THE MISTAKE

By

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FADE IN:

EXT.-—STEELE HOME/FRONT YARD/BRONX N.Y.-—EARLY MORNING

At the front door of the new one story brick house, JEROME, 30 years old, medium brown complexion, 5’-10”tall, short trimmed afro, goatee, and average build, comes out of the house, as he kisses GWEN, 29 years old, light complexion, light brown eyes, hair pulled back into a pony-tail, and very shapely body, and dressed in her bathrobe.

JEROME

I’ll be home on Thursday.

(kisses her again)

Give that one to Jessica for me.

GWEN

I’ll see you Thursday. And Jerome?

please be careful out there on the

road.

JEROME

(walking away)

I will. I love you.

GWEN

I love you, too.

Jerome gets into his silver Nissan Titan pick-up, as Gwen stands and watches him. When he pulls off, Gwen goes back inside, and goes into Jessica’s room.

She awakens JESSICA, three years old, light complexion, lots of brown curly hair, light brown eyes, and dimples, with a kiss to her forehead.

GWEN

(sweetly)

Jessica? Wake up.

Jessica awakens with a pleasant smile.

JESSICA

Good morning Mommy.

GWEN

Good morning. Get up. We’ve got

to get ready to go.

JESSICA

Is Daddy going with us?

GWEN

No Sweetie. He’s out driving his truck.

He’ll be gone for a few days, but he

did tell me to give you something.

JESSICA

M&M’s?

GWEN

No. He told me to give you a great

big kiss!

Gwen tickles and kisses Jessica, then stops after a few seconds.

GWEN

(taking her out of the bed)

Ok. That’s enough. Let’s get you ready.

Ms. Carrie will be here shortly.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.--STILL HOME/LIVING ROOM-—LATER-—MORNING

MS. CARRIE, 45 years old, a little weighty, dark brown complexion, graying hair, and thin-framed glasses, is carrying Jessica out of the front door, where Gwen is standing dressed in professional attire.

GWEN

I’ll be there to pick her up around 5:30

today. We have a late meeting this afternoon.

CARRIE

No problem, Gwen. Take your time

because I hate it when this little precious

leaves me all alone.

GWEN

Thank you, Carrie. Give Mommy a

kiss, Jessica.

Jessica kisses Gwen on the cheek, and then Carrie takes her out.

JESSICA

Bye Mommy.

GWEN

Bye. You be good now, Ok?

JESSICA

Yes.

As Carrie continues to take Jessica to the car, Gwen goes over to the end table to grab her keys and purse. She then walks out of the house, makes sure that the door is locked, and then goes to get into her blue Honda Accord. She pulls off and leaves.

CUT TO:

INT.—-PROVIDENCE FINANCE BUILDING/GWEN’S OFFICE-—LATER--DAY

Gwen is sitting behind her desk flipping through a stack of documents, and keying numbers into the computer. As she is typing, COREY, 27 years old, tall, very handsome, dark complexion, short wavy black hair, and dressed in an expensive Italian suit, comes into the office with another stack of documents.

COREY

What’s going on, Gwen?

GWEN

Hey, Corey. Nothing much. I’m just

trying to get these dockets done.

COREY

Yeah. You’d better get them done, ‘cause

you know that Jerome ain’t having you

coming home late.

GWEN

(chuckles)

Whatever. I’m not worried about him.

He’s out on the road again and won’t

be home until Thursday.

COREY

(jokingly)

Oh! What’s good then?! I can come

over and put it down, right?!

GWEN

You’d better stop tripping! You wouldn’t

know what to do if you had a book with

directions, and you ain’t never coming

to my house!

COREY

You don’t know that! I just might

surprise you!

GWEN

Yeah right! You couldn’t if I wanted you

to anyway. I have a three-year-old daughter

who doesn’t grasp the concept of going to bed.

COREY

Three?! Shoot! All you gotta do is throw

on a Barney D.V.D. and close her door!

GWEN

(laughs)

Believe me...It would take a lot more than

Barney to keep that girl in the bed.

COREY

Oh I see...You’re just scared, huh?

GWEN

(sarcastically)

Yeah...Terrified even.

COREY

(walking out)

You play like you don’t want this,

but You know you dream about me

when Jerome ain’t home.

GWEN

I’d break you in half!

COREY

You promise?

Gwen laughs as Corey leaves. Gwen smiles, shakes her head, and then gets back to work.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.—STEELE HOME/LIVING ROOM–LATER-EVENING

Gwen and Jessica come into the front door. Gwen puts her purse and keys on the end table, and then kneels down to unzip Jessica’s jacket.

GWEN

Take you jacket in your room, go wash

your hands, and then you can watch your

cartoons.

JESSICA

Are you going to watch TV with me?

GWEN

Only for a little while, because I’ve got

to get started on dinner. OK?

JESSICA

Ok.

Jessica starts for her room, and Gwen heads for the kitchen.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.-—JESSICA’S ROOM-—LATER-—NIGHT

Jessica is in the bed, as Gwen sits on the edge of the bed reading a book.

GWEN

“Someone’s been sleeping in MY bed,”

said Big Papa Bear. “Someone’s been

sleeping in MY bed,” said Mama Bear.

“Someone’s been sleeping in MY bed,

and there she is,” exclaimed Little Baby Bear,

and when Goldilocks awakened to see Papa,

Mama, and Baby Bear, she was very frightened,

and she quickly ran outside into the woods

to return home, and she never went to the

Bears’ house again. The end.

JESSICA

Can you read me another story?

GWEN

(heads for the door)

No. That’s it. It’s late, and you need to

get to sleep. And don’t forget to say your

prayers.

JESSICA

When is Daddy coming home?

GWEN

He’ll be back in a few days. Good night.

JESSICA

Good night.

Gwen leaves the room and closes the door behind her. Jessica gets out of the bed and kneels at the bedside.

JESSICA (CONT')

God, bless Mommy, and Grandma, and

Uncle Bill, and me when we sleep. And

Please let Daddy come home early. Amen.

Jessica gets back into the bed, and gets under the cover to get to sleep.

CUT TO:

INT.-—LIVING ROOM-—MEANWHILE-—NIGHT

Gwen is walking through the living room when the phone rings. She answers.

GWEN

Hello?...Oh. Hey Girl...Nothing. I just

got Jessica in the bed, and now I’m about

to relax...No, Thursday, Girl. I miss him

already!

(laughs)

Oh no! He knows that I’m all the woman

that he needs, and he’s gonna get it when he

gets back! ...What? You’d better ask somebody!

Why do you think we’ve been married for nine

years now?

(laughs)

Yeah….But listen. I’m about to sit down

And relax, I’ll talk to you later...Bye.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT.-GWEN’S OFFICE-DAY

Gwen is typing on the computer, when Corey comes in with more documents.

COREY

What’s up, Gwen? You’re looking

mighty good today, Girl.

GWEN

(carelessly)

Whatever. I sure don’t feel that way.

COREY

Oh, No! I mean it! You look good!

GWEN

(nonchalant)

Well thanks.

COREY

Yeah. But anyway, here’s today’s dockets,

and Sabrina said to get started on them right

away, because she’s going to need them

back first thing tomorrow morning.

GWEN

(taking the papers)

What we got?

(looks through them)

I’ll have these done by four. All that

I have to do is key them in.

COREY

(walking out)

Yeah. I know you can get it done.

(turns around)

And speaking of getting it done, what’s

good? You gonna let me come over

tonight?

GWEN

(confused)

For what?!

COREY

So I can get it done!

Gwen throws a pen at Corey with a laugh.

GWEN

Boy, you’d better get out of here!

COREY

Can’t blame me for trying!

GWEN

Well, you need to try somewhere else,

‘cause you gets none here!

COREY

(walking away)

Mm-hmm. We’ll see.

Again, Gwen sits for a second with a grin, and then gets back to work.

As Gwen works, the phone rings, and she answers.

GWEN

Hello, this is Gwen in accounting.

CUT TO:

INT.-—JEROME’S BIG WRIG/INTERSTATE-—MEANWHILE-—AFTERNOON

Jerome is driving in semi-heavy traffic.

JEROME

Gwen, it’s me.

GWEN (V.O.)

Hey, Baby! What’s going on?

JEROME

I just called to tell you that I’m on my

way home, and I want to go out tonight.

CUT TO:

INT.--GWEN’S OFFICE—MEANWHILE-—AFTERNOON

GWEN

That sounds good to me. I can’t

wait to see you.

CUT TO:

INT.—-JEROME’S BIG WRIG-—MEANWHILE—-AFTERNOON

JEROME

I can’t wait to get there. I’m about four

hours away.

CUT TO:

INT.—GWEN’S OFFICE—MEANWHILE—AFTERNOON

GWEN

Well, you be careful out there. You

know how the rush hour traffic can be.

JEROME (V.O.)

Yep. I will. I’ll see you around seven.

I love you, Gwen.

GWEN

I love you too, Jerome. Bye.

JEROME (V.O.)

Bye.

Gwen hangs up the phone, and starts to hurry with her work.

GWEN

(to herself)

Let me hurry up and finish.

I’ve got to get out of here

on time today!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT.-—STEELE HOME/FRONT DOOR-—LATER-—EVENING

Jerome opens the door and goes inside. Jessica, dressed for the evening out and sitting watching TV.

JEROME

Jessica!

Jessica happily runs to Jerome.

JESSICA

Hi Daddy!

Jerome picks her up and embraces her and rubs his face on her belly while growling, as Jessica laughs.

JEROME

That’s my baby! I missed you!

JESSICA

I missed you, too.

JEROME

(reaching into his pocket)

I’ve got something for you.

Jerome takes out a king-sized bag of peanut M&M’s, and gives them to Jessica.

JEROME

What do you say?

JESSICA

Thank you.

JEROME

You’re welcome. But this is our little

Secret, OK? . Don’t tell Mommy, because

you didn’t have dinner yet.

Gwen is coming out of the bedroom.

GWEN

Don’t tell me what?

JESSICA

Daddy brought me some M&M’s!

Jerome looks at Jessica in shock.

JEROME

Jessica! You little snitch!

They all laugh, as Gwen walks over to Jerome, and they kiss passionately.

GWEN

I’m so glad that you’re back.

Jerome puts Jessica down, and turns to the bedroom as he takes Gwen by the hand.

JEROME

Jessica, go watch TV. I gotta get

ready to go. Gwen, you come with

me.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.—-STEAKHOUSE RESTAURANT-—LATER-—NIGHT

Jerome, Gwen, and Jessica are sitting eating dinner, in the semi-crowded restaurant. Jerome notices an odd look on Gwen’s face.

JEROME

Baby, what’s wrong?

GWEN

It’s nothing. It’s just that you are always

on the road. More so lately. Why can’t

you apply for a local route so you can

spend more time with me and Jessica?

We need you at home for more than

three days out of the week.

JEROME

(takes deep breath)

I know. You’re right. And actually, I

did apply for a local route, but they said

that could take months before that goes

through. I do have to work until then

(MORE)

JEROME (CON’T)

...And I guess that this is a bad time

to tell you, but I have a long drive on

Saturday.

GWEN

A long drive?! To where?!

JEROME

California. It’s going to be a three-day

drive just to get there. I’m going to stay

overnight, and then three days back. So,

I’m going to be gone for a whole week.

Gwen sighs in disappointment.

JEROME (CONT’)

I’m sorry. Things are going to change.

I promise you that. Just bear with me a

little while longer.

GWEN

(carelessly)

Fine, Jerome.

(getting up)

Excuse me. I gotta go to the bathroom.

As Gwen is walking away, the server is coming to the table.

SERVER

Do you all need refills on your drinks?

JESSICA

I do.

SERVER

And what do you have there?

JESSICA

Ice.

The server and Jerome laugh.

JEROME

She had a fruit punch.

The server takes Jessica’s cup, and is walking away.

SERVER

Ok. I’ll be right back.

JEROME

Thank you.

CUT TO:

INT.-—RESTROOM AREA-—MINUTES LATER-—NIGHT

Gwen is coming out of the restroom. As she is walking, Corey comes out of the Men’s room, and double-takes when he sees Gwen.

COREY

Gwen!

Gwen turns around, and is surprised to see Corey.

GWEN

Oh, hey Corey! What’re you doing here?

COREY

I guess that I came here to eat just

like you.

GWEN

(chuckles)

Duuh...I mean like, why else would you

be here, right?....You're here by yourself?

COREY

Yeah. I didn’t feel like cooking, and

I wanted steak. You?

GWEN

I’m here with Jerome and my daughter.

COREY

(not wanting to hear it)

Jerome, huh?

GWEN

(firmly)

Yeah, Jerome! So?!

COREY

(mumbles)

He ain’t nobody.

GWEN

(uptight)

Excuse you?!

COREY

(walks up to Gwen)

I was just saying...He ain’t got nothing

on me.

Corey seductively and softly kisses Gwen on the cheek.

COREY (CONT’)

I ain’t mean nothing by it.

Gwen backs away, giving Corey a serious look.

GWEN

Don’t do that again! I might joke around

with you at work, but that’s all that it is.

Jokes! I am happily married!

COREY

(very cool)

I’m sorry. My bad. Don’t beat me up!

GWEN

(walking away)

It’s alright this time. Just don’t do

it again.

Gwen walks back to the table and sits down more upset than she was when she left.

JEROME

(getting uptight)

Gwen, what is the matter with you?!

Are you that upset with me?!

GWEN

It’s not even you, Jerome.

JEROME

Then what is it?!

Corey is walking past the table, and he and Gwen stare at one another until he passes, but Jerome does not notice.

GWEN

It’s nothing. I’ve already taken care of it.

JEROME

(not convinced)

Ok...But if you want to talk about it, I’m

here...Jessica, eat your food, and I’ll get

you some ice cream when you’re done.

They all continue to eat, although Gwen is still uptight.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT.-—STEELE HOME/LIVING ROOM-—LATE MORNING

Jerome is walking out of the door with a travel bag. Gwen and Jessica are standing at the door to see him off.

JEROME

(kisses Gwen)

Well, I’m off. If you need any money,

call me, and I’ll wire it to you.

Jerome kneels to Jessica.

JEROME (CONT’)

Jessica, I want you to be good while I’m

gone, and if you are, when I come back,

I have a big big surprise for you. Ok?

JESSICA

Yes.

JEROME

Daddy loves you.

JESSICA

I love you too, Daddy.

Jerome stands and kisses Gwen once more while walking out of the door.

JEROME

I’ll see you in a week.

GWEN

Jerome, can’t they find somebody

else to make this trip?!

JEROME

No. I did ask. I gotta go. I’ll call you

from time to time on the way to check

up on you.

(kisses Gwen)

I love you.

GWEN

(hurt)

I love you, too. Be careful out there.

JEROME

I will. Bye.

Jerome kisses Gwen again and gets into his truck. As he is pulling off, he notices Jessica waving, and he waves back. He then pulls out and leaves. Gwen closes the door, and goes to sit down on the sofa in frustration.

GWEN

Jessica, go in your room until Ms. Carrie

gets here.

Jessica goes to her room, and Gwen starts to get a little teary.

GWEN (CONT’)

Lord, please help me! I need him here!

I can’t take this anymore! Something has

to change!

ADE OUT

FADE IN:

EXT.-—TRUCK DEPOT—-LATER--MID-AFTERNOON

Jerome and an inspector, who is carrying an inspection sheet, walks around the 18-wheeler, as Jerome reacts in anger.

JEROME

What do you mean I can’t drive this truck?!

I just drove three hours to get here!

INSPECTOR

Look! First of all, you need to calm down!

Secondly, I don’t care if you drove for three

weeks to get here! This truck didn’t pass

the pre-trip safety inspection specs, and it

will not go on the road until the problems

are fixed! We can’t have you on the road

driving a 17-ton time-bomb! Now either

you can wait here, or go home until the truck

is ready. That’s totally up to you.

JEROME

Why don’t y’all just give me another truck

to drive?!

INSPECTOR

Because they are all taken! You are not the

only driver with this company. You have a

problem, you go take it up with Williams!

JEROME

(storming off)

This is bull, Man! I can’t believe that y’all

just wasted three hours of my time like that!

I’m going home! Call me when y’all are ready!

Jerome gets into his truck, and peels off like a maniac.

CUT TO:

EXT.—GWEN’S OFFICE BUILDING/PARKING LOT-—LATER—AFTERNOON

Corey cautiously looks around as he makes his way to Gwen’s car with a jimmy. He gets to her car and checks to see if the door is unlocked. It is locked, and so he jimmies the lock open and then pops the hood. He is looking around as he fumbles under the hood, closes it, and then cautiously and quickly walks away.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT.—GWEN’S OFFICE BUILDING/PARKING LOT-—LATER—EVENING

Employees are dispersing to their cars. Gwen gets into her car, starts her engine, waits for a few seconds, and then pulls off. Before she can get out of the parking lot, her car dies out powerless.

GWEN

What in the world?!

She tries to start the car again with no avail. At that time, Corey pulls up behind her in his B.M.W. Roadster, gets out, and walks up to Gwen’s window.

COREY

What’s wrong?

GWEN

I don’t know. It just died on me and

I’m getting no power at all now.

COREY

Let me take a look. Pop the hood.

Gwen unlocks the hood, and Corey looks around for a few seconds. Corey tightens the distributor cap with his hand.

COREY

Try it now.

Gwen tries, the car does start, and Corey closes the hood.

COREY (CONT)

Your distributor cap was loose.

GWEN

Thanks, Corey. I really appreciate that.

COREY

No problem. But listen. Maybe I should

follow you home just in case it goes out

on you again….if that’s alright with you.

GWEN

(thinks for a second)

Yeah, because if it happens again,

I wouldn’t know what to do!

COREY

(walking back to his car)

Cool. Following you.

Once Corey is in his car, Gwen pulls off and Corey follows.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT.—STEELE HOME—FRONT YARD—MINUTES LATER—AFTERNOON

Gwen pulls up in front of the house, and Corey pulls up behind her. Gwen gets out of her car, and walks back to Corey’s.

GWEN

Thanks again, Corey.

COREY

No problem.

GWEN

I don’t have anything to offer you for

your troubles, so I guess the least that

I could do is to invite you in for a cup

of coffee or something. Come on.

Corey gets out of his car, and follows Gwen into the house. When inside, Corey looks around.

COREY

Y’all have a nice place here.

GWEN

Thanks. Jerome works really hard to give

us what we have. That’s why I love that

man. Make yourself at home. I’ll be back.

Gwen goes into the kitchen, as Corey sits goes to the end tables to look at pictures of the family.

GWEN (V.O.)

How do you want your coffee?

COREY

Black coffee, no sugar, no cream!

(lusting over a picture of Gwen and mumbles)

That’s the kind of girl I need down

with my team.

Gwen then comes out with the coffee. Corey puts the picture back on the table As Gwen is giving the coffee to Corey, he gently takes her by the wrist and rubs it up and down.

GWEN

(uptight)

Look Corey. I didn’t invite you in here

for that. I just wanted you to sit down

for a minute before you went home for

helping me.

COREY

I know. I’m sorry. I just got carried away

for a second. I apologize.

Corey stands to his feet, still holding Gwen’s hand.

COREY

Thanks for inviting me in, but I think

that I’d better get out of here, because

my mind is starting to wander. I don’t

want any trouble. I’ll see you at work

tomorrow.

Corey softly kisses Gwen on the cheek, and Gwen closes her eyes as she gets a little weak.

GWEN

You really don’t have to leave. That’s

just as long as you can keep your mind

from wandering, because I really could

use the company.

Still holding Gwen’s hand, Corey sits back down, but pulling Gwen down with him. Corey moves in again for another kiss, but Gwen gently and nervously eases back.

GWEN

No. I can’t do this. I love Jerome too

much, and I can’t break his trust.

COREY

I understand. I won’t do it again.

GWEN

I appreciate that. Let’s just talk. I have a

while before I have to pick up my daughter.

CUT TO:

INT.-—BEDROOM—-MINUTES LATER-—EVENING

Corey and Gwen are engaged in foreplay, and ultimately leading up to full intercourse. They both climax, and Corey rolls onto his back.

COREY

(out of breath)

WOW, that was good! It's no wonder

why you've got that on lock for Jerome!

Corey looks over at Gwen who is now getting teary.

COREY (CONT’)

What’s wrong?

CUT TO:

EXT.—STELE HOME/FRONT YARD—MEANWHILE—EVENING

Jerome pulls up into the yard and gets out of the car. He sees Corey’s car and looks in confusion.

JEROME

Who’s car is that?!

CUT TO:

INT.—BEDROOM—MEANWHILE—EVENING

Gwen and Corey still lie in the bed, as Gwen cries.

GWEN

Corey, that should’ve never happened.

This was a terrible mistake! I’ve never

even thought of cheating on Jerome

before! I think that you should be going

now.

COREY

But I thought that you were feeling me.

Weren’t you feeling me?

GWEN

Yeah, I was. But now that it’s over, I

realize the mistake I’ve made. It never

hurts until it’s over. Please...Just go.

Besides, I’ve got to pick up my daughter.

It’s getting late.

Corey looks at Gwen for a second before giving in with a sigh.

COREY

(getting up)

Alright. I’ll leave. I see that you need

this time to yourself.

Corey, in his boxers, begins getting dressed, and Jerome walks into the room. Jerome freezes in his steps.

JEROME

What the Hell?!

GWEN

Oh God! Jerome!

Gwen jumps out of the bed covering herself with the sheet, as Jerome charges Corey, taking him down with a right to the jaw. Corey falls onto the floor and Jerome attacks him with repeated punches to his face. Jerome then stands to his feet and repeatedly kicks Corey in the rib cage. Gwen rushes over to Jerome to try to hold him back.

GWEN

Jerome! Please stop!

JEROME

You’d better get the Hell out of my house!

Corey, who is bloody, weak, and staggering, grabs his clothes and runs out of the room, and Jerome snatches away from Gwen and picks up the phone.

JEROME

(out of breath)

Carrie, it’s Jerome. I’m going to need

you to keep Jessica a little later for me

if you don’t mind...No everything’s fine.

I’ll pick her up later tonight...Ok...Thank

you, Carrie. Bye.

Corey slams the phone down and turns to Gwen.

JEROME

And what’re you waiting for?! You

can pack your stuff and get out of my

house, too!

Gwen runs over to Jerome to try to embrace him.

GWEN

Jerome! I’m sorry! I didn’t mean to!

Jerome shoves Gwen off of him.

JEROME

Don’t touch me! What do you mean by

you didn’t mean to?! Did he rape you?!

GWEN

No!

JEROME

(turning his back)

Well then, that was no accident! You got

five minutes to pack your stuff and get out

of here, and two and a half of those minutes

are already gone!

Gwen follows Jerome in desperation.

GWEN

Jerome, wait! I said that I was sorry!

JEROME

(stops and turns to her)

And that’s supposed to make everything ok?!

They both stare at one another before Jerome once again turns to walk away.

JEROME (CONT’)

I didn’t think so! Get the Hell out my face!

You’ve got one more minute to pack!

GWEN

Jerome, will you please just listen to

me for a minute?!

JEROME

I don’t want to hear it! Is this what you

do when I’m out on the road?!

GWEN

(desperately following)

No! This was the first and only time!

JEROME

Look...Just get away from me! As a

matter of fact, don’t say nothing else

to me!

GWEN

(crying hysterically)

But Jerome, I didn’t mean to! I love You!

Jerome angrily turns back to Gwen and is storming towards the bedroom.

JEROME

Didn’t I tell you not to say nothing to me?!

I don’t want to hear that crap about you

love me!

When Jerome gets into the bedroom, he begins to snatch the dresser drawers, and throwing all of Gwen’s clothes onto the floor.

JEROME

Here! Let me help you pack your stuff!

Into an empty drawer, Jerome puts a pile of Gwen’s clothes into it, and carries it to the front door.

GWEN

What’re you doing?!

Jerome hurls the whole drawer out of the door.

JEROME

There! You don’t live here anymore!

GWEN

Where am I supposed to go?!

JEROME

Why don’t you go stay with that man?!

I’m sure that he won’t care! I know that

I don’t!

Gwen falls to Jerome’s feet, and wraps her arms around his ankles.

GWEN

Baby, please!

JEROME

(snatching away)

Get off me! If you want to stay here

tonight, you’d better go out there and

get your stuff!

Gwen gets up, goes outside, gathers the scattered clothing into the drawer, and is walking back up to the porch.

GWEN

Thank you...Thank you!

The very second that she gets up to the door to come in, Jerome slams the door in her face. Gwen drops the drawer, falls to her knees, and goes into a horrendous cry.

GWEN (CON’T)

I’m sorry!....God, I’m sorry!

A few seconds later, Jerome comes out of the house and walks right past Gwen to get to his truck. Gwen desperately follows him. She tries to stop him by embracing him.

GWEN

Jerome, please wait! Where are you

going?!

Ignoring Gwen, Jerome shoves her off, gets into the truck, and drives away.

Gwen goes back to try to get in, but she’s locked out. Therefore, she picks up her clothes, goes over to her car, reaches under the front fender to get the spare car key, and gets in.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.--CARRIE’S HOUSE—LATER—NIGHT

Jerome is carrying Jessica out of the door as Carrie’s stands there.

JEROME

Thanks, Carrie. I’ll be dropping her

off here a little early tomorrow.

CARRIE

Is everything alright?

JEROME

(fake smirk)

Peachy.

CARRIE

Can I have a kiss, Jessica?

Jerome leans over to allow Jessica to kiss Carrie on the cheek.

JEROME

You gonna tell Ms. Carrie, ‘Bye’?

JESSICA

Bye, Ms. Carrie.

CARRIE

Bye, Precious. I’ll see you tomorrow.

JEROME

Thanks again. I’ll pay you on Friday.

Jerome walks on to the truck, and is putting Jessica into the car seat.

JESSICA

Where’s Mommy?

JEROME

She’s at home. She couldn’t come tonight.

By this time, Jerome has Jessica strapped in, and is getting into the truck.

JEROME

Are you hungry?

JESSICA

Yes.

JEROME

Ok. I’ll stop off somewhere to get you

something to eat, and then we’ve got to

go home to get you some clothes. We’re

not staying at home tonight.

JESSICA

Where we goin’, Daddy?

CUT TO:

EXT.—SHUAN’S HOUSE—LATER—NIGHT

Holding Jessica in one hand and a sports bag in the other, Jerome rings the doorbell. Seconds later, SHAUN, 30 years old, 6’ tall, medium brown complexion, and wild curly brown afro, opens the door.

SHAUN

Oh...What’s up Jerome?

JEROME

(walking in)

S’up, Shaun. I need to stay here tonight.

SHAUN

That’s cool. Come on in.

(Jerome goes in)

Hey Jessica.

JESSICA

Hi Mr. Shaun.

SHAUN

What’s going on, Jerome? You want

to talk about it, Bruh?

JEROME

(putting Jessica down)

Jessica, I want you to go and play with

Ebony, OK?

JESSICA

OK.

Jessica runs off to Ebony’s room.

JEROME

Man, I caught Gwen tonight.

SHAUN

Caught her doing what?

JEROME

I caught her cheating.

SHAUN

Man, the I.R.S. is going to send her

to jail!

JEROME

I don’t mean on her taxes. I mean that I

caught her in the bed with someone else.

SHAUN

(in disbelief)

Man, Are you serious?!

JEROME

Yeah.

SHAUN

So you whooped his head, right?

JEROME

Oh, and you know it!

(pauses and takes a deep breath)

But even that didn’t do any good.

The pain is too deep, and the damage

is done.

SHAUN

That’s messed up, Man! I’m serious.

Stay here for as long as you need to

and get your head together. I got you.

JEROME

(slaps hands with Shaun)

Thanks Shaun.

SHAUN

Cool, but you’d better not be bringing

no roaches in here!

JEROME

(chuckles while walking to

the room)

Man, Shut up!

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT.—GWEN’S OFFICE—DAY

Gwen sits behind her desk typing on the computer. She pauses and dials Jerome’s number on the phone. After two rings, the messaging system picks up.

JEROME (V.O.)

Hi, you’ve reached Jerome Steele.

Please leave a message. Thank you.

(beep)

GWEN

Jerome, it’s me. I just called to let you

know that I still love you, and we need

to talk. Will you give me a call back?

(getting teary)

Please?...I'll talk to you later.

Gwen hangs up the phone and gets back to work, but can barely concentrate. A few seconds later, Corey, with a bruised face, comes into the office with a stack of documents. Gwen looks at him then turns her head.

GWEN

Drop them on the desk, and just leave.

COREY

Wait a minute now! Do I detect some

kind of an attitude?

GWEN

What do you think, Corey?! Am I

supposed to be happy and smiling

right now?!

COREY

Look...I’m sorry for what happened. I

really am, but I didn’t force you. We

were two consenting adults. I’m the

one that should be mad. Look at my

face! Gwen, I’m sorry!

GWEN

It was all a big mistake, and by you

being sorry, is that going to put my

family together again?! You have

NO idea how that feels! Do you?

Just then, MR. REYNOLDS, white male, tall, heavy-set, salt and pepper colored hair and bald on top, and wearing glasses, comes into the office with more dockets.

REYNOLDS

Morning, Gwen.

GWEN

Morning, Mr. Reynolds.

Mr. Reynolds notices Gwen’s melancholy emotion.

REYNOLDS

Is something wrong?

GWEN

No. I’m fine.

REYNOLDS

Corey, what’s going on here?

COREY

I don’t know. I just came in to give her

today’s new accounts. I was just leaving.

Corey and Gwen stare at one another for a second, before Corey turns to walk out of the office. Mr. Reynolds looks confused.

REYNOLDS

Is there something that you need to tell

me, Gwen?

GWEN

No. I can handle myself, Mr. Reynolds.

REYNOLDS

Are you sure? If you need to talk to

someone, I am here.

GWEN

Yes. I’m sure. There’s nothing that you

can do.

REYNOLDS

Ok. I understand. But Gwen...What

happened to Corey’s face?

GWEN

(guilty)

I don’t know.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT.-—CARRIE’S HOUSE-—LATER-—EVENING

Gwen rings the doorbell, and a few seconds later, Carrie opens the door.

GWEN

Hi Carrie. Sorry I’m late. We had a

late meeting this afternoon, but I got

out as soon as I could to get here. Is

Jessica ready?

CARRIE

(confused)

Jessica? Jerome came and picked

her up about an hour ago.

GWEN

He did?! But he knows that I pick

her up on Thursdays! Do you know

where he went?

CARRIE

He didn’t say, but he did say that he’ll

be picking her up from now on.

Gwen starts to tremble in a near breakdown.

CARRIE (CONT’)

What’s going on?! What’s the

matter?!

Gwen does not answer, but crying, she runs back to the car, gets in and speeds off.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT.—-GWEN’S CAR-—TRUCK DEPOT/PARKING LOT-—MORNING

Jerome is pulling up in the parking space, and when Gwen sees him she gets out of the car, and hastily walks over to him as he is getting out.

GWEN

Jerome!...Jerome!

Jerome turns to see her, but turns in head, not being interested. Gwen then approaches his truck with a serious attitude.

GWEN

Jerome, why are you doing this to me?!

Jerome ignores her as he walks on to sign in for work.

GWEN (CON’T)

Jerome, will you please talk to me?!

JEROME

I ain’t got nothing to say to you, so

excuse me. I’ve got to get to work.

Gwen runs up to catch up to Jerome, runs in front of him, and places both her hands on his chest to try to stop him.

GWEN

Please! I know that you’re angry with

me, but at least tell me where Jessica is!

JEROME

Don’t try to play the concerned mommy

now! You weren’t thinking about her when

you laid down with that dude, now were

you?!

Gwen lets out a terrible scream of frustration, and is attracting attention from everyone.

GWEN

Jerome, why are you acting like this?!

I’ve apologized 1,000 times! What do

You want from me?! Another apology?!

Well, for the 1,001 time, I’m sorry!!

JEROME

(still walking)

Well, sorry is a sorry word, and it’s not

going to help you! Not this time! And

you are making a fool out of yourself.

This is not the time or the place.

GWEN

So, when is?

JEROME

Holla at me on the twelfth.

GWEN

I’m not waiting until next month for

you to tell me where my daughter is!

JEROME

(turns back to her)

No. I meant the twelfth of Never.

Jerome goes into his pocket and takes out an extra house key.

JEROME (CONT’)

Here is a key to the house. Have your

stuff out by the time I get home.

Jerome throws the key on the ground in front of Gwen, and then turns back to go into the building, leaving Gwen standing in the parking lot. Gwen picks up the key, looks around, and sees a few other drivers staring at her. She then takes a deep breath of pride, and walks back to the car.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.—STEELE HOME/LIVING ROOM—LATER—DAY

Gwen enters, grabs her keys off of the end table, and puts them in her purse. She then goes into the bedroom, and begins taking her clothes out of the closet.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.—-GWEN’S BEDROOM—-MINUTES LATER-—DAY

Gwen has a pile of her clothes on the bed, and then heads for Jessica’s room. When inside, she notices a few open drawers, and that the closet is cracked open. Gwen runs over to the closet, yanks the door open, and to her shock, it is empty. Gwen then pulls the drawers open, but they are empty with only a few items of clothing. At the point of breaking down, she rushes to the phone and dials.

GWEN

Mom, have you heard from Jerome?!

MS. JACKSON (V.O.)

No, Gwen! What’s the matter?!

GWEN

Mom, I can’t tell you that right now! I’ve

got to find Jerome, because wherever he is,

he has Jessica with him! I haven’t seen her

in two days now!

MS. JACKSON (V.O.)

Two Days?! Gwen, I’m coming down

there!

GWEN

Mom, no! I can’t get you involved in this!

I have to work this out myself!

MS. JACKSON (V.O.)

Gwen, he has my grandbaby with him,

so, I’m already involved! I’ll be there

in ten minutes, So don't go anywhere yet!

GWEN

Mom, No...

(click is heard)

Mom!...MOM!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.-—STEELE HOME/LIVING ROOM-—MINUTES LATER-—DAY

Gwen is opening the door for Ms. Jackson, 54 years old, light complexion, shoulder length hair, and full of raging energy.

MS JACKSON

Where is he?!

GWEN

I don’t know!

MS. JACKSON

So why would he take Jessica and

disappear for two days?! I’ll call the

police!

GWEN

(pleading)

Mom, please. NO!

MS. JACKSON

Well then, you’d better tell me what

the Hell is going on, and I mean now!

GWEN

It’s something that I’ve done. It’s not his

fault, but let me tell you about it later. Right

now, I’ve got to find my baby! I think that

I know where he might be.

MS. JACKSON

Fine! Let’s go! But you need to let me

Know what’s going on!

GWEN

OK, but later! Let’s go and get my baby!

They both hastily walk out of the door.

CUT TO:

INT.—SHAUN’S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM—MEANWHILE—EVENING

Shaun and Jerome are sitting watching a football game, and drinking bottles of beer. Jerome is depressingly slouched back on the sofa. Shaun is excitedly talking about the game.

SHAUN

WHOOO! Did you see that hit?!

JEROME

(careless)

Yeah. I saw it. He did get hit pretty hard.

SHAUN

Pretty hard?! Smith sacked him like

a potato!

Shaun turns to Jerome, and notices his careless attitude.

SHAUN

Man, you alright?! I know that you’re

mad and all that, but man...Forget that

girl, Man! You’re not be up in my

house being all depressed! So, you’d

better get into this game and enjoy

yourself before I knock you out!

JEROME

What?!

SHAWN

You heard me! I will knock you into

next Friday and then call you on Tuesday

to ask you what’s up!

JEROME

(careless smile)

Whatever, Man.

Jessica then comes out from Ebony’s room.

JESSICA

Daddy, can we go home now? I want

to see Mommy.

Jerome looks at Jessica with an emotionless face, and slowly shaking his head.

JEROME

In a little while, Jessica. Let Daddy watch

the game. Go back and play with Ebony.

JESSICA

But I want to see mommy!

JEROME

(firmly)

Jessica, go on and play with Ebony,

now!

Jessica sadly turns to go back into the room. Jerome turns back to the TV, and takes a swallow of beer.

JEROME (CONT’)

I don’t like this, Shaun. I know that I

can’t keep taking this out on Jessica,

but Gwen messed up…..Big time.

SHAUN

I know. I probably would do the same

thing if Charlene cheated on ME.

JEROME

Believe me, Man...It doesn’t feel

good at all.

SHAUN

I feel you.

They both turn back to the TV, and just a few seconds later, the doorbell rings, and Shaun goes to open it. Gwen is standing there with her mother.

GWEN

Hey Shaun. Let me talk to Jerome.

Shaun turns to Jerome.

SHAUN

Jerome, Gwen’s looking for you.

Jerome gets up and goes to the door.

JEROME

What?!

GWEN

I came to talk to you about Jessica.

JEROME

There is nothing to talk about. I’ve got

her and I’m going to keep her.

MS. JACKSON

Look Jerome! I’m not up for this! You

can’t keep Gwen from seeing her

daughter! I ought to press charges

on you for kidnapping!

JEROME

Ms. Jackson, you can’t do anything to

me! This does not even concern you!

This is our child!

(more intense)

Our child!

MS. JACKSON

Oh, the Hell I can’t! You just watch me!

Now you get Jessica out here, and now,

before I have you thrown in jail!

JEROME

I really don’t want to disrespect you

Ms. Jackson, so I’m going to say that

this conversation is over. Good night.

Jerome starts to close the door, but Ms. Jackson pushes it back open.

MS. JACKSON

No! You’re not going to close the door

in my face! Get Jessica out here, right

now!

CUT TO:

INT.-—EBONY’S ROOM-—MEANWHILE-—DAY

Jessica and Ebony, four years old, dark brown complexion, and long black hair with lots of pig-tails, are playing with dolls. Jessica drops the doll, and starts running for the living room.

JESSICA

That’s my mommy and my Grandma!

Jessica happily runs into the living room.

JESSICA

Mommy!

Jessica runs into Gwen’s arms and embraces her.

GWEN

Baby! I love you so much!

JESSICA

I love you too, Mommy!

GWEN

(emotional)

Oh, Baby! You’re coming with me.

Gwen tries to walk away with Jessica, but Jerome barges outside.

JEROME

Wait a minute! Where do you think

You’re going?! I know that you’d

better bring her back here before I...

MS. JACKSON

(cuts him short)

Before you what?! What’re you going to

do? Hit her?! If you do, I guarantee you

that you will not see tomorrow!

Gwen takes Jessica to the car. Gwen and Ms. Jackson get into the car, and Gwen pulls off as Jerome helplessly stands in the front yard. He stands there in total shock, before throwing a physical tantrum. He then runs into the middle of the street.

JEROME

Gwen! You’d better get back here!

Get back here!!

Gwen drives on down the street, and Jerome angrily turns back to the house. When in the yard, Shaun puts his arm over Jerome’s shoulder.

SHAUN

Come on, Man. Let it go. Calm down.

JEROME

(irately shoves him off)

Get off of me! She’s gone too far!

I’mma get ‘er Man...I’mma get’er!

Jerome gets into his truck, and peels off, and Shaun stands there looking, and shaking his head in shame.

SHAUN

Shoot!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT.—STEELE HOME/FRONT YARD-—LATER—NIGHT

Jerome pulls up behind Gwen’s car, and wildly gets out to run into the house. He barges in, which startles Gwen, Jessica, and Mrs. Jackson. Jerome stands there at the door.

JEROME

So you want to talk, huh?! Come on!

Right now! Let’s go!

Gwen gets up and heads for the door.

GWEN

Mom, can you stay here with Jessica

while I go with Jerome?

MS JACKSON

Of course, Baby…And Jerome, you’d

better not hurt my daughter, and I mean it!

Jerome looks at Mrs. Jackson very seriously for a second before he and Gwen walks out of the door.

CUT TO:

INT.—JEROME’S TRUCK/CITY STREET—MINUTES LATER—NIGHT

On a virtually empty highway, Jerome is tensely driving without blinking, with his eyes glued to the road.

JEROME

So talk already.

GWEN

(teary)

Jerome, I just want you to know that I

really did not plan on what happened.

The car broke down, Corey helped me

to get it started, he followed me home

to make sure that the car didn’t cut off

again, and so I invited him in for a

minute for his help. But then he kissed

me, and I got a little weak, and things

just happened from that point. I’m sorry

Jerome! It was the first and only time.

Jerome still has his eyes glued to the road, and not saying a word.

GWEN (CONT’)

Don’t you have anything to say?!

Jerome still gives no response, and Gwen gets more aggressive.

GWEN (CONT’)

Will you talk to me?! You act like

You’ve never made a mistake!

And if you weren’t going to say

anything, why did you even bring

me out here?!

Jerome still gives no response, and Gwen loses her cool, as she starts hitting him. The car swerves on the road.

GWEN (CONT’)

Do you hear me talking to you?!

Jerome still stays focused on the road.

JEROME

You’d better stop hitting me!

Gwen continues to hit Jerome, which angers him. Jerome stops at a red light, and turns to Gwen with a very threatening look.

JEROME

I’m not going to tell you again...Stop!

GWEN

You’re just sitting there ignoring me!

What am I supposed to do?!

JEROME

This ain’t even about you! You want to

go to Shaun’s house to pull stunts and

make a fool out of the both of us, when

you’re the one who was wrong?! I’m

taking Jessica, and you ain’t going to do

nothing about it!

GWEN

We’ll see about that! I don’t even want

to hear anymore. Let me out! I’ll walk

home from here!

Gwen starts to open the door, but just as she does, the light turns green, and Jerome moves.

JEROME

You ain’t gonna do nothing but stay in

this truck! You wanted to talk so bad?

Well, here’s your chance! Get back in

the truck!

GWEN

No! I need to get away from you! Stop

the truck, Jerome!

Instead of stopping, Jerome speeds up more and more, and Gwen desperately wraps her arms around Jerome’s thighs to hold on, with her legs hanging out of the door.

GWEN

What’re you doing?!

JEROME

(still speeding up)

You gonna get in here and close the

door?!

GWEN

(desperately holding on)

Yes! Yes!

Jerome speeds fifty more feet, before pulling over to the side of the road. When the truck is stopped, Gwen is screaming hysterically and beating up on Jerome. A passer-by watches, but does not stop. The passer takes out his cell phone, and starts to dial the police.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)

911. Where is your emergency?

PASSER

Uh...There is something going at...

He is cut short when Gwen starts screaming more hysterically. He turns back to look, and sees Gwen and Jerome fighting in the truck.

GWEN (DISTANT V.O.)

How could you have me hanging out of the

truck like that?

JEROME (DISTANT V.O.)

I done told you to stop hitting me! Hit me

one more time, and you gonna wish that

you hadn’t!

After a few seconds, Gwen gets out of the truck and starts running away.

JEROME (DISTANT V.O.)

You want to go?! Fine! Walk yourself

home, then!

Gwen tearfully runs on without turning back to look. Jerome peels off and screeches around the corner. Gwen then turns to look, and stops running.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)

Hello? Sir? Are you still there?

PASSER BY

Nevermind. the girl just got out of the truck,

and the man pulled off. I think that it’s over.

Thank you.

(hangs up)

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT.—STEELE HOME/LIVING ROOM—LATER—NIGHT

Mrs. Jackson is watching TV, when Jerome comes through the door. She hastily stands to her feet.

MS. JACKSON

Where’s Gwen?!

JEROME

She’s walking home.

MS. JACKSON

(irate)

You left my daughter out there in the

streets in the middle of the night to

walk home?!

JEROME

Ms. Jackson, it was her choice. Not

mine! And before you point the fingers

at me for everything, why don’t you

point the fingers at Gwen?! She’s the

one that I’ve caught in our bed with

another man, but she didn’t tell you

all that though, right?! All that she told

you is that I just up and left with Jessica

for no reason, huh?!Now, if I’m the one

in the wrong, forgive me, but I’m not!

Ms. Jackson sits back down on the sofa.

MS. JACKSON

Oh, God! I didn’t know that!

JEROME

Well, that’s what happened, and I

don’t want anything else to do with

her! I loved her so much, and this is

what I get in return?!

MS. JACKSON

Jerome, sit down.

Jerome sits on the sofa with Ms. Jackson.

MOTHER (CON’T)

(calm and understanding)

Jerome, now don’t get me wrong. I do

understand a lot better now, and I’m

so sorry for coming off on you in the

way that I did when I didn’t know what

was going on, but Gwen is still my

daughter, so wherever she is, you need

to go get her and bring her back here.

I will talk to her. Just please go and

get her!

JEROME

(turning back)

I’m only going to do this because you

asked me to. But it’s like I’ve said, It’s

over for us.

Jerome walks out and closes the door, and Mrs. Jackson pauses, then walks towards Jessica’s room to check on her.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

EXT.—TRUCK DEPOT/PARKING LOT—DAY

Jerome is walking over to a truck. As he starts to get in, Shaun calls out to him.

SHAUN

Jerome! Wait up!

Jerome steps down from the truck, and Shaun walks up to him.

JEROME

What’s up?

SHAUN

Things got pretty nasty last night with you

and Gwen, and I was worried about you,

and so I just wanted to know how things

went. Everything alright?

JEROME

(uptight)

No, not really. She stayed at the house

last night, and do you know how bad it

was pissing me off to sleep next to her?!

SHAUN

Well, why didn’t you just push her out

the bed?

JEROME

(anger fades to a laugh)

You stupid! I should’ve, though.

SHAUN

I mean come on, Man. Think about

it!

Both Jerome and Shaun laugh.

SHAUN

Look. Why don’t you just come and

stay the night at our house again. Let

Gwen spend some time with Jessica

alone, while you chill with me and

Charlene. You know that you can

use the break.

Jerome thinks about it for a second.

JEROME

Alright. I’ll be there. I have a local

route today.

SHAUN

(walking away)

Cool. I’ll tell Charlene that you’re

coming.

JEROME

(getting into the truck)

Alright, Man. Thanks.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.—SHAUN’S HOUSE/PORCH—LATER—EVENING

Jerome walks up to the porch and rings the bell. Shaun opens the door a few seconds later.

SHAUN

(happy to see Jerome)

What’s up, Man? Come on in!

JEROME

(walking in)

Nothing, Man. I’m just tired.

SHAUN

Well come on in and relax.

(sniffs the air)

Let me rephrase that. Come in and

relax after you take a shower!

You’ve been delivering all of that

lumber today, and you smell like

Grizzly Adams! You STINK!!

JEROME

(careless)

Forget you, Man!

At that time, Jerome’s cell phone rings. He looks at the caller ID, and drops his hand in frustration and reluctantly answers.

JEROME

What do you want?!...No, I’m not

coming home tonight!...Because I

said so, That’s why!

(angrily throws the phone)

SHAUN

(firmly)

Jerome, you need to calm down, Man.

Let it go.

Just then, CHARLENE, 29 years old, dark brown complexion, long black hair, deep brown eyes, and perfect make-up, comes out of the kitchen.

CHARLENE

(confused)

What’s going on out here?

JEROME

Oh, hey Charlene. Sorry about that.

How ya doin’?

CHARLENE

I’m good, but what about you?

JEROME

Believe me. I’ve been better.

CHARLENE

Well, keep your head up. Things will

get better for you.

JEROME

(carelessly)

Thanks.

Charlene walks on towards the bedroom.

CHARLENE

I’ll be done with dinner in about twenty

more minutes, if you want to freshen up.

JEROME

Thanks. I’ll do that.

CHARLENE

Good. I hope that you like fried frog legs.

Jerome turns to Shaun with a look of disgust, and Charlene starts laughing.

CHARLENE

I’m only kidding!

Jerome relaxes.

JEROME

Girl, don’t play with me like

that! I was about to go home!

Jerome, Shaun, and Charlene laugh as Charlene walks on.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.-—SHAUN’S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM-—LATER--NIGHT

Jerome, Shaun, and Charlene are watching TV, and Ebony is in her bedclothes, as she kisses Shaun on the cheek.

EBONY

Good night, Daddy.

SHAUN

Good night. I’ll see you tomorrow.

Charlene gets up to go with Ebony.

CHARLENE

I’ll be right back. I’m going

to get her in the bed.

Charlene and Ebony goes into the bedroom.

SHAUN

So, what route do you have

tomorrow?

JEROME

I’m delivering the Queens’ run. I’m

gonna try to start early around three,

so I can be back by five tomorrow night.

SHAUN

That’s cool. Get in and out, huh?

JEROME

Yep.

At that time, the doorbell rings, but Shaun stays glued to the TV.

SHAUN

Get that, would you?

JEROME

What?! I thought that this is your house!

SHAUN

This ain’t your first time here! You’re

at home! Now, go on and open the door!

Jerome gets up with a chuckle.

JEROME

I ain’t know that I was coming here to

be your butler!

Jerome opens the door and is overtaken by PAM, 27 years old, dark brown complexion, long black hair, and shapely body, as she stands at the door carrying a case of hair supplies.

JEROME

You’ve got to be Charlene’s sister!

Y’all look just alike!

PAM

Yes. She’s that’s sister. Is she here?

JEROME

Yeah.

(Pam walks in)

Hi. I’m Jerome; a friend of Shawn.

PAM

I’m Pam; a sister of Carlene.

(they both chuckle)

Nice to meet, you, Jerome.

JEROME

Likewise.

Pam walks further in.

PAM

Hey Shaun. Where’s Charlene?

SHAUN

She’s in Ebony’s room, putting her

down for bed. You can go on back

there.

PAM

(walking back)

Thanks.

As Pam walks back to Ebony’s room, Charlene comes out.

CHARLENE

Oh, Hey Pam! I didn’t hear you come in.

PAM

I just walked in. Sorry I’m late, but I

had to make a few stops after work.

You still want me to do your hair?

Pam follows Charlene into the bedroom.

CHARLENE

Yeah. This stuff is out of control.

I can’t do anything with it.

PAM

Alright. I got you. But Charlene,

let me ask you something.

CHARLENE

What’s up?

PAM

Who’s that guy that opened the door?

I thought that I was at the wrong house.

CHARLENE

Oh, that’s Shaun’s boy, Jerome. When

those two get together? That’s exactly

what they are...boys!

PAM

Boy or not, he’s kind of cute! How

old is he?

CHARLENE

I think he’s thirty.

PAM

(very inquisitive)

He got a job, girl?

CHARLENE

Yeah. He works with Shaun, but take

your foot off the gas pedal for a minute

and slow down! He also has a wife and

a three-year-old daughter.

PAM

Oh. Nevermind. He’s still fine though.

CHARLENE

Girl, do you need a man THAT bad?

PAM

Yep. I’m almost 28 years old! My

clock is ticking!

CHARLENE

It’s all in due time, Sister.

PAM

You’re starting to sound just like Mom!

Come on and let me do something with

your hair so I can go home!

Charlene and Pam both walk out of the bedroom.

ISSOLVE TO:

INT.-—SHAUN’S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM—-LATER-—NIGHT

Pam and Charlene come out of the kitchen with Charlene’s hair done in a different style. Pam is on her way out of the door.

CHARLENE

Call me when you get home.

PAM

Alright. See you Shaun, and it was

nice meeting you, Jerome.

JEROME

Nice meeting you too, Pam.

CAHRLENE

Thanks again. I owe you.

PAM

Don’t worry about it. You’re good.

CHARLENE

Thanks. I'll see you later.

Pam walks out of the door, and Charlene turns back into the living room.

JEROME

So Charlene, why didn’t you tell me

that you had a sister who is so fine?

CHARLENE

Because you never asked. But now that

You’ve mentioned it, she did say that

you were cute.

JEROME

(shocked)

She did?!

CHARLENE

Yeah.

JEROME

So, what did you tell her?

CHARLENE

I’ve told her that you were seeing your

doctor about your rash outbreaks, and

that you wear women's underwear on

holidays.

JEROME

(total shock and confusion)

Why would you do that?!

Shaun is sitting there laughing hysterically.

CHARLENE

No. For real. I told her that you were

married and have a daughter, so she

said nevermind.

JEROME

See? You play too much! Anyway,

I think that she’s cute. I might have

to try to get at her.

CHARLENE

You want me to hook y’all up on a date?

Jerome thinks about it for a second.

JEROME

Uh, yeah...Hook a brother up.

CHARLENE

Are you serious? ‘Cause I’m not playing.

JEROME

Yeah I’m serious! I said yeah, didn’t I?!

CHARLENE

Ok. ‘Cause if you’re serious, I’m going

to do it. So areyou for real? Don’t play,

either!

JEROME

How many times do I need to say it?!

Shaun looks at Jerome in a confused manner.

SHAUN

Wait a minute!

JEROME

What?

SHAUN

Stand up, Man.

Jerome covers his crotch with both hands.

JEROME

(nervous)

Naw. I don’t want to stand up!

SHAUN

(shaking his head in shame)

You nasty dog!

(getting up)

JEROME

(angrily)

Why I gotta be all that?!

CHARLENE

(laughing)

Don’t be trying to get at my sister

like that!

JEROME

What?! What’re y’all talking about?!

Shaun and Charlene are heading to the bedroom at that time.

SHAUN

Mm-hmm...I just better not hear weird

noises in here tonight! Sleep tight, Rover!

When inside the bedroom, and the door is closed, Jerome relaxes on the sofa to get some rest.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT.—-STEELE HOME/LIVING ROOM—-EVENING

Jerome is sitting on the sofa, drinking a can of soda, and watching a game on TV.

CUT TO:

INT.-—KITCHEN-—MEANWHILE—-EVENING

Gwen is preparing dinner when the phone rings. Gwen answers the cordless.

GWEN

Hello?

PAM (V.O.)

Hi. May I speak to Jerome?

GWEN

(rudely)

This is his wife. May I ask who’s

calling?!

PAM (V.O.)

No. I’ll just call another time.

GWEN

No…Don’t call here, you whore!

Gwen hangs up, and goes into the living room.

GWEN

Some lady just called here for you.

JEROME

(carelessly)

Yeah? And?

GWEN

And, so...Who was it, Jerome? Your

new girlfriend?

JEROME

I wouldn’t say that she’s my girlfriend,

but you know? Give it a few months?

Who knows? She just may be.

GWEN

(desperate)

Jerome! How can you say that?! We’ve

both been back in this house together for

going on a month now. I thought that we

were trying to work things out here!

JEROME

And where did you get that idea, Gwen?

Huh? Some hope and dream that you have?

Some dream that will never come true?

Wake up, Gwen. I don’t have the time to

Live in your fairy-tale. It’s over.

GWEN

(very calm)

So, there is someone else. Is that what

you’re telling me?

Jerome carelessly turns back to the TV.

JEROME

You’re not stupid. I’ve still have a

life to live.

Gwen breaks down and cries as she runs into the bedroom. When inside, she slams the door, and goes into a hysterical crying rampage. She is pulling clothes out of the closet and onto the floor, pulling out all of the dresser drawers, swiping everything off of the dresser and shelves onto the floor. She calms down and looks at herself in the mirror. As rage is building up again, she finally screams, takes a bottle of perfume and throws it at the mirror, shattering both the perfume and the mirror into pieces. Gwen then falls to the floor and wails. As she is on the floor, she hears Jessica crying from outside of the door.

JEROME (V.O.)

Come on, Baby! Let’s go.

Gwen runs out of the room to see Jerome taking Jessica out of the house.

JEROME

Tell Mommy ‘bye’.

JESSICA

(in a screaming cry)

Bye, Mommy!

Gwen runs towards the door.

GWEN

Jerome, WAIT! I...

Jerome walks out and slams the door just as Gwen gets to it. Gwen opens the door again.

GWEN

Jerome!...JEROME! You need to stop

running away and work this out! Don’t

do this!

Jerome turns back to Gwen with fury.

JEROME

See how you’re acting right now?! You’re

in the house breaking up everything, and

now you’re outside acting like you don’t

have any sense! Bye!

Gwen runs over to Jerome, and tries to snatch Jessica out of his arms.

GWEN

Give me my baby!

(more intense)

Give me my baby, Jerome!

Gwen and Jerome argue and play tug-of-war with Jessica, who is crying. Jerome finally harshly shoves Gwen down to the ground on her butt.

JEROME

(very threatening look)

You’d better back up off me and stop

being stupid! You’re out here acting like

you’re so hurt, but truth be told, I don’t

believe that you care one bit! I thought

that you loved us! I can see now that I was

wrong! Don’t worry about it, though. We

are getting out of your hair, and so you are

free to do whatever the Hell you want to do!

Jerome puts Jessica right in the front seat, gets in the car, and leaves Gwen in the front yard.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT.-—GWEN’S OFFICE—-DAY

Gwen is typing on the computer with the look of hurt on her face. A few seconds later, the phone rings. Gwen answers.

GWEN

This is Gwen in accounting.

CARRIE (V.O.)

Gwen, it’s me, Carrie. I was just wondering

if everything was ok. Jerome didn’t drop Jessica

off this morning, and I stopped by the house,

but no one was there.

GWEN

(getting uptight)

Jessica’s not at your house?!

CARRIE (V.O.)

No, and I haven’t heard anything.

GWEN

Oh God! Help me!...Carrie, let me call

you right back. I’m going to try to call

Jerome to see what’s going on.

CARRIE (V.O.)

Ok. Keep me posted.

GWEN

I will. Bye.

Gwen hangs up, and dials Jerome’s number.

JEROME (V.O.)

Hi. You've reached Jerome Steele.

Leave a message. Thank You.

(beep)

GWEN

Cut the crap, Jerome! I know that you

see this number!

Gwen hangs up the phone and dials again.

JEROME (V.O.)

Hi. You've reached Jerome Steele...

Gwen hangs up the phone, and dials right back.

JEROME (V.O.)

Hi. You've reached Jer...

Gwen hangs up again, and dials back.

JEROME (V.O.)

WHAT?!!

GWEN

Where are you with Jessica?!

JEROME (V.O.)

Look! Don’t keep calling my phone

with that nonsense!

(click)

Gwen takes the phone away from her ear, and looks at it in disbelief.

GWEN

Oh no, he didn’t!

Gwen dials him right back.

JEROME (V.O.)

What do you want?!

GWEN

So, you’re just going to hang up on me?!

Don’t I at least have the right to know where

my child is?! Who do you think you are?!

(click heard again)

Hello!...HELLO!

Gwen slowly hangs up the phone and just sits there in depression.

CUT TO:

INT.-—JEROME’S TRUCK/APARTMENT PARKING LOT-—MEANWHILE-—DAY

Jerome pulls up in the parking space, takes Jessica out, and heads for the office.

CUT TO:

INT.-—COMPLEX OFFICE-—MINUTES LATER-—DAY

Jerome sits at a desk signing a lease, as Jessica sits down beside him. At that time, the manager comes over with the set of keys.

MANAGER

(to Jessica)

You are so cute.

JESSICA

Thank you.

MANAGER

You are certainly welcome.

(to Jerome)

Ok Mr. Steele, this lease will cover your

two-bedroom apartment with us for a year.

After the year is over, you can renew a yearly

lease, or do a month-to-month. And your

move in date is set for the first of next month.

The manager gives Jerome the keys as he is standing to his feet, and picking up Jessica.

JEROME

Thank you, and I will be moving in

on that day.

They both chuckle as Jerome is heading out of the door.

MANAGER

Again, thanks for choosing us.

JEROME

No thanks necessary.

Jerome walks out of the office with Jessica.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT.—JEROME’S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM—DAY

The apartment is nicely furnished and well decorated. Jerome enters the apartment with Jessica.

JEROME

Go in your room and take a nap.

JESSICA

Can I have some juice first?

JEROME

Yeah. Come on.

They both go into the kitchen, and Jerome gives her a small glass of juice. As Jessica stands there drinking the juice, the phone rings, and Jerome checks the caller I.D., and then answers.

JEROME

What up, Boy?...Naw. We’ve just

walked in. What you up to?... Really?!...

Yeah she stopped by the job a few times,

but I wasn’t trying to hear it! How many

times did she come to your house?...

(laughs)

Shaun, you’d better NOT sic the dog on

that girl!...

(laugh fades)

No, don’t do that. But anyway, I’m trying

to get the house together. Pam’s coming over

‘cause I want her to meet Jessica...What?!

Man, shut up! It ain’t even like that. Yet...

I don’t care! Tell Charlene, smell Charlene,

go downtown and sell Charlene!

(laughs)

Just playing. But she’s meeting me here,

then we’re going out. Me, her, and Jessica.

I just want to see how Jessica takes to her.

Nothing serious...Alright, Shaun.

I’ll holla at you later...Yep.

Jerome hangs up the phone, and starts back for his room.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.—JEROME’S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM—LATER--EVENING

Jerome walks to the door to open it for Pam. When he opens the door, he looks in total awe as she stands there in her snug-fitting jeans, leather jacket, and perfect make-up. She gives Jerome a warm smile.

PAM

Hello.

JEROME

Oh. Hi. Come on in.

Pam comes in, and just as she enters, Jessica comes out of the room.

PAM

This must be Jessica.

JEROME

Yes. This is Daddy's little angel.

PAM

She is just adorable! Hi. My name

is Pam.

JESSICA

(nervous)

Hi.

PAM

Are you ready to go out and have some

fun?

JESSICA

Yes.

PAM

Good! We are going to have lots of fun

today.

Jessica smiles as Pam takes her by the hand, and the three walk out of the door.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.—-MOVIE THEATRE-—LATER—-NIGHT

Jerome, Jessica, and Pam are sitting watching the movie. Pam has Jessica on her lap. As Pam and Jessica laughs at the animated movie together, Jerome looks over at them, and has an impressed smile on his face. Pam sits back in the seat after laughing, and Jerome slowly puts his arm over her shoulder. Pam looks over at him, takes his hand, pulling it more over her shoulder, and leaning her head on his shoulder. As she focuses on the movie, Jerome relaxes in the seat with a faint smile, and then turns to watch the movie.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.-—JEROME’S TRUCK/HIGHWAY-—LATER—-NIGHT

PAM

(turns to Jessica)

Did you like the movie, Jessica?

JESSICA

(smiling)

Yes.

PAM

Good! Maybe we can do it again.

It’s all up to your Daddy.

(looks at Jerome)

JEROME

Well, don’t look at me! I can only take

you out again if you say yes.

PAM

(chuckles and dreamy eyes)

Well, yes. Name the time and place.

They both smile faintly at one another.

JEROME

I’m getting thirsty. You want something

from the store?

PAM

I could use something to drink right

now.

JEROME

Alright...And watch this.

(looks at Jessica in the

rear-view)

And what do YOU want, Jessica?

Jerome lip-syncs perfectly to Jessica’s answer.

JESSICA

M&M’s!

Pam laughs.

PAM

You certainly know your daughter!

CUT TO:

EXT.-—STORE PARKING LOT-—MINUTES LATER-—NIGHT

Jerome turns into the parking lot, and is getting out of the car.

JEROME

What did you want to drink?

PAM

Umm....just a bottle of cold lemon tea.

JEROME

Ok. I’ll be right back.

Jerome goes into the store.

CUT TO:

INT.--GWEN’S CAR/HIGHWAY-—SECONDS LATER-—NIGHT

Gwen happens to be driving past the store. She looks over in the parking lot, and notices Jerome’s truck. She turns into the lot, and parks right next to Jerome’s truck on the passenger’s side. She gets out of the car, and gives Pam the dirtiest look, as she is walking to the inside.

JESSICA

That’s my mommy!

Pam nervously looks, as she begins sinking into the seat.

Gwen goes into the store, but stands there at the door, and just stares at Jerome, who is next to purchase. Jerome sees her and turns his head in frustration.

JEROME

(whispers)

Shoot!

GWEN

So that’s her, Jerome?!

She is attracting the other customers’ attention.

JEROME

Not now, Gwen!

GWEN

No, now! You’ve got my daughter out

there in the car with some strange woman!

You mean, you’re going to throw away

Years of our lives for her?!

The more that Gwen stands there, the more fury builds up in her, and then she turns to run outside to the truck, and opens Pam’s door.

GWEN

Get out of the truck!

Pam does not move, and Gwen pulls her out by the hair.

GWEN (CONT’)

I said, get out of the truck!

Pam bends forward to protect her body from the punches. Spectators are starting to gather and nervously watch. Jerome runs out of the store, and runs to the truck, where Jessica is crying.

JESSICA

Mommy!

As Gwen continues to beat up on Pam, Jerome rushes to gets between them, and covers Pam, escorting her to the truck. In the midst of the action, a police car pulls up, and the officer tries to restore order by holding Gwen back.

GWEN

No! Let me go! I’mma smack the fire

Out of her!

OFFICER

Ma’am, I’m going to ask you to calm

down. If you don’t calm down, I’m going

to have to take you in.

GWEN

I don’t care! I’m trying to fix my family,

She is in the way, and so I’m going to

move her!

OFFICER

(firmly)

Ma’am, calm down! This is your

last chance!

GWEN

No! I’mma kill that whore!

The officer pulls her to the police car, and struggling to get the cuffs on her. More officers are pulling up, and getting out of the cars to help.

OFFICER

Ma’am, you have the right to remain

silent. Anything that you say can and

will be used against you in the court of

law. You have the right to an att...

GWEN

(cuts him short)

Look! I don’t need to hear all of that

Law And Order bull crap! Just shut up

and do what you’re going to do!

OFFICER

(irate)

Fine! You’ll just go to jail!

Get in the car!

The officer forces Gwen into the car, and then gets in and drives off as the spectators disperse. Another officer walks up to Pam with a clipboard.

OFFICER

Are you alright, Ma’am?

PAM

I’ll be fine. I’m just a little shaken

up. That’s all.

OFFICER

Would you like to press charges?

PAM

Yes...Yes.

The officer begins taking her information.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT.—COURTROOM—DAY

An officer stands between Gwen, dressed in jail clothing, and Pam, who is with her lawyer DON MORGAN, at the bench. Jerome, Gwen’s mother, and Shaun are watching from the audience.

MORGAN

Sir, I think that Ms. Grindle here has

proven her case, and we’re asking the

maximum amount of time that Mrs.

Steele can serve for her assault.

GWEN

(outbursts)

Why would Jerome have my daughter in

The car with her? She is not her mother;

I am! I’ll smack her again if I have to!

JUDGE

(slamming the gavel)

Mrs. Steele, let me make this really clear

to you! You will show order and conduct

in my courtroom, and if you find that you

can’t do that, I will find you guilty on all

charges and charge you for contempt! Do

I make myself clear?!

GWEN

(very irate)

No! I’ve been in jail for a month, and

nothing happens to her like she’s all

sweet and innocent, and she’s the one

who came in and ruined the possibility

of my family getting back together!

The courtroom is taken over in shock, and the judge is slamming the gavel.

JUDGE

I refuse to argue with you! In the case of

Grindle versus Steele, by code 5-0-41-B

by the state of New York, I hear-by find

Gwendolyn Steele guilty on the charge of

aggravated assault, and sentence you to one

year in prison! On the charge of Obstruction

Of the Law, I find you guilty and sentence

you to six months in prison, and added six

more months to your term, for contempt.

You will serve the full time with no eligibility

for parole. Winston, please take Mrs. Steele

into custody!

The judge slams the gavel and is getting up to leave. Gwen walks right up to Pam and punches her in the jaw.

GWEN

You’re mine when I get out! Believe that!

The officers run over to Gwen, cuffs her and escorts her into custody.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

EXT.-—STEELE HOME/FRONT YARD-—DAY

There is a ‘For Sale’ sign in front of the house, and a real estate agent greets a couple as they get out of their car.

AGENT

Mr. And Mrs. Scott, I am so glad that

you could make It out. Thanks for coming.

They all walk towards the house.

FADE OUT

INT.-—BEAUTY SALON-—DAY

In a full salon, Pam is doing a client’s hair as the dressers all chat.

DRESSER #1

I don’t care what y’all say; Nobody is

finer than Morris!

DRESSER #2

Whatever! He looks like Slimer from

the Ghostbusters.

(girls laugh)

Denzel may be older than dirt now, but I

will still take him any day of the week!

DRESSER #3

I’ll give you that one! Denzel is fine and

all, but he ain’t got nothing on Taye!

Pam, I know you hear us talking! You’re

over there acting like you don’t think that

nobody’s hot! Who would you have a one

night stand with?

PAM

I don’t do the one-night stand thing. Besides,

I’m working on something that’s better than

a fantasy with some man who I know that

I’ll never get.

DRESSER #1

OOOOO! Let me find out that Pam is giving

it up to somebody! Girl, what does he look like?

Pam glances out of the window and sees Jerome coming up with a bouquet of flowers.

PAM

(smiles)

Do you really want to know?

DRESSER #3

Yeah! We all want to know!

The girls all laugh, but suddenly stop when Jerome walks in. The girls all stop doing hair and look in amazement and shock. Jerome walks right over to Pam, gives her the flowers, kisses her on the cheek, and walks back out without saying a word.

The girls do giddy screams.

DRESSER #2

Oh, I know that he’s getting some tonight!

If you don’t give him none, slide him my

way! He can lick me, stick me, and bend

me over backwards!

The girls all erupt with laughter.

PAM

Just back right on up! He’s mine!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.-—JEROME’S APARTMENT-—LATER—-NIGHT

Jerome is opening the door for Pam. Pam walks in with a sexy smile, and kisses Jerome on his cheek.

PAM

You knew what you were doing

earlier today, didn’t you?

JEROME

(smiles)

Well, you know...I do what I can do.

PAM

Where’s Jessica? Sleeping?

JEROME

Yeah.

Pam takes Jerome by the wrist, and takes him over to the sofa.

PAM

Let’s sit down.

They both sit down, and Pam cuddles in Jerome’s arms with a relaxed smile.

PAM (CONT’)

That was really sweet. Do you know that

all of the girls were acting like hot and

horny cheerleaders when you left?

you when you walked out like that.

JEROME

(chuckles)

Really?

PAM

Yeah, really. I had to tell one of those

heffas to back up.

JEROME

(laughs)

A heffa, huh?!

PAM

Yeah. I mean that girl has no tact!

She probably would get her freak on

right in the middle of the solon floor

if she had the chance, and wouldn’t

care who was looking either.

JEROME

Ok. Now that’s nasty!

PAM

Yeah. She is nasty like that. I had to

Remind her that you are mine.

Jerome gathers Pam more into his arms and just holds her. He then closes his eyes, and slowly moves in to kiss the back of her collarbone. Pam’s body drops in relaxation, as she is getting weak. Jerome continues to kiss her collarbone, when Pam turns to him and they begin kissing passionately.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT.—-APT./JEROMES’S BEDROOM—RAINY MORNING

Jerome and Pam are cuddled and sleeping in the bed. Jerome awakens, turns to Pam, and kisses her forehead. Pam awakens and they kiss.

JEROME

You are something else! I was lost! No

one has ever made love to me so perfectly.

Words can’t describe how I feel right now!

PAM

(seductively)

You want to get lost again? I can

make that happen.

JEROME

First thing in the morning, huh? But

you called your *girl* nasty!

PAM

(straddling Jerome)

Boy, shut up!

The two get more into the moment as Gwen moves back and forward on Jerome as his hands caress her body while they are kissing passionately. Jerome starts easing off Pam’s underclothes, and then grabs her body, rolling her over so that he is on top of her, and engage in love making.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT.--DELIVERY TRUCK/HIGHWAY-—DAY

Jerome drives the truck and has Shaun as help.

SHAUN

Jerome, let me ask you something,

Dawg.

JEROME

What.

SHAUN

What you done did to Pam?

JEROME

(blushes)

What’re you talking about? I didn’t do

anything to Pam! We’re just friends.

SHAUN

Don't act like you don't know what I'm

talking about! For the past few days,

(MORE)

SHAUN (CON’T)

you’re all that she talks about. Jerome

this, Jerome that. Jerome, Jerome Jerome!

You done put it on Pam, Man?!

Jerome just sits there laughing.

SHAUN

(seriously)

I told you! I told you that you’re a

nasty dog!

JEROME

I didn’t say that we did anything!

You are assuming that we did!

SHAUN

You don’t have to say it! Look at you!

You’re over there cheesing harder than

a bag of Doritos!

JEROME

That don’t mean anything!

SHAUN

You must really think that I’m a fool,

Don’t you? You done did a dirty deed,

and you need to undo the dirty deed you

done did!

JEROME

I can’t take that back, Man!

SHUAN

There you go! Let the truth come on out!

You did do it after-all, huh?! You weren’t

fooling me! I ought to punch you in your

face!

JEROME

(laughing harder)

Sorry Dude! It just kinda happened!

We weren’t planning on it! But man,

I think that I’m in love!

SHAUN

You just wait ‘til I get home! You

already know that I’mma tell Charlene,

and if I don’t punch you in the face, she

will!

(starts laughing)

But for real though…I’m glad to see

You happy again and if it takes Pam

To do that, I wish you both the best.

So, what’re y’all gonna do?

JEROME

What’re we gonna do?! Dude! It’s

already done! We are now officially

seeing each other. I’m telling you, Pam

just may be the next Mrs. Steele!

SHAUN

It’s only been two months. You sure

you ready for all that?

JEROME

What’re you talking about? I didn’t say

that I was going to marry her tomorrow.

SHAUN

I know. But just take you time, because

I haven’t seen you this happy in months!

I was tired of seeing you walk around here

like somebody pissed in your cornflakes!

JEROME

I was not that bad!

SHAUN

Yes….you were

JEROME

My bad. It’s over now.

SHAUN

It better be. You just better

treat Pam right.

JEROME

Oh, you don’t even have to tell me

That. Pam is definitely a keeper!

Jerome and Shaun look at one another for a few seconds.

SHAUN

Mm-hmm. We’ll see!

FADE OUT

FADE IN

INT.—-JAILHOUSE/GWEN’S CELLBLOCK-—DAY

Gwen is laying in her bunk reading a book, when a female officer calls for her at the desk.

OFFICER

Steele! Where’s Steele?!

Gwen gets out of the bunk, and walks up to the desk.

GWEN

I’m here.

OFFICER

Pack your stuff. You’re getting out today.

Be ready in fifteen minutes.

Gwen turns back to go to the cellblock.

CUT TO:

INT.—-JAILHOUSE/RELEASE ROOM-—MINUTES LATER-—DAY

Gwen is dressed in her own clothing, and signing the release form. When she does, an officer cuts the prison band off of her wrist, and escorts her to the exit. Gwen stops and looks around, takes a deep breath, and begins walking.

CUT TO:

EXT.-—STEELE OLD HOME/FRONT YARD-—LATER--DAY

A taxi pulls up in front of the house, and Gwen is getting out.

GWEN

Wait right here. I may still need you.

CABBIE

Yes Ma’am.

Gwen is walking to the door while getting her keys out of her purse. When she gets to the door, she sticks her key into the lock, but of course the key does not work. She frantically jiggles the knob, and as she does, Mr. Scott opens the door.

MR. SCOTT

Excuse me...May I help you with something?

Gwen is totally confused at this point.

GWEN

Who are you?! Where’s Jerome?

MR. SCOTT

I’m sorry...Who?

GWEN

Jerome! My husband! Where is

my husband and my daughter?!

MR. SCOTT

Look Lady. I’m not sure of who you’re

looking for, but I’ve been living here for

going on two years now. Jerome does not

live here anymore. And if you’re his wife,

why didn’t you know that?

Gwen turns to walk away in a melancholy state.

GWEN

I’m sorry to have bothered you.

MR. SCOTT

It’s ok. Have a nice day.

(closes the door)

Gwen gets back into the cab.

GWEN

Just take me to 106 Banner Drive.

When the cabbie pulls off, Gwen just gazes out of the window looking at nothing.

CABBIE

You alright, Ma’am?

GWEN

No. Just drive.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.-—TAXI/MS. JACKSON’S HOME/DRIVEWAY—-MINUTES LATER-—DAY

Gwen is about to get out of the cab.

CABBIE

That’ll be $16.75.

Gwen pays the cabbie, gets out, and then walks up to the door. Mrs. Jackson answers the door, and is shocked to see Gwen standing there.

MS. JACKSON

(tearful)

Oh God! Gwen!

GWEN

Mom!

The two embrace, and then Gwen goes into the house.

GWEN (CONT’)

Mom, I really need a favor.

MS. JACKSON

What is it?

GWEN

I really need Jerome’s new number. I

went to the house, and when I got there,

Jerome and Jessica were gone. There

was someone else living in our house!

MS. JACKSON

Yes. I know. Jerome told me that he

sold the house, and they moved over

on Holland Avenue.

GWEN

Holland Avenue?

MS. JACKSON

Yes. And I think that maybe if you call

him, he may let you come over to see

Jessica now. You are long over-due.

GWEN

Is he still seeing that girl?

MS. JACKSON

As far as I know. I try to stay out of

His business unless he brings Jessica

Over here to see me. I don’t ask him

anything.

GWEN

Oh. Ok.

MS. JACKSON

I’ll call him now.

Ms. Jackson gets the cordless phone, and dials Jerome’s number.

JEROME (V.O.)

Hello?

MS. JACKSON

Jerome, This is Barbara.

JEROME (V.O.)

Oh, hey How you doin’? It’s been a while.

MS JACKSON

Yes it has, but I have someone here that

needs to speak to you.

JEROME (V.O.)

Who is it?

MS. JACKSON

Hold on.

Ms. Jackson gives the phone to Gwen.

GWEN

Jerome, it’s me, Gwen.

(silence)

Are you still angry with me?

JEROME (V.O.)

What you did really hurt me, and that’s

something that I just can’t see past, so

yes, I’d say that I’m still a little angry.

GWEN

I do understand that, and I know that

it doesn’t mean much now, but I do

apologize. I was in the wrong.

JEROME (V.O.)

Go on. You have my attention. What is

it that you want?

GWEN

I want to see Jessica. Will you allow

me to do that?

There is silence on Jerome’s end.

GWEN (CONT')

You still there?

JEROME (V.O.)

And just how do you think that Jessica’s

going to respond to you?

GWEN

I don’t know, but I am her mother, and

I love her. Jerome, Please. I need to see

Jessica!

JEROME (V.O.)

Well, it’s going to have to be a little

later on, because she’s not home from

school yet.

GWEN

(sentimentally)

Jessica’s in school now?

JEROME (V.0.)

Kindergarten. If you want to come see

her, she’s normally home by three.

Are you coming?

GWEN

Yes. Thank you, Jerome.

JEROME (V.O.)

Yeah. See you at three. Bye.

CUT TO:

EXT.—-JEROME’S APT.COMPLEX/MAIN STREET-—LATER—-AFTERNOON

Jerome and Gwen stand on the corner, waiting for Jessica's school-bus to arrive. The bus arrives, and the door opens. All of the kids are getting off of the bus, when Jessica, now five years old, gets off. Jessica sees Gwen, and runs to her.

JESSICA

Mommy!

Gwen tearfully embraces Jessica, as people are turning their way.

GWEN

Jessica! Oh, God! Thank you! I love

you so much! You’ve gotten so big!

After embracing her, Gwen stands straight, and turns to Jerome.

GWEN

Can we go inside?

Jerome thinks about it for a second before reluctantly giving in.

JEROME

Come on.

They all turn to go into the house with Gwen holding Jessica’s hand. When inside, Gwen is looking around.

She sees a few pictures of Jerome with Pam around the room, but she strains not to say anything as she goes to sit down with Jessica. She forces herself to smile.

GWEN

So, how’ve you been? You miss me?

JESSICA

Yes. Are you coming to live with us?

GWEN

No, Baby. I can’t. But you can come and

see me at Grandma’s sometime.

JESSICA

Can Pam come too?

Gwen’s face tenses up, and she looks over at Jerome, but speaking to Jessica.

GWEN

I don’t think that would be a good

idea, Jessica.

Jerome just stands there with a blank expression.

JESSICA

Can I go with you to Grandma’s now?

GWEN

I guess that it’s up to your Daddy.

JEROME

Yes. You can go. Spend some time

with your mother. But first, go and

put your books in your room.

Jessica happily runs into her room, and Gwen turns to Jerome.

GWEN

So, you’re still seeing Pam?

JEROME

Yeah, and that’s something that I need

to talk to you about.

GWEN

What is?

JEROME

Well, I’m going to need for you to sign

some papers, so I can move on with my

life.

GWEN

Are you asking me for a divorce?

JEROME

(strong)

It really needs to be done.

GWEN

Well, I’m not going to do it. I’m not

giving up this fight that easily.

JEROME

(trying to get through to Gwen)

There is no more fight, Gwen. It’s over.

The fight is already over. Sign the papers.

And after this is over and final, Pam and I

are getting married.

GWEN

(getting emotional)

Jerome, please don’t do this!

At that time, Jessica comes out of the room.

JEROME

I’ll take you to your mom’s.

They all walk out of the door.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT.--JEROME’S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM-—EVENING

Jerome enters the house, and stops in his tracks when he sees that the room is dimly lit with candles. He then walks in further.

JEROME

Baby?...Baby!

At that time, Pam walks out of the kitchen wearing sexy clothes and a smile.

PAM

I’m right here. Sit down.

Jerome sits down, and Pam takes off his shoes and rubbing his feet as Jerome watches her with a faint smile.

JEROME

What is this?

PAM

Just a little sample of how I’m going

to be treating my husband.

JEROME

(really relaxed and stuttering)

Oh. OK. Do your thing. I like this.

PAM

Since Jessica’s staying with Gwen

tonight, I have the whole night planned

out. I have dinner cooked, then I was

thinking of watching a movie or two,

we can sit and talk, I’ll give you a hot

bath, and then we can turn in, and I have

something special for you then!

JEROME

I just can’t believe this. I’ll have to say

that Gwen and I did have something special,

and I never did doubt for a second that her

love was real, but never has she ever out of

the blue done anything like this for me. And

you know what else? I know that what you and

I have is real, and because of you, I can trust

Again. For that, let me say that….I love you.

PAM

I love you, too.

Pam continues to rub Jerome’s feet as he relaxes.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

EXT.--GWEN’S MOTHER’S HOME/FRONT DOOR-—DAY

Jerome knocks rings the doorbell, and Gwen answers.

JEROME

Hey. Jessica ready?

GWEN

Yeah.

Gwen lets him in. When Jerome is in, Gwen looks out at his truck to see Pam sitting there. All that she does is look at her with a blank stare.

JEROME (V.O.)

Hi Jessica!

JESSIACA (V.O.)

Hi, Daddy.

JEROME (V.O.)

Are you ready to go home?

JESSICA (V.O.)

Yes.

Gwen turns back to go inside.

GWEN

Her homework is done, and I gave

her a small snack.

JEROME

Alright. That’s fine. We’ll see you the

weekend after next.

Jerome and Jessica are heading for the door, and Gwen just looks before she quickly breaks the silence.

GWEN

Jessica?

Jessica turns around.

GWEN (CON’T)

Can I have a kiss?

Jessica turns back to give Gwen a kiss, then walks back for the door. Gwen starts getting emotional.

GWEN

Jerome. Why? Why can’t we just go

back to the way that it was?

JEROME

I’m a married man now, Gwen. What we

had was beautiful, but those days are gone.

I gave my best, and did my best to make

you happy. My efforts were not good enough.

Now, I do love you, and I always will, but

it’s just time to put the past behind us and

move on. That’s what I’ve done. You should

do the same. You'll be happier. Come on, Jessica.

Jerome walks out with Jessica, and Gwen stops at the door, and watches them get into the truck. When Jerome is in, Gwen sees him talking to Pam, and Pam breaking into a teething smile. Ms. Jackson walks up from behind, and joins Gwen at the door.

MS. JACKSON

(sarcastically)

Well, don’t they look happy together?

GWEN

(melancholy)

Yes they do. They look so much like what

Jerome and I used to look like. But mom,

I really don’t think that he understands that

I’m only human, and I’ve made a mistake.

They continue to watch, and sees Jerome lean over and kiss Pam on the cheek, and she gives a bigger grin.

GWEN (CON’T)

I’ve made a mistake.

MS. JACKSON

No, Gwen. You didn’t make a mistake.

You’ve made *the* mistake.

Jerome then pulls off, and Gwen watches him with tears in her eyes, until she can no longer see the truck.

GWEN

Yeah. The mistake that I wish I could

take back.

Gwen then slowly closes the door.

END

ROLL CREDITS