tiff?

INT. VERNA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jordan walks in and hugs his mom.

VERNA

Hey baby. How are you doing?

JORDAN

I'm ok I guess. You kinda dropped a bomb on me, Babe.

VERNA

Yeah I'm sorry about that, Jo.

She moves over to her living room table and rolls up blunt.

JORDAN

Babe, what's that you said about my sperm donor? We don't need THAT motherfucker for anything!

She finishes rolling her blunt and smokes it.

VERNA

I know, Jo. You hate him but he left before you were even born. You gotta let that go, hon.

JORDAN

Let it go?! Babe, HE left US! We don't need him for a damn thing! Look at this place. Haven't I taken care of you? Haven't we take care of each other??

VERNA

Of course, Jo, but I called HIM first. For YOU.

JORDAN

Huh? For me? Why the hell would you do that for me?? I don't need that sonofabitch now and I never did! Look at me! I did pretty damn good didn't I? Didn't WE?

VERNA

Yes we did.

JORDAN

What the hell made you think I would -

VERNA

-Sandy-

JORDAN

-want to...Sandy? She told you-

VERNA

-That you broke up? Yeah. A better question is "why the fuck didn't YOU tell me she dumped you?"

JORDAN

I wouldn't say she "dumped" me.

VERNA

Bullshit.

JORDAN

No seriously. C'mon, who's gonna dump 300 home runs and 300 steals?

VERNA

You can try to make light of it all you want to but I know you loved that woman. ALMOST as much as you love me. You haven't been the same these past few months.

JORDAN

Did she, uh, did she tell you why she dumped me?

VERNA

Yes. That woman loves you more than anything and all she wanted was children, Jo. Why the hell would you say "no" to that?

JORDAN

I don't know, Babe. I mean...I don't know.

She hands him the blunt.

VERNA

Honey I know why it scares you to-

JORDAN

-What if I fail?

VERNA

What's that?

JORDAN

What if I fail? Like HE did?

VERNA

That's even more why you need to meet him. It's been gnawing at you forever that he abandoned us.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

There are questions that only HE'S going to be able to answer for you. I know that's why she scared you off, Jo. You don't want to do to a child what he did to you. What he did to us. But let me tell you the difference between you and him.

JORDAN

What?

VERNA

You're ten time the man he ever was. You're the kindest most caring person I know. The fact that you're scared of being a father to the point you don't want to put the woman you love and your future child through what YOU went through? That tells me all I need to know about what kinda father you would be.

Jordan starts to tear up through the weed smoke and kisses her hand. He tries to swipe the weed from but she's too fast.

INT. CORNIELUS'S CONDO - NIGHT

Cornielus is on the phone.

CORNIELUS

Hey that's pretty cool...yup...
yup...yeah I'm glad to hear you're well...oh yeah...hey you see Tiffany Metts recently? Yeah
Tiffany...yeah...you haven't,
huh...nah...well hey it was good to catch up with you...ok take care.

He hangs up, frustrated. He looks through his phone and makes another call.

CORNIELUS (CONT'D)

Hey Spenser! It's Cornielus Sharpe from college...yeah how's it going? I ran into an old friend from school and it just...

INT. ORIGNATION DANCE STUDIO - NIGHT

Sandra's laughing with a group of ZUUMBA WOMEN, wiping their brows with towels and the window shades are up. Most of the women pick up their gym bags and leave the studio.

Sandra stays back with another African American woman in her 30's, CANDACE BRIDGES. Sandra looks bummed.

CANDACE

Hey girl. You enjoy the class?

Sandra's distracted and says nothing.

CANDACE (CONT'D)

Sandra?

SANDRA

Hm? Oh yeah sorry. Yeah you were awesome tonight.

CANDACE

Everything ok?

SANDRA

Yeah just a bit distracted is all.

CANDACE

You need to dance a little more?
I'm going to be doing a few things
in the office for a bit.

SANDRA

Could I, please?

CANDACE

Of course!

SANDRA

Thank you, darlin'.

Candace leaves and Sandra presses "play" on the radio. It's playing Davido's "Assurance". She smiles and begins to dance. She's incredible.

She's in such a zone with her dancing she seemingly doesn't notice Jordan watching her outside the window. He's holding a bouquet of roses.

He's taken aback by her beauty and grace and obviously wondering how he could fuck THAT up. She finishes the dance and turns to the window. He's not there.

She smiles anyway and darts outside. She looks down at her feet. The bouquet's on the floor with a note that says "point your toes more!". She laughs and walks back in.

EXT. ALLANA'S CONDO - NIGHT

Jordan's leaning on the passenger side door smoking a blunt.

A smirking Allana walks out towards him. He opens the door for her. She walks up to him and kisses him passionately.

She opens the back seat door instead and gets in. Jordan smiles and hops in the back seat.

INT. CORNIELUS'S CONDO - NIGHT

Cornielus is exhausted with frustration while on the phone. He's drinking a beer.

CORNIELUS

Hey Elizabeth! How's it going? This is Cornielus Sharpe from college. Yeah...yup "Tiffany's boyfriend"... yeah...no I haven't seen her in a while, you? You did?! 10 years ago?? Oh...Where? Oh she did become a journalist...Washington Post...Well nice to talk to you...Uuuuh yeah alaykum salaam.

He hangs up the phone and punches the air in excitement.

CORNIELUS (CONT'D)

Washington Post. Wow, she really did it.

FLASHBACK:

INT. CORNIELUS'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Cornielus and Tiffany are cuddling on a futon and watching "Love Jones".

CORNIELUS

She reminds me a bit of you.

TIFFANY

Who? Nina? because she's beautiful, intelligent and classy? Yeah she reminds me of me too.

CORNIELUS

Nah. Because she's so humble.

TIFFANY

HAHA! Jerk.

CORNIELUS

But no she reminds me of what you will be like after we graduate.

TIFFANY

She's a photographer though. I'm a reporter.

CORNIELUS

Basically the same thing, right?

TIFFANY

Um no. To speak YOUR language; I'm Lois Lane she's Jimmy Olsen.

CORNIELUS

I love you AND Lois Lane but I'm not the biggest fan of reporters.

She pauses the movie.

TIFFANY

Well we have a bad rap because of how we're portrayed in movies. I mean yeah, of course there are some incompetent journalist out there. Sometimes we can be pushy and obnoxious and we can make people uncomfortable. But that's part of the job. Journalism is one of the most important institutions in the world.

CORNIELUS

Well c'mon-

TIFFANY

-Look at all the places around the world that don't have freedom of the press. They're run by autocrats and dictators. The people are oppressed and their economies are disgraceful! The free press is important to hold people in power accountable for their bullshit.

CORNIELUS

Yeah but why do YOU want to be a journalist?

TIFFANY

When people in power aren't held to account, it's the PEOPLE that pay for it. There are people being oppressed all around the world. It's a big problem here too. I guess I just want to be part of the solution for a change.

Cornielus stares at her lovingly and impressed. He turns the TV off and they make love.

END FLASHBACK

CORNIELUS

I'm not a fucking coward...

INT. JORDAN'S SUV - NIGHT

Jordan and Allana are smoking weed in the back seat and cuddling. Jordan's completely shirtless and she's wearing just a bra and a skirt.

JORDAN

I wouldn't peg you for a cuddler.

ALLANA

I'm not.

JORDAN

Why now?

ALLANA

You.

JORDAN

Because I'm a celebrity, huh?

ALLANA

You would think so but no. I don't watch baseball.

JORDAN

What? Why the hell not?

She pretends to snore.

JORDAN

Here we go.

ALLANA

It's BORING!! I mean in what world is a 30% success rate a GOOD thing?

JORDAN

Well that just shows how tough a sport it is.

ALLANA

Well why do YOU love it so damn much?

JORDAN

That's a good question. Actually, no one's asked me that before.

ALLANA

Well?

JORDAN

Well it's not just the strategy, the gamesmanship the high skill level of each position. I guess...I guess it's just the way I feel when I'm doing it. When I pick up my bat and walk over to the plate... when it's one on one with the pitcher...the-the sheer level of tension with every strike. I just feel..."sexy" at the plate. You know what I'm saying?

ALLANA

Yeah. Yeah I think I do. Wow. So why don't you do it anymore?

JORDAN

I had a back injury. I always had back issues because I grew up so poor I used to sleep on floors or two wooden chairs put together. Whatever I could find. I didn't have a real bed until maybe two years before I went to college. My back still gives me trouble from time to time.

ALLANA

Yeah my dad has back issues too. Those things don't go away

Jordan throws her a quick offended look.

JORDAN

Yeeeah. So. What makes you a cuddler now?

ALLANA

HAHA! Oh yeah, right. I don't know. It's not just because you're a DILF or anything. You're a handsome, muscular, very charismatic man. But there's a certain sadness in your eyes. It makes me want to know more about you I guess. I think I relate to THAT part of you.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

All that celebrity stuff doesn't mean a damn thing to me.

JORDAN

What's a "DILF"?

ALLANA

What?

JORDAN

What's a "DILF"?

ALLANA

Oh you ever heard of a "MILF"? A "Mom I'd Like to Fu-

JORDAN

-Yeah I've heard of th- wait. So a "DILF" is a-

ALLANA

"Dad I'd Like to Fu-

JORDAN

-What the hell is that about? Yeah? You think I'm some old ass man past my damn prime or something?

ALLANA

What? No I didn't mean it like-

JORDAN

-We're sitting here having a damn good time and you gotta go and say some shit like that?

ALLANA

I'm just messing around, it's a compliment! What the fuck is wrong with you??

She starts to put her jacket back on.

JORDAN

Well what the hell is so damn funny about talking shit about a dude being an old man or something?

ALLANA

Wait! Would you just-

JORDAN

-GET THE HELL OUT!!

ALLANA

What?! Why ar-

JORDAN

-GET THE HELL OUT!!

He opens the door and gets out of the car.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

C'MON NOW GET THE HELL OUT!!

She hops out of the car, barefoot.

ALLANA

Wait, what about my shoes?!

He closes the door, jumps back behind the wheel and peels off. A confused and frustrated Allana yells out at him.

ALLANA (CONT'D)

WHAT ABOUT MY SHOES?! WHAT THE HELL
IS WRONG WITH YOU?!

Jordan's driving fast through the streets. He's smoking and finishing his drink. He howls out the window.

JORDAN

WOOOOOOOOOOO!!

He's speeding through the streets until he gets to a red light. He's about to stop at the red light but he drops and spills his drink in the car.

He reaches down to get the bottle and runs the red light, not seeing the car coming on the passenger side of him. The other car honks the horn repeatedly.

Jordan swerves out of the way just before the other car can hit him. He parks safely on the side of the road.

He looks around frantically. He becomes so angry with himself he starts banging on the steering wheel.

INT. SANDRA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sandra's sleeping until she's woken up by her phone ringing. She's annoyed until she sees it's Jordan calling. She hesitates to pick it up but does.

SANDRA

Hey...yeah...What the hell, Jordan?!
Fine...I'm on my way.

She hangs up, annoyed.

INT. CORNIELUS'S CONDO-NIGHT

Cornielus is in his living room, typing on YouTube. He types in "Tiffany Metts interview".

A video from 10 years ago pops up of Tiffany interviewing a greasy haired politician, SENATOR RICHARDSON. The caption says "reporter checks politician".

TIFFANY

So you're telling me you know nothing about any illegal transfers into your bank account from ANYONE currently being investigated for being involved in a Ponzi Scheme?

SENATOR RICHARDSON

Believe it or not, missy, not all-

TIFFANY

- "Tiffany".

SENATOR RICHARDSON

Excuse me?

TIFFANY

"Tiffany". My name is Tiffany. Not "missy", not "honey", not "doll face" or whatever obnoxious politicians like you like to call female reporters when you're backed into a corner. "Tiffany".

SENATOR RICHARDSON

I uh-

TIFFANY

-Uh huh.

Cornielus laughs out loud and can't help but smile.

EXT. JORDAN'S SUV ROADSIDE - NIGHT

Jordan's sleeping in the back seat of his SUV. He wakes up when Sandra knocks on the window.

He smiles and opens the door. She reaches in the car and Jordan reaches out to hug her. He pauses when he notices her staring at Allana's shoes.

She gives him a look of disapproval and he puts his head down in shame. She grabs his keys from him and closes the door. Sandra jumps behind the wheel and drives off.

INT. CORNIELUS'S CONDO - MORNING

Cornielus is sleeping on his couch with a strewn of papers on the coffee table. On the papers there are diagrams and notes connecting to Tiffany.

He's clearly been up all night trying to piece together where she is. He wakes up when his phone rings.

CORNIELUS

Yes hi thank you for returning my call. I was calling to see if Tiffany Metts was there working with you? I work for Boston University. We want to hire her for a conference on journalism...Yeah and you're the fourth or fifth news organization I've called and I just can't seem to find her anywhere...

He knocks over a stack of papers and grabs a pen and paper.

CORNIELUS (CONT'D)

Oh ok. Well do you know where maybe I could reach her? Ok...ok...thank you so much!

He hangs up and fist pumps to himself.

INT. JORDAN'S HOUSE - MORNING

Jordan's sleeping on his couch. He jumps up and staggers with a hang over. He looks around, confused.

JORDAN

Sandy?

He smells food and walks to the kitchen. He sees a full breakfast on the counter with a folded note like the one he left with her. He smiles and opens it.

"Hey Slugger. Get your shit together. P.S. I took the bed." Jordan smiles as his alarm goes off.

He picks up his phone and sees the alarm say "Vas Consult". He drinks his orange juice and thinks it over.

INT. DR. SALAM'S OFFICE - MORNING

Jordan's walking around the office nervously. An older middle eastern man walks in. This is DR. SALAM.

DR. SALAM

Mr. Clark? Great to meet you. How are you?

Jordan drops his pants, taking Salam off guard for a moment.

JORDAN

Al right let's get on with it. Snip snip. Let's just do this quickly before I change my mind.

DR. SALAM

Uh this is just a consultation.

JORDAN

Oh right. Ok then.

DR. SALAM

But yeah let me check you out for a second and tell you what we're going to be doing.

Salam puts his gloves on and starts to look over Jordan's scrotum. We stay on Jordan's face as Salam speaks. Jordan's is awkward and anxious.

DR. SALAM

So yeah usually we'd shave you down here but you look pretty good so we probably don't have to do much of that We'll burn the testicles here and here of course after we cut-

JORDAN

Burn what?

DR. SALAM

Oh it's fine it's nothing. We're just burning your testicles here and here after cutting right here so it can cauterize that and you'll smell your testicles burning and that's fine, ya know? A little burning testicles has never hurt anyone. You'll have to wear a cup, which you're accustomed to, to keep the testes held nice and firm and wear compression shorts a bit. You'll be bleeding there from..

Jordan tunes him out. He imagines himself on a gurney with his crotch going up in flames and him yelling.

Dr. SALAM
Any questions?

JORDAN
...Burn what?

INT. CORNIELUS'S CONDO - DAY

Cornielus is packing for a trip in his living room.

FLASHBACK:

Tiffany and Cornielus are at a party. Tiffany is dancing with her PARTY FRIENDS and having fun. Jordan's there dancing with several PARTY WOMEN.

Cornielus is at the bar watching Tiffany dance. She notices he's looking bummed out. She playfully dances over to him.

TIFFANY
Hey, Babycakes, what's up? You should be celebrating! We just graduated!

CORNIELUS
Yeah, no, I'm excited but-

TIFFANY
But what?

CORNIELUS
You know how things are. It's going to be tough staying in contact with each other.

TIFFANY
You think we'll grow apart?

CORNIELUS
Of course! I don't want to risk you and I not being together. What am I going to do if I can't keep you in my life? I love you, Tiffany.

She grabs him and kisses him strongly.

TIFFANY
I truly expect you to find me wherever I am. You and me? We're destiny, babe. And I love you too.

END FLASHBACK

CORNIELUS

Yeah I'm coming to find you, babe.

Cornielus picks up a duffel bag and walks over to the door. He opens it and Jordan walks right in.

JORDAN

Man I'll tell you what, things have been getting crazy. It's like the Universe woke up and said "kiss my ass" or something ya know?

He walks over to the kitchen and pours himself a drink. He pops some more pills.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

That damn runner chick's talking all this shit about me being an old man. Girl got me so damn wound up I went all "Fast & Furious and shit out there in the streets. Dude I was so screwed up, freaking SANDY had to come get me! Ugh and she saw Alanna's shoes in the back seat dude! Then the damn doctor's talking about burning my damn balls?! I mean LITERALLY talking about taking fire to my balls! MY BALLS, CORNIELUS!! What the hell am I gonna do about my balls!

Jordan looks around and notices Cornielus is standing with a packed duffel bag at his door.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Where the hell are YOU going?

CORNIELUS

I'm going to take your advise. Take some more time off. Try to just get my mind right about this divorce.

JORDAN

Oh yeah?

CORNIELUS

Yeah.

Jordan looks around at the papers on the counter. Sees the video of Tiffany interviewing Senator Richardson is paused on his computer.

JORDAN

So. Where ya going?

CORNIELUS

D.C. Gonna drive there to kinda clear my mind a bit.

JORDAN

Who do you know in D.C.?

CORNIELUS

Oh just a couple of people from back in the day.

JORDAN

Yeah? Wouldn't be a certain super fine reporter would it?

CORNIELUS

Well uh I mean I-

JORDAN

-Corny, what the hell's the matter with you?! You just got dumped a week ago! The divorce papers aren't even drawn up for fuck's sake.

CORNIELUS

They came yesterday, signed.

JORDAN

No shit?

CORNIELUS

Yeah.

JORDAN

Well damn. Has she always been that efficient?

CORNIELUS

Pretty much.

JORDAN

Wow. But why don't you take a little time and focus on YOURSELF? You're already looking to another woman? Damn, can't you be without a woman for a few weeks?

CORNIELUS

Again, you're talking about ME not being able to be without a woman?

JORDAN

Well yeah. I'm only with them for two-three hours tops.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

I ain't looking to fall in love every damn time like you do.

CORNIELUS

It doesn't matter, it's the same principle. The difference is that it's TIFFANY, dude. I'm not trying to get with her I just want to be AROUND her again.

JORDAN

Which makes it even more stupid for you to go see her!

CORNIELUS

Jo. I screwed up, man. I love that woman more than anything and I never should have let us go our separate ways. I should have went after her, Jo!

JORDAN

You can't go backwards, man.

CORNIELUS

Dude, when I think about it, I haven't been happy for ten minutes since I split up with Tiffany. I've been just...existing. Not LIVING. .

JORDAN

Ok that's fine but what's the harm of just waiting a few months and then go see her again? You haven't seen her in 20 years. You can't wait a few more months? You don't think that's a little...never mind.

CORNIELUS

"A little..." what?

JORDAN

Nothin', man it's cool.

CORNIELUS

No, what were you going to say? "Pathetic"? "Pitiful"?

JORDAN

Yeah pretty damn much.

CORNIELUS

Oh get outta here with that, shit. I know being in actual love with a

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

woman is a foreign concept to you
but believe it or not, some people
actually do believe in true love.

JORDAN

"True love"? Oh man up, chief. I
believe in love too. You don't
think I love Sandy?

CORNIELUS

Dude if you loved her, wouldn't you
still be with her?

Jordan says nothing. He bumps Cornelius's shoulder as he
walks outside.

EXT. CORNIELUS'S CONDO - DAY

Jordan leans against his SUV, confusing Cornelius.

JORDAN

Well c'mon. Let's go get your girl.
But we ain't taking your b.s. ass
hooptie.

Cornelius smiles and picks up his luggage. He walks over to
Jordan's SUV and they pound fists.

CORNIELUS

My dude.

JORDAN

Damn right. Let's go.

INT. JO-JO'S PLACE RESTAURANT - MORNING

Eliza's managing a hectic restaurant. Her cell phone rings
and she picks it up.

ELIZA

What's up, boss?

INT. JORDAN'S SUV - MORNING

Jordan is driving with Cornelius. They're on speakerphone.

JORDAN

Hey Eliza. Me and Corny are going
to be away for about a week.

INT. JO-JO'S PLACE RESTAURANT - MORNING

ELIZA

Oh no, really? What am I going to do without you two here over my shoulder every damn day? Hopefully we can still turn a profit.

INT. JORDAN'S SUV - MORNING

JORDAN

That's nice of you to say. But we believe in you. Call us if you need us...hello? Eliza? Hmmph must be a poor signal.

CORNIELUS

Oh yeah, must be.

JORDAN

So what's Tiffany up to these days?

CORNIELUS

Um I don't really know.

JORDAN

What do you mean?

CORNIELUS

I don't know what she's up to.

JORDAN

Why the hell not? Didn't you speak to her?

CORNIELUS

Nah. Just her parents.

JORDAN

Dude, what the hell? You're just showing up on her door step after not seeing each other for 20 years?

CORNIELUS

Pretty dumb, huh?

JORDAN

Uh yes. Dumb as hell. And creepy.

CORNIELUS

Finding Tiffany was like finding a spy or something, Jo. She's a freelance reporter. Dude she worked for some of the biggest news outlets in the world.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

New York Times, LONDON Times,
NBC...she's done incredible for
herself. It's weird though, she has
ZERO social media presence.

JORDAN

Maybe she's wary of being stalked
by weirdos popping up on her door
step unannounced after 20 years?

CORNIELUS

Look, I know why you would say
that. But no one knows her number.
However I was told that she was
staying with her parents a few
years back because she travels so
much. She most recently worked for
the Washington Post but they
wouldn't tell me what she has been
doing. Her parents live in D.C. so
I'm going to pay them a visit. I
did speak to them and they seem
excited to have me.

JORDAN

Wow so you think you thought this
through, huh?

CORNIELUS

Oh her parents love me. Either way
it will be good to see THEM again.

JORDAN

Alright then. Can't say it ain't
the dumbest thing I've heard since
Tuesday but alright then.

CORNIELUS

So are you going to tell me the
real reason you're coming along
with me?

JORDAN

You don't think I really just want
to help you?

CORNIELUS

No I do think you want to help me.
Of course you do. But there's
something else going on with you.

JORDAN

Yeah. Yeah well Babe spoke to my
sperm donor the other day.

CORNIELUS

Seriously??

JORDAN

And check this out. SHE called HIM.

CORNIELUS

What hell for? After abandoning you, why would she even bother?

JORDAN

Apparently she did it for me. She thinks all the problems I'm having with Sandy and my recent "attitude", that I'm having some sort of mid life crisis and I need to work things out with him in order for me to move on.

CORNIELUS

Hmmm.

JORDAN

"Hmmm" what? You're on HER side?

CORNIELUS

You know I'm on your side but you gotta admit. Besides Sandy it's the only other time you've ever been rejected in your life. You've never let that go.

JORDAN

Who the hell lets go after their father abandoned them before they were ever born? Why would I let it go? Hell, my hatred for that sonofabitch fueled me through most of my career. You know that.

CORNIELUS

I think you just answered your own question didn't you?

Jordan says nothing.

INT. JO-JO'S PLACE RESTAURANT - DAY

Eliza is laughing with a FEMALE BARTENDER when the bartender notices Allana walking in.

BARTENDER #1

Uh oh, here comes Jordan's ten night stand.

ELIZA

Geez, seriously? The boss must've really put it on her, huh?

BARTENDER #1

It's what he does.

ELIZA

Yeah I know. Why do you think we hired YOU?

The bartender laughs and throws her bar towel at her. Eliza walks over to Allana.

ELIZA (CONT'D)

Heeey there. "Allana", right? The boss isn't here right now. Probably will be back next week or so.

ALLANA

Oh. I didn't know he was leaving.

ELIZA

Anything I can help you with?

ALLANA

No we just had a little argument is all and we haven't spoken since. I wanted to just make sure we're good. He was absolutely wrong but I-

ELIZA

-Look, Allana. I don't know you and you don't know me. I do know Jordan though. He's a hard guy to love but he will love YOU better than you've ever been loved before. He'll chew you up and spit you out. Then he'll caress you and put you back together again and you'll forget he ever hurt you in the first place.

ALLANA

Well I-

ELIZA

-You might even think it will be worth it. I suppose it's up to you. Just don't hold it personally against him. He's a force of nature. He can't help himself. Just make sure you help YOURself. Otherwise you'll be just like a lot

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

of these other bitches who barely know who they are anymore when he's done with them. He can't help himself.

Allana takes it all in. She nods to Eliza and leaves.

INT. JORDAN'S SUV - DAY

Jordan and Cornielus are driving on the road.

JORDAN

So let me ask you something. What if Tiffany's married?

CORNIELUS

Then she's married. So what? I just want to be in her presence again. I don't care if she's married.

JORDAN

The hell does that even mean?

CORNIELUS

I mean if she's married maybe she's as miserable as I was when I was married. Maybe she's happy. I don't know. All I know is I'm lost right now. I don't know what to do. Being with her terrified me. She inspired me to do things I never thought possible. I just need to prove to myself I'm not a coward. Being with her again will prove that.

JORDAN

Wow that's kinda creepy stalkery don't ya think?

CORNIELUS

I see why you would say that. Again. I'm just hoping that she'll be as happy to see me as I will be to see her. We were dynamite together, Jo.

JORDAN

Now THAT we agree on.

Jordan notices "BEE BEE'S" department store.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Hey let's grab you some gear. I could use a break anyway.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

My back is tightening up again.
Could use a new pair of jeans my
damn self.

CORNIELUS

I'm good. What's wrong the clothes
I'm wearing right now?

Jordan looks him up and down. He's wearing a gold silk shirt,
brim hat and burgundy pants.

JORDAN

Nothing. But let's say you DON'T
want to show up to the woman of
your dream's doorstep looking like
a broke ass Lando Calrissian. What
do you think would impress her?

CORNIELUS

Well, that's a good point.

They pull up to the department store parking lot.

INT. BEE BEE'S DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

Jordan and Cornelius are looking around the department store.
Jordan beckons a FEMALE SALES REP. to them.

FEMALE SALES REP.

Hello there. You guys need a hand?

JORDAN

Yes please, this gentleman needs to
impress the woman of his dreams. No
pressure. Can you please do
something with...this?

He waves his hand dismissively to Cornelius.

FEMALE SALES REP.

I think I can. Follow me, sir.

CORNIELUS

This dude...

Cornelius goes along with the associate. Jordan starts
looking over different jeans.

He gets annoyed at the different labels reading "skinny",
"tall" etc. A MALE SALES REP. walks over to him.

MALE SALES REP.

Anything I can do to help you, sir?

JORDAN

I'm just looking for some regular ass jeans. Where can I find those?

MALE SALES REP.

Well we do sell all types of jeans here. Are you looking for "skinny" or "slim"?

JORDAN

Don't make this complicated, fella. Just want some regular jeans.

SALES ASSOCIATE #2

Well uh, yeah. Ok but we do also have euro, skinny, slim-

JORDAN

-Look, junior. I'm not ordering a fucking latte. I just want some goddamn JEANS. I'm originally from the Congo. That means I got a big ass and I'm hung low in the front. You got anything for THAT?

SALE ASSOCIATE #2

Um...follow me.

JORDAN

Right on.

EXT. BEE BEE'S DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

Jordan and Cornielus are walking out of the store with a couple of shopping bags. Cornielus is dressed much sharper now and Jordan is wearing new jeans.

Jordan's phone vibrates. He picks it up and sees a message from Eliza. "Your ten night stand came by. Again. Might wanna handle that, Boss."

JORDAN

Looks like Allana came by the restaurant again.

CORNIELUS

Which one's Allana? The cheerleader or the bank manager?

JORDAN

The marathoner.

CORNIELUS

Oh yeah. What's going on with her?

JORDAN

We've been getting after it pretty good since you met her that night at the restaurant. She's actually pretty incredible.

CORNIELUS

You mean as a person?

JORDAN

Yeah. At first I was just doing my thing. Trying to move on from Sandy. But the more I get to know her, she's pretty DAMN incredible.

CORNIELUS

Oh ok. So at first she was just a tool to help you get over Sandra breaking up with you but you slept with her enough times that you realized she's an actual human being. Ok cool.

JORDAN

The hell is THAT supposed to mean?

They get into the car and drive off.

INT. JORDAN'S SUV - DAY

CORNIELUS

I mean you have a tendency to look at women as just a means to an end rather than you know...as people.

JORDAN

C'mon, man.

CORNIELUS

Have you met yourself?

JORDAN

Yeah but it's not like I don't respect women. I love women.

CORNIELUS

No you love what women can DO for you. There's a difference.

JORDAN

Bull shit.

CORNIELUS

When Allana came back to the restaurant, how long did it take you to remember her name?

Jordan doesn't say anything.

CORNIELUS (CONT'D)

Right. You respect Eliza because she can run our business. You respect your mother of course. It's not a coincidence that you want to marry Sandy. She's the only women you've slept with that you ever respected.

JORDAN

You know all the damn answers, huh?

CORNIELUS

Nope. But you know I'm right.

JORDAN

If you say so.

CORNIELUS

So what's so great about Allana?

JORDAN

I mean she comes across as this take charge "boss" chick but when you listen to her she's really just...nice. She volunteers at the Veteran's shelter. She calls her mom every night. I mean like EVERY night. She even cut one of our...a "sessions" short to call her mom. Who does that?

CORNIELUS

You said "when you listen to her."

JORDAN

Right. When you listen to her you... Oh dang.

CORNIELUS

Yeah. How'd you fuck THIS one up?

JORDAN

She called me a "DILF".

CORNIELUS

A what?

JORDAN

A "DILF". You don't know what a DILF is?

CORNIELUS

Pretend that I'm a grown ass man.

JORDAN

It's like a "MILF" except it's for-

CORNIELUS

-Ooooh ok. HAHA! Right. "DILF". So isn't that kind of a compliment?

JORDAN

That's like saying I'm "pretty good looking for an old guy" or something. Why would she say something like that? I'm barely past my damn prime. And MY prime is twice the prime of any of these normal sons of bitches out here. I'll tell you that.

CORNIELUS

Bad back and all?

JORDAN

Bad back and fucking all.

CORNIELUS

So, what? You got into an argument because you're self conscious about your age?

JORDAN

No we didn't argue. I just kicked her out of my car. Damn, I didn't even give her a chance to put her shoes back on.

CORNIELUS

Yeah that's a perfectly normal response to an awkward compliment. Why were you so mad about it?

JORDAN

I don't know. It just set me off! Maybe I over reacted. I don't know.

CORNIELUS

Uh, yeah, maybe you did. You really screwed the pooch on that one.

JORDAN

I did what?

CORNIELUS

What?

JORDAN

The fuck are you talking about
"screwed the pooch"? The hell does
that mean?

CORNIELUS

You never heard the term "screwed
the pooch"?

JORDAN

What the hell are you talking
about?

CORNIELUS

"Screwed the pooch"? It means
making a mistake. Screwing up.

JORDAN

How the fuck do you fuck a dog by
mistake? You fuck a dog it's
because you WANTED to fuck a dog.
How does that mean "a mistake?"

CORNIELUS

Dude! It's just a phrase! People
say it all the time!

JORDAN

Yeah only jackasses say that! Don't
say that shit anymore.

CORNIELUS

Wow is this how you responded to
Allana?! Yeah you definitely fucked
that up. Is that better? You.
Fucked. That. UP.

JORDAN

But you know you're not the great
"champion" of women either ya know.

CORNIELUS

Oh this is great. Tell me why I
treat women just like you do.

JORDAN

You do all the building up, all the falling in love, you do the marrying then you do the divorcing. Women are just crutches to you. At least I don't pretend they mean more to me than they do. See, me? I'm a jackass up front. You drag it out for years.

Corneilus says nothing.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Right. Now look at what you're doing now. You get dumped and right afterwards you're looking for another woman already.

CORNIELUS

At least I had the balls to get married in the first place, right? You think it's easy to commit to a woman forever? It's not like when you get married you think you're going to get divorced. No one marries planning to get divorced.

JORDAN

Unless you're out for that loot.

CORNIELUS

Well yeah that goes without saying. Every time I got married I genuinely believed it would be forever. Look at you.

JORDAN

What about me?

CORNIELUS

As soon as you even consider getting married you run the hell away. If marriage was so easy you wouldn't be so scared to do it.

JORDAN

Who the hell said I was scared to get married? Get outta here with that shit.

CORNIELUS

You're telling me you weren't scared to commit to Sandra? Lie to yourself man, don't lie to me.

JORDAN

Yeah well maybe you don't know every damn thing then.

CORNIELUS

Then tell me what I don't know.

JORDAN

Nah don't worry about it. You got all the damn answers.

CORNIELUS

C'mon man, what's up?

JORDAN

She uh...she wants to have kids.

CORNIELUS

Oh.

JORDAN

Yeah.

INT. SANDRA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sandra's running on her treadmill and watching "The Dark Knight" when her doorbell rings. She pauses the treadmill and the T.V. and looks through the peep hole. She becomes anxious when she sees it's Verna.

Sandra looks around and cleans the magazines off the couch. She throws them behind the couch cushion. She darts around and sees the sink full of dishes.

She runs over to them and throws her workout towel on top of the dishes. She looks around some more but Verna rings the bell again.

VERNA (O.S.)

Sandra? It's Verna. Are you here?

Sandra sighs and opens the door.

SANDRA

Hi Ms. Clark! How are you?

VERNA

I'm well how are you?

SANDRA

I'm uh great. I'm awesome. Excuse my appearance. I was just jogging. Try to get lean, ya know?

VERNA
Do I know what?

SANDRA
Huh?

VERNA
Do I know what?

SANDRA
I uh...yeah I'm just working out a little bit is all. How are you?

VERNA
I just told you "I'm well". What's the matter with you?

SANDRA
Nothing I'm just-

VERNA
-So are you inviting me in or do you want to talk in the hallway?

SANDRA
Oh yes please, come in.

Verna walks in. Sandra pinches her nose in exasperation and closes the door.

Verna sits on the couch and sits back up when she hears a crunch and rustling of papers.

She reaches behind the couch cushions and pulls out the magazines, embarrassing Sandy.

SANDRA (CONT'D)
Hey yeah there they go. You know what? I was just looking for those. Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you. I-

VERNA
-Have you spoken to Jordan today?

SANDRA
Jordan? No. Should I have?

VERNA
He didn't tell you he's going out of town for a few days?

SANDRA
Nope, not at all.

VERNA

He's going to go meet his...his
father for the first time.

SANDRA

What? Seriously? Wow.

VERNA

I thought it would be good for him.

SANDRA

He didn't tell me that. I picked
him up the other day when he...when
he needed a ride. He didn't mention
that.

VERNA

Yes. I spoke to his father recently
and we thought it would be a good
idea for them to finally meet.

SANDRA

Why now? He's hated him for so
long? Why is he meeting him now?

VERNA

Because of you.

SANDRA

B-because of me? What do you mean?
I mean w-what did I-

VERNA

-You broke his heart.

Sandra's speechless as Verna's comment guts her.

VERNA (CONT'D)

He hasn't been the same since then.
I think he's going through some
sort of mid life crisis or
something. I know you dumped him
because he says he doesn't want
kids.

SANDRA

I-

VERNA

-Let me finish. I know he SAYS he
doesn't want kids. He's just scared
and you gave up on him without
giving him a chance. You hurt my
boy. He's going to need you when he

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

comes back. Wether you want to be there for him and maybe put his feelings before your own for once or not is up to you. Just thought you should know.

She gets up and stalks out the apartment. Sandra hurls a plate at the wall once she leaves and shatters it in anger.

INT. JORDAN'S CAR - NIGHT

Jordan and Cornielus pull up to a gas station.

JORDAN

I'm gonna take a piss real quick.
Can you fill the tank?

CORNIELUS

Yup.

Jordan struts into the convenience store part of the gas station. Cornielus starts to fill up the tank.

FLASHBACK:

INT. SCHOLAR'S BAR & GRILL - NIGHT

Cornielus and Tiffany are having a candle light dinner at a booth table.

TIFFANY

I really do like this place. Good job picking it. We can actually hear each other speak.

CORNIELUS

So...

TIFFANY

Ok spit it out.

CORNIELUS

What?

TIFFANY

You've been acting strange all day.

CORNIELUS

I've been offered a job at HSBC Holdings...

TIFFANY

AWESOME! I'm so proud of you!

CORNIELUS

...In London.

"LONDON"?

CORNIELUS (CONT'D)

But look I haven't accepted the job yet. I can still turn it down.

TIFFANY

Why would you do that?

CORNIELUS

Well, I mean me and you-

TIFFANY

-What about us?

CORNIELUS

Are you serious?

TIFFANY

I can tell you already made up your mind to go so I'm not going to ask you to stay.

CORNIELUS

You don't want me to stay?

TIFFANY

Do YOU want to stay?

CORNIELUS

I want to be wherever YOU are.

TIFFANY

But my internship is in New York. Not London.

CORNIELUS

Tiffany I-

TIFFANY

-Look, I'm not trying to give you a hard time. I'm very proud of you. Honestly. I guess I'm just bummed out that our opportunities are going to keep us a world apart. I mean we talked about this but I don't know.

CORNIELUS

I just don't think it's going to be as big a deal as you think.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

We'll go do our thing and then
we'll pick up like we never left
each other.

TIFFANY

Wow you're being incredibly naive.
It's adorable.

Cornelius sits next to her and puts his arms around her.

CORNIELUS

Tiffany. I love you more than
anything in the world. I'm going to
go over seas and come back in a few
years when Jordan reaches the
Majors. I'll be his agent.
You're going to be kicking so much
ass in journalism by then that you
might not even WANT me back. Ok?

TIFFANY

I love you. Baby-Cakes.

She picks up a slice of cake off the table and smushes it in
his face. Cornelius laughs it off and they embrace strongly.

END FLASHBACK

Cornelius finishes filling the tank. He turns around to a
right cross to his face. He falls down and looks up to see
himself surrounded by seven THUGS. They try to kick him but
Cornelius gets up and starts to fight back.

THUG #1

Thanks for filling up MY tank,
muthafucka!

The thugs are getting the better of Cornelius until thug #1
is hit in the back with a baseball bat. Jordan hits another
one and another one. He throws the bat down when only four of
the thugs are standing.

He and Cornelius begin to work the remaining four thugs over
until police sirens are heard and lighting up the area. Two
squad cars pull up to the gas station and POLICE OFFICERS
step out with their guns drawn.

OFFICER #1

GET DOWN ON THE FLOOR WITH YOUR
HANDS BEHIND YOU HEAD!!! NOW!!!

Cornelius drops the thug he was choking out. Jordan drops his
thug as well and they get down to the floor.

JORDAN

Hmmph. Bitches.

INT. SANDRA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sandra's scrolling on Twitter on her tablet and drinking wine. She notices #CrazyJoClark is trending.

She clicks on it and watches a surveillance video of Jordan knocking the thugs out with his baseball bat.

Sandra jumps up, horrified and downs the wine in one sip. She picks up her phone and calls Jordan. It rings and rings but he doesn't answer. She slams it down on the counter.

EXT. GAS STATION - NIGHT

Jordan and Cornelius are hand cuffed along with the battered and bruised thugs next to the police cars.

A Latino officer in his 20's, OFFICER ORTEGA, is taking notes from the gas station clerk. He looks over to Jordan and walks over to him.

OFFICER ORTEGA

Holy shit, you're Jordan Clark!

JORDAN

Yup, it's me. Where you from, kid?

OFFICER ORTEGA

I'm from Boston! My Uncle brought me to game four against the Yankees! That was awesome!

JORDAN

That was crazy, right? Dumb sonofabitch through a breaking ball that didn't break!

They cackle as Cornelius rolls his eyes.

OFFICER ORTEGA

Hey what are you doing here anyway? Cashier over here says you were defending your friend?

JORDAN

Yeah man, you know me. I stand the hell up for mine, right?

Officer Ortega uncuffs him.

OFFICER ORTEGA

Let me get you outta these cuffs.
We'll take care of these guys.

JORDAN

I appreciate that. Tell you what...

Jordan picks up the bloody bat and signs it for him.

OFFICER ORTEGA

Wow! Thank you! I mean that's
evidence and all but I'll make it
work! Could I get a selfie?

JORDAN

Hell yeah, bring it in.

OFFICER ORTEGA

Hey guys! C'mon over here.

The other officers get in the picture as they take the
selfie. Cornelius shares a "wtf" look with one of the thugs.

CORNIELUS

Ahem...

JORDAN

My bad, Corny. Officer, do you mind?

Officer Ortega walks over to uncuff Cornelius.

CORNIELUS

This dude...

Jordan and Cornelius get into the SUV.

JORDAN

Well that was fun.

CORNIELUS

Shut up and drive, dude.

INT. VERNA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Verna's watching "The Last Dragon" on her couch. She's
annoyed when her doorbell rings. She pauses the TV and walks
over to the door. She sees it's Sandra through the peep hole.

VERNA

Sigh. This bitch.

She opens the door and Sandra's standing in the pouring rain.

SANDRA

Look...hi. I know it's late and I know you don't like surprise visits. I know you don't like me anymore and you think I hurt Jordan, ok? You're right. I did and I'm sorry. I didn't mean to hurt him. I love Jo more than anything in the world. I really do! If it was up to me we would have been married already. I would be your daughter. I just wanted to be the mother I never had. I want to be like YOU! OK?? I want to have the connection you guys have and Jo says he doesn't even want to try!

VERNA

Sandy-

SANDRA

-I was so hurt when he said he didn't want to have that future with me. HE proposed, thinking I was going to change my mind. That's HIS fault not mine! I'm not going to back down from that. He needs to own that. But I never meant to hurt him. You have to believe me. Ok? I NEED you to believe me. Me and you were close once and I would really like us to be close again. Can we?

Verna says nothing. Sandra turns to walk away, hurt.

SANDRA

Ok. Ok then.

VERNA

Hey.

Sandra turns back around.

VERNA (CONT'D)

C'mon in, bitch, it's raining.

Sandra laughs loudly. Verna smiles and waves her in.

INT. JORDAN'S SUV - NIGHT

Jordan and Cornielus are on the road.

CORNIELUS

So where is your dad in D.C.?

JORDAN

He's not in DC. He's in New York.

CORNIELUS

New York? Then why are you driving with me to D.C.?

JORDAN

I think we both need some time to clear our heads a bit. A road trip is a great idea. So yeah he's in Harlem. I'll leave the car with you and fly up to New York, handle my business then meet you.

CORNIELUS

What's he doing in Harlem, anyway?

JORDAN

Owns a diner, believe it or not. "Carlton's Place" or some shit.

CORNIELUS

Get outta here! Really? What are the odds you both own a dining establishment?

JORDAN

Uh huh.

CORNIELUS

What else do you actually know about him?

JORDAN

I know he abandoned his pregnant girlfriend. I know he's never been to any of his kid's little league games. I know he's never called his kid on any of his birthdays. I know he's never called the mother of his child on Mother's Day and that he was never there to help his kid navigate the challenges of being a man in this day and age. Being a BLACK man in this day and age. Besides that I don't know much.

CORNIELUS

Wow. No wonder you don't want to have kids.

JORDAN

Meaning?

CORNIELUS

C'mon, man. Isn't it obvious you don't want to have kids because you think you might not be good at it? Like he wasn't?

JORDAN

Here we go. Dr. Fucking Phil again.

CORNIELUS

C'mon, Jo you-

JORDAN

-OF COURSE I WON'T BE GOOD AT IT! I'm too damn old, Corny! I NEVER would have been a good father! I'm not a good person, dude. I know what I do to people. I know I'm a hard guy to get along with. I've always demanded total loyalty from people because that's what I give to them. I feel like if you betray that even for one damn minute then you better fucking watch out. I know how screwed up I am to women. Sandy's the best fucking thing that's ever happened to me and I screwed that up, too.

CORNEILUS

Hey Jo, could you-

JORDAN

-I'm too damn old now to change that! Having kids is a young man's game, dude. I became a washed up designated hitter who couldn't touch a fast ball anymore. That means my glory days are long behind me. Sometimes you gotta know your role in the game. If I could've been a great pitcher I would've. But that wasn't for me. Neither is being a father. I'm doing Sandy and any potential kid a favor.

Cornielus takes it all in. He looks around nervously.

CORNIELUS

That's real talk, man. For real. But can you do me a favor?

JORDAN

What?

CORNIELUS

Can you please drive the fucking car?

Jordan looks around and he's parked in the middle of the street, causing a traffic jam.

JORDAN

Shit.

They drive off.

CORNIELUS

Look. I understand what you're saying. I do. You're being too hard on yourself. Yeah you're a jackass. An arrogant jackass. I mean honestly, you can be a real pain-

JORDAN

-Please. Keep going.

CORNIELUS

But honestly being your best friend all these years has been one of the best adventures of my life.

JORDAN

...Fuck you, man.

CORNIELUS

You're welcome.

JORDAN

So.

CORNIELUS

Tiffany.

JORDAN

Almost there. Ready? What exactly the hell is the plan anyway?

CORNIELUS

I just want to BE with her again. To listen to her laugh. The plan is to catch up with each other then take it from there. Being with her is the bravest thing I've ever done. I need to know that I'm still that guy.

JORDAN

You really don't see anything wrong with how attached you are to having a woman around?

CORNIELUS

I know it's an issue. Look, if it doesn't work out or go the way I want it to with Tiffany I'll take that hiatus and reassess things. I don't know. Maybe Jane was right about me.

JORDAN

Or...maybe she was just a jackass.

CORNIELUS

Two things can be true, yeah? I never should have let Tiffany out of my life. Biggest mistake I've ever made.

JORDAN

You're not really hurt by Jane divorcing you, are you?

CORNIELUS

Yeah I...you know what? Now that you mention it, I don't know. Maybe it's the reason WHY. Sometimes I wonder if I fucked things up with Jane. Did I even love her, Jo? Or was she just me playing it safe again? Did she love ME?

JORDAN

So you maybe stayed married to someone you didn't really love while POSSIBLY subconsciously hoping she would leave you so you can reconnect with the woman you really love, and I'M the asshole?

CORNIELUS

Well...two things can be true, yeah?

Jordan bellies a laugh.

INT. VERNA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sandra is watching "Star Trek TNG" with Verna on the couch, cuddled with a blanket.

SANDRA

Wait, so I thought you said Vulcans are the calm logical guys.

VERNA

Right, they are.

SANDRA

But why is this guy getting off torturing the bald guy?

VERNA

He's a ROMULAN.

SANDRA

But he's got the pointy ears.

VERNA

HA! Right. They're kinda like distant cousins. Like the Chinese and the Japanese.

SANDRA

Haha! Oh my goodness you ARE Jordan's mother.

Verna laughs as the tea kettle whistles. She gets up to the kitchen and pours them tea.

VERNA

I know, I know. Jordan doesn't always say the right thing. But trust me...

She walks over to Sandra with the two cups. She's asleep.

VERNA (CONT'D)

...it always comes from a good place.

Verna smiles and puts the cups on the table. She takes out her phone and takes a picture of Sandra.

She kisses her on the forehead. Verna takes her cup of tea and goes to her bedroom.

INT. JORDAN'S CAR - NIGHT

Jordan's in traffic as Cornelius is sleeping. Jordan's phone vibrates and he checks the message.

It's the picture of Sandra sent from Verna with the additional comments of "I bet you wish you were this blanket right now don't you? lol".

Jordan laughs out loud. Cornelius wakes up.

CORNIELUS

What's up?

JORDAN

Babe's something else. Sandy's sleeping on her couch right now.

CORNIELUS

They're cool again?

JORDAN

Mom's was just mad at her for breaking up with me. She always thought she was kinda snooty though. But she knows she's good for me.

CORNIELUS

She's your "Tiffany", dude.

JORDAN

Yeah. Yeah she is. So we're close to the airport now. Nervous?

CORNIELUS

Actually no. I'm not nervous at all. I think I'm doing what I'm supposed to. You?

JORDAN

I don't know, man. I'm just doing this for Babe. Hopefully I don't punch him in his damn face.

CORNIELUS

Yeah, hopefully. I'll probably take the long way to Tiffany. Just to make sure my mind's right, ya know?

JORDAN

We're here.

EXT. AIRPORT - NIGHT

They pull over on the curb. They get out of the SUV and Jordan takes an over the shoulder bag out of the back seat. They share a man hug.

CORNIELUS

Good luck, brother. I hope you get what you need out of this.

JORDAN

Yeah me too. I hope this works out with you and Tiffany. But please keep your expectations low. Things don't always work out the way you wan them to. Just...be careful with your heart. When you wear it on your sleeve it's easier for people to get to it.

CORNIELUS

Dude. That's the whole point.

Jordan nods and walks into the Airport. Cornelius gets back in the SUV and drives off.

INT. VERNA'S HOUSE - MORNING

Verna's dancing in the kitchen to Wande Coal's "So Mi So" while cooking breakfast. Sandra smells it and wakes up.

SANDRA

Sorry, I might have drooled a bit on your couch.

VERNA

Oh so you're not little "Ms. Perfect", huh?

SANDRA

Well I never said I WASN'T perfect. Just a bit of a drooler.

VERNA

HA! Whatever helps you sleep better at night.

SANDRA

Hey you got some moves over there!

VERNA

Only to Afro beats! I honestly wanted to be a dancer for a while, ya know.

SANDRA

What? I didn't know that! Why wouldn't Jordan ever mention that to ME? What happened?

VERNA

I don't know. You know how things can get caught up sometimes. You ever dance to music like this?

SANDRA

I haven't but I should. This sounds amazing.

VERNA

Well, show me what you got.

SANDRA

Ok, let me feel this thing out.

She starts to move slowly, taking in the music. She begins to do an African dance. Slowly until she begins to really get into it.

VERNA

There you go! Wow!

Sandra dances over to Verna and gently grabs her hand. They playfully dance together, having a helluva time.

SANDRA

Have you heard from Jordan, yet?

VERNA

A few minutes ago. He left his hotel. He's on his way to Harlem.

SANDRA

Ok then. I wish I could be there for him. He must be so nervous. Though he would never admit it. Does he get that from you too?

VERNA

Nah. That's all from his old man. He's got a lot from him. Probably more than he would like to admit. But a lot of the best parts? The BEST parts of Jordan? Those came from YOU, darling.

Sandy blushes like hell. Verna takes a cup of baking powder and throws it in her face.

VERNA (CONT'D)

Now let's see if you can cook!

SANDRA

Oh no you don't!

Sandra grabs some powder and they have a fun food fight.

EXT. CARLTON'S HOUSE - MORNING

Jordan's creeping up to the house, slowly. He takes a deep breath and is about to ring the bell. He waves his hand off at the house and walks away.

He walks towards his rental car. He turns back to the house. He takes out his phone and looks at the picture of Sandra that Verna sent him.

He smiles, puts the phone away and walks back to the house and rings the bell.

The door opens and an earnest yet whimsically sketchy African American man in his 60's opens the door. CARLTON THOMAS.

CARLTON

I was wondering if you were going to actually ring the bell.

JORDAN

Sonofabitch. Thought you'd be taller.

CARLTON

C'mon in. I was just brewin'.

Carlton walks into the house. Jordan hesitantly walks in and closes the door.

INT. CARLTON'S HOUSE - MORNING

Jordan looks around. It's a small house but very nice and clean. There are paintings of Jordan playing baseball on the wall which Jordan is taken aback by.

He sees a painting easel. He looks at the painting and it's a half finished painting of Verna.

He sees a picture of a younger Carlton and a pregnant Verna on the coffee table. He stands next to the couch, trying not to hyperventilate. Carlton walks in with two cups of coffee.

CARLTON (CONT'D)

You can sit your ass down, now. The couch ain't gonna bite you.

Jordan sits down. Carlton tries to hand him a cup him of coffee. Jordan stares him down and ignores it. Carlton puts it down on the coffee table.

CARLTON

Wow. You look just like me.

JORDAN
Congratulations. You got a famous
face.

They stare off to nowhere.

CARLTON
So.

JORDAN
So.

CARLTON
I'm glad you're here. I've been
wanting to meet you for a long
time. Now that you're here, I don't
even know what to say.

JORDAN
Must suck to be a coward, huh?

CARLTON
That's...that's fair. I deserved
that. I deserve more. Why don't you
just get it off your back, then?

JORDAN
What?

CARLTON
That damn boulder. It ain't healthy
to keep that much hate in your-

JORDAN
-Wow you really love to hear
yourself fucking talk don't you?
You're such a damn fraud. Look at
this place? Master manipulator,
huh? All these paintings of me at
my games. All these paintings of
Mom's like you actually gave a damn
about either of us.

CARLTON
I did-

JORDAN
-Bullshit! You wait to see if I'm
gonna ring the damn bell. You open
the door to see if I'll walk
through it. Master. Fucking.
Manipulator. That how you knocked
Mom's up? You manipulate her into
thinking you're a good man?

CARLTON

Jordan I-

JORDAN

-YOU'RE NOT A GOOD MAN! YOU'RE NOT!
And you know what? I'm better than
you at EVERYTHING! I take care of
the women around me. I take care of
my people. I was a World Series MVP
and I'm fucking RICH right now! I
made more money than you and my
restaurant is ten times better than
your fucking diner. I actually
WORSHIP MY woman. I would never
abandon the people I love. Because
I'm not a fucking coward. I got
THAT from my mother.

Carlton says nothing. Jordan gets up to walk out. Carlton
wipes tears from his eyes.

CARLTON

You're not me, son.

Jordan freezes at the door and turns around.

CARLTON (CONT'D)

You're not me. You're a good man,
Son. You're a GOOD man.

Jordan turns back to the door. Tears pour down his face but
he doesn't show Carlton. He stalks out and slams the door.

EXT. TIFFANY'S PARENTS HOUSE - MORNING

Cornielus pulls up in front. He steps out of the SUV, holding
two bouquets of roses and he's sharply dressed. He pauses in
front of the door and takes a deep breath.

FLASHBACK:

INT. AIRPORT - SUNRISE

Cornielus is standing in the boarding line with Tiffany.

CORNIELUS

Well. Here we go. Thanks for seeing
me off.

TIFFANY

Well it might be a while until we
see each other again. Might as well
soak it all in.

They embrace in a deep passionate kiss.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)
I love you, Babycakes.

CORNIELUS
I uhh...I won't be complete until we
meet again, Tiffany.

TIFFANY
Damn right you won't.

He watches her walk away as she wipes tears from her face.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)
Neither will I, darlin'.

END FLASHBACK:

An endearing Dominican woman in her 60's opens the door. This
is Tiffany's mother, THERESA METTS.

THERESA
Cornielus!

CORNIELUS
Hey, darling!

They hug tightly. He hands her one of the bouquets.

THERESA
It's so good to see you again.

CORNIELUS
You look GREAT! These are for you.

THERESA
Thank you, sweetie. C'mon in.

They walk in.

INT. TIFFANY'S PARENTS HOUSE - MORNING

CORNIELUS
Wow this place looks exactly the
same.

A rundown, weary African American man in his 60's walks out
of a back room. Tiffany's father, MARTIN METTS.

MARTIN
Well you know us. We don't much
like change.

CORNIELUS

Hello, sir!

They embrace in a hug.

MARTIN

Thank you for coming. Tiffany will be happy to hear you came here.

Cornielus sees the back room door Martin just came from is cracked open.

CORNIELUS

What do you mean "hear"? Isn't she over here?

THERESA

Cornielus, wait!

Cornielus opens the door and drops the bouquet in shock.

INT. TIFFANY'S ROOM - MORNING

Tiffany is in her bed attached to IV's and an oxygen tank with her eyes closed. Cornielus tries to speak but no words come from his mouth.

His hands are shaking and his eyes are watering. He starts to hyperventilate. Martin grabs him by his arms and leads him back to the living room.

INT. TIFFANY'S PARENTS HOUSE - MORNING

MARTIN

Sit down, son.

CORNIELUS

W-w-w-hat happened to T-Tiffany?!

THERESA

A year ago she was working undercover, investigating a drug ring outside of Baltimore. She got a little too close to the story. She started to care for a little girl who's big brother was running the organization. One day someone took a shot at the brother but they didn't realize or didn't care that the young girl was in the way. Tiffany, she...

Theresa can't finish through the tears.

MARTIN

Tiffany tackled her out of the way. She saved the little girl. But she hit her head on the curb and has been like this ever since. We moved her here a few months ago. The docs said maybe familiar surroundings will help her. Familiar people, sounds etcetera. We wanted to tell you about it in person. We didn't want to scare you away. We thought maybe...

CORNIELUS

Maybe I can help her. No that's fine. I...wow.

THERESA

It's been so hard, Cornelius but Tiffany, when you called, we're just happy to see you. Maybe you can help us. Help Tiffany.

Cornelius nods and walks into Tiffany's room.

INT. TIFFANY'S ROOM - MORNING

Cornelius sits beside her and kisses her hand.

CORNIELUS

Hey darling. I-I've missed you. I've missed you so much. I never should have let us be apart so long. You were right. We grew apart and it was my fault. I don't know why I let that happen. Maybe things would be different. Me and you could've been married by now and we would've stayed married. Would you believe I've been divorced three times? None of them were you, Tiff.

Cornelius gets up to leave. He walks to the door but turns back around to her.

CORNIELUS (CONT'D)

I was never ME with any of them! YOU always made me better. Every good thing I've done since I met you is BECAUSE of you. You gave me such a belief in myself that I reached heights I never thought I could. But I think I forgot to tell you I'm scared of heights.

He gets up and starts to walk out.

His hand freezes before he touches the knob. He walks back to her and sits down again.

CORNIELUS (CONT'D)

I was scared to get back with you. With you, I was spontaneous! I took risks! Everyday was a new adventure and it frightened me. That's the real reason I never reached back out to find you. I was scared, Tiffany. I was scared of you. I was scared of the man you were helping me become. Look what my fear has done to you.

He kisses her on the forehead. He walks out of the room in tears. He walks directly out of the house, ignoring Theresa and Martin. Theresa reaches out to him but Martin puts his hand on her shoulder.

INT. BECKHAM HOTEL - DAY

Jordan's talking to Cornelius on a video call.

JORDAN

Wow, seriously? You're not mad they didn't tell you about her earlier?

CORNIELUS

Nah. I'm more mad at myself. I never should have let it get to this point.

JORDAN

You can't blame yourself for that.

CORNIELUS

Yeah but I do. Look, I'm not in the headspace to drive up to get you. Can you fly back down here?

JORDAN

Yeah that's cool man. I just gotta do a couple of things real quick then I'll come there tonight.

CORNIELUS

Bet. Oh wait, I didn't even ask. How did it go? Did you guys work things out?

JORDAN

No. No I don't think so. I'll see you later.

CORNIELUS

Cool.

They hang up. Jordan thinks it over and dials another number on video chat. It's a pissed off Alanna.

JORDAN

Uuuumm...hi.

ALLANA

What do you want, Jordan?

JORDAN

I want to apologize. I was a real jerk to you and you didn't deserve that. I completely over reacted and I'm sorry. I can't believe I treated you like that. I'm so ashamed. I thought...I thought I was better than that.

ALLANA

Hmmph. You don't take me as the apologizing type.

JORDAN

Yeah I guess I'm usually not. I've just been thinking a bit that maybe I don't always treat people the way I should. But I think you're a hell of a woman. I do. Fact of the matter is I'm coming off a tough relationship that I really want to fix. But I want YOU in my life. I would really love it if you would be my friend. Please?

ALLANA

Well. Well maybe we can work on it. I think I would like that.

JORDAN

Thank you, Ms. Allana.

ALLANA

Thank you Mr. Jordan. Now give me back my fucking shoes!

JORDAN

HAHA! Yes ma'am.

INT. CARLTON'S PLACE - EVENING

Carlton's behind a counter, wiping it down.

He pauses when he sees Jordan walk in. Jordan walks up to the counter and sits on the stool. He reaches in his pocket and pulls out a wedding ring box and puts it on the counter.

JORDAN

So. You think she'll say yes?

Carlton smiles and leans closer to him.

CARLTON

I remember a long time ago there was this jazz musician. Best saxophone you could ever hear. When he did a show he was like a rockstar. Women just throwing themselves at him for days. But he had a lady at home already. One day he did a show in Italy and he got offered a recording and tour deal right on the spot. He called his lady to tell her the good news. Turns out she had some new of her own. She was pregnant.

Carlton's voice shakes.

CARLTON

Now see, he had a choice to make he thought. He had two futures. One where he could live his dreams and be wined and dined all around the world or he could give it all up and settle down. Get a "real" job. Do the right thing...

JORDAN

Look, Carlton-

CARLTON

-One choice excited him behind his wildest dreams. The other scared him shitless. Years and years went by before the musician realized he made the biggest mistake he possibly could have. He should have went back to his woman. His unborn.

Jordan's eyes are watering along with Carlton's.

CARLTON (CONT'D)

He should have realized that would have been the greatest adventure of all. If only he wasn't so damn afraid. He let his fear dictate his actions. He's regretted it ever since. I don't know if she will say yes, Jordan. The important thing... is that you ask.

Carlton pulls out two glasses and a bottle of rum. He pours and raises a glass to toast. Jordan looks him up and down and takes a deep sip. Carlton smirks and they share a drink.

EXT. WORTON HOTEL - NIGHT

Jordan is leaning against the SUV as Cornielus walks out of the hotel. They embrace in strong hug. Cornielus hands him the keys and they drive off.

INT. JORDAN'S SUV - NIGHT

The guys are driving in silence. Jordan notices this and he sees the "I-95" sign and he takes a different path.

CORNIELUS

Hey what are you doing?

JORDAN

There's this karaoke place not too far from here we used to go to when we played the Orioles. You actually need some talent at this place. Babes, wall to wall.

CORNIELUS

I'm not really in the singing mood.

JORDAN

I know and that's why we should.

CORNIELUS

Jo, I-

JORDAN

-Look. You can't beat yourself up too much for what happened to Tiffany. That's a bad beat. It's not your fault.

CORNIELUS

Sure it is. I was too much of a-

JORDAN

-I get it. Let's go have a good time, huh?

Cornielus nods.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Word.

INT. MIDNIGHT SALOON - NIGHT

Jordan and Cornielus are at a table with a dozen empty beer bottles. Cornielus has had too much to drink.

CORNIELUS

So yeah I'm not saying I'm the best guy in the world, right? But you think JANE can do better? Or Christine?! Or-or-or--

JORDAN

Terry.

CORNIELUS

Or Terry?? Yeah right. Then they should go ahead then! The woman I love is a damn hero!

JORDAN

Damn right she is. Good to see you still can't hold your liquor, pal.

A couple of FEMALE PATRONS come over to them.

FEMALE PATRON #1

Jordan Clark?!

FEMALE PATRON #2

Oh it really IS you!

JORDAN

Ladies.

CORNIELUS

You guys want a damn picture don't you? Ok c'mon, here ya go. Admire the sonofabitch if you want to.

Cornielus staggers up and takes out his cell phone and takes their picture with Jordan.

FEMALE PATRON #1

What's up with your boy?

JORDAN

Dude, maybe we should bounce.
You're smashed right now.

CORNIELUS

No-no-I'm good. Let's show them
what I can do. C'mon Jo.

JORDAN

Yeeeahh this should be fun.

They jump on the stage and Jordan presses "play" on the
karaoke player. It starts to play Bruno Mar's "Treasure".

Cornielus grabs a microphone and throws the other one to
Jordan. Cornielus sings the lead vocals as they both do the
dance steps in synch.

They're incredible and Cornielus voice is dynamite voice. The
crowd goes crazy. The verse finishes, Jordan's back goes out.

Cornielus turns to him with a big smile. He doesn't notice
Jordan's back pain.

Jordan gives a thumbs up and guts through. The first verse of
New Edition's "If It Isn't Love" plays.

They're equally incredible with their dance moves and
Cornielus' voice.

The crowd is going even crazier. Jordan smiles at seeing his
friend having such a great time.

CORNIELUS

C'mon! You like that? You like
that?! Another??

The next song plays. Bell Biv Devo's "Poison". Jordan quickly
looks to Cornielus and can see his shoulders sink from behind
as Cornielus doesn't lift the microphone.

The crowd is going crazy but Cornielus stares out to nowhere.
He jumps off the stage and hustles out of the bar.

EXT. MIDNIGHT SALOON - NIGHT

Jordan walks out of the bar and sees Cornielus throwing up on
the sidewalk.

JORDAN

Hey man, I-

CORNIELUS

-I gotta go back, Jo.

JORDAN

Yeah. Yeah I know.

CORNIELUS

I gotta go back, Jo. I gotta go back.

Cornielus breaks down crying as Jordan embraces him in a strong hug, keeping Cornielus from falling.

JORDAN

I know, man, I know.

INT. VERNA'S HOUSE - MORNING

Sandra's dancing to soca music while vacuuming. Jordan sneaks in, with a Cheshire Cat smile. He takes a deep breath and walks up behind her.

Sandra jumps when she turns around. She punches him playfully in the arm and laughs. She notices he's holding a wedding ring in his hand.

She puts her hand on her mouth and automatically begins to cry tears of joy. She mouths "yes" and wraps her arms around him. He picks her up and brings her to a spare bedroom.

TTITLE CARD: TWO MONTHS LATER:

INT. TIFFANY'S PARENT'S HOUSE - MORNING

Cornielus is sitting bedside with Tiffany, holding her hand. He's playing "Poison" on the radio and sleeping.

He starts to stir when he feels her hand squeeze his. His eyes widen and a nervous smile creeps up on his face. He looks over to Tiffany with watery eyes and smiles ear to ear.

CORNIELUS

Hi...

THE END