

Raven

By

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Dramatic Trauma

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FADE IN:

AERIAL SHOT - NEW YORK - NIGHT

We see a lot of rain pouring as the NARRATOR, Brandy Applegate speaks.

NARRATOR (BRANDY APPLGATE)

She did everythang she could to please her moms and everybody else, but nothing worked and shit just kept piling on her plate. Her name's Raven Brooks and she was my sis and -- I remember all the fun we used to have as kids and then, the laughter died and the sis I knew ain't been the same.

FLASHBACK - RAVEN'S CHILDHOOD - MONTAGE

We see a young, beautiful girl (**Raven Brooks**) and Brandy dancing on stage. As she's dancing, people are smiling and applauding, except for one. A woman with a harsh look (**Lillian Brooks, Raven's mother**) stares at Raven.

A pre-teen Raven, Brandy and a few friends are singing as Lillian doesn't say anything. An elderly black couple approaches Raven and hugs her, as Raven looks back at Lillian with a sad look.

A teenage Raven is seen drinking alcohol with some friends, as they're having a good time. Dazed, Raven smokes some cigars. Concerned, Brandy and other friends try to stop Raven from doing more drugs.

A young adult Raven, in a white shirt and blue skirt, with a miserable look, is seen with Lillian as she's holding her degree. Raven looks at her mother, who looks at her harshly.

END OF FLASHBACK.

NEW YORK - PRESENT DAY - NIGHT

BRANDY (V.O.)

She used to talk bout her dreams of being a doctor and wanting to find out who she is as a woman and -- we ain't got much time, but this how it all went down.

The title, **RAVEN** is revealed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

In the background, we hear Elton John and Little Richard's "The Power" playing.

EXT. SHOW GIRLS - NIGHT

RAVEN'S POV

A few strippers are seen dancing on the pole as the crowd of hungry men WHISTLE and throw their cash at the women. One of the women (**Raven Brooks**) looks into the crowd and locks eyes with a man. Brandy meanwhile examines Raven.

BRANDY (V.O.)

Sis been through a lotta shit, but I ain't seen her this nervous before. She looking at this nigga as if they done something, but she acting a lil suspect right now. She ain't the same sis I grew up with and when I look at her, it's like she a shell of her old self.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MIDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - NEW YORK - AFTERNOON - JANUARY 2018

ROOM 419 (AP ENGLISH)

A group of students are seen smoking pot and acting out as **Principal Brian O'Malley** arrives.

**PRINCIPAL BRIAN O'MALLEY**, a Caucasian chubby male BLOWS his whistle. The students YELL as he keeps blowing. With everything under control, he SPEAKS. He looks around.

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY

(to the students, in a loud tone)  
Where's Ms. Brooks?

BRANDY (V.O.)

The asshole in charge be talking bout school this, school that and yet he be one of them motherfuckas I be seeing on the streets tryna get some. He always have some type a agenda against Raven.

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY

Well?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The students suck their teeth as **RAVEN BROOKS** enters. All eyes are on her. Raven, an exotic, awkward, skinny, average young woman tries to avoid any attention.

In risqué clothing, she looks around as the students are talking amongst themselves.

We see the mouths of each student move as Raven freaks out.

Everyone looks at her.

She tries to hide behind a black jacket.

Principal O'Malley shakes his head as she tries explaining herself.

An angry Principal O'Malley stares at Raven harshly, as she tries to bring herself together.

Each student look at each other and nods suspiciously, as Principal O'Malley restores order.

AN HOUR AND THIRTY MINUTES LATER

The BELL RINGS.

The students gather their things and leave as Principal O'Malley watches Raven. She meanwhile looks away.

Alone with the principal, Raven attempts to leave, but he stops her.

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY

That was a fine performance you put on today, Ms. Brooks. Why didn't you come in on time?

RAVEN

I had some shit I had to take care of. Plus, I was only a few minutes late.

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY

I don't know how you do things at your other schools, but here at Midwood, the teachers are the leaders. You're suppose to --

THE LOUD SPEAKER is on.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL (LOUD SPEAKER)

Principal O'Malley, come to Room 315.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL (LOUD SPEAKER)  
(CONT'D)

Principal O'Malley, Room 315.

O'Malley rushes out of the room as Raven sits down. With her feet on the desk, she's on her phone, minding her own business. Then, another female teacher enters.

An African American attractive, slim, exotic woman, she greets Raven. Her name is **BRANDY APPLGATE**.

EXT. MIDWOOD HIGH PARKING LOT

The two friends are talking and having a good time, as Raven hands her a bottle of scotch.

BRANDY

So, how's ya first day here?

RAVEN

I dunno how ya do it, sis. Principal Dick face was hasslin' me cause I came in a few minutes late.

BRANDY

You gotta get use to him. He ain't that bad of a dick.

BRANDY (V.O.)

I seen how O'Malley treat Raven and I'mma be real with y'all, he kinda is a dick. I seen how he be treating the female teachers and it ain't cool how he treat the male teachers better than us. I dunno, it's like Raven just ain't feeling this teaching job.

RAVEN

I mean, the fucking dick gave the little pieces of shits quizzes -- maybe this ain't the right job for me.

Brandy reasons with Raven, trying to ease her mind. Raven, unfazed, has a sad look.

BRANDY

You iight?

RAVEN

Nah.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BRANDY  
Wanna talk bout it?

RAVEN  
(sighs)  
I got bills to pay, bread I owe my  
moms and -- I need some help sis. Can  
you lend me some dough? I --

BRANDY  
Thought you had mad bread in yo bank  
account.

RAVEN  
I do, but that's for my college loans  
I gotta pay back. You gotta help me,  
sis.

BRANDY  
If you really need bread, you could  
apply for another job.

RAVEN  
(laughing sarcastically)  
Ha ha, real funny sis. I ain't in the  
mood for no jokes.

BRANDY  
(lowers her voice)  
Iight, look, I didn't wanna say shit  
cause we in this hellhole, but I know  
a few peeps who could help ya.

Raven smiles.

BRANDY (CONT'D)  
But they prolly won't be the type a  
crowd ya used to.

RAVEN  
Sis --

BRANDY  
(lowers her voice)  
Iight, iight -- I do me a side job  
where I strip at the SHOW GIRLS and --

Raven looks at Brandy and LAUGHS.

Brandy rolls her eyes as Raven stops laughing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RAVEN

Sis, I need the bread and I ain't  
finna be no damn stripper!

BRANDY

You said you need the bread, so --

RAVEN

I mean, what kinda job gonna hire me?  
I fucked up my last job and I'm in  
some deep shit, sis!

BRANDY

How much you need?

RAVEN

\$500Gs.

Brandy drops the bottle of scotch, looking at Raven.

She pauses.

BRANDY

(laughing)

You joking, right?

RAVEN

(content)

....

BRANDY

Sis, that's a lotta bread. Iight,  
I'mma see what I could do.

Raven hugs Brandy with a smile on her face.

Brandy stops her.

BRANDY (CONT'D)

Don't get too excited. I can't say  
I'mma have the bread, but you gotta  
find a way to get that dough.

RAVEN

Iight.

(beat)

So what's new with you?

BRANDY

Nothing really. Just tryna survive out  
here sis.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BRANDY (CONT'D)

(laughs)

You remember when we was kids and we use to outdo each other in dance class?

RAVEN

(smiling)

Yeah and I use to win every time. Why?

BRANDY

I mean, you a great dancer and a hell of a singer and --

RAVEN

I gave that shit up years ago. I dunno if I still got the moves.

Brandy takes Raven's hand and the two dance. As they're dancing, Raven smiles and surrenders. She closes her eyes.

DREAM SEQUENCE - DANCE CLASS

Raven, in a sexy lingerie and tank top is showing off her moves. As she's dancing, we see a mysterious man approach her. The man, a muscular, attractive, fashionable, black young man holds her by the hand and they dance.

As they're dancing, Raven looks into the man's eyes and the image of the man is blurry.

END OF DREAM SEQUENCE.

BACK TO:

PARKING LOT

Raven stops. Brandy tries urging her to keep dancing, but Raven grabs her things and leave.

EXT. RAVEN'S APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT

We see a man standing outside. He's a Caucasian well dressed, sophisticated, tall man, with a cold look. Raven arrives and looks at the man. The man is **AL HENDERSON** (Raven's landlord) Her demeanor changes.

RAVEN

Look, I said I was gonna have the bread for you at the end of the month.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

AL

That's what you said the last few months. I got a place to run and mouths to feed. If you don't pay for the last few months' rent, then you're going to have to move out.

RAVEN

But Al --

AL

I don't wanna hear it! You're gonna give me the money you owe or you'll be out on the streets! Plain and simple.

Raven sucks her teeth and heads into her apartment.

INT. RAVEN'S HALLWAY/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Raven's mumbling to herself as she hears some noises.

She WALKS around and stops. She has a smile on her face.

We see a few women with some gifts as Raven embraces them.

They talk as Raven hands them a plate of leftovers for dinner. One of her friends, **PRINCESS SMARTS**, a HEAVYSET Black woman makes a remark.

BRANDY (V.O.)

Raven outta all my bitches I know got the nicest crib in the area. Shit mad clean, got lotta rooms to chill and she always seem to be sad all the fucking time. My girl, Princess used to say "*Sadness leads to one's demise*" and I use to think she was kinda cray cray, but Raven never seem to enjoy anything no mo.

PRINCESS

Yo, how things been between you and yo moms?

RAVEN

Same ol' same ol'.

PRINCESS

I dunno why you keep trying? The way I see it, she ain't liking you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Raven rolls her eyes as Princess doesn't back down.

PRINCESS (CONT'D)

Since we been kids, all you talk bout  
is yo moms and -- remember, ya still  
ya own woman.

RAVEN

I know, but --

PRINCESS

Remember Sexy **MIKE**?

RAVEN

(blushing)

Yeah?

PRINCESS

He and Rita split. Maybe you could bag  
that now.

RAVEN

(smiling embarrassingly)

Sis...

PRINCESS

I mean, he a doctor and you always  
wanted to be a doctor... he single and  
you need you a fucking nigga!

Raven looks at Princess, dazed.

DREAM SEQUENCE - RAVEN AND SEXY MIKE

We see a muscular, attractive, masculine male dancing with  
Raven. His name is **MICHAEL MCKELLER (Sexy Mike)** and Raven's  
giggling and having a good time. In each other's arms, we see  
them looking at each other.

Both lean in closer to one another. But we see fog  
interfering with them.

END OF DREAM SEQUENCE.

BACK TO:

RAVEN'S LIVING ROOM

She and her friends exchange awkward glances.

Then, Raven and her friends LAUGH as we see enjoying each

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

other's company.

PRINCESS

So you heard bout what went down at  
Hunter?

RAVEN

(rolls her eyes)

I ain't in the mood to hear bout that  
-- can we change the subject please?

PRINCESS

Iight, shit. Don't be mad at me, sis.

RAVEN

(smiling)

I got some news I gotta tell y'all...  
I just dunno how to say it, but --

FRIEND 1

Just say it, cuz!

RAVEN

I'mma go back to singing and dancing.

Her friends embrace her with fist bumps and hugs as Raven  
can't stop smiling.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Best part outta all this is that Ma  
ain't gonna get in the way of me doing  
what I wanna do.

Princess' demeanor changes.

PRINCESS

See, that's yo problem! Ya always  
talking bout Mama dukes, but when we  
talk bout her, you wanna get mad and  
shit... like this bout you, not yo  
moms!

Princess and the other friends leave as a disheartened Raven  
is left all alone.

INT. MIDWOOD HIGH AP ENGLISH CLASS - A WEEK LATER

In a white shirt and daisy dukes shorts, Raven's writing on  
the chalkboard. As she's teaching, some of her male students  
are watching her flirtatiously as the female students notice.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

She flexes a few times as her breasts have her male students fully engaged.

Principal O'Malley enters. Raven covers herself with a blanket as he points to the door. Raven leaves.

He dismisses the class.

INT. PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY'S OFFICE - TWO HOURS LATER

ROOM A313

Principal O'Malley's YELLING. Looking at her, he points at her outfit.

Raven struggles to speak as Principal O'Malley's upset.

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY

Why are you dressed like that?

RAVEN

(looks around)

Well...

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY

You've done this over and over again  
and I'm sick of it!

Principal O'Malley looks over to his wall and we see a large sum of teachers under the **BANNED FOREVER** aisle.

Raven rolls her eyes.

RAVEN

(takes a breath)

I fucking hate being a teacher! I  
don't get why I'm here... my purpose!  
I ain't cut out for this teaching  
shit!

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY

Watch your mouth.

Raven rolls her eyes.

RAVEN

I mean, I dunno why you all in my ass?  
This a free country right? So I'mma  
dress however the fuck I wanna dress.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY

(confused)

What kind of -- never mind.

(smiles at Raven)

I've had it up to here with you!  
Either you change your tune or else  
you're fired!

RAVEN

The fuck?

PASTOR O'MALLEY

You heard me!

Raven LAUGHS it off. She sucks her teeth.

RAVEN

(looks around nervously)

You joking, right?

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY

Does it look like I'm joking?

RAVEN (CONT'D)

(looks around nervously)

Principal... please don't fire me. I  
don't got a lotta options and --

(in a calmer tone)

Light, can't we work something out?

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY

(takes a breath)

I don't know. You keep on breaking the  
rules and --

(smiles at Raven)

That's it! You'll be in charge of the  
fundraiser.

RAVEN

What?

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY

You want to still be employed here,  
right?

RAVEN

I mean --

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY

Either you do the fundraiser or you're  
fired!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RAVEN

I dunno -- can't you just lemme rock this shit here? I mean, I am a woman.

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY

I see... well, you leave me no other choice but to fire you!

Raven's shocked. She has a blank look in her eyes.

RAVEN'S IMAGINATION - PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY'S OFFICE

An angry Raven punches the principal a few times, as he covers his face. She throws a few items around, scaring the man. He tries calming her down, but to no avail.

A few security guards enters and try restraining Raven, who's kicking and punching.

END OF RAVEN'S IMAGINATION.

BACK TO:

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY'S OFFICE

Raven looks at him.

RAVEN

You isn't for real? Is you?

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY (CONT'D)

(smiling)

I'm serious! If you're not going to help out with the school, then there's no room for you here. I guess you would have to find work elsewhere.

Raven looks at him. Her eyes widens.

She pleads with him, but he refuses. She's on her hands and knees. Principal O'Malley doesn't crack. He shows her the door. She looks at him and leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. TEACHERS ROOM CAFETERIA/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

ROOM B208

We see teachers and other school officials talking and having a good time as Raven arrives. The room is silent.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Raven sits down beside a fellow teacher, who's Argentinean and overweight. The other teacher are talking amongst themselves.

An elderly Caucasian woman, with grayish hair, in a black dress arrives. Her name is **AGATHA WALTERS**.

She looks at Raven and smiles nervously, as she leads them in prayer.

MS. AGATHA

Lord, we thank you for blessing us  
with your divine and good grace. We  
thank you for blessing us with love  
and grace --

There are a few heckling and talking going on during the prayer.

Raven sits, as Ms. Agatha continues praying.

Raven looks at the food and is disgusted. Other church members are also disgusted.

She tries her best to rejoin the group in prayer, but her stomach growls. The others look at her.

THE CLOCK ticks.

Raven's eyes, focused on the clock, bites her tongue. She looks around nervously.

RAVEN (V.O.)

This bitch needs to shut the fuck up!  
Like I ain't in the mood to be talking  
to Jesus right now, bitch!

(looks around)

Me and Ms. Agatha go way back. She use  
to babysit me when I was a lil girl.  
We use to chill and do a lil bit of  
homework here and there, but she  
taught me everything bout dancing and  
Ma use to hate her for that.

(laughs)

They use to fight bout that constantly  
and Ms. Agatha was the baddest bitch  
in the room til Ma came to her crib  
one day and threatened to shoot her  
ass if she taught me dancing again.  
Since then, me and Ms. Agatha ain't  
been on speaking terms.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RAVEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 (looking at the food)  
 I ain't eating this shit! This why I  
 gotta go to the Chinese joint down the  
 street.

Ms. Agatha finishes praying. Eating in silence, Raven looks around and notices their harsh stares.

RAVEN  
 Ms. Agatha, it's been a while. How you  
 been?

The other teachers laugh, as Ms. Agatha smiles.

Ms. Agatha nods at Raven as one of the teachers, **MS. LINDA CRUZ** (Spanish teacher) makes an announcement.

MS. CRUZ  
 (to the congregation)  
 As you know, our annual school  
 fundraiser's coming up and we need to  
 decide what we gonna do this year. Do  
 anyone have any ideas?

RAVEN  
 (blunt)  
 Chill with all that. We don't need to  
 do a fucking fundraiser!

MS. CRUZ (CONT'D)  
 It's for the children. We raise money  
 for them so that they can excel and do  
 well in college. Plus, the school's  
 shutting down and we need the money.

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
 But why?

MS. CRUZ  
 Because the school has been doing it  
 for years and we don't want to end the  
 annual fundraisers.  
 (looks around)  
 Now who's in charge of the fundraiser  
 this year?

UNKNOWN TEACHER (O.C.)  
 Raven.

Ms. Agatha pulls Raven to the side. The look on Agatha's face

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (4)

concerns Raven.

MS. AGATHA

(in a lower tone)

You gotta do this for me. The kids really need this bad. You gotta do it, Raven.

RAVEN

(in a nervous tone)

But...

MS. AGATHA (CONT'D)

That settles it. You're doing it.

Raven doesn't say anything as Ms. Agatha boasts. She hands everyone a glass of root beer as they all drink.

We see the expressions of numerous teachers change as their facial expressions are mixed. We see some smiling, some with disdainful looks, and others with concerned looks.

Raven pulls Ms. Agatha to the side.

RAVEN

I dunno if I'mma do y'all justice.

MS. AGATHA

You're a great singer and a great dancer -- why the worried face?

RAVEN

I ain't been dancing for mad long and Ma... Ma prolly would be mad at me if the word spread out.

Ms. Agatha holds Raven's face and kisses her forehead.

MS. AGATHA

I knew your mother's always been a bitch, but I didn't know you'd be a slave to that bitch!

RAVEN

(shocked)

Excuse me?

MS. AGATHA

Let's face it, dear. Your mother still has control over you. Every time you wanted to do something, it's always

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

MS. AGATHA (CONT'D)  
about her.

RAVEN  
That ain't true.

MS. AGATHA  
Prove me wrong then.

Conflicted, Raven looks at Ms. Agatha and the other teachers as she relents. Ms. Agatha plays some music as everyone celebrates. Raven meanwhile is confused.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RAVEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Raven's CRYING.

She's drinking a lot of alcohol as she's going through some childhood photos.

The PHONE rings.

She answers.

RAVEN  
(on the phone)  
Yo? Hey sis.

BRANDY (V.O.)  
What's gucci, sis?

RAVEN  
Sis, I need ya help.

BRANDY (V.O.)  
Iight, so what is it?

RAVEN  
You heard bout the school fundraiser?

BRANDY (V.O.)  
Yeah. It's the bomb. I heard you in charge this year.

RAVEN  
That's the thing... I dunno if I wanna do it, sis.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BRANDY (V.O.)

I mean, you said you need the bread  
and the fundraiser prolly gonna help  
ya with yo situation.

RAVEN

(defensive)

I ain't no fundraising bitch!

BRANDY (V.O.)

Iight, just chill. Whatcha need help  
with?

RAVEN

I wanna know if you got the bread? I  
really need it bad.

BRANDY (V.O.)

Nah, but you sure you don't wanna do  
the fundraiser? I mean --

RAVEN

Sis --

Raven freaks out, biting her fingernails. Then, Brandy makes  
an offer.

BRANDY (V.O.)

Sis, how about you meet me at the Show  
Girls.

RAVEN

(in a hesitant tone)

That strip joint you be working at?

Raven LAUGHS.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

And what you think they want with me?  
Show them a little ass and pussy for  
the niggas to jerk off?

BRANDY (V.O.)

I mean... it ain't all that bad. You  
get mad bread if you do yo job right  
and plus, the fellas down here ain't  
that bad.

RAVEN

(unsure)

I don't know...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BRANDY (CONT'D)

You need the bread right? Well, Jesus answered yo prayers, sis.

Raven thinks about it. She questions Brandy about the job. Brandy makes the offer again. Raven hesitates and refuses.

BRANDY (V.O.)

You do what ya gotta do to survive out here, sis. But last time I checked, you was a great dancer and great singer --

RAVEN

(blushing a little bit)

Yeah, but it ain't the same thing, sis. This life or death for me and the school.

BRANDY (V.O.)

You said you needed the money, right? So here I am making yo ass an offer. When you gonna see bread like 500Gs again?

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Yo job ain't for me sis. I ain't gonna thot myself like that.

There's a pause. Brandy's heard YELLING at Raven, as Raven worried. Brandy again makes the offer. Raven rejects it once again.

BRANDY (V.O.)

You the one who said yo moms never liked ya. Why you gonna serve a God who didn't give a fuck about you in the first place? If you wanna be a hero and make the payments, then you gotta explore different routes to make that bread. Feel me?

RAVEN

(looks around nervously)

If I do this gig, you ain't gonna odee like last time, is you?

BRANDY (V.O.)

Sis, that happened mad long ago. I promise, I ain't gonna violate yo spot like that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Raven sighs and rejects the offer.

In her room, we see some pictures of Raven as a child, as she quickly glances at the photos.

Then, she glances outside. Conflicted, Raven begins rubbing her head.

Conflicted, she gets up and walks around.

RAVEN

Nah, I'mma see if I could take out a loan.

BRANDY (V.O.)

A loan? Bro, you ain't got shit in the bank! Why is you worried bout shit that ain't in yo hands?

RAVEN

I dunno, iight! You wasn't there. Ms. Agatha and everyone depends on me. Ma wants her money -- I got lots of bills I gotta pay... and the school needs the bread bad! I dunno what to do!

BRANDY (V.O.)

(annoyed)

Iight, iight. Shit, I'mma see if BUBBLES can load me some bread.

RAVEN

Thanks, sis. I promise, I'mma pay you back.

BRANDY (V.O.)

Don't get all excited. You gotta see if you got the bread first. Holla at me when you hear from the bank.

RAVEN

Iight.

Lying down on her bed, she looks outside. Curious, she gets up and walks to the window. She watches the world as her mother's voice echoes in her mind.

AN HOUR LATER

Raven's going through her family photo albums. We see pictures of Raven as a child, as she has a smile on her face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

In the pictures, we see Raven and other loved ones together. Her smile fades as she then has a sad look.

In her room, we see trophies and awards hanging around as she looks at them.

She drinks some beer and Hennessy as we see her throwing the beer bottles at the wall. Grabbing her hair, she collapses to the ground in despair.

We see a lot of photos ripped up and trophies smashed as she comes across an old photo of a younger version of her mother and an infant Raven.

Then, she examines the photo.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

(to herself)

I wanted yo approval and ya treated me like shit! I loved you mo than I loved myself, Ma! Why didn't ya gimme a chance? I done everything you asked me to do and this how you do me? I had dreams... and you -- you took em away from me! I didn't ask for this life! I --

Raven stops speaking.

The PHONE RINGS.

She answers.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Yo?

On the other line is Rachel Brooks (Raven's older sister).

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

In the background, we see photos of Lillian and Rachel, with numerous plaques, degrees, and awards. Not too many pictures of Raven is seen.

Rachel's concerned.

RACHEL

I don't know what your problem is, but you gotta tell me what's going on. What's going on between you and Ma?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

RAVEN

I dunno! Why you asking me? I mean, you the one who always was Ma's favorite.

RACHEL

That's not true! You know what your problem is? Your problem is that you always made everything about you! Ma always tried to give you so many chances, but --

RAVEN

(in an angrier tone)

No, no, no! You always have the last word, but not this time! I always done what she told me to do, but she ain't gimme some respect... you wanna know what happened?

RACHEL

(concerned)

Raven, what did you do?

RAVEN

You remember when Ma lend me the bread to pay for my tuition and shit years ago, right?

RACHEL

Yeah...

RAVEN

So I spent the bread on beer and drugs and --

RACHEL

(frantic)

You what?

RAVEN

I spent it on drugs and once Ma found out, she been all over my ass bout paying her back, but --

RACHEL

See, that's what I mean. You're always thinking about yourself! If I were you, I'd find a way to get the money.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

RAVEN

I ain't in the mood for a fucking sermon, Rach. Look, can ya do me a lil favor?

RACHEL

Alright. What is it?

RAVEN

You gotta speak to Ma and try to make her see I ain't all that bad.

RACHEL

I don't know -- she's a hard cookie to persuade, but I'll try.

RAVEN

Thanks, Rach.

RACHEL

Yeah, yeah. But you gotta do something about your drinking! I'm tired of always bailing you out.

RAVEN

Iight. I'mma try.

Raven hangs up.

CUT TO:

INT. CHASE BANK - NEXT MORNING

Standing in a long line, Raven's listening to some music. A Chase employee looks at her.

AN HOUR LATER

Raven speaks with a Chase employee. The employee smiles at her, as Raven looks at her.

CHASE EMPLOYEE

What can I do for ya?

RAVEN

I'm here cause I need some cash.

CHASE EMPLOYEE

How much you need?

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

RAVEN

500Gs.

The employee looks through Raven's financial records. She looks back at Raven.

CHASE EMPLOYEE

Says here that you don't got much cash in your account.

RAVEN

(shocked)

Whatcha mean? I just put in mad bread a week ago. How y'all lose my shit?

Raven POUNDS on the employee's desk, alarming the employee.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Look, I ain't got time for these games. I really need the bread to help pay my rent, bills and pay my moms back.

CHASE EMPLOYEE

I'm sorry, but you really don't got much cash in your account.

Raven rubs her forehead.

RAVEN

How much I got then?

CHASE EMPLOYEE

\$300.

She SCREAMS out loud a few times. People in the bank look on.

Raven gets up and leaves.

EXT. STREETS - (BROOKLYN) - DAY

WALKING AROUND, Raven's mumbling to herself. Angry, she stops by a store and drinks a bottle of beer.

COUGHING a few times, Raven's on the PHONE.

RAVEN

Yo sis, you got the bread?

BRANDY (V.O.)

Sis, I'm in the middle of something.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BRANDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Can't ya see if you can do something else?

RAVEN

Sis, I don't got much options left. I went to the bank and the bitch at the bank said I ain't got much bread in my account.

BRANDY (V.O.)

Iight, iight, calm down. There's a guy I know who hiring for a porno. He offers mad bread and maybe you --

RAVEN

Sis, this ain't a joke! You know I don't fucking wanna work in a place like that! I really need the bread bad!

BRANDY (V.O.)(CONT'D)

(in a rush)

Well, you ain't got much options. Look, can we talk bout this shit later?

RAVEN

Iight.

Raven hangs up. She takes her drink and continues WALKING around.

INT. RAVEN'S ROOM - NIGHT - HOURS LATER

Lying down, Raven's ripping up a lot of some pictures.

In tears, she cuts out Lillian's pictures.

The PHONE RINGS.

Raven gathers herself together.

RAVEN

Yo?

BRANDY (V.O.)

Sis, sorry bout earlier. I was at the job hustling and grinding and shit.  
(concerned)

Sis, you iight? You sound weird.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Raven changes the subject.

RAVEN  
Any luck with the bread?

BRANDY (V.O.)  
Nah, but sis, you could work with me.  
The pay's mad good and you might like  
it here.

RAVEN  
(unsure)  
I dunno...

BRANDY (V.O.)(CONT'D)  
Sis, you need the money! God gonna  
forgive you for this. Just take a risk  
every now and then.

SILENCE.

Raven thinks about it as Brandy's heard yelling on the other  
line. Raven resumes the conversation.

RAVEN  
(reluctantly)  
Fine, I'll do it. But promise me, this  
stays between us!

BRANDY (V.O.)  
I promise. You'll get whatcha want and  
I'll get to spend more time with my  
sis.  
(optimistic)  
I'mma need you to come and check it  
out.

RAVEN  
Now?

BRANDY (V.O.)  
Yeah now!

RAVEN  
Iight, I'mma be there. Just lemme get  
ready.

Raven hangs up. She changes her clothes.

Conflicted, she looks around and bites her lip.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

In risqué clothing, Raven looks at herself in the mirror and turns off the lights.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME

Raven creeps slowly. She hears footsteps and hides behind a corner wall. Panicking, she takes a deep breath and waits.

The FOOTSTEPS subsides and she makes a run for it. Puckering up her beasts, Raven smiles.

DISSOLVES TO:

INT. SHOW GIRLS - PRIVATE ROOM - NEW YORK - NIGHT

Nervous, Raven enters. With her body nearly exposed, she begins to have second thoughts, as the light turns on.

She covers her face and sees Brandy. Brandy shows her around, as a few gentlemen are looking at the women.

One of the men catcalls Raven. She's nervous.

These men are dangerous, aggressive, but hungry men, who blows kisses at Raven.

Then, Brandy sees another woman and introduces Raven to her.

The woman, an African American woman with short brown hair, chubby, with multiple tattoos, stares Raven down.

RAVEN (V.O.)

I knew that this place made me feel right. Just the freedom of being yo self got me thinking bout joining the joint.

(looking around)

Seeing them shorties dancing on the pole got me thinking bout dancing and it got everything I use to do -- I just hope I ain't making a mistake!

WOMAN

(smoking a cigar)

Who is you and why you here?

RAVEN

I'm Raven Brooks and --

WOMAN

Yeah, yeah, I don't need a fucking  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WOMAN (CONT'D)  
speech. You ain't supposed to be here.

RAVEN  
(looks around)  
I was looking around and maybe thought  
--

WOMAN  
(smirks)  
Thought? This ain't Jeopardy. My girls  
just perform and get their money's  
worth.

The woman looks at Raven's body. Raven looks at herself.

Raven looks into the woman's eyes, as the woman smiles.

WOMAN (CONT'D)  
You ain't from around here, is you?

RAVEN  
No.

WOMAN  
(looking into the mirror)  
You got a nice body and the boys  
outside wants a bitch with a nice  
body.

WOMAN (CONT'D)  
Tell ya what... since I'm a nice  
bitch, I'll let ya stay.

Raven smiles and shakes the woman's hand, but the woman stops  
her.

WOMAN  
If you do well tonight.

RAVEN  
Tonight?

WOMAN  
If you wanna make it here kid, you  
gotta keep the fellas entertained.  
Feel me?

RAVEN  
Okay.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

The woman introduces herself as **BUBBLES**.

There's a KNOCK at the door.

Bubbles opens it, and there's a muscular Caucasian male, who hands Bubbles a large load of money.

Bubbles nods at Raven, leaving her alone with man.

WHITE MAN

So you finna stand there or what?

Raven takes off the male's shirt and places him down on a chair. She performs a lap dance. Meanwhile, the gentleman places his hands on Raven's breasts.

He gently holds Raven and whispers something to her. She smiles.

RAVEN

(in a nervous, but seductive tone)

You naughty... that gonna cost ya extra.

WHITE MAN

(in a seductive tone)

I'm gonna give you the entire world...

(snaps his fingers)

Just like that! All you gotta do is be good to me and I promise I'll be gentle.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

(smiling)

I'll be good.

The man carries Raven and slams her down to a nearby bed.

He gently takes off her lingerie and bra, licking the tip of her breasts, as she MOANS.

Raven places her hands on his head, as he's eating her vagina.

She JUMPS up and down, as he's slapping her ass.

The man then says something to her.

She stops.

She puts back on her clothes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

The man's confused. She runs out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. SHOW GIRLS - HALLWAY - SAME

On the floor, Raven covers her face, as she feels a touch.

She uncovers her face, seeing Bubbles.

Wiping away her tears, she gives Bubbles the details.

WOMAN (BUBBLES)  
So, how was it?

RAVEN  
It --  
(stumbling)  
It was --

BUBBLES (CONT'D)  
Come on with it!

Raven reflects. She looks at Bubbles and smiles.

RAVEN  
It was magical. I never had anyone pay  
attention to me like that before.

BUBBLES  
So why you crying for?

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
Nothing. I'm gucci. I enjoyed myself  
tonight.

BUBBLES (CONT'D)  
(smiling)  
All my girls here usually make a lot  
of bread around here. When the men are  
happy, I'm happy.

Bubbles' smile quickly fades, as she has a cold look.

She wraps her hands around Raven, who feels something at her  
throat.

BUBBLES  
But when a man ain't gucci, then I  
turn into a savage bitch!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Confused, Raven sees a knife being pointed at her.

RAVEN  
 (in a fearful tone)  
 Bubbles, please... I promise I won't  
 disappoint ya.

She's shaking uncontrollably, as Bubbles' facial expression doesn't change.

Bubbles slowly puts the knife away and softly slaps Raven's face, smiling again.

BUBBLES  
 Now we talking, kid. I know this your  
 first day and all, but I'll let ya  
 leave early tonight.

RAVEN  
 Really?

BUBBLES (CONT'D)  
 It's the least I can do. These bitches  
 here don't have what you have...you  
 made that man happy though. Shit, he a  
 man who listens to a woman every word.  
 (counting the money)  
 I ain't seen that much bread in my  
 life.

Raven smiles, but then is terrified, as Bubbles' face transforms into Lillian's. She jumps up and runs towards the POLE ROOM.

CUT TO:

INT. POLE ROOM - CONTINUED

A lot of strippers are dancing on the pole. Raven's concerned, as customers throw things at the women.

They then see Raven.

The men WHISTLES at her, as she tries to avoid any attention.

The bodyguards jump into action as Raven's uncomfortable.

One man grabs Raven from behind, slaps her ass, as she looks at the man. She looks at the other women, who smiles at her. She joins them.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

As she's dancing, the other strippers grow envious of her.

The male customers begins throwing money at Raven.

Looking into the crowd, she notices someone.

This person looks at her suspiciously, takes a quick photo, as Raven leaves.

The customers once again throws things at the women, as the person follows Raven.

Brandy meanwhile sees what's going on and tries to follow Raven, but is stopped by a few men, who shows her a large sum of cash.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - (BROOKLYN) - NEW YORK - NIGHT

Raven runs through a crowd of people, covering her face. Fully dressed, she bumps into an **OLD MAN**.

The man, in his mid seventies or early eighties, black male looks at her and wipes her tears.

She looks at the man and smiles.

OLD MAN

What's wrong, young lady?

RAVEN

I --

RAVEN (CONT'D)

(takes a breath)

I rather not say.

OLD MAN

Whatever it is, Jesus is the main fella to talk to when you're feeling down.

SHOT OF A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE WATCHING RAVEN FROM A FAR

She quickly glances at his Bible, as he hands her a pamphlet. Then, a mysterious figure looks at Raven from a far. Raven flees.

People looks at her suspiciously, as she re-examines herself. She finally makes it back home, as the mysterious figure

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

fades.

CUT TO:

INT. RAVEN'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - SAME

Slowly taking her steps, she comes across a portrait of Jesus. She looks at the portrait and drops down to her knees.

RAVEN

(in a lower tone, crying)

You gotta forgive me for all I done,  
Jesus. I ain't perfect and I sure as  
hell am sorry for disrespecting you,  
my moms, and everyone here.

A few lights are pointing at her, as she retreats to her room. The portrait of Jesus begins to sweat, as the portrait slowly disappear.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RAVEN'S ROOM - CONTINUED

Lying down on her bed, Raven goes through some family photos.

Face to face with some childhood photos, she notices something.

In the picture, we see a younger Lillian holding an infant Raven, but Lillian doesn't have a smile on her face.

She goes through some more photos and notices that Lillian's not smiling in any of them.

Her eyes widens as we see a lot of pictures on the ground.

RAVEN (V.O.)

Ma never smiled... never once gave me  
a fucking hug or a kiss. If I raise  
the money for the church, maybe she'll  
come around, but she's a hard bitch to  
please.

She thinks about her mother, as her mood changes.

She picks up the pictures and smokes a few cigars. She struggles to fall asleep.

JUMP TO:

INT. ST. JUDE'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL PLAY ROOM - MORNING

We see teachers playing with some children.

Meanwhile, the hospital staff members are doing their jobs.

Then Raven arrives.

The vibe in the room changes, as the parents stare at harshly.

She listens as these parents are MUMBLING and WHISPERING to each other, as she trembles.

Gospel music's playing in the background, as images of religious figures like Martin Luther King, Jesus, Jesse Jackson, and others are shown.

Then a few kids comes up to Raven.

She plays with them for a few minutes before their parents take them.

The looks on each parent's face causes concerns as she questions herself. The little girl comes up to her.

The little girl, a Caucasian girl with long black hair, with a blue ribbon attached, in a white dress, introduces herself as **SARAH**. Sarah looks at Raven and smiles, hugging her.

RAVEN

How are you today?

SARAH

Good. You're pretty.

RAVEN

Thank you. You look like a princess today. Say, how old are you?

SARAH

Five.

RAVEN

(blushes)

Five? Gee, I remember when I was five, I used to play with the nuns all the time.

Raven hands Sarah a doll.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAVEN (CONT'D)

What do you wanna be when you grow up?

SARAH

A ballerina.

Sarah's smile quickly fades, as Raven notices.

RAVEN

Ain't nothing wrong with being a ballerina.

SARAH

Yes it is.

RAVEN

Well who's stopping ya?

SARAH

My mommy.

Sarah CRIES, as Raven wipes her tears.

Raven pauses and looks at Sarah, holding her hand.

RAVEN

(smiling)

You be whatever you wanna be. I know God would want you to be the best you you can be.

SARAH

But what if my mommy gets angry?

Raven takes a breath.

RAVEN

All that matters is what you wanna be. Forget what ya moms or anyone else says, you feel me?

SARAH

Okay.

The pair play with one another, as Raven notices something about Sarah. Sarah looks at her in confusion.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RAVEN  
(in a dazed state)  
Huh?

Raven comes back to reality.

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
(in a daze, almost confused)  
Oh, I'm fine... just thinking about  
life is all. Say, I think you're a  
fine person to play with.

Sarah blushes, but a large woman takes Sarah away, as she's pleading with her.

The woman, **SARAH'S MOTHER** complains to hospital staff members, as more parents would take their kids.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUED

MEDIUM SHOT - SARAH CRYING

Sarah's pleading with her mother, as her mother doesn't respond.

Sarah's cries really loud, as she scratches and attempts to crawl away from her mother.

CUT TO:

INT. PLAY ROOM - SAME

The teachers, gathering around Raven, looks down at her, making some cruel remarks.

Raven attempts to explain herself, as one teacher approaches her.

The teacher, a large, obese Caucasian woman, in her mid fifties, is angry.

She SLAPS her.

Stunned, Raven looks at her and rubs her cheek.

Coloring books and toys lying around on the floor, as Raven sees Sarah's blue ribbon.

Collapsing to her knees, she holds the ribbons to her breasts

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

and breaks down.

**RACHEL BROOKS** enters. A successful, well dressed, black woman, with two children with her, comforts Raven. Raven wipes her tears.

Rachel pulls Raven to the side and they talk.

RACHEL  
(in a worried tone)  
What's wrong?

RAVEN  
Why you care? All you do is make shit worse --

Rachel wraps her arms around her sister, as Raven CRIES on her shoulder.

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
I try and try to make this work and all they do is break me...

RACHEL  
Because you let them. That's your problem. You let people walk over you and talk to you any way and --

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
I don't need a lecture right now.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
What you need is to pull yourself together and take control!

There's friction between the two sisters, as Rachel is seen leaving.

RAVEN  
Why you even here? Like you got mad shit to say, but don't know what's going on!

A teacher walks over to Rachel and whispers something to her ears.

Raven tries to hide her nerves, but Rachel and the teacher looks at her with a sick smile.

Rachel then takes out her phone and WALKS over to Raven.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Rachel shows Raven a picture, shocking Raven, as she tries to get a handle of Rachel's phone.

They then fight. Other teachers separate them.

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
 (in a louder tone)  
 You a dead bitch, Rach!

Raven's fighting the teachers as she tries to get her hands on Rachel.

Rachel, on her phone with Lillian starts talking, as Raven stops her.

Raven apologizes.

Rachel hangs up.

She makes a list of demands.

RACHEL  
 (lowers her voice)  
 Ma raised you better than that! You're gonna stop the drinking and stop all of this foolishness!

RAVEN  
 Look --

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
 (lowers her voice)  
 I mean, why are you doing this? Don't you have any respect for yourself?

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
 Look, sometimes you gotta dig down deep to help someone in need. I ain't stopping shit, iight?

Rachel's on her phone, dialing some numbers, as Raven stops her. She reluctantly agrees.

RACHEL  
 Oh... and another thing, you will go back and get your teaching job. No sister of mine gonna sit around and do nothing.

RAVEN (V.O.)  
 Rachel has the pics and I just had to  
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

RAVEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 work with the bitch to make sure that  
 Ma don't get access to the pics. I  
 guess you can say I was working with  
 the devil here.

Rachel and her children leaves as Rachel smirks at Raven.

Raven leaves, as Brandy arrives.

Brandy hugs her.

She looks at the teachers with disgust.

BRANDY  
 (to the teachers)  
 You people need to fuck off! Ray Ray's  
 trying here and by making her feel  
 like shit ain't helping no one.

TEACHER 1  
 She's a disgrace as a teacher. All she  
 do is make things worse.

Raven comes back, placing her head onto the door.

Then Brandy sees her and invites her back in.

BRANDY  
 (to Raven)  
 Sis, you don't need them. These  
 fucking haters all on your dick cause  
 you wanna help others --

RAVEN  
 That ain't the point. The point is  
 that I try and try to live this life,  
 but maybe it ain't for me.

Brandy and Raven walk out of the hospital hand in hand.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BRANDY'S LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Brandy and Raven are talking. Raven looks at Brandy and  
 smiles.

RAVEN (V.O.)  
 Many people don't know how Brandy and  
 I are still cool. She been there for  
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

RAVEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 me for mad long and she's like a  
 sister to me. Being back in her house  
 makes me feel at ease. No screaming,  
 no worries... just comfort. I always  
 wanted to be Brandy. She's got the  
 husband, the kids, and a great life,  
 but me... I don't fucking have shit!

Brandy gives Raven a notebook, as Raven begins writing. She  
 pats her pen onto the book a few times, biting her lip.

BRANDY  
 You good sis?

Raven doesn't say a word, as Brandy tries to speak to her.

BRANDY (CONT'D)  
 Sis!

RAVEN  
 (in a confused state)  
 What?

BRANDY  
 You good?

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
 I'm gucci. Being a teacher and being  
 everything... nah, forget it.

BRANDY (CONT'D)  
 Nah, you about to say something.

Raven gets mad.

RAVEN  
 Just forget it, iight!

BRANDY  
 Shit sis, I known you mad long and all  
 you do is talk about yo ma. You never  
 once talk about you.

RAVEN  
 I don't? Maybe I don't like talking  
 about me so much. Ma always said --

BRANDY (CONT'D)  
 You see? Mama dukes ain't in the crib.  
 You free now... I wanna hear about  
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BRANDY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

you.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Sis, I don't wanna fight right now. I just want peace.

Raven doesn't speak, as Brandy's PHONE rings.

She gets up to answer it. As she's on the phone, her voice slowly rises, concerning Raven.

RAVEN (V.O.)

I love Brandy, but sometimes she need to chill with all that therapy shit. So what if I talk about Ma, I just want to talk is all. Since we were kids, Brandy seen what life been like for me. Ma used to say "*That girl don't need to be in our business. All she do is create chaos and confusion*" and I still don't know what she mean by chaos and confusion. Maybe my life has been chaotic to where I'm confused. I don't know why but I feel so lost.

Brandy hangs up and sits back down. The two friends looking at one another with harsh looks. They make up.

BRANDY

Sis, I'm sorry.

RAVEN

(in a sincere tone)

Nah I'm sorry. You trying to help and --

BRANDY (CONT'D)

I know you and I know for a fact you trying and --

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Can we talk about something else please?

Brandy changes the subject. Somewhere in the conversation, Sarah's name is mentioned. Raven smiles.

BRANDY

I see you really like the kid.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

RAVEN

Yeah, but her mother's a fucking bitch though.

BRANDY (CONT'D)

(laughing)

She one of those mothers?

RAVEN

Bitch kept looking at me side eye and made me feel uncomfortable. But spending time with Sarah made me really smile. It's like --

BRANDY AND RAVEN

Us when we were kids.

They reminisce about their childhood, as Raven then breaks down. Covering her face, she tries to look away. Brandy consoles her friend.

BRANDY

What's good now?

RAVEN

(wiping her tears)

I can't do this...

BRANDY (CONT'D)

Sis, what you talking about?

RAVEN (CONT'D)

I wanna be real with you about something, but it's something --

BRANDY

Iight, tell me.

Raven hesitates as Brandy pressures her into speaking. Sweating, Raven's eyes widens as Brandy keeps pushing her.

RAVEN

Iight! I been jealous of you since we been kids... the boyfriends, the husband, kids... you got it all, and me... I ain't got shit!

BRANDY

(laughing)

You funny sis. I ain't this princess who got it all.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Brandy takes a deep breath.

BRANDY (CONT'D)

Truth is that I been jealous of you.

RAVEN

For real?

BRANDY

Yurp... you had parents who cared and been in yo life and got mad brothers and sisters. I had parents who rarely be in my life and that fucking thot of a sister of mine never been my bestie.

(holds Raven's hand)

You the only sis for me who got the life I always wanted.

Raven's taking in some of Brandy's words, as Raven and Brandy hug.

RAVEN

(in a sorrowful tone)

Sometimes I wish I was you. You well put together and I barely know who the fuck I am. I still wish I could be you.

BRANDY

(wiping Raven's tears)

I wish I could be you. I'd do anything to have Ma and Pops to pay attention to me.

RAVEN

But that's the thing... I don't got it like that. I mean, ever since Grandma Mary died -- never mind.

BRANDY

Nah, sis. You gotta address this shit once and for all! I seen how Mama dukes been treating you and it ain't cool with me. I seen the hurt in yo eyes when she yell and scream at ya.

RAVEN

You don't understand. My granny was the woman I always wanted to be and Ma, she... she --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

BRANDY

Why you really doing this, sis? I seen how you act one way round yo family and everybody else and then you act another way with me... sis, you gotta be real with me!

RAVEN

I don't wanna talk about it. You'll never understand why I'm this way. You haven't gone through the same shit I gone through.

Raven and Brandy keep talking through the rest of the day.

DISSOLVES TO:

INT. PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY'S OFFICE - NEXT MORNING

Principal O'Malley and a few guys are talking. As they're talking, their demeanors change. O'Malley's seen showing the men the door as the men aren't backing down.

The men leave.

Ms. Agatha enters.

She tries to comfort him, but he ignores her.

MS. AGATHA

How's everything?

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY

Good.

MS. AGATHA (CONT'D)

(smiling)

Good.

(beat)

I need to talk to you about Raven.

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY (CONT'D)

Raven's done nothing as a teacher. I'm not going to take her back.

MS. AGATHA

Just give her a chance. Trust me, she really wants to do what's best for the school.

Principal O'Malley's not convinced as his PHONE rings.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Ms. Agatha eavesdrops on the conversation as she's still urging Principal O'Malley to give Raven another shot.

He doesn't budge, ending his phone conversation.

Ms. Agatha leaves.

Alone in his office, Principal O'Malley closes his eyes and sleeps.

CUT TO:

INT. SHOW GIRLS POLE ROOM - NIGHT - DAYS LATER

Raven and Brandy are entertaining their male clients as Raven's concerned.

Brandy tries to entertain her client, but struggles to help Raven.

From a far, Bubbles looks at the women coldly. With her are a few security guards who are watching them sternly.

Raven meanwhile tries to shrug off her concerns.

RAVEN  
(whispering to Brandy)  
Something don't feel right, sis.

Raven continues to satisfy her client by performing some lap dances as the client places his hand underneath Raven's thong.

Raven fights through the ordeal.

CLIENT  
(in a seductive tone)  
Yeah bitch, just dance for daddy and you'll get that money.

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
(in a much more nervous tone)  
Please, you're hurting me...

The client doesn't listen as a few of the guards manhandle the client.

Brandy consoles Raven, who assures her that she's alright.

From a far, someone's taking some photos of Raven while this individual manages to run.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BRANDY

Sis, maybe you should chill for the night.

RAVEN

I'm gucci sis.

Raven and Brandy continues performing for other male clients as Raven struggles. She gets the job done. Bubbles has a smile on her face.

CUT TO:

INT. PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY'S OFFICE - MORNING

Principal O'Malley talks with the teachers about the upcoming fundraiser as Raven enters.

Everyone has mixed reactions.

MS. AGATHA

(to Principal O'Malley)

She's still a teacher, Brian.

Principal O'Malley looks at the teachers and reluctantly allows Raven to stay.

He shares some ideas. Raven then voices her ideas as the teachers are eyeballing her.

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY

I know that the fundraiser's around the corner, and I'm wondering if any of you have any ideas.

There's a LOUD silence in the room as Raven continue speaking. Annoyed, Principal O'Malley sits down and Raven takes center stage. Ms. Agatha's seen calming everyone down.

RAVEN

I feel that we do something different... something that would actually benefit these kids.

Teachers are talking amongst themselves as Raven tries to explain herself.

Then the teachers protest as Ms. Agatha quiets them down.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

We need to do something. Y'all say  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAVEN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)  
 this for the kids, right? So, how bout  
 we do a lil bit of music and hip hop  
 dancing contests?

(to Ms. Agatha)

There's mad kids out in the world who  
 ain't feeling like they ain't being  
 heard and with this fundraiser, we  
 could have them involved. We gotta try  
 here.

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY

New? Raven, you're no longer a member  
 of the faculty here. Who are you to  
 tell us what and how we should handle  
 our fundraisers? Last time I checked,  
 you weren't interested.

RAVEN

I just wanted to amp up the school and  
 shit is all.

The vibe in the room is very strange as Raven then looks at  
 Ms. Agatha, who pulls her to the side. The other teachers  
 look on.

MS. AGATHA

(in a lower tone)

I for one like your idea. The church  
 needs something new. Now, you young  
 people may think I'm not hip for you  
 guys, but we need to do something that  
 would serve the children.

RAVEN

I'm raising money to help out around  
 here, but Principal O'Malley and the  
 others ain't need my help.

MS. AGATHA (CONT'D)

I'll talk to Principal O'Malley. I'm  
 sure he'll come around.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

I gotta a lotta shit I gotta handle.  
 Sink ain't working, electricity off,  
 bathing in cold waters and shit -- I  
 need help too, Ms. Agatha.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (3)

MS. AGATHA

(hugging Raven)

Meet me here tomorrow. I would like to talk to you about ways we can help you with your living situation. Also, you have to make sure that what's said between us remains between us.

(whispers to her)

Since you were a little girl, I knew that you'd do something good and now you're doing good wonders. You're doing an amazing thing here and we thank you sincerely.

Ms. Agatha's words bother Raven as her facial expression changes.

Raven, in a complete daze as Sister Agatha checks on her.

Raven smiles at her and leaves.

INT. BACK ROOM - CONTINUED

Raven, in a dirty daisy dukes and a dirty white tank top smells herself. She cringes as people WALK past her. She looks around and notices the harsh stares as she retreats.

CUT TO:

INT. RAVEN'S ROOM - NIGHT - MAY 2018

It's very dark. Raven's drinking a lot of beer. With a pot belly and clutter all over her bed, we see the lights flickering on and off.

We see a few roaches and rodents crawling around as Raven continues drinking. She looks around and examines the room.

BRANDY (V.O.)

Sis looked horrible as fuck. She was begging people to take showers, eat, and even crash at they crib -- I seen what the alcohol doing to her and it just turned her into a fucking beast!

Raven's wiping her tears.

Her CELLPHONE RINGS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAVEN  
(in a drunken tone)  
Yo?

RACHEL (V.O.)  
(pissed)  
Don't yo me! I know you been drinking!  
Didn't I tell you to stop drinking? I  
mean, come on, **SAMMY** and **DEREK** haven't  
seen their aunty in a while.

RAVEN  
Just lemme be, Rach. I ain't in the  
mood right now.

RACHEL (V.O.)  
If you don't stop the drinking and  
smoking and stripping, then you're not  
going to see Sammy and Derek again!  
And I'll tell Ma everything!

Raven JUMPS up.

RAVEN  
Rach, wait... Iight, I'mma try to get  
clean. Just don't tell Ma.

RACHEL (V.O.)  
(sighs)  
Raven, you can't keep doing this to  
yourself.

RAVEN  
I know, I know.  
(sighs)  
Lemme talk to Sammy and Derek.

RACHEL (V.O.)  
I'm not going to subject my children  
to their drunk aunt. Clean yourself up  
and get your crap together!

Raven SLAMS her cellphone to the wall and lies down.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK - INT. MOUNT ZION CHURCH OF GOD - ALTAR - 1990S

We see a young Raven listening to the pastor SPEAK.

The pastor, a tall, well dressed, handsome African American

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

male, looks at Raven and smiles. Seated beside Raven are her older siblings, **DANIEL, JOHN, CINDY, MARTHA, HAZEL, DREW, ROBERT, ISAIAH, KAREN, DEAN, RACHEL, PATRICK** and **RUTH**.

Raven then goes up to the podium and SINGS "**When The Saints Go Marching In**". As she's SINGING, we see the army of congregation members CLAPPING and singing along with her.

The pastor meanwhile bops his head and SINGS too.

She returns to her seat as the pastor is heard praising Raven's works. His deep voice echoes through the church as Raven has a smile on her face.

The service ends and Raven and her siblings spending time with the pastor. With a smile on his face, the pastor listens to them talk.

PASTOR BROOKS

And what do you guys want to be when you grow up?

DANIEL

A race car driver.

RUTH

A teacher.

Raven blushes a little bit, but answers the question.

RAVEN

A doctor.

PASTOR BROOKS (CONT'D)

I think that's a great idea.

RAVEN

....

PASTOR BROOKS

We'll talk about it later. You go on with your siblings to the house.

With a sad look, she looks back at her father and does as she's told. Her grandmother, **MARY BROOKS**, a tiny Caucasian woman is kissing Raven on the cheek. Grandmother and granddaughter look at each other and smiles.

With the children gone, Pastor Brooks and Mary kiss each other passionately.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MARY

That was a beautiful sermon, dear.

PASTOR BROOKS

My father used to tell me about the wonders of the world and how many tides changes are to come.

MARY (CONT'D)

Yeah. Seems like yesterday, Raven was a baby and now, she's growing up. Where did the time go?

PASTOR BROOKS (CONT'D)

I don't know, but Lillian needs to make sure that baby gets a lot of love.

MARY

Dear, we were young at one point. It's not easy raising a kid, especially sixteen.

PASTOR BROOKS

I know, but she could've done more with her life instead of being with that Harold boy.

Mary leaves as Pastor O'Malley sits at the front row bench. As he's looking around the church, he places his hand on his Bible and prays.

A lot of angry voices are heard PROTESTING outside of the church as a ton of bricks being thrown at the church.

Pastor Brooks gets up and is met with hostile Caucasian males.

WHITE MALE

You niggers don't have the right to preach about who and what God is. Now you just get up and take your nigger ass on home.

PASTOR BROOKS

This is the house of God and I'm just preaching. Ain't a sin preaching about the word of God. Maybe you guys can turn that hate into love and fellowship with us sometime.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

The white men look at themselves and burst out LAUGHING as they start vandalizing stuff within the church.

Pastor Brooks doesn't move as these white men point their guns at him.

They then leave the church, leaving Pastor Brooks angry.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK - INT. BROOKS FAMILY HOME - KITCHEN - NEW YORK - NIGHT - CONTINUED

Pastor Brooks coming home in a frantic way.

A young Raven and her siblings greet her grandfather, as he's holding his grandchildren tenderly.

Raven notices something's wrong with her grandfather.

RAVEN

Grampa, are you okay?

Pastor Brooks and Mary shield their grandchildren as a lot of rocks and objects being thrown around. The children are terrified as Mary holds onto Pastor Brooks. He runs towards the kitchen sink, grabbing his rifle.

As he's loading his rifle, a young Raven closes her eyes as she comes back to the present.

END OF FLASHBACK.

PRESENT DAY - RAVEN'S ROOM - CONTINUED

Raven's sways her body a few times.

RAVEN (V.O.)

I feel like I ain't meant to be me...  
Ma always wanted me to be a fucking  
minister as Pops wanted me to be a  
teacher -- I didn't ask for this! I  
didn't ask to be born!

(in a depressed tone)

My grandma and grandpa always been  
real with me and allowed me to be me!  
Ma just ain't seen the good in me. I  
been beaten and criticized for being  
me and -- when I drink, I don't gotta  
be the kid who was shitted on. I get  
to be numb and free.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

We see a lot of empty beer bottles lying around as Raven takes a quick smoke. As she's smoking, she grabs her chest. She would smoke a few more cigars.

CUT TO:

INT. DR. LISA JAYNE'S REHAB CLINIC - (BROOKLYN) - NIGHT - A WEEK OR TWO LATER

1ST FLOOR

A nervous Raven, dressed in dark sunglasses, a black coat, with black high heels and black purse enters.

She speaks to a worker, who points at the elevator.

2ND FLOOR - DR. JAYNE'S OFFICE

Raven enters as a strong, sophisticated, youthful, and jovial black woman, **DR. LISA JAYNE** greets her.

DR. LISA JAYNE  
So what can I do for ya?

RAVEN  
Name's Raven Brooks. I'm here because I have a drinking problem and I don't know how to stop.

Dr. Jayne examines Raven as she makes Raven comfortable.

DR. LISA JAYNE  
How long you've been drinking?

RAVEN  
Since I was a teen, I guess.

DR. LISA JAYNE  
Why you've been drinking?

RAVEN  
I don't wanna get into all that. I just need your help to help me stop drinking!

DR. LISA JAYNE  
Well, I can't help you if you're not willing to open up.

Raven looks at Dr. Jayne and stares at her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Dr. Jayne meanwhile drinks a cup of iced tea.

Raven collapses, but Dr. Jayne catches her.

DR. LISA JAYNE (CONT'D)  
(concerned)  
You're gonna stay here for the night.

RAVEN  
(in denial)  
I'm fine.

Raven and Dr. Jayne argue for a few minutes, as Raven composes herself. Dr. Jayne continues examining Raven as we see Raven looking at her uncomfortably.

Dr. Jayne doesn't relent.

DR. LISA JAYNE  
You could've died, Ms. Brooks! If you wanna stop drinking, then you gotta open up so we could get to the root of your problem.

RAVEN  
It's not that I don't wanna open up, but I don't feel comfortable opening up to a total stranger. Feel me?

DR. LISA JAYNE  
I feel ya, but you ain't going home tonight.

RAVEN  
Wait, what?

DR. LISA JAYNE  
You heard me.

RAVEN  
But I got places to be and things to do... tell ya what, you lemme go and we pretend as if this ain't happened.

Dr. Jayne smirks at her as Raven attempts to leave. Dr. Jayne grabs her phone and alerts her staff. We see a few security guards approaching their way as Raven stumbles to her knees.

INT. MIDWOOD HIGH AP ENGLISH CLASS - TWO DAYS LATER

Raven, in a brown afro wig enters. The students are LAUGHING

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

as some are seen taking photos of her.

RAVEN

(to the students)

Look, I know bout yo lil fundraiser,  
but what do y'all want? You pretty  
much run this hellhole and yet y'all  
finna let the man decide what  
fundraiser ya want?

(to a male student)

Malik, you still wanna get some pussy  
tonight?

MALIK

Fuck yeah!

RAVEN

(to a female student)

Denise, you still wanna show off yo  
wicked dance skills, right?

DENISE

Yurp.

RAVEN

Then y'all gotta make yo voices heard.  
Y'all generation into ass and music  
and --

MALIK

Yo, Ms. B. Word on the street is that  
you be at the Show Girls. That true or  
nah?

RAVEN

(looks around nervously)

Show Girls? I dunno what that is. What  
I do outta this class ain't even yo  
business, lil boy.

Her words begin hitting the students as they look at each other with conviction. Then Raven changes the subject.

She sits down as one student WALKS up to the center of the room and hands in her paper.

This student presents a freestyle rap as we see Raven and the other students bopping their heads to the rap.

They SNAP their fingers.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (3)

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
 (to the student)  
 That was dope, Michelle. Keep it up  
 and you gonna be a star.  
 (to the other students)  
 Anybody else?

A male student gets up. In an African attire, we see him break dancing. As he's dancing, everyone circles around him. Principal O'Malley enters as everyone freaks out.

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY  
 What's going on in here?

RAVEN  
 Principal O'Malley, it's not what it  
 looks like.

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY  
 I thought I fired you, Brooks.

RAVEN  
 Well, you did, but --

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY  
 I want you gone before I'll have  
 security escort you out!

Raven looks at him and leaves as the students act out. Some of them are throwing things around as Principal O'Malley BLOWS his whistle. A student grabs his whistle and stomps on it as O'Malley runs away.

CUT TO:

INT. RAVEN'S ROOM - CONTINUED

Raven's drinking some beer as she's counting a large stack of money. She smiles and puts the money in an envelope as the phone RINGS. She panics and finishes her beer.

The place is covered in beer and dirty clothes as Raven tries cleaning the place up.

RAVEN  
 Yo?

BRANDY (V.O.)  
 Sis, I'mma come over to yo crib.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAVEN  
(alarmed, looks around)

No!

BRANDY (V.O.)  
It's serious! Some sick bastard  
putting up some naked pics of you all  
over social media and --

RAVEN  
What? Sis, you playing?

BRANDY (V.O.)  
Nah, I'm deadass. Don't believe me,  
check out yo Facebook and Instagram  
accounts. People out here trolling all  
over yo accounts.

RAVEN  
Iight, sis.

Raven hangs up. She takes out her computer and goes through her accounts. Her eyes widens as she breaks down. She gets mad and SCREAMS loudly to the Heavens as she shuts her computer off.

The PHONE RINGS again.

She answers.

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
What?

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

RACHEL  
(laughing hysterically)  
You think you could run away from  
this? As long as I'm breathing, you  
ain't free til everyone knows your  
little secret.

RAVEN  
(angry)  
You behind all this?

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
Nah, but Ma gonna find out sooner or  
later. I can't believe you'd be this  
irresponsible to let someone take  
these types of photos on you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RAVEN (CONT'D)

(annoyed)

Rach, you gotta find a way to not let Ma see those pics.

RACHEL

(in a calmer tone)

Me? You got yourself into this. So figure a way to get yourself out.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Typical. Been mad fake to me since I try to do right. Always saying and doing shit that benefits you. Why the hate though, Rach? Why ain't you on my side?

RACHEL (CONT'D)

(laughing)

Your side? I have numerous people who've seen you stripping and selling your body for cash! Ma wanted you to be a deaconess so that you can live accordingly and you want me on your side?

(in a serious tone)

You ain't done nothing but worry about yourself. For once, it ain't about ya! It's about you paying Ma back the money she loaned you for your college tuition.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

That's why I'm stripping. I wanna make sure that Ma gets her money, I pay my bills and don't get evicted and Brandy, she --

RACHEL (V.O.)(CONT'D)

Brandy? You know Ma don't like her. Girl always getting you into trouble. Wait til Ma find out.

RAVEN

(sighs)

Iight, just calm down. She ain't bad peeps. Y'all just not giving her a chance.

Just as the conversation is about to end, tensions rise between the sisters as Raven finally hangs up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

She lies down on her bed, placing a pillow over head.

INT. MIDWOOD TEACHER'S ROOM - MORNING - WEEKS LATER

Ms. Agatha places her hand on Raven's head, praying over her, as she notices something's bothering Raven.

She continues praying as she hears a loud CRY.

She opens her eyes and sees Raven CRYING.

MS. AGATHA  
(concerned)  
What's wrong?

RAVEN  
(struggling)  
Rachel and Ma...

MS. AGATHA (CONT'D)  
What about them?

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
(wipes her tears)  
I done something real bad, Ms. Agatha.  
I dunno if Ma would ever forgive me.  
We ain't never been close and Rachel  
knows something bout me that might  
cause Ma to disown me and I dunno what  
to do?

MS. AGATHA (CONT'D)  
What exactly did you do?  
(whispers)  
Raven, are you stripping to help raise  
the money for the kids?

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
(shocked)  
No.

MS. AGATHA  
What did you do?

Raven tells Ms. Agatha a story about her tumultuous relationship with her mother, stemming back from childhood. As she's talking, the pain in her voice is seen and heard.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK - INT. RAVEN'S CHILDHOOD LIVING ROOM - EARLY 1990S

A young Raven and Lillian seated on different couches in the room, as Harold is seen talking with them.

A lot of antique items from different ancestors of the Brooks family are revealed, despite the dark tension in the house.

Also, the room is very beautiful.

The other children are running around, playing.

HAROLD

(smiling)

Sweetie, what do you wanna be when you grow up?

RAVEN

I wanna be doctor, daddy.

Lillian slams Raven's dreams as she looks at her with such disdain. An angry Lillian condones her for having such dreams.

LILLIAN

(in a nasty tone)

You'll be a pastor and that's the end of it! My father was a pastor and his father was and no child of mine straying from that!

Raven starts CRYING as Harold consoles her.

Harold's nurturing her as Lillian's seen and heard demeaning Raven.

HAROLD

(to Raven)

Don't listen to your mother. You be a doctor and be a great doctor. You'll do us proud by helping others.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

(wiping her tears)

But mommy said --

HAROLD (CONT'D)

Your mother's wrong. You have the right to be anything you wanna be. Don't ever forget that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Harold then sends Raven to her room as things escalate between the parents. Lillian and Harold are seen YELLING at each other, as Lillian demeans Harold.

LILLIAN (CONT'D)

(angry)

God, why do you do that? Why do you always go against me?

HAROLD (CONT'D)

She's a child. No child should have their mother smash their dreams like that!

LILLIAN (CONT'D)

Well, she's my daughter and she'll become a minister!

HAROLD (CONT'D)

(voice gets louder)

She's my daughter too! You don't have a say in what she should be. God, why did I ever marry you?

LILLIAN (CONT'D)

Keep going against me and you'll see a whole different side of me. The other kids doing well and you never once support me.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

How can I support ya when you're not giving Raven any love? With her, it's like you hate or something.

Lillian sends the other children to their rooms as Harold shows her a paper. Lillian looks at it and LAUGHS, ripping up the paper.

INT. RAVEN'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM - CONTINUED

Under the bed, a frightened Raven's really scared, as we hear Lillian and Harold arguing. This time, objects are heard being thrown and Raven places her hand over her mouth, trying her best to not cry.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUED

Lillian storms out of the house, as Harold's on the floor. He gets up and looks around the house. A lot of objects are seen damaged as he calls his children.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

One by one, the children come down the stairs and help their father clean. Raven sees the marks on her father, who tries to hide them from her.

END OF FLASHBACK.

PRESENT DAY - MIDWOOD TEACHERS ROOM

Raven BREAKS DOWN as the trauma of telling her experiences with her mother has Ms. Agatha in tears.

Ms. Agatha then offers her some words of wisdom. Placing her hand around Raven, she tries to encourage her.

MS. AGATHA

You need to forgive your mother and sister.

RAVEN

I try and try and they keep doing me wrong. Ain't God suppose to protect me? I feel like he ain't doing his job right.

MS. AGATHA (CONT'D)

God is watching and knows your struggle. I've known your mother for a long time and trust me, she just wants what's best for you.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

(in a shaky tone)

You don't understand. She been this way for mad long and never once she said she love me. Ma been like a God to me before I knew who God was and I dunno why she ain't love me.

MS. AGATHA

(holding Raven's face)

You're an amazing young woman, Raven. Through Lillian's tough demeanor, she loves you. It may not look like it, but she loves you.

Ms. Agatha and Raven get up and hug.

INT. MIDWOOD DINING ROOM KITCHEN - SAME

They're cooking as Raven shares more intimate details of her life. Ms. Agatha looks over to Raven and stops her. She walks

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

over to her and hold her hand.

Ms. Agatha's kind presence has Raven smiling as she places her head onto Ms. Agatha's shoulders and weeps. The two sit on a chair, where Raven's sitting on Ms. Agatha's lap.

As the food's cooking, Ms. Agatha's seen nurturing Raven.

MS. AGATHA

You are enough. Don't let your mother or sister take away your dignity. Okay?

RAVEN

Okay.

MS. AGATHA (CONT'D)

Sometimes, mothers forget to love their children and see the self worth in them. Your mother did the best she could. Don't think she don't love ya because she do.

RAVEN (V.O.)

Ms. Agatha right. Ma tried her best with us and managed to use tough love to keep us away from the streets. I seen cats locked up and losing they lives over dumb shit and I guess Ma loved me enough to make me into something God would love.

(sighs)

It's just how Ma approached everything was wrong. Maybe Ms. Agatha right. It's time to forgive Rach and Ma.

Ms. Agatha gets up and continues making food as she and Raven talk about God. The conversation intensifies as both women share stories about what God has done for them.

MS. AGATHA

Ephesians 4:31-32 says "Get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ God forgave you." That verse got me through some hard times and helps me every time.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (3)

RAVEN

(curious)

You the only one who understand me?  
Why?

MS. AGATHA (CONT'D)

God talks about love and for me to  
judge goes against everything he  
stands. Remember, we're flesh and  
aren't perfect.

Ms. Agatha keeps cooking as the food smells really good.  
Raven asks her more questions.

Rachel then enters. She kisses Sister Agatha on the cheek as  
Ms. Agatha leaves the two sisters alone.

RACHEL

So, how are you?

RAVEN

What you want and why you here?

RACHEL (CONT'D)

That's how you greet your sister?  
After all I've done for you -- never  
mind. Look, I need you to do something  
for me.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Forget it! You put me through hell and  
there ain't shit you can say that  
change my mind.

Rachel goes into her purse and shows an article of nude  
pictures of Raven as Raven tries to get the pictures. Rachel  
smiles and threatens to expose her as Raven pleads with her  
sister.

She then pauses and stops. Looking at Rachel, she stands up  
for herself.

RACHEL

Alright, but it'll be your own fault  
when these pictures come out.

RAVEN

Fuck you and fuck the whole  
manipulation shit! You ain't fooling  
me with your threats.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Appalled, Rachel doesn't say a word as Raven stands by her statement. The sisters exchange hostile looks as Rachel then leaves. Ms. Agatha returns and checks up on Raven.

MS. AGATHA

Are you alright?

RAVEN (CONT'D)

I'm gucci. Thanks for listening to me.  
You more of a moms that my own moms.  
(shaking her head)  
The pancakes ready?

MS. AGATHA (CONT'D)

Yes.

Ms. Agatha prepares breakfast and says grace. A large plate of pancakes, bacon, scrambled eggs, oatmeal porridge, and other food are placed on the table. They begin eating the food.

INT. RAVEN'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUED

Brandy and Raven are watching some TV as Brandy looks over and notices something's wrong. She tries to get some answers from Raven.

BRANDY

What's good with you, sis?

RAVEN

(sighs)  
Rachel was at the school earlier. She talking about how she gonna expose me and shit. Sis, what should I do?

BRANDY

(in an angrier tone)  
I'd kick the bitch to the curve. She yo sister and she doing you like that?  
Fuck her.

Raven's going through her computer, as Raven's logging into her social media accounts.

As she's scrolling through her accounts, a lot of nude pictures of Raven being exposed, causes Raven to look discouraged. She then brings it to Brandy's attention.

BRANDY (CONT'D)

Nah son, Raven you know who took em  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BRANDY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)  
pics?

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
Nah, but I gotta feeling Rachel knows  
who.

(taking a breath)  
She the only one who been talking  
about the pics and me stripping...  
maybe Rachel took the pics herself.

Raven tries to delete the photos, but then she receives a lot of comments online. Some of the comments strikes a chord and causes her to break down as Brandy makes a PHONE CALL to Harold.

BRANDY  
Yo pops, you seen the shit they doing  
to Raven?

HAROLD (V.O.)  
Nah, what they do?

BRANDY (CONT'D)  
So someone been following Raven to the  
strip club and took mad photos of her  
and --

HAROLD (V.O.)(CONT'D)  
Wait... you allowed Raven to go to a  
strip club? Why would you do that?

BRANDY  
She said she needed help raising the  
money and I thought that she could try  
stripping to get the money is all.

Harold takes a deep breath.

HAROLD (V.O.)(CONT'D)  
I know you and I know my child, but  
stripping coulda gotten y'all killed!  
Lemme speak to Raven.

Brandy hands over the phone to Raven. Raven has a concerned look on her face, as she braces herself.

HAROLD (V.O.)(CONT'D) (CONT'D)  
Raven?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RAVEN

Hey daddy. Don't worry about me. I'm gucci.

HAROLD (V.O.)

Nah, Brandy told me what went down and I ain't alright with someone exposing my baby girl like that! You know who took the pictures?

RAVEN (CONT'D)

I don't, but I think Rachel prolly know who done it.

HAROLD (V.O.)(CONT'D)

Rachel? What she gotta do with this? She ain't stripping too, is she?

RAVEN

Nah, but she been making me do stuff for her and been threatening to reveal the pics to everyone.

HAROLD (V.O.)

(sighs)

I thought I raised y'all to help one another in need. You and your brothers and sisters ain't raised to hate each other and put each other down! I want you and Rachel to make up and make up now!

Harold's tone of voice scares Raven, as Harold then consoles her over the PHONE. He gives her some words of encouragement.

Raven then apologizes to her father.

RAVEN

Daddy, I'm sorry I put you through this. I hope you ain't mad at me.

HAROLD (V.O.)

I ain't mad at ya. You my child and I'mma always love ya. But ya mother.. she's a different story. So what you gonna do?

RAVEN (CONT'D)

I dunno. I know it'll crush Ma, but I'mma tell her the truth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

HAROLD (V.O.)(CONT'D)  
 She ain't gonna take it well. You sure  
 you wanna do this?

Raven begins to have second thoughts. Harold's voice is still  
 heard, snapping her out of her thoughts.

RAVEN  
 I'm sure. Thanks for listening, pops.  
 You always been cool with me and  
 Brandy. How you deal with Ma's antics?

HAROLD (V.O.)  
 (laughing)  
 Her father used to tell me 'Son, when  
 you with a woman, always listen to her  
 and make her happy' and ya grandfather  
 was a great man, but he a fool for not  
 seeing Lillian's controlling nature.  
 (in a serious tone)  
 The fundraiser's almost here and I  
 just don't want y'all to ruin it. It's  
 all about the kids and we gotta make  
 sure they're happy.

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
 I gotta go pops, but thanks for the  
 talk.

HAROLD (CONT'D) (O.S.)  
 Anytime baby girl. Take care.

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
 You too.

Raven ends the phone conversation. She's holding Brandy's  
 hands as Brandy's confused.

She gets up and take out some leftovers, giving Brandy some  
 chocolate chip cake.

Meanwhile, some neighbors are watching Raven through her  
 widows as they're YELLING some foul things at her. Brandy  
 gets up and scares them off.

Raven looks away. Brandy checks on her.

BRANDY  
 Sis, I gotta be real with you...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

RAVEN

Nah sis, you had yo shot, now it's my turn. It's my granny. You know how much she mean to me and when she died, Ma never took us to the funeral. We had to fucking stay home and not talk about it.

BRANDY

How that make you feel?

RAVEN

I feel like Ma robbed me of a good relationship with my granny. Iight, check this out. My granny and grandpops use to shower me with mad attention and I seen Ma looking at me with rage. Granny Mary use to encourage me and I remember one day --

Raven suddenly CRIES.

She grabs a tissue and blows her nose.

BRANDY

This the same day when --

RAVEN

Yurp. I ain't been the same since that day and Ma been treating me like shit.

Raven places her head on Brandy's shoulder.

BRANDY

But why you let Mama dukes get away with dissing you like this? To be real, that straight up abuse yo.

RAVEN

Do you think she jealous of you?

Raven doesn't say a word. She looks at Brandy curiously.

BRANDY

Whatcha staring at me for?

RAVEN

I'm just so grateful to have you in my life, sis. I know I been a bitch lately, but I just wanna make sure Ma and the kids is happy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

BRANDY

Yeah, but you gotta stop allowing yo  
moms to treat you like shit.

The two friends keep talking throughout the day.

INT. PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY'S OFFICE - WEEKS LATER

Principal O'Malley, with a few teachers talk about the  
upcoming fundraiser.

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY

As you know, the fundraiser's coming  
up and things are looking real bright  
for us. Say, do anyone have any other  
ideas before we depart?

MS. CRUZ

Someone told me about Raven Brooks and  
her double life. They even send me  
some disturbing pictures.

Raven arrives. She sits at her usual seat, looking at the  
CLOCK.

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY (CONT'D)

(looks at Raven, to Ms. Cruz)  
We'll have to discuss it later. Right  
now, we have other things to worry  
about.

Raven eavesdrop on their conversation as Principal O'Malley  
and Ms. Cruz stop.

She hands them a check, as Principal O'Malley's eyes widens.  
Suspicious, he looks at Raven. Ms. Agatha grows concerned.

He smiles, thanking the entire staff, as Ms. Agatha  
approaches Raven.

She pulls Raven aside, as she shows Raven a picture. Raven  
looks at Ms. Agatha and gets defensive, as Ms. Agatha tries  
calming her down.

Principal O'Malley interjects.

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY

Everything alright?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAVEN  
 (in a harsh tone)  
 We good!

A few teachers are talking amongst themselves as Raven has a blank look in her eyes.

DREAM SEQUENCE - EXT. NEW YORK STREETS

Everyone has their eyes on Raven as she looks on. Their stares has Raven concerned, as she's covering her ears. We hear people making some vulgar remarks, as nude pictures of Raven are revealed.

RAVEN  
 (looks around, screaming)  
 It ain't true -- it... ain't... true!!

People are pointing at her, LAUGHING, as she runs.

The voices intensifies, as she stops. The voices cease as Lillian emerges.

Lillian looks at Raven with disdain as Raven attempts to approach her mother.

She's angry.

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
 Ma, it ain't --

LILLIAN  
 I raised you better than that! You've done nothing but disappoint me each and every time!

RAVEN  
 (crying)  
 Ma, if you just hear me out --

A group of angry people circles around Raven as Rachel arrives. She stares down Raven with an evil grin.

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
 (to Rachel)  
 You did this?

RACHEL  
 (laughing)  
 ...

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

RAVEN  
 (to her mother)  
 Ma --

Lillian slowly fades away as everyone around her fades away as well.

DREAM SEQUENCE - DARKNESS

MEDIUM LONG SHOT - RAVEN

In complete darkness, Raven's looking around, RUNNING, SCREAMING, as we hear voices of numerous people.

We see faces of Lillian, Harold, Rachel, and Brandy simultaneously as Raven closes her eyes and collapses to the ground.

Raven SCREAMS as the camera slowly backs away.

BACK TO:

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY'S OFFICE

Raven's SCREAMING, as Ms. Agatha's shaking her.

She looks at Ms. Agatha.

MS. AGATHA  
 You gotta get it together, Raven!  
 These people looking at you as if  
 you're crazy or something.

RAVEN  
 I dunno how you got them pics, but it  
 ain't me!

MS. AGATHA  
 Alright, I believe you. Just calm  
 down.

Raven's trembling as sweat emerges from her forehead. She tries to remain calm.

Embarrassed, Raven runs off. The other teachers are LAUGHING, as Ms. Agatha confronts them.

MS. AGATHA (CONT'D)  
 (in a harsh tone)  
 You know, you guys could lighten up!  
 I've seen how you treat Raven and it's  
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MS. AGATHA (CONT'D) (CONT'D)  
not cool... sure she has some issues,  
but who don't!

(looks at the teachers)  
At one point in our lives, we were  
her. You could at least show some  
compassion towards her.

A tall black male, slim, neat, nerdy teacher, **MR. ROMANDO**  
(**School Dean**) SPEAKS.

MR. ROMANDO  
You crazy. She ain't been nothing but  
a fucking disaster around here! Plus,  
I know a few fellas who work at the  
Show Girls and they been telling me  
that Raven works there.

MS. AGATHA  
That could be anybody in those  
pictures.  
(defensive)  
Look, I've known her for a long time.  
If that was Raven, I would've known.

MR. ROMANDO  
Well, I guess you don't her well  
enough.

MS. AGATHA  
Excuse me?

Principal O'Malley intervenes and separates the two as we  
hear them going back and forth.

MS. AGATHA (CONT'D)  
Let me go!

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY  
Not until you listen to me!

MS. AGATHA  
(in a hostile tone)  
You don't have anything good to say  
about Raven, so what's the point?  
(in a sarcastic tone)  
I guess you wanna join the lynch mob  
who say "Raven ain't nothing but a --"  
(in a serious tone)  
This ain't a damn joke, man! A woman's  
name and reputation's on the line  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MS. AGATHA (CONT'D)

here!

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY

We know that! Until further notice,  
I'll see to it that everybody knows  
about this.

Shocked by this, Ms. Agatha SLAPS Principal O'Malley.

He looks back at her.

PRINCIPAL O'MALLEY (CONT'D)

(massaging his right cheek)

You bitch! What the fuck was that for?

MS. AGATHA

I've been waiting for a long time to  
do that.

Ms. Agatha storms out as the other teachers and school  
workers check up on Principal O'Malley. He pushes them away,  
as he continues massaging his cheek.

CUT TO:

INT. MIDWOOD HIGH HALLWAY - CONTINUED

A lot of students are making some sexual gestures, as they're  
mocking Raven. Some of them have the nude photos of Raven,  
enraging Ms. Agatha.

She grabs the kid. He grows worried.

MS. AGATHA

Your parents wouldn't be pleased with  
how you've been behaving. Why aren't  
you in class?

(to the other kids)

Why aren't you all in class?

The other students disperse and go to their respective  
classes as Ms. Agatha interrogates the kid.

MS. AGATHA (CONT'D)

I wanna know where you got this photo!

(looks at the kid harshly)

You better tell me or else --

HIGH SCHOOL KID

Or else what? You finna tell my moms?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HIGH SCHOOL KID (CONT'D)

(sucks his teeth)

I don't gotta tell you shit, old lady!

Ms. Agatha SLAPS the kid as he looks at her. The two exchange looks as Ms. Cruz intervenes. She pulls Ms. Agatha to the side as the kid goes to his class.

Ms. Cruz is seen and heard YELLING at Ms. Agatha, as Ms. Agatha looks at her with confusion.

EXT. RAVEN'S FRONT STEPS - SAME

Lillian and Al throws all of Raven's belongings out as Raven's shocked. Ignoring her, Lillian shares her disapproval of Raven.

LILLIAN

You no child of mine! Stripping? I never raised you to be this way.

RAVEN

Ma, if you hear me out, you'll see I ain't a bad person. Please --

(takes a breath)

I'm the bad one, yet you took me from my grandmoms and grandpops. Just because they gave me attention fucking eats you up inside. Be real, you fucked up as a mom and you --

LILLIAN

You don't know anything! Your grandma and grandpa weren't all sunshine and roses. They weren't all that cool to me and just like them, you disappoint me!

RAVEN

You a bitch, Ma!

Lillian keeps throwing out Raven's things as she's ripping up some of Raven's clothes.

LILLIAN (CONT'D)

I don't wanna hear nothing from you! Ya brought shame to me and to this family and --

(takes a deep breath)

You ain't welcomed round here as long as I'm living! Just go!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Ma...

LILLIAN

Leviticus 19:29 says "Do not profane your daughter by making her a harlot, so that the land will not fail to harlotry and the land become full of lewdness."

(sucks her teeth)

I did my best to raise y'all the right way and this how you repay me? I don't ever wanna see you again!

With Raven's stuff lying around on the floor, she runs away in tears as she looks back, seeing an angry Lillian.

INT. PARAMOUNT HOTEL MAIN LOUNGE - EVENING

In raggedy clothes, Raven makes her way in.

The hotel manager, **JOE MITCHELL**, a muscular African American male, looks at her with disdain.

JOE

(annoyed)

You need help, ma'am?

RAVEN

I need a room to stay.

JOE (CONT'D)

That'll be \$4500.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

(shocked)

I ain't got that money. Ain't there a way you can help a sista out?

JOE

(laughing)

You look like you been out in the streets mad long. And you want me to help you cause --

RAVEN

I ain't gonna give ya a sob story, but I really don't gotta place to stay.

Joe sees the marks and bruises on Raven's arms and legs. He sends a few employees to take care of Raven as he gives her a

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

key to ROOM 300.

INT. ROOM 300 - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

A beautiful room with a lovely smell that Raven likes, she lies down on the couch and CRIES.

JOE

You good?

RAVEN

(wiping her tears)

Why? You don't care bout me. Soon as we reach dawn, I'll be out ya hair.

JOE (CONT'D)

Sorry bout earlier. I just ain't seen a woman like you before.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

What's that suppose to mean?

JOE

I mean, you're beautiful. I been here mad long and it's been way too long since I seen a fine lady.

(in a calmer tone)

Why you crying?

RAVEN

I was kicked out my crib by my moms and -- it wasn't a good thing I done.

Joe comforts Raven, as she's surprised by his sudden change of heart. She places her head onto his shoulders and closes her eyes.

FLASHBACK - INT. RAVEN'S CHILDHOOD LIVING ROOM - EARLY 1990S

An angry Lillian is beating a young Raven, as the other children watches in horror.

Harold comes home after a long day at work and tries to step in, but Lillian isn't having it.

LILLIAN

(to Harold)

That child of yours said she ain't gonna be a minister! She gonna be a minister... even if I gotta beat it outta her!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAVEN

(sobbing uncontrollably)

Daddy, she keep beating me because I don't wanna be a minister.

(making murmur sounds)

Why she don't like me? I ain't done nothing to her.

HAROLD

It's okay, Raven. You're not in trouble.

Harold has his elder children take Raven to her room, Lillian and Harold get into another heated argument.

LILLIAN (CONT'D)

I see where she got her weakness from.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

Excuse me? I ain't weak! The girl got the right to be what she wanna be. Who died and made you Queen all of a sudden?

LILLIAN

All you do is work. You don't be round the house enough to see what goes on. Raven's such a bad child! I wish she wasn't born.

Lillian's words shock Harold as he defends himself and Raven.

HAROLD

Long as I'm here, you ain't gonna beat Raven! If you do, I'll --

LILLIAN (CONT'D)

You'll what? You ain't doing nothing. She a bad child and I'll do whatever it takes to save her from the likes of you!

HAROLD (CONT'D)

Man, you make me sick! I wish I never married you.

LILLIAN

Then leave!

LILLIAN AND HAROLD

I want a divorce!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Their arguments are very toxic as we can hear their voices rising. From a far, Raven and her other siblings are watching in horror as Harold sees them and stops fighting.

Lillian goes into panic mode and starts chasing the children around with her belt.

END OF FLASHBACK.

PRESENT DAY - INT. ROOM 300 LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Raven wakes up to a KNOCK at the door.

She gets up and answers it.

We see a man. Covered in a black hood, he extends his hand out to her. Raven's demeanor changes as she allows the man in.

The man, covered in blood, starts off a conversation with Raven, who blushes.

Something about his eerie presence has her interested in him as she lets her guard down. The two hit it off.

Somewhere in their conversation, the man notices a sudden change in Raven's mood and comforts her, placing his shotgun onto the living room table.

She takes a quick look at the gun and smiles at the man.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUED

The man makes an offer to Raven, but she doesn't accept it.

She gives him a bottle of wine to drink, as he doesn't back down.

She then opens up to him about her failed relationship with her mother.

RAVEN

It's my ma. She been outta control and I dunno what to do anymore. No matter what I do, nothing good enough for her.

EERIE MAN

(showing her his gun)  
This right here is the solution to your problem. Just one shot and I  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

EERIE MAN (CONT'D)  
 promise you, she'll be dead in an  
 instant.

The man allows Raven to test his gun out as she's hesitant at first. He convinces her to fire a few shots, as she doesn't really want to.

With images of her mother playing in her mind, her mood changes and then we see and hear Raven firing some shots.

People in different rooms are heard screaming as Raven looks at her hands and notices it's trembling.

EERIE MAN (CONT'D)  
 You're getting the hang of it. Tell ya  
 what, I'll take you out in the city  
 tomorrow so that we can build you some  
 confidence. You up for it?

RAVEN  
 Fuck yeah. Like how you manage to do  
 this and not feel anything?

EERIE MAN  
 When you reach my level, you realize  
 there's no more feelings. You give and  
 give and then when you start taking,  
 people will fear you.

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
 Ma ain't the fearing type. She usually  
 the one who likes causing fear. Maybe  
 this ain't for me. Ma --

EERIE MAN (CONT'D)  
 No disrespect, but your mother sounds  
 like a bitch! You said yourself that  
 she's out of control.

He places his shotgun onto the kitchen floor.

EERIE MAN  
 I've been in the game for a long time  
 now and I gotta say, you're the first  
 client of mine I've seen scared.

RAVEN  
 Clients...  
 (cautious)  
 Are you a hitman?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

EERIE MAN (CONT'D)

I'm more like a serial killer. I've killed over 1,000 people and still get the rush.

Raven's speechless as she doesn't say a word. The man grabs his wine and leaves, as Raven struggles to process what just happened.

INT. BEDROOM - MIDNIGHT

Struggling to sleep, Raven twists and turns, as she sees the gun. She then turns the LIGHTS on and walks around around the room.

Images of her mother are playing out in her mind as we see her battling some conflicting thoughts.

She later comes to her senses and places the gun in the closet.

INT. MAIN LOBBY - THE NEXT DAY

Raven looks around the hotel and sees Joe. With his hand extended out to her, she hands him some money as he doesn't take it. They look at each other and smile.

JOE

You keep that. You been through a lot. Least I can do is take ya out for some breakfast.

RAVEN

(smiling)

Thanks. I'm really starving.

Joe and Raven head off to a nearby IHOP as they're seen enjoying each other's company.

INT. IHOP - SAME

They're eating pancakes as Raven LAUGHS. He's playing with her hands, flirting with her a bit as Raven lets her guard down.

RAVEN

Why you being so nice to me?

JOE

A fella can't be nice?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Yeah, but I ain't used to this. You want something, don't ya?

JOE (CONT'D)

Nah I don't swing like that. I just like you is all.

Raven blushes as she gives him a kiss on the cheek. He returns the gesture, kissing her on the lips. An IHOP employee walks over to their table as Joe gives the employee a tip.

RAVEN

I feel like I can real. I don't gotta be something I'm not.

JOE

So what you wanna do now?

RAVEN (CONT'D)

I wanna go out and let loose. Wanna do something wild... something crazy.

Joe offers to take her to an amusement park, as she accepts. Finished with their foods, they throw it in the trash and leaves the restaurant in one peace.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREETS - CONTINUED

As they're walking, a group of men following them.

One of the men places his hand on Raven's ass, as the others are CATCALLING her.

JOE

Yo, leave her alone! She don't want y'all hassling her.

One of the men, **MIKEY** gets in Joe's face.

MIKEY

Why don't you mind yo own business, pops? This ain't got nothing to do with you.

JOE (CONT'D)

As long as she's with me, it is my business.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Joe doesn't back down as he sees the men surrounding him. He pushes Raven to the side, as she grows concerned.

Mikey makes the first move as Joe grabs him, **SLAMMING** him into the other men.

He then starts focusing on Mikey, knocking him out with some **PUNCHES**.

The other men, **POOKIE**, **DAE DAE**, and **SMOKEY** are seen pleading for him to stop.

A lot of blood emerges from Mikey's face as Joe grabs him and **SLAMS** him towards Raven, forcing him to apologize to her.

JOE  
(in a commanding tone)  
Say it!

MIKEY  
(in a weakened tone)  
Sorry.

JOE (CONT'D)  
(in a louder tone)  
The lady didn't hear you!

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
(using a louder tone)  
Sorry! Ow man, you hurting me.

Joe releases Mikey, who runs back to his friends as Joe cracks his **KNUCKLES**. The men run off into the streets as Raven's impressed with Joe.

Raven wraps her arms around Joe as they lock eyes.

Smiling at one another, she kisses him as he carries her on his face. His powerful muscles and ripped body has Raven licking her lips as they walk off into the streets.

EXT. CONEY ISLAND AMUSEMENT PARK - AFTERNOON

Exploring different avenues of the part, Raven doesn't engage with Joe as much, as he notices. He holds her passionately as her look slowly changes.

JOE  
What's wrong now?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAVEN

I just... I feel like I ain't good enough. Ma never liked me... I always wished she gave me some type a approval --

JOE (CONT'D)

Who cares what ya moms think? You grown and don't need her fucking approval. Look around ya, we're in an amusement park. Have fun!

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Yeah, but --

They're seen going on numerous rides as Raven starts to have fun.

Memories of her mother slowly starts to fade as she and Joe begin taking pictures of their time together.

RAVEN (V.O.)

Joe a real man. Got a nice body, muscles, and an ass I wanna slap. Damn, he's everything I need in a nigga. I'm just afraid that he won't love me anymore.

(sighs)

He ain't like the other men. He's sweet and warm and I like that he's sensitive. I'm gonna like this new life.

A FEW HOURS LATER

They're sitting at a bench and having a good conversation. The SUN fades away as the MOON arrives.

Their conversation is really intense.

JOE

We all human and it's sad that yo mama can't see the good in ya.

RAVEN

I used to do shit just to provoke her. I never told anyone this, but sometimes I'd pee on her dress just to get her attention.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JOE (CONT'D)  
 (laughing)  
 You joking right?

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
 Nah. Ma ain't never liked me. Been  
 like that since I was a baby.

She shares some intimate parts of her life to Joe, who listens to her every word.

She then whispers in his ear and his whole demeanor change.

INT. ROOM 300 LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Raven and Joe are kissing each other as their romance turns heated.

With her eyes closed, Raven's MOANING as Joe takes the lead.

We see him unbuttoning his suit as he kisses all over her neck.

The PHONE rings.

Joe stops and answers it.

His facial expression changes as he puts his clothes back on and abruptly leaves the apartment.

Alone, Raven has an embarrassed look on her face as she doesn't know what to do. Then, there's a knock at the door.

The eerie man return with a few items in hand.

RAVEN  
 What's up with all the devices?

EERIE MAN  
 I was thinking about what you said about your mother the other day and I was thinking that we should take care of her.

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
 (concerned)  
 The fuck you mean take care of her?

EERIE MAN (CONT'D)  
 I was thinking that we'd go over to her house, blow the bitch's brains out  
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EERIE MAN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)  
and you'd gain your confidence. Now  
we're doing this whether you like it  
or not!

RAVEN  
And what happens if I don't wanna do  
this?

The eerie man takes out his shotgun and places it onto  
Raven's neck.

She's seen panicking, as he's toying with her.

EERIE MAN  
(whispering)  
If you won't play along, then I'll  
kill you and your mother. Trust me, I  
know how to get away with murder. So  
don't think for one second that you're  
off the hook.

Raven tries to talk her way out of this, but the man isn't  
hearing any of it. He taking out a few maps and diagrams,  
describing his plan in complete detail.

As he's explaining the plan, Raven's shaking uncontrollably  
as she struggles to process what he's saying. She shows him  
the door, but he refuses to leave.

EERIE MAN (CONT'D)  
I'm not going anywhere. So you can sit  
down and keep on listening.

RAVEN  
I never once said that I was gonna  
kill Ma. You some sick twisted dude.

EERIE MAN (CONT'D)  
(in an assertive tone)  
We are going through with this. I have  
files on your entire family and I will  
do whatever it takes to get the job  
done.

He SLAMS Raven to the ground.

EERIE MAN  
(in an angry tone)  
If you ever tell anyone about this,  
not only will I kill your mother, but  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

EERIE MAN (CONT'D)

I'll also come for you and trust me,  
you don't want that to happen.

RAVEN

(nervous)

I won't tell. Please let me go.

The man lets her go as she tries to get on his good side. She offers some food, which he refuses as he keeps talking.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

What's ya name?

EERIE MAN

I'm someone you already know.

Too terrified to ask any more questions, Raven listens in on the eerie man, as she notices a sinister look on his face.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUED

Raven falls asleep on the kitchen table, as the man leaves.

A few images of a younger Raven and Lillian is revealed, as the pictures tell a gruesome story of their own.

Raven gets up, stumbles across the kitchen and heads off to the bedroom.

INT. MAIN LOBBY - THE NEXT DAY

Raven, panicking tries to leave the hotel as Joe stops her. He notices something's bothering her.

JOE

What's wrong?

Raven tries to brace herself.

RAVEN

Nothing. I... I just decided to leave  
is all. Thanks for allowing me to stay  
--

Joe again stops her as he questions her.

JOE (CONT'D)

Why you in a rush to leave?

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

RAVEN (CONT'D)

I just can't stay, okay?

Joe becomes suspicious and takes a quick look at her. Raven tries her best to stop him, covering her face.

Then his eyes widens.

We see a few marks on her.

JOE

(in an angry tone)

Who did this? I swear, if --

RAVEN

No one. I just hit my head on something. You prolly think I'm a fool, huh?

JOE (CONT'D)

(in a calmer tone)

It's iight, you know you can tell me anything. And I mean anything.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Why you doing this?

JOE

Doing what? I care bout ya is all.

RAVEN

I'm a grown ass woman! I don't need ya smothering me like I'm some child, iight?

Joe backs off as Raven suddenly has a change of heart.

She makes amends with him, hugging him and apologizing for her behavior as she goes back to her room.

INT. ROOM 300 LIVING ROOM - CONTINUED

As she's entering, the eerie man, seated in a chair is seen waiting for her patiently.

She's shocked by his appearance as she SLAMS the door in Joe's face.

RAVEN

(in a lower tone)

What you doing here?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EERIE MAN

The job. Your mother has to die.

He shows her a few pictures of Lillian, as Raven slowly grows concerned.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

How you got those pics? I didn't give you --

EERIE MAN (CONT'D)

Never mind about how I got them, just worry about trying to get this job done!

(in a creepy tone)

You may not see it, but I see a killer in ya. Remember, you told me that your mother was the one who never supported your dreams. The same mother who beat you for doing the right thing. Remember?

RAVEN

Yeah, but she still my moms. I ain't no killer.

He sits Raven down, showing some pictures of a younger Lillian with Raven's other siblings. Then he shows her pictures of a younger Raven and her mother together.

Lillian's seen smiling with the other children, but not with Raven, thus changing Raven's mind a bit.

The man reveals himself. Raven's taken a back.

EERIE MAN (MICHAEL MCKELLER)

Damn it, child! Don't you see, you're meant to do this. Once you get the job done, you'll be free from your mother and from your burdens.

RAVEN

Why you helping me?

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Let's just say that I'm doing this from the kindness of my dark heart.

(laughing)

Plus, I enjoy killing and it's in me. And it's in you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RAVEN (CONT'D)

If I kill my moms, how much do I owe ya?

MICHAEL

\$3,000 for the murder, and \$1,000 to get rid of the body.

Shocked by the prices, she reluctantly agrees to kill her mother, shaking Michael's hand.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Just call me the Angel Of Death.

RAVEN

How I know you ain't a cop? I ain't a fool, ya know.

Michael gives her his word and displays a lot of weapons onto the living room floor as Raven believes him. We hear a knock at the door, causing Michael to leave.

She answers the door and sees Joe.

JOE

I was wondering if you'd like to hang out with me sometime?

RAVEN

(blushing)

I'd like that. What time you wanna see me?

JOE (CONT'D)

Whatever time you free. We gonna see a movie. That's good with you?

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Sure. I'm down for a movie.

Raven's kissing Joe passionately as he leaves. Her smile turns into panic as she sees the weapons on the floor. Nervous, she tries to dispose of them.

INT. LILLIAN'S LIVING ROOM - A FEW WEEKS LATER

Lillian and Harold are eating their breakfast, as they share some small talk. Harold tries to woo her over with some poetry, but Lillian doesn't smile.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HAROLD

What's wrong?

LILLIAN

I gave that child a home, food,  
clothes, and this how she repays me?

HAROLD (CONT'D)

Dear, she's a woman now and you can't  
keep --

Lillian's eyes widens as Harold shuts up.

LILLIAN (CONT'D)

Keep what, Harold? Last time I  
checked, you was working all the time  
and I had a lotta time with the kids.

(sucks her teeth)

My father always said that a woman is  
suppose to be what her father wants  
her be and he right.

HAROLD

That's nonsense.

LILLIAN

Oh really? Do you know your daughter's  
a stripper?

Harold doesn't say anything as Lillian grows suspicious. He  
continues eating as she stares at him with an angry look.

LILLIAN (CONT'D)

Well, do ya?

HAROLD

I... I... uh --

The PHONE RINGS and he answers it.

He has a smile on his face as Lillian's angry.

LILLIAN

Who that on the phone?

HAROLD (CONT'D)

(in a lower tone)

Raven.

As he's speaking to Raven, Lillian gets up and abruptly  
ending the phone call. Harold tries getting some answers, but

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Lillian lays down the law.

LILLIAN (CONT'D)

I don't want you to talk to her again!  
She ain't no child of ours as I'm  
concerned.

HAROLD

You don't ever tell me what to do! I'm  
the head of this house and --

LILLIAN

(laughing)

Yet I'm the heart of this house and  
what I say goes!

(in a harsher tone)

If you speak to her, even one time,  
you can sleep on the couch tonight!

HAROLD (CONT'D)

(sighs)

You ain't the same woman I use to  
love. What happened to you? Why you  
like this?

LILLIAN (CONT'D)

I'm the same girl you met all them  
years ago. Just a little older, but I  
ain't going to stand for this child to  
disrespect our family like that!

HAROLD

She's my daughter too and I have a say  
in who I can and can't talk to.

(looks around the house)

You see all this? I'm the one who  
worked and gave us this. Til you  
contribute, don't say nothing!

Harold calms down and urges Lillian to call Raven, but she  
refuses. He looks at her in disappointment and leaves,  
leaving her alone.

FLASHBACK - INT. BROOKS FAMILY LIVING ROOM - EARLY 1970S

A young Lillian and Harold are talking with Mary, who's  
impressed with Harold's personality.

Harold's holding Lillian's hand the entire time as he tells  
her more about himself.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HAROLD

I'm a young fella who wants to change the world.

MARY

And how are you gonna do that?

HAROLD (CONT'D)

With Lillian by my side, anything can happen, ain't that right, dear?

MARY (CONT'D)

(to Lillian)

Dear? He's a sweet young man. I just wish you'd give him a chance.

LILLIAN

Mother...

(to Harold)

You know, I always wanted to become a priest.

HAROLD

So why don't you become one? I'm all for a woman being something she wanna be.

LILLIAN (CONT'D)

It's my father. He want me to stay at home, do all the cooking and cleaning as if I'm some slave.

MARY

Your father's heart in the right place. Just give him time and he'll change his mind.

HAROLD

I don't care. If my girl wants to be a priest, I say she becomes a priest!

Pastor Brooks comes home and is in a foul mood.

We hear and see him YELLING as Harold is shivering.

He enters and sees Harold. Harold gets up and introduces himself, but the elder male doesn't budge.

PASTOR BROOKS

As long as you living under this roof, you ain't seeing no boy! Ya hear?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LILLIAN

Daddy, he's a nice guy. He won't hurt a fly.

PASTOR BROOKS (CONT'D)

I said no boys! I don't care how old ya care, you still my little girl.

LILLIAN (CONT'D)

Sometimes I wish I wasn't your child.

Lillian runs off to her room as Pastor Brooks shows Harold the door. Mary intervenes and sits Harold back down, as she talks to her husband.

Within a few minutes, Pastor Brooks extends his hand out to Harold, shocking Harold. Lillian comes down and sees this. She then hugs her father.

INT. KITCHEN - HOURS LATER

They're having dinner and Pastor Brooks interrogates Harold.

PASTOR BROOKS

Where you work?

HAROLD

My pops own a car company and I work with him repairing cars, sir.

PASTOR BROOKS (CONT'D)

What exactly you want my daughter? She a good Christian girl.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

Your daughter has an amazing personality. I don't want nothing from her.

PASTOR BROOKS

You young guys all want something when it comes to a black female. I've seen what's going on with y'all generation and I forbid it!

LILLIAN

Daddy!

MARY

(to her husband)  
That's enough, dear!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MARY (CONT'D)

(to Lillian)

Isn't there something you should tell your father?

LILLIAN (CONT'D)

Daddy, I dunno how to put this, but Harold and I are pregnant and I'm going to be a minister!

Pastor Brooks SCREAMS in disapproval as he makes his voice heard.

Harold tries his best to calm the elder man down, but things become worse.

PASTOR BROOKS

I forbid it! You already got three youngings and ain't even got a steady job! Plus, you've been married and divorced already and --

(to Mary)

You better talk some sense into yo daughter.

MARY

All of a sudden when she's not doing what you want, she's my daughter? Dear, don't you see, she's happy with this young man. Aren't you, dear?

LILLIAN

I am, but --

MARY AND HAROLD

But?

LILLIAN (CONT'D)

I'm happy, but I just wanna do God's will and preach.

PASTOR BROOKS

If you disobey me, you'll be disowned by this family! Women aren't meant to be preachers. They're meant to stay at home, clean, cook, you name it.

Harold doesn't say a word as he looks over and sees an angry Lillian trying to make sense of her father's words. Mary meanwhile tries to diffuse the tension between mother and daughter, but gets no where.



INT. LILLIAN'S ROOM/HALLWAY - SAME

In Lillian's room, she's packing her things as Harold's standing out in the hall.

Lillian takes her clothes, shoes, and other necessities she needs. She then pauses and caters to her three young children.

One of the children extends her hand out to her mother, causing Lillian to kiss her baby. She takes her children and her things and walks out.

In the hallway, a confrontation between Pastor Brooks and Harold slowly grows, as Lillian announces her plans to leave.

The elder Brooks shares his disapproval as Lillian moves past him and leaves. Harold meanwhile follows her.

EXT. BROOKS FAMILY HOME FRONT STEPS - SAME

Harold is placing Lillian's things in his vehicle as their three children are in the vehicle. Mary tries to talk some sense into Lillian, but Lillian isn't hearing any of it.

MARY

You and your father are so alike. Y'all are very caring, but stubborn people at the same time! Your father said some things he ain't mean, but please don't go. I enjoy seeing my grand babies everyday.

LILLIAN

Mother, I know. I don't wanna leave, but I can't stay in a house where I'm constantly being disrespected. I'll always love you both for raising me and all, but I gotta do me and live my dreams.

Lillian hugs her mother and joins Harold and their kids in the vehicle. Mary weeps as she sees the vehicle driving off. Pastor Brooks comes out and yells some things at the vehicle as he sees his wife in tears.

PASTOR BROOKS

Now she's gone. We can live out our golden years with each other.

Mary gets upset.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MARY

You can be real cruel, ya know?

PASTOR BROOKS (CONT'D)

What did I do?

MARY (CONT'D)

Because of you, our daughter ain't coming back!

PASTOR BROOKS

She'll come back.

MARY

How you know?

PASTOR BROOKS (CONT'D)

She got three kids, no job, and some boyfriend who probably won't stay with her. She'll come back begging us to stay. You'll see.

Mary wipes her tears as she and her husband goes back inside of their home.

END OF FLASHBACK.

PRESENT DAY - INT. LILLIAN'S LIVING ROOM

Harold returns with some flowers and food as Lillian tries to make things right with him. She begins talking to him.

LILLIAN

Don't think I don't like our child, but she just different with the rest. At least with them, I had a hold on them.

HAROLD

Raven's an adult who can make her own choices. She ain't a little girl no more, Lillian.

(sighs)

She wanna be her own person. Doesn't that sound familiar?

LILLIAN (CONT'D)

You saying I'm acting like my old man?

HAROLD (CONT'D)

Ain't he the same one who did whatever  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HAROLD (CONT'D) (CONT'D)  
he could to stop you from doing yo  
dreams?

LILLIAN  
Yeah, but --

HAROLD  
He ain't been the same when ya left  
his house and died trying to make  
things right. Don't make the same  
mistake with Raven.

Harold's words hits a nerve in Lillian as she has a tear  
rolling down her face.

LILLIAN (CONT'D)  
I been so mad at her all this time  
cause she could do things I can't do  
and I guess you could say I'm a little  
jealous of our baby girl.

(smiling)  
Been a long time since we actually  
talked. I missed this side of you,  
dear.

HAROLD  
Dear, you gotta stop being in control  
of everyone and everything.

LILLIAN  
Been a long time since ya called me  
dear.

Harold and Lillian kiss as Harold strokes Lillian's hair and  
wipes her tears.

HAROLD (CONT'D)  
Now this is the Lillian I know. Show  
Raven this side of you some more and  
she'll understand you.

LILLIAN (CONT'D)  
She broke my heart stripping and doing  
those things.  
(takes a breath)  
Maybe ya right. I said and done things  
I ain't meant and I hate it when  
you're right.

They share a few laughs and then the door bell rings. Lillian

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

answers it and Raven enters. Lillian's demeanor changes as she doesn't embrace her daughter.

Raven, dishoveled and drunk, enters. Neither Harold or Lillian's pleased.

RAVEN

(in a drunken state)

Pops, I ain't been the best child you had but --

HAROLD

I thought you stopped drinking, Raven!

RAVEN

I did, pops, but --

HAROLD

Save it! I've been by yo side through a lotta things, but I ain't gonna let ya kill yourself no mo. As far as you concerned, you ain't got a daddy no mo!

A tear falls from Raven's eye as Harold stands his ground. She looks at her mother.

Lillian doesn't say a word as Raven tries speaking to her mother.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Ma, why you like that? All I done was raise the money to pay you back and you out here causing a scene! Like the fuck!

LILLIAN

Watch your mouth! You're in my house, so don't ever talk to me like that!

RAVEN

(to Harold)

Pops...

Lillian looks at Harold with a harsh look as he doesn't answer. The tension between mother and daughter rises.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Sometimes I feel like ya don't like me. All I done is do everything you want me to be but --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

LILLIAN

I don't care! You've been nothing but a disappointment to me and I'm sorry that I didn't give you up for an adoption years ago.

Lillian's words hurt Raven as she tries to hide her pain. Harold tries to intervene, but Lillian isn't having any of it.

HAROLD

That's enough, Lillian.

LILLIAN (CONT'D)

Why don't you mind your business? You're the reason why she came out this way.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Grandpa ain't allowed yo ass to be a minister and so you taking ya anger out on me!

(shakes her head)

I see now why he ain't like ya. You ain't nothing but a --

Raven's tone of voice has Lillian enraged as she then SLAPS Raven, who's taken a back by this. Both mother and daughter look at each other as Lillian shows Raven the door.

LILLIAN

Get ya stuff and get out of my house!

She throws some of Raven's stuff onto the ground and slams her head a few times, as Harold tries to calm them both down. It doesn't work.

RAVEN

You ain't been a mother to me! A mother suppose to love her child and you done nothing but make me feel like shit!

(to her father)

Pops, you been cool and ain't done me wrong, but why you still with her though? She ain't even worth it.

Lillian smirks as Raven keeps degrading her. Harold tries talking diffuse the tension.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

HAROLD

She still yo mama regardless. You can't talk like that in this home.

RAVEN

(annoyed)

I feel ya, pops. I really do. Ma never once told me she loved me nor ever showed me any type of love. It's always her way or the door.

LILLIAN

I thought I told you to leave my house!

Raven tries to leave, but then Lillian shoves her out into the rainy cold weather.

EXT. LILLIAN'S HOUSE FRONT STEPS - CONTINUED

Raven's in tears as Harold comes out. He wraps his arms around her and tries his best to make her feel better.

HAROLD

I'm proud of ya, kiddo. You finally stood up to ya mother.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

And I ain't gonna see her again. She mad disrespectful as fuck, pops.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

I know, but you gotta do you and try to live yo life. I dunno if I wanna deal with ya too.

(looks back at the house)

I'll try my best to convince yo mother to be there for ya, but I can't guarantee anything.

She lies down on her father's shoulders as she weeps. Harold pats her head and tells her a story.

HAROLD

When I was your age, I use to deal with yo grandfather. The man was tall, intimidating and didn't take no mess from anyone.

RAVEN

Pops, what this gotta do with my  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
situation?

HAROLD (CONT'D)  
Point I'm making is that he just like  
ya mother. Both are very stubborn and  
intimidating, but deep down your  
mother loves you.

Harold keeps talking as loud FOOTSTEPS are heard approaching  
the front door.

Lillian, in an angry rage, SCREAMS at Harold as her demeanor  
scares Raven off. Harold goes back inside of the house as  
Lillian gives Raven a warning.

LILLIAN  
(screaming)  
If I see you again, you ain't gonna  
make it out alive!

Raven is running for her life as Lillian keeps making some  
threats. She takes out her gun, firing a few shots at Raven,  
missing her.

LILLIAN (CONT'D)  
I brought yo ungrateful ass into this  
world, I can take ya out!

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Exhausted, Raven sits on a bench. She struggles to process  
what went down with her mother earlier as she looks at her  
phone.

She making a PHONE CALL and ending the call at least twice.  
She takes a deep breath and goes through with the call.

RAVEN (V.O.)  
I knew that either Ma had to go or I  
had to go and I ain't going nowhere!  
Just making that call alone made me  
shit in my pants as I was 'bout to  
send my mother to her death.

RAVEN  
Hello?

MICHAEL (V.O.)  
I knew you'd call. So did you try to  
make things right with your mother?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAVEN

Nah! The bitch fucking made threats on my life and --

(whispers)

I'm ready to take her ass out!

MICHAEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I followed you to her house and saw everything. You just gotta let me do my job and I promise, you'll be free.

Raven doesn't back down this time as she and Michael keep talking about Lillian's murder.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Promise me nothing happens to my pops. He mad cool.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

If he gets in my way, he gotta go! No one gets the special treatment long as I'm here.

Raven gets upset, making a few threats of her own. Michael laughs at her.

RAVEN

If you kill my pops --

MICHAEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

You ain't gonna do shit. We in this together. If I go down, I'm taking you down with me!

(laughing)

The cops arresting sweet Raven for the murder of her mother. You've got nothing on me, bitch! I have everything on you!

(in a darker tone)

Your father gets in the way, he too will die!

Michael hangs up the phone as Raven makes another phone call.

As she's making her call, her phone battery dies.

Concerned, she gets up and runs back to the hotel.

INT. PARAMOUNT HOTEL MAIN LOUNGE - SAME

A distraught Raven sees Joe and urges him to call her father.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

Concerned, he asks her questions, but she urges him to make the call.

He picks up the PHONE and makes the CALL.

He then hands her the phone.

RAVEN  
(frantic)  
Pops, you good?

We INTERCUT to:

INT. LILLIAN AND HAROLD'S ROOM

HAROLD (V.O.)  
I'm cool. You alright?

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
Nah.

HAROLD (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
What happen?

Raven looks at Joe and then takes a deep breath, struggling to reveal anything as she ends the conversation on a positive note.

RAVEN  
(crying)  
Pops, I ain't mean to make ya mad. I need help with my drinking and --

HAROLD  
Look, I didn't mean what I said earlier. You still my baby girl and I just don't wanna see you hurt is all.  
(sighs)  
I'm done with the lying and the stealing and drinking. I love ya, but I ain't gonna be in yo life if you keep doing this... sorry, Raven.

Joe consoles Raven as she tries to brace herself.

RAVEN  
(smiling)  
No matter what, I love ya pops.

HAROLD (V.O.)  
I love you too, Raven.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

She hangs up the phone and hands it back to Joe, who grows concerned.

JOE  
What was that all about?

RAVEN  
Nothing.

JOE (CONT'D)  
Seem something to me. You can tell me.  
C'mon, Raven.

Raven gets mad and lashes out on him.

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
(in a louder tone)  
Look! If I tell you what's going down,  
you ain't gonna chill with me. It's  
best you don't know shit!  
(in a calmer tone)  
Sorry 'bout that, but I don't wanna  
see you hurt, Joe.

JOE  
You ain't real to me. I thought we had  
something going, but -- you know what,  
just go.

RAVEN  
Joe --

JOE (CONT'D)  
(in a louder tone)  
Go!

Joe's tone of voice scares her as she rushes off to her room. Meanwhile, Joe calms down as a group of people are coming to him.

DREAM SEQUENCE - LILLIAN'S LIVING ROOM

We see an angry Lillian SLAPPING Raven around a few times.

Raven looks at her mother and shoves her down to the ground, KICKING a few times.

We see her, with a knife, stabbing her mother as Lillian's SCREAMING for her life.

END OF DREAM SEQUENCE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM 300 - RAVEN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUED

Raven goes through her things, looking for something.

There's a KNOCK at the door.

Joe emerges and checks up on her, as she pushes him away.

JOE

I'm sorry for what happened earlier,  
Raven. I just --

RAVEN

Not now!

Raven holds a handgun, scaring Joe.

His eyes widens as she puts it down. He tries talking to her, but she isn't hearing any of it.

Beside the handgun, there's a few photos of Raven as a little girl.

INT. ROOM 300 LIVING ROOM - CONTINUED

As they're going through the photos, she explains to Joe what happened earlier at her mother's place.

JOE

I know you love yo moms and all, but  
you gotta cut her off from ya life.

RAVEN

I can't, Joe! She been the only person  
who never gave me any love growing up  
and I'mma do everything I can to make  
her see me.

JOE (CONT'D)

She ain't even worth it. I mean, you  
here having a gun and for what? She  
that bad that you wanna have a fucking  
gun?

Raven picks up the gun and plays with it. Just the mere presence of the gun has Joe panicking, as he pleads for his life. She takes out the bullets and places them on the table.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAVEN (V.O.)

Joe a fine nigga, but I dunno if he up for the task of killing Ma. That bitch fucking shot her gun at me and now, she's gotta pay. It's me or her and I ain't going down this time!

RAVEN (CONT'D)

(in a seductive voice)

Joe, I need ya help with something... something serious.

JOE

What is it?

Raven kisses his neck, unloosening his collar, as he's laughing. Looking at him, she kisses him passionately.

RAVEN

(in a seductive voice)

I need you to help me kill Ma.

Joe looks at her and laughs. Patting her on the back, he tries to change the subject as she doesn't back down. She has a serious look on her face.

JOE (CONT'D)

Shit, you're serious! I ain't helping you kill your moms. Like the fuck?

RAVEN (CONT'D)

I can't take her no more and I can't do it all alone. Please?

JOE

I said no! You need serious help, Raven. Look, how about you and yo moms try to work things out. Killing her ain't the answer.

Raven smirks, degrading him as Joe isn't phased by her name calling. She then looks at the gun and laughs. Both look at the gun as they wrestle for it. With Raven pinned to the ground, Joe manages to gain access to the gun.

RAVEN

Lemme go! I gotta do this!

JOE (CONT'D)

Not til you calm the fuck down!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Raven attempts to fight back as there's a knock at the door. She flips him over as Michael emerges.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUED

Eating some Chinese food, Raven and Michael are talking. With a smile on her face, she holds a picture of her mother, degrading her name.

RAVEN

I say we do this when she alone and vulnerable. That bitch gotta go!

MICHAEL

I knew you'd change your mind. Do you have any plan as to how we'll do this?

RAVEN (CONT'D)

(smiling creepily)

Yes. My pops gonna be outta town sometime next week and Ma gonna be at the crib alone. I say we break in and hide out in her room.

(whispering)

Then, when she come in, you'll attack her from behind and kill her. I'll handle the rest.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Great plan, but what if she got cameras in her house? I ain't never been caught and I intend on it staying that way.

RAVEN

Just trust me. Ma ain't got no cameras.

Joe listens in onto their conversation and finally speaks. Michael begins staring at him unmercifully, as the tension between the two men rises.

JOE

Y'all fucking crazy! You ain't gonna kill yo moms. I mean, the fuck?

(looks at Michael)

How you know he even a legit killer? Maybe he all talk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MICHAEL  
 (in an angry tone)  
 I'll show you --

Michael attempts to grab Joe by his collar, but Raven intervenes. She calms Michael down and talks to Joe.

RAVEN  
 Look, just stay outta this and you  
 won't be hurt.

JOE  
 I ain't gonna let ya do this!

Michael and Raven look at each other and laughs, as Michael's demeanor changes. With a serious look, he walks over to Joe, SLAMS him into the wall, placing his hand over his neck.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
 (in a deeper tone)  
 Look boy, I've killed more people  
 since you were in diapers and I'm not  
 afraid to kill you! Now, she's gonna  
 kill her mother and I'll make sure she  
 gets the job done!  
 (squeezes Joe's neck)  
 If you get in my way, you too will be  
 killed! Do you understand?

JOE (CONT'D)  
 (nervous)  
 I --

MICHAEL  
 Do you?

JOE  
 Yes, sir. Please let me go. You're  
 hurting me.

Michael begins toying with Joe, choking him as Joe slowly gasps for air. Raven pleads with Michael, who relents and lets go of Joe.

Michael, with a diagram shows Raven a timeline of Lillian's activities, as Raven's impressed by this. Joe meanwhile is seen rubbing his throat.

As they're talking, Michael reveals a long edge blade and throws it at Joe, only missing him by a few inches.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MICHAEL

Her blood will be on that blade!

Joe, too terrified to stay, finally leaves. Raven and Michael are laughing and enjoying each other's company.

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. MIDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - NEXT DAY

In ski masks and black attires, Michael and Raven enters the school and fires a few SHOTS. The looks of these faces causes Raven to look away.

MICHAEL

Remember what they did to you? You didn't belong with them, so why should you give a damn about them?

Raven nods in agreement and stabs the numbers 666 onto their deceased bodies.

She then pours some gasoline onto the bodies and onto the school itself. With no hesitation, she sets a fire.

As they're about to leave, the sound of a teacher is heard as Raven looks back at the fallen teacher.

TEACHER 2

You're still a human being, Ms. Raven. Don't let the devil take over ya soul.

His words has Raven struggling with her emotions as she has a gun in hand. She looks at the teacher and then to the gun and with no hesitation shoots the teacher.

The school burns up in flames as Raven and Michael escape with joyful looks.

MICHAEL

You did the right thing.

RAVEN (V.O.)

I knew that he was lying, but seeing the school burning in flames brought back some memories. Each flame is what I seen with my own eyes as a kid. My family been using God as a way to bring us together, but also apart. Just seeing the flames makes me smile and I like it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAVEN

So what are we gonna do now?

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

We gonna carry on with the plan.  
Remember, your mother's the one who  
disowned you and treated you like crap  
for years.

(looks around)

Look around ya, the world is soon to  
be yours.

Raven tries to fight back tears as the school's burning in flames is taking its toll on her. She looks away, trying to hide her emotions.

INT. MICHAEL'S HIDEOUT - (MICHAEL'S OFFICE) - AFTERNOON

A large office with dead skulls, human remains, animal remains, weapons or different kind, Michael is sitting at his desk going over the plan.

MICHAEL

So, I'll go hide out in her room as  
you'll go and try to make amends.

RAVEN

Yeah, and while you do that, make sure  
no one else's around. She has a dog  
name **WILLIE**, who's a guard dog.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

(laughing)

Trust me, I know how to take care of  
an animal.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

And then Ma woulda try talking some  
shit to me and I'mma make my way in,  
attempt to go her room. She follows me  
in, I look like I wanna grab something  
and then you make yo move.

(laughing)

Ma got mad money at the crib and you  
gonna get yo money.

MICHAEL

I don't want your money. I just want  
to kill again. I like the feeling.

Michael shows her some of the human remains in his office as

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

he begins to talk about his years as a serial killer.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

(looking at the skull)

This here was my very first victim. She was a nice old lady who gave me everything I wanted. Love, attention, and friendship, but something was missing. I was a kid when this all happened and I remember it like it was yesterday.

(smiling at Raven)

One night, she was sleep and I snuck into her house and managed to get my way to her room. I grabbed a baseball bat and started beating her with it. She was already dead by the first hit, but I wanted more and so I cut her head off and ate her remains.

RAVEN

You ate her remains?

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Yes I did, and I promise you that from then on, I've killed more than I could count on my fingers and toes.

(sighs)

Killing has always been a part of my life, but I had to manage to control it, you know?

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Did you ever had some pussy?

He looks at her and laughs, as he shows her a remain of a female's vaginal area. She grabs her mouth and tries to not regurgitate, as he keeps talking.

CUT TO:

EXT. LILLIAN'S HOUSE - A FEW HOURS LATER

Michael and Raven, hiding behind a house a few minutes away, watches Lillian's every move as Raven watches her mother keenly.

A lot of emotions are going through her as she struggles to remain calm.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MICHAEL  
(whispering)  
Remember, you can do this.

He hands her a few weapons as Lillian leaves. She's seen heading towards a neighbor's house, as Raven and Michael make their move.

INT. LILLIAN'S HALLWAY - CONTINUED

Slowly WALKING through these halls, Raven and Michael tries to not make any noises as a voice is heard.

Harold stops them.

HAROLD  
What you doing here?  
(sees Raven)  
Why you doing this?

RAVEN  
Pops, please don't do this. Just go away and we won't hurt ya.

HAROLD (CONT'D)  
(in an angrier tone)  
I raised you better than this! If you guys don't leave, I'mma call the police!

Michael grabs a crowbar and starts beating Harold with it. Seeing her father pleading for his life has Raven looking away at times, as Harold's heard calling her name.

She finally looks back, as Michael gives her a gun.

Holding Harold, he begins YELLING at her.

MICHAEL  
Shoot him!

RAVEN  
(looks at her father)  
He been good to me. I don't wanna hurt him.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
Either you kill him or I'll kill him!  
Make your fucking choice!

Raven looks at her father, who has a tear in his eye.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

She closed her eyes, struggling to pull the trigger. Then a SHOT is heard and Harold is lying motionless.

Michael, with his own gun, is seen wiping away his handprints.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Why'd you shoot him? He wasn't no threat!

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

He was gonna call the police and I ain't going to jail! Now let's find your mother's room and go with the plan.

RAVEN

Alright.

Walking through the halls, they come across LILLIAN and HAROLD'S BEDROOM.

INT. LILLIAN AND HAROLD'S CLOSET - CONTINUED

Hiding inside of her mother's closet, just being around her mother and father's clothing makes her CRY.

Michael meanwhile is hiding beneath Lillian's door as there's FOOTPRINTS being heard. Raven is panicking, as she begins to shake.

Through the peepholes, she sees Michael attacking Lillian, who tries to fight back.

She then emerges from the closet and chases her mother.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUED

Staggering, Lillian almost trips as Raven and Michael are on her trail. She manages to get the house phone and dials 911, as Raven lunges at her mother.

Within seconds, Michael KNOCKS Lillian out with a single PUNCH to the face.

INT. LILLIAN'S ROOM - SAME

Lillian wakes up to an angry Raven, who places duck tape around her mouth. Lillian wiggles and tries to set her free, but Raven looks at her mother and SLAPS her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAVEN

(in an angry tone)

It didn't gotta come down to this, Ma.  
All my life you ain't been cool to me.  
Always beating me and shit just cause  
I ain't wanna be no minister.

(to Michael)

She made me feel like shit when I was  
a kid and she gotta know I feel bout  
her.

MICHAEL

(smiling)

This is your chance to make her hear  
you. Remember, use fear on her. That's  
how she'll listen.

Raven grabs a few photos and shows them to Lillian, ripping them, as Lillian's SCREAMING and MUMBLING.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

You use to put me down for having  
dreams and made me think I was a bad  
kid and now you finna see how it  
feels!

(whispering)

You think I fucking care bout yo  
wellbeing right now? Well, I don't. I  
worshipped you and thought you was God  
and all you done was made me hate you  
and --

(shows a handgun)

I should fucking blow yo brains out  
right now! But that's too easy. I  
wanna make you suffer the way I  
suffered.

Raven starts toying with her mother by placing the gun to her right side of her head and starts to scare her.

Lillian, with an angry look in her eyes, is trying to fight back as Raven's mocking her mother.

RAVEN

When I'm done with ya, I'mma make sure  
you ain't seeing the light again!

(breaks down)

I trusted you and you broke my heart  
and I seen how you is with my other  
siblings and I wanna know why? Why you  
never liked me? I ain't done a single

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
thing to ya.

Raven wipes her tears and starts destroying a lot of things that her mother owns as Lillian has a few tears rolling down her face.

INT. HALLWAY/STAIRCASE - CONTINUED

Michael begins to drag Lillian down the stairs, as Raven has a letter in hand. She opens it and reads it.

RAVEN  
(reading the letter)  
Dear Harold,

*I'm so proud of you for blessing me with this ray of sunshine. Everything about her reminds me of you and yet, I don't know I'm even worthy of being this child's mother. I've decided to name this child Raven because she has this innocence to her that none of the other kids have and she looks so much like you. I thank you for being an amazing husband and great father to Raven. I just hope that we can raise her with love and happiness.*

Sincerely,

Lillian Brooks

Raven pauses and Michael stops as she removes the duck tape from Lillian's mouth. She confronts her mother about the letter.

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
Everything you said in here, did ya mean it?

LILLIAN  
Yeah. I just didn't know how to be a mother to you and I just wanted to make you into something I wasn't.

RAVEN  
(in tears)  
But you didn't have to treat me like shit, ma! I ain't done a single thing to you to treat me this way.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Lillian BREAKS DOWN and offers her an apology.

Raven unties her mother, as Lillian makes a run for it.

An angry Raven and Michael chases her once again as Lillian drops a lot of items, trying to make it harder for them to get her.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUED

Cornered, Lillian surrenders as Raven and Michael surrounds her.

Raven, with tears rolling down her eyes, walks slowly to her mother.

She has a gun in hand. Lillian pleads for her life as Raven closes her eyes and fires a SHOT.

She opens her eyes and sees her mother fall down to the ground, as she holds her deceased mother's body. Raven YELLS and freaks out, as she tries her best to revive her mother.

Michael stands before her and shakes her hand, as he then leaves.

The realization of what she done kicks in as Raven's seen cleaning up the house.

She struggles to remain calm as the sight of seeing her parents dead haunts her.

RAVEN (V.O.)

When I seen my folks dead, I knew that I was a different kinda female. I ain't the same Raven people can walk over and treat like a fucking animal. When they died, I became my own woman. No one to control me and tell me what I'm gonna and not gonna do.

(takes a breath)

Tryna hide the evidence was hard, but the peaceful look on they face makes me smile. I wanted my moms but I ain't gonna get that, so I had to take her out.

Raven looks at her deceased parents' bodies for the last time before leaving. She bends down and takes a piece of her parents' souvenirs and leaves.

INT. LILLIAN'S KITCHEN - A FEW WEEKS LATER

Law enforcement are investigating the scene, as the amount of blood has everyone shaking. Then, they pay attention to Lillian and Harold's decomposing bodies as they notice something.

One of the officers take samples of the deceased's blood as another person takes a closer look at the dead bodies.

The paramedics arrive and places the two dead bodies on a gurney as the officers continue investigating.

INT. RAVEN'S CHILDHOOD ROOM - CONTINUED

One officer finds ripped up pictures and other things as they keep going through some of Raven's old things. Then, another officer finds some old family portraits and makes an assumption.

He's seen talking to his superiors about his findings and give them some ideas as to what happened. They take the evidence and places into a bag as other officers are seen snooping.

INT. LILLIAN AND HAROLD'S BEDROOM - SAME

A large pint of blood is seen on the bed sheets and onto the floor, as these officers take swabs of the blood and also take the bloody bed sheets. A female officer enters and looks around.

The PHONE RINGS.

She answers it.

FEMALE OFFICER

Hello?

On the other line is Brandy. She sounds distraught.

BRANDY (V.O.)

You seen my sis, Raven? She ain't been heard from in a couple of weeks.

FEMALE OFFICER (CONT'D)

No, but what can you tell me about this Raven person?

BRANDY (V.O.)(CONT'D)

Nah, I ain't no snitch. She in  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BRANDY (V.O.)(CONT'D) (CONT'D)  
trouble, ain't she?

FEMALE OFFICER  
A Lillian and Harold Brooks are  
deceased in their home and by you not  
telling me anything makes me think you  
know something.

BRANDY (V.O.)  
Raven alright?

FEMALE OFFICER (CONT'D)  
There's only two bodies and it's of  
senior citizens, ma'am.

BRANDY (V.O.)(CONT'D)  
I can't believe she done it.

FEMALE OFFICER  
Done what?

BRANDY (V.O.)  
(sighs)  
She and her moms ain't never gotten  
along and they always been fighting  
cause Raven didn't wanna be what her  
moms wanted her to be and --  
(breaking down)  
I can't believe she done it. She said  
she ain't gonna hurt her pops, but why  
the fuck ain't she found?

FEMALE OFFICER (CONT'D)  
Do you know anyone else who could have  
an issue with Raven?

BRANDY (V.O.)(CONT'D)  
Her sis, Rachel. Always been a bitch  
to Raven and they ain't been on good  
terms.

Brandy tells the female officer everything she knows as the  
female officer hangs up. She looks around and finds nothing  
else on her as she and the other officers leave.

INT. NEW YORK DISTRICT PRECINCT - INTERROGATION ROOM -  
NOVEMBER 2018

Officers drag a man inside, as they inform him of the  
charges. He reveals himself to be Michael as the officer

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

begins to interrogate him.

OFFICER

Where were you the night the Brooks  
Family were murdered?

MICHAEL

I don't have to answer that.

OFFICER (CONT'D)

The evidence is pointing towards you,  
my friend. Witnesses say they saw you  
at the crime scene. Now fess up or  
else --

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Or else what? I know things you don't  
know about what happened that day and  
I'm not talking.

The officer gets out of her seat and gets in Michael's face.  
He smirks at her. She raises her voice at him, as he doesn't  
say another word.

Suddenly, he speaks to the officer.

MICHAEL

I know that you had an affair with  
your fellow officer over there. I also  
know that you're a mother of three and  
wife.

Embarrassed, the officer looks at Michael, who keeps on  
talking about her personal life. The officer then SLAPS  
Michael around, spitting on him a few times. Other officers  
meanwhile intervenes.

Then, there's a stench that has everyone concerned.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUED

Officers are running for their dear lives as Michael slowly  
WALKS through the halls. Some officers are seen gasping for  
air, as others aren't so lucky.

EXT. NEW YORK DISTRICT PRECINCT - STREET - NIGHT - SAME

Michael, unfazed leaves the building as it then explodes.  
Looking back at the now burning building, he smokes a  
cigarette and walks off into the night, fading away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CUT TO:

INT. RAVEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

There's a long silence between Raven and Rachel, as Rachel asks her some questions.

RACHEL (V.O.)

If you did all that, why you telling me?

RAVEN

Cause I ain't gonna live long and I need someone to tell.

Raven LAUGHS, causing concerns for Rachel.

RACHEL (V.O.)(CONT'D)

That ain't funny, Raven. I'll call the cops and tell em what you done.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Call em, I don't give a fuck no more. They ain't gonna believe you anyways.

Raven hangs up the phone and reads her Bible.

She pauses, looks at her cabinet next to her and starts looking through her things. She takes out a shotgun, as tears roll down her face. She kneels down and pray.

RAVEN

Please forgive me for what's gonna happen.

(looks up)

I ain't living with the guilt no more! Shit, I'mma do something bout it.

She gets up and lies back on her bed, as she places the Bible on her stomach. She then struggles to cope as she's looking at the shotgun and her Bible.

Raven picks up the gun and places it to the right side of her head, closes her eyes and pulls the trigger.

A lot of blood emerges, covering a major portion of the room. Raven meanwhile lies down motionless with her eyes closed.

RAVEN (V.O.)

I been tryna please Ma for mad long so she could love me and shit, but I lost  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAVEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 everything and everybody cause of my  
 need to please her. I loved Ma, but I  
 hated the bitch at the same time.  
 Like, I just had to do whatever it  
 took to be seen and now I'm free. Free  
 from her control and free from the  
 guilt. I just wanted my moms is all.

Police officers later arrive, examining Raven's body, as her  
 hand's still on the Bible. Colossians 3:5-6 is tainted in  
 blood, as an officer places a white sheet over Raven's body.

***"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly  
 nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and  
 greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God  
 is coming." -Colossians 3:5-6***

AERIAL SHOT - NIGHT

In the background, Elton John and Little Richard's The Power  
 is being played.

BRANDY (V.O.)  
 Sis tried to please her moms and it  
 fucked her up! The one thing she  
 wanted ended up killing her. Raven  
 ain't no monster... she wanna have her  
 moms love and we as a society judged  
 her for tryna impress her moms and the  
 everybody else -- we fucked up as a  
 society and cause we judged her, Raven  
 went off and ain't come back to grace.  
 Sis went ham and ain't known who she  
 was as a person and it's sad how Mama  
 dukes treated her like shit. Lesson  
 here is we gotta love one another  
 cause we all we got and life too short  
 for all this hate and jealousy!

We see the night skies as the rain subsides.

FADE OUT.

END.