

"Ray of Light"

by

Robert J. Santana

inspired by true events.

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Robertsantana1190@gmail.com

INT. HELL'S KITCHEN LOFT - NIGHT

flashbacks of ray at a epic event, weed, Cocain, meth, and other blurred interactions are visible. Flashes that appear as if to be at an orgy (we can't really make out if it's with woman, men or both. we hear ray throughout it all. Ray makes a drug transaction through out the flashes of the crazy lustful party, he sells the goods through out it.

RAY V.O

You ever wake up and think who the fuck am I? You wonder who you've become while trying to become the person that you truly wish to be. We bury ourselves in our darkest moments hoping somehow we can one day shine a light on something that was never meant to be shined on. Perhaps rather stayed buried altogether, like The regrets, the sorrow. The pain, the shame, your disgrace, and most of All the lack of FAITH. It hits you all at once like a Ton of bricks, and you think, who the fuck have I become?

EXT. WASHINGTON HEIGHTS, YOUNG MALES CLINIC - DAY

A room filled with young men all in there late teens to mid 20's. Dozens of STD pamphlets on the wall, and the low sound of the waiting room Tv hung on the wall discussing a new Talent competition looking for the next "latin/American-Heartbreaker sensation". Then appears our ambitious serenade hustler. RAY SANTIAGO, 20's, Puerto Rican/Dominican light skin kid, ruggedly handsome in the corner nervously waiting, and messing with his phone that's plugged into the wall.

NEWS ANNOUNCER:

That's right ladies and gents, big time Hollywood producers are looking for the next Latin triple threat "heartbreaker", and it could be you.

Ray looks up at the television screen.

RAY:

Dope.

DOCTOR Walks in, Afro Latina in her 40s, natural hair, natural beauty. similar to Zoe saldonga.

DOCTOR:
Ray! Ray Santiago!

RAY:
Right here, that's Me!

DOCTOR:
Ok great follow me.

Ray follows the doctor out the waiting room down a narrow hall way with patient rooms.

DOCTOR CONT
Before I examine you I want you to talk to someone first, just based on the number you scored on the mental stress evaluation we just want to ask you a few questions, it won't take long.

RAY:
Um ok.

They reach a small office on the left. inside is social worker Sam Domingues, 40, Latin mix, professional but down to earth.

DOCTOR:
Ray this is sam, once he's done he'll show you the examining room and ill take it from there.

RAY:
Ok.

The doctor closes the door behind her, we see SAM, late 30s, Handsom Latino man, tattoos, slight scar in his left eyebrow; but still professional.

SAM:
Hi Ray, have a seat, I'm Sam Domingues the social worker here at the clinic. I just wanted to ask you a few questions, nothing to be to concerned about It's just we saw that you scored a 18 out of 20 points in the mental health test we gave you earlier in registration.

RAY:
Oh yea right, that, I was rushing

through tryna just hurry up and fill it out that's all, I really wasn't paying no mind to it.

SAM:

Oh ok so let me just Go through the questions and you tell me why you put them -

RAY:

Look I know how this works, yea iv been stressed, I have a lot going on I-

SAM:

Like what?

RAY:

Like student loans and not having a job because of the "career " path I chose-

SAM:

Which is?

RAY:

Acting, and I sing, a little.

SAM:

Oh.

RAY:

Exactly.

SAM:

I see why you'll be stressed-

RAY:

Please those are the least of my problems-

SAM:

Really, tell me it's ok, I'm here to help.

Ray pauses for a minute, it's silent. Then there's a txt from his grandma AKA grams that pops on the screen it says:

"They rushed steavy to the ER again, he hasn't been taking his HIV medication and got hooked on some shit called

Tina" (Both Ray and Sam acknowledge the sound with a look but ignore it.)

RAY:

Look iv been going to therapy since I was 13, I know how this works. Iv been offered to be put on anti depressants before by phyics. I'm not interested in taking anything man made that I know, if I take one to many of I could die from, thats why i smoke weed. it's grown from earth -

SAM:

ok I get it ... So why were you in therapy when you were younger ?

RAY:

Well, my mom and dad were in federal prison a week after my tenth birthday. They were smuggling kilos. when they got out our relationship wasn't the best. they were gone half my life.

And the weight. I was obese until I was 19, and I'm only 23 now, sooo, anymore questions?

INT. YOUNG MALE CLINIC - EXAMINING ROOM - DAY

POV of Ray looking down at the doctor , she's examining his junk with a stethoscope.

RAY:

Sooo

DOCTOR:

Nothing to be worried about that's just your pores, and that one is just a bigger one of those.

RAY:

So I don't have genital warts, herpes, HIV-

DOCTOR:

No I already told you your HIV test was negative -

RAY CONT
 HPV, chlamydia, syphilis-

DOCTOR:
 those you got to wait till the blood
 results get back, but I'm pretty sure
 your fine.

RAY:
 Thanks doc, I just been so worried, my
 cousin got HIV when he was 16 by the
 first person he ever slept with and he
 hasn't been doing so good, I just been
 thinking about all the bad decisions
 iv been making lately, and you just
 never know.

DOCTOR:
 Don't worry you'll be ok, learn from
 your cousins mistakes and protect your
 self, the nurse will give you condoms
 on the way out, and I sent your PREP
 prescription to your pharmacy. Be
 careful out there Ray.

RAY:
 Trust doc, I will.

EXT. WASHINGTON HEIGHTS NYC STREET - DAY

Ray walks out of the young males clinic, while on his phone
 he sees the txt message from grams, before being able to
 react he bumps into SANDY. 20s, beautiful Latina/Italian mix,
 light eyes light skin and long dark hair.

RAY:
 Sandy!

SANDY:
 Ray!

RAY:
 What you doing around here?

SANDY:
 You know my mother lives up the block
 ray-

RAY:
 Right, right I've missed you I sit up

at night just thinking about how I messed up, and how maybe if I wasn't sucha insecure, and naïve ass hole then maybe I wo-

SANDY:

You can't keep doing this Ray, just popping up into my life and expect me to just drop everything for you, again. Not to mention you keep tryna chase some Hollywood dream that's never gonna happen, tu esta en la Luna papi.

RAY:

Look, I know that, and I know I don't deserve you, but shit if you give me one more chance to make it up to you. I promise I won't fuck it up this time-

INT. BRONX APARTMENT/BEDROOM - NIGHT

FLASHE'S OF RAY AND SANDY FLOOD HIS MIND WE SEE THEM ARGUING, THROWING DISHES AND YELLING RAPID FIRE.

SANDY:

Fuck you, you don't love me if you did you wouldn't cheat on me.

RAY:

Baby I was drunk-

SANDY:

Fuck that!

Sandy slaps Ray.

EXT. WASHINGTON HEIGHTS NYC STREET - DAY

SANDY:

I found somebody else-

RAY

What?

SANDY:

You heard me.

RAY:

Do I know him?

SANDY:

It doesn't matter-

RAY:

Yea (chuckle) your right, I'm pretty messed up right? I don't what I'm talking about your way better off with out me. look at me rambling as usual, I'm happy for you, Really I am. you deserve nothing but the best, But um hey I got to go. I got some stuff I got to take care of-

SANDY:

Ray wait!

EXT. NYC STREET - DUSK

We see ray Frustrated smoking a blunt, you can tell He's distraught, so many thoughts running through his brain. It's caous; the noise of the city is heard. Cop car lights flashing, and ambulance sirens going off, it's all ray has ever known. In the mist of it all there is still a beautiful view at the edge of Manhattan (inwood) border of the Bronx.

INT. BRONX BUILDING - NIGHT

We see ray knocking on the Door we can't make out who it is on the other side. An arm grabs ray from the other side of the semi opened door, and pulls him in.

INT. INSIDE BRONX BUILDING APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ray and a mystery person drop onto the bed, they rip off each other's Clothes and go at it. Only thing we see is bed raddling and the sounds and flashes of light from the above train passing across on the 4 train line.

INT. BRONX BUILDING (MEECHIE CRIB) - DAY

Ray is outside of a door similar to the one from last night, he's dressed in all black drip. Drakes new NOCTA Nike suite, brought to you by Nike, paired with some air Jordan's "bugs a bunny's". He's arrives at Meechie's crib. she's like a aunt to ray always been there for him at his lowest. MEECHIE, 30s pale skin, long black hair, "chinky" eyes and high cheekbones. Natural beauty, thick.

RAY:

Meech open the door!

MEECHIE:(O.S
(groggy voice) I'm comin!

RAY:
Yo ass still sleep?

MEECHIE (O.S)
Shut up niggga or else I'm gonna leave
yo ass out there with the rest of the
crack heads from this block.

RAY:
Bih stop playing, you better open this
door before I piss on it like the dog
that you know I can be.

MEECHIE (O.S)
Oh hell no you better not, after that
1 time you was drunk you know (as she
opens the door) I ain't fucking around
.

RAY:
Ayyye!

MEECHIE:
Ayyye!

They both smile at each other, he gives her a quick kiss on the cheek, runs by her, and races off to the bathroom. He trips on a box of wine on the way.

INT MEECHIE BEDROOM - DAY

Ray and Meechie sit in her room smoking a blunt, and drinking the boxed wines ray was tripping over. They sit on meechies recliner chairs, high talking shit and reflecting. It's been awhile and of course real house wives of NYC is on and cardi b is on in the throw back episodes before she popped into legendary status.

MEECHIE:
So you just been staying back in your
grandmas house with that demon dike of
a cousin that steals your shit?

RAY:
I mean, yea, I have no choice she
threw me out and accused me of
stealing \$150 from her. Even if she
was drunk, and forgot. she gave it to

me and don't call Ritty dike, she is my Demon cousin but dike is a little rough lmao.

MEECHIE:

Whatever, anyways like I was saying don't your moms always be losing Money when she's drunk ?

RAY:

Which is everyday.

MEECHIE:

It's ok baby you know your mom tries-

RAY:

Seriously tho Meechie, if I wanted to steal from her I would do it while she is drunk and passed out and doesn't even remember how much she made that night.

MEECHIE:

I know baby, but you gonna be good. I know shit is hard but we get through it. shit I had my miscarriage a year ago now, and I'm good. You know I'm gonna sue those bitches in the hospital.

RAY:

Word?

MEECHIE:

I was In that bathroom for 47 minutes before they came, and helped me. 47 minutes I held my unborn baby for 47 minutes. He had 10 fingers, he had 10 toes, and eyes lashes, and finger nails, and for a moment just for a moment I thought he smiled at me, but that. That was just wishful thinking.

RAY:

I'm sorry Meechie that you had to go through that, you love kids and god will bless you with one. Or even 5 one day, but it's ok you just figuring it out and going with the flow. Don't worry everything will sort itself out, I promise. I got us.

I got A couple of auditions coming up, and I just submitted for some film festival fellowship programs so don't worry by this time next year we gonna be lit.

MEECHIE:

Lol Lit dead ass reminds me of steavy, i miss him. Hopefully he pulls through soon-

RAY:

I mean, let's hope. I love him so much, he doesn't deserve the cards life handed to him.

MEECHIE:

That's a fact-

RAY:

He guides me with such Grace, and poise. He would always be trying to teach me that "It's not what you say, but how you say It". I'm still learning how to do that Shit, it ain't easy.

MEECHIE:

Speaking of things not being easy, what's up with your aunt harmony? Is it true she's shooting up now?

RAY:

That's A whole different story, I'll be here Allday telling u about that mess, and I got to go. My dad been waiting down the block with my sister, and little brother for like 22 minutes I got to go!

MEECHIE:

Word niggg.. Byyye

Ray puts out the blunt, gives Meechie a kiss on the cheek, chugs the rest of the box wine in his coffee mug, and dashes out.

EXT. YORKTOWN HEIGHTS CHURCH - DAY

we see 3 year old JOJO cute and looks just like ray. DAD, 40s shaved head, fit, handsome was in jail for 12 years

and just came home from the feds last year. Then there's VICKY, 20, and pretty little darker skin tone than Ray, long black hair.

DAD:

I don't want to hear shit Vicky, you keep on dealing with that low life son of a bitch that is 33 years only. I'm gonna break his fucking face the next time he puts his hands on you.

VICKY:

Dad I told you I fell.

RAY:

Why the fuck you keep making excuses for him, and protecting him, you must like to get yo ass beat-

VICKY:

Ray shut the fuck up, you don't know shit about being in love let alone being faithful or even strait for that matter I know u like dick also-

RAY:

Fuck you, and no I don't suck dick and I don't get fucked but I will get sucked and I will fuck little bitch as mother fuckers like the nigga you call your man-

DAD:

Enough! I don't want to hear that shit between you to, ray can be with whoever he wants and so can you Vicky, if you choose to deal with what you feel is love, who am I to stop you, all I can do is pray and hope god keeps you safe.

VICKY:

Sorry dad.

(Jojo is not phased, dad AKA papi gives them a group hug they enter the church)

INT CHURCH - DAY

The family walks into the church, there is Praise all over. We see them go to the front of the alter and take a

seat they begin to praise the lord. While the song below plays we see jojo smiling, dad holds Jojo hand, and is praying for the family. Vicky sits next to dad looking around, embarrassed and ashamed, sad, looking up at the churches alter. She begins to pray while holding dads other hand.

Ray on the opposite end next to Jojo, he holds Jojos other hand, and looks up at the church alter that has Jesus on the cross. He stares without a blink, suddenly tears start flowing down rays face. He finally let's go, and let's god take back control. The pastors wife is in the middle of singing A song that sounds similar to the gospel song "Take me to the King" by Tamela Mann.

PASTORS WIFE :
Take me to the kingdom...

EXT. BRONX TRAIN STATION - DAY

Rushing down the train station stairs as he tosses the end of the blunt. Ray hears the train coming, cops in the distance going down the opposite stairs across in the other downtown entrance side of the D train.

RAY:
Shit!

Ray realizes he doesn't have a metro card, he runs to hop the turning, cops in plain sight.

COP1:
Hey!

COP2:
Get that lil spic!
(As the doors close)

RAY:
Fuck you, pig ass nigga!

EXT. UPPER EAST SIDE TRAIN STATION - DAY

Ray exits the train station he walks to mt. Sinai hospital, he takes a second before walking in. Shit just got real.

INT. UPPER EAST SIDE - MT. SINAI HOSPITAL - DAY

Ray walks into the ICU, he sees his cousin DAPHNE, tight

brunette curls, petit with glasses, and in her 20s. Natural beauty. TITI J, 50s lanky, tight curls. A Latina version of Dorothy from the golden girls. Also in the room, TIO P. 50s, glasses, bald, salt/pepper beard, a bit extra sometimes. Everyone is distraught.

STEAVY, early 30s, Afro Latino, skinny, but still very handsome. He lays in the hospital bed, frail.

RAY:
Hey everybody!

TITI J:
Shhh, try not to speak so loud, steavy needs his rest.

RAY:
Sorry.

Steavy wakes.

STEAVY:
Hi, raylito. I'm glad you made it To see me-

RAY:
Of course steevinator, sorry I couldn't come sooner, I thought you would be back home by now.

STEAVY:
Me to.

DAPHNE:
We was just talking about all of us taking a family cruise once steavy is better.

TIO P:
Yea we gonna go on the celebrity Cruise line, I hear it's nice and luxurious, Because we fancy.

STEAVY:
(He can barely speak)
Mmmhmm, that's right Ms. Thing.

TITI J:
Yea we was thinking of taking a Mediterranean cruise, we always wanted to go so, what better time?

RAY:
That sounds amazing, I would love to go, pretty expensive tho right?

TIO P:
Yea but, now that I'm the new SVP of the credit union we can afford it.

RAY:
That's dope, wish I could go.

STEAVY:
Yea, let's take raylito with us.

TITI J:
Ok, why not? Once we get you out of here steavy we are all on that first cruise out the port of Miami.

RAY:
Yea, can't wait.

The room is dead still, we all know that trip isn't going to happen. Ray is about to cry. So before anyone can realize he pretends he just got a text.

RAY:
Hey guys love you, but I have to get to a job interview In midtown in 30 min.

Ray walks over to steavys bed side, he give Steavy a gentle hug and kiss. Holding back his tears.

RAY:
Love you steavy.

STEAVY:
I love you raylito, I want you to always know that.

RAY:
Always, and forever nigga.

EXT. UPPER EAST SIDE - OUTSIDE HOSPITAL - DAY

Ray is in tears, he can't take the pressure, so he does what he is programmed To do. He opens the grinder app and types:

"LOOKING FOR SUB BTM HOST, LONG SESSIONS PREFERRED"

Before ray finds his hook up he has to make one more stop first.

INT. FANCY TALENT AGENCY - DAY

Ray arrives late at a major talent agency in a high rise building in midtown. Ray see's a fancy talent agent, white female, mid 40s, professional, not to pretty. You can tell she's had a long day, the room is still filled with unseen talent. Also in the near distance is the ASSISTANT. 20's, pretty, white, blonde, while letting out a potential client. Ray steps in, he's been rushing so he's a little sweaty and his headshot and resume is clearly bent.

RAY:

Hi, I'm here for the open call.

ASSISTANT:

Oh I'm sorry, unfortunately we are no longer seeing anymore talent today. As you can see we're a bit behind, and sorry to break it to you, but your also 22 minutes late.

RAY:

But wait, can I just-

TALENT AGENT:

Listen kid, the truth is we would be both wasting our time, and I don't want to waste your time or mine for that matter. Honestly.

RAY:

Wha-

TALENT AGENT:

Realistically, there just really aren't much roles for you out their, even though it's looking up for latinx content, things still are slow for your kind. I already have a kid on my roster similar to you that hasn't booked not even 1 co-star since I signed him almost 2 years ago.

RAY:

Wow, that's wild.

TALENT AGENT:
Yes, absolutely wild.

RAY:
Well then, thanks for your time
anyways I guess.

Ray looks defeated as he leaves the office.

EXT. MIDTOWN TRAIN STATION - EVENING

Ray hops the train one more time, train arrives, no cops this time.

EXT. BRONX STREET - EVENING

Ray walks from the train station and goes to unknown apartment building, he follows the directions to apartment given from his sub bTTm on the hookup app.

INT. BRONX APARTMENT - NIGHT

We see a Smokey room, led lights hang from all corners of the room, Ray lies on a bed with cheap bedsheets and a typical Bronx apartment. The SUB BTTM, 20s, rugged, tattoos. Blowing clouds while servicing ray, they take turns sniffing poppers, the spray kind.

SUB:
You like that papi?

RAY:
Yea that shit feels mad good, I
appreciate how much you enjoy it Papi?

SUB:
I love it Papi.

RAY:
Good boy, stay on your knees and keep
worshiping Papi's Puerto Rican pinga.

SUB:
Of course master, whatever you want.

RAY:
Oh yea?

SUB:
mmhmmmm, you want some G?

RAY:
Word? You got some? I'm down.

Sub goes into the side drawers and pulls out a small black glass bottle with a measuring drop screw on top. He measures what should be no more than 2ml. He puts it in 2 small cups and mixes it with red Gatorade that looks a little suspicious.

SUB:
It strong as fuck so drink it quick,
it got that nasty, bitter iodine taste
almost.

RAY:
Bet.(He throws it back) oh yo make
sure you drink some Extra Gatorade
after that, I don't want it to burn my
jewels. I need those.

SUB GOES BACK DOWN ON RAY, BEFORE WE KNOW IT RAY STARTS TO GO
INTO CONVULSIONS.

INT. NORTH CENTRAL BRONX HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

Ray lies in the hospital bed I.V. In arm, rays MOM, 40s, light skin, petite, pretty. GRAMS, 70s, overweight, loud. The 2 of them are distraught and confused is in the corner of the room, rays drug use was hidden from his family untill now. Ray wakes up from being unconscious for nearly 12 hours.

GRAMS:
Ray, you up ?

RAY:
(Groggily) wha, what happened? Where
am I?

GRAMS:
You overdosed Ray, that's what
happened.

RAY:
No, wait, but-

MA:
Stop it Ray, the doctors told us what
happened, they had to pump your
stomach, you almost-

GRAMS:

Why would you do this to us, do you know how worried sick we've been, knowing you could have died in some fagots house!

RAY:

I,I I'm sorry.

MA:

Sorry for what Ray? For lying to us? for getting your dick Sucked by some Homothug? Or for oDing?

RAY:

Ma, I'm sorry I didn't mean to-

In mid sentence rays dad walks in, shit is about to hit the fan.

DAD:

What the fuck-

MA:

What the fuck you mean, don't be coming up on here thinking you run shit, shyyyssty ass nigga!

GRAMS:

Celia, calm down you gonna have them throw us out.

MA:

I don't give a fuck! I haven't seen this mother fucker in over 20 years, and he thinks he can just come in here after all he put me through-

GRAMS:

Pero That was a long time ago-

MA:

He ruined my fucking life, I was barley 14 when I got pregnant and he was going on 21 -

DAD:

Celia, I was young and dumb and-

MA:

You fucked almost every fucking girl

on the block, including my best friend, while I was sleeping in the next room-

DAD:

I-

MA:

How fucking dare you, you were a piece of shit then, and your still a piece of shit now, and I don't give a fuck about that bullshit that ray says. Just because you go to church, doesn't mean that you have learned to keep your dick in your pants.

She's over it, she looks over to grams.

MA:

Ma, I'm out...

As she walks out she turns to Ray.

MA:

And Ray get your shit together. You should have learned after what your grandfather put us through.

Grams goes after ma as she leaves the room.

GRAMS:

Pero Celia wait!

DAD:

Ray, I can't deal with this-

RAY:

I didn't mean for any of this to happen -

DAD:

I can't allow this Ray, what type of example are you to Jojo

RAY:

I-

DAD:

What if you would have died Ray?

Dad starts to cry.

RAY:

I-

DAD:

What would I have told your, How would I have told him how you died huh, how the fuck would I-

RAY:

I'm sorry dad, I'm gonna do my best to get help, I-

DAD:

How long have you been doing this?

RAY:

Um, I don't know, almost 2 years-

DAD:

What the fuck, how could this have been going on without me knowing?

RAY:

I guess sometimes it's easy to miss what's right in front of our face when we're side tracked with other vices.

DAD:

I can't put your Brother or myself for that matter through this, get help or I'm cutting you off.

He goes to leave, turns to Ray before exiting.

DAD:

I need you to know that I love you, and I will always love you for who ever you are, and through whatever you do, but I need you to get your shit together, and fast.

As dad exits the nurse enters to give Ray a new I.V. Bag with some sedative's, Ray nods off shortly after.

INT. NORTH CENTRAL BRONX HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Ray has been moved to another room where he will spend a couple days under observation. He wakes from the Instagram alerts on his phone vibrating next to him. It's a DM, Ray opens it it's a video, he taps in.

HIP HOLLYWOOD EXEC:

Yo yo yo, it's your boy in the building, here to let y'all know that I will be one of the host for this years triple threat talent competition. The Deadline is tonight at 11:59pm pst, bless up to everybody, and I'll see y'all at the top because like D.J. Kahlid says, "we the best".

Ray Looks at the time, it's 8:55pm EST, Ray has 4 minutes. He thinks on his feet, and presses record, the talent competition theme as we know it is "Heartbreaker"...

RAY:

What if I told you that last night was almost my last night on earth? What if I told you that I died long ago? Would you believe me? I never was the type for love, but then you see people around You. holding hands, kissing and shit. honestly I was good, until I wasn't. See there comes a time where the world puts you down. So much that you start to put you down, and well it's all just down hill from there right? I tried to put myself outside of shoes, and for a minute see what it was like to walk barefoot, so outside of my self, so lost that I was found. Only to find that I had to find myself. Sometimes you have to be your own hero, and leap so that the net can appear. whatever higher power is up there saved my life last night. I was plucked from deaths arms, and held tight in gods arms. Definitely heaven sent, I think? So I choose to fly even if my Angel wings are clipped, it's ok . They'll grow back. What's most important is that my heart is no longer broken. Iv been saved or maybe I've been watching to much Lucifer, what do you think?

Ray takes a moment, closes his eyes. He opens them, looks dead into his iPhone front camera and sings a song similar to Miguel- candles in the sun, rays voice is raspy but angelic.

Ray quickly stops video, and uploads it to the portal requested. A message pops up after he presses submit, its 8:59pm:

"Thank you for your submission to the Triple threat heartbreakers talent competition search. If we feel you got what it takes to be the next best thing, our judges will reach out to you by the end of the week. You never know we might just choose you. Best of luck, all the best, the triple threat team.

Rays puts down his phone, the nurse comes in to swap out his I.V. Bag again, Ray nods out from meds on impact.

EXT. NORTH CENTRAL BRONX HOSPITAL - DAY

Ray walks out of the hospital, he takes off hospital bracelet as he exits to go into train station to head back to grams house.

INT. BRONX TRAIN STATION - DAY

Ray has no metro card, so once again he hops the train, this time, tripping over the turning rail and falling strait forward, luckily Ray had great reflexes and catches himself before he lands on his face. The train arrives, and Ray hops up, and into the train right as the doors close.

EXT. BRONX TRAIN STATION - DAY

Ray exits train/station, walks down the block, all the hood dudes are out, (the tatted light skin Puerto Rican Papi's are secretly rays favorite, shh, it's our little secret) Ray makes his way to grams apartment building down the block.

INT. GRAMS APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Ray makes his way up the stairs and opens the door to go in to grams crib, (the door is jammed due to rittys bipolar episodes and slams it constantly when she doesn't get her social path ways.) Ray finally Jiggs the lock enough to get it open, inside is ritty, and her girlfriend Sam. They were just having good ole lesbian sex on grams couch while grams naps in her room, Ray is mildly disturbed, but even more annoyed, and not with the shits. poor Ray is Being triggered left, and right.

RAY:
Ewww, what the fuck.

RITTY: THOT:

Oh shit.

RAY:

Where is gram?

They lay lifeless under the covers as if Ray didn't just catch them disrespecting grams couch.

RAY:

Whatever.

Ray goes to grams room to see what she's doing, she is past out, her meds got her sleepy, Ray goes into the top drawer of his grandmama's dresser. He empty's his pockets, 1 blunt left, And his last \$20. He then takes out a pair of Tommy Hilfiger boxer briefs, and a wife beater, he leaves the room, goes into the linen closet. He grabs a towel and goes into the bathroom, Ray takes Off his cloths, sits on the toilet and puts on porn. He rubs one out, and hops in the shower.

He feels so good for a moment in his naked wetness that he starts to sing A song similar to Michael Buble- feeling good. All of a sudden he hears laughter from outside the bathroom then a sudden door slam. Ray gets out of the shower, dries off, then puts on his briefs, and wife beater. Grams also is now up from her nap from the door slamming. Ray leaves bathroom, and walks into grams.

GRAMS:

Ray! I didn't see you come in.

RAY:

Yea, sorry , you was sleep, didn't want to wake you.

GRAMS:

It's ok, I was about to make some coffee, you want some ?

RAY:

No it's ok I don't really drink coffee.

GRAMS:

oh yea, that's right, where's ritty?

RAY:

I'm not sure, I think her and her new girlfriend just left.

GRAMS:

Oh ok.

Ray goes back into the draw to finish getting dressed and to put his last blunt, and last \$20 to his name back into his pocket when he realizes weed, and cash is gone. Ritty did what she does best, what a sneaky bitch. #family

EXT. BRONX TRAIN STATION - DAY

Ray goes back on the train to get weed from his spot in the heights, the basement to the left Always got that top shelf quality with discount prices, so many flavors you would think it was a dispensary in los Angeles, a little lifeforms, Ray waits and makes his order, dealer on other side of a shady closed gate with only a small hole visible.

RAY:

Sup bro, what's on the menu?

DEALER:(O.S)

Right now gang I only got the purple platinum or the Hollywood OG?

RAY:

Let me get one of each.

DEALER:(O.S)

That's gonna be 50 gang.

RAY:

Aight, bet.

Ray pulls a \$50 bill from the back of his phone case, and hands it through the dealer on other side of gated door slot. The dealer passes the 2 cylinder plastic Med bottles, dealer is never seen just heard.

DEALER:(O.S)

Next!

EXT. METRO NORTH STATION - DAY

Ray sits on the train station, smoking a blunt, what else to do but sing while he thinks of sandy, he's sings a song similar to neyo- so sick.

RAY:

Mmmh, mmmh, Yeah (doo, doo, dooo, doo)

EXT. UPSTATE, NY METRO NORTH TRAIN STATION - DAY

Ray exits metro north train station, and waits till cousin Daphne picks him up. She pulls up, but not before Ray pulls out a clipped blunt. Cuzzo pulls up right as Ray Tosses the roach a.k.a. End part of blunt.

DAPHNE:

Hey cuzz! Sorry I was Late, had to get gas.

RAY:

All good cuzzo, just glad you was able to pick a nigga up.

Rays gets in the passenger side, they drive off.

INT. DAPHNES CAR - GOLDEN HOUR

Daphne is driving back to Tio p's house.

RAY:

It was the good old times, that night we just stood up mad late. Me, you, and steavy would just laughed OD, OD, like so hard that we literally started crying. Those were good tears, the best tears I've ever shed.

DAPHNE:

I know, we use to have so much fun when we where kids, you should start coming up to visit more, the family misses you.

RAY:

Yea, Your right, I Should stay over tonight like I use to when we were bay bay kids.

DAPHNE:

I would like that, and I'm sure steavy will to, now that he's back home from the hospital.

RADIO V.O.

word on the street is the execs of this viral talent search just might have its winner be from the Bronx. since stats show the highest amount of views for the competition came

from Afro Latino males age 18-25 in
The Bronx, NYC".

RAY:

Oh shit, you hear that daphne? I been
hearing about this competition all
over for like a month already. I low
key submitted, and Yo I think I can
actually win this.

DAPHNE:

Shit, I don't see why not. Ray you are
the most talented human being I've
ever met. Shit sometimes I wonder if
you a deity.

RAY:

Shit I ask myself that all the time.

DAPHNE:

See, and you funny, remember that time
You begged me to go help you with that
scene they had gave you in that acting
class that one time.

EXT. MIDTOWN MANHATTAN STREET - DAY

Daphne, and ray rushing through the crowd on a busy NYC
street. Sirens, and cop cars speed by parallel to them.

RAY:

Daphne hurry the fuck up, I only have
1 hour to film that scene.

DAPHNE:

Why the fuck you only get a hour.

RAY:

That's basically a double session.

DAPHNE:

Huh?

RAY:

Yea that shit is 30 minutes for \$25

DAPHNE:

Whooooa, ray that's high way robbery.

RAY:

Tell me about it, they pretty much

charge a arm and a leg.

As they turn the corner.

DAPHNE:

Where the hell is this place anyways?

RAY:

I don't fucking know, the acting class was one place, and now they send me to this self tape studio shit.

DAPHNE:

This actor, singer, dancer life doesn't feel so glamorous like you said it would.

RAY:

Tell me about it, This def ain't the wave. ok I think this is it.

Ray and Daphne go inside the building.

INT. MIDTOWN SELF TAPE ACTING STUDIO - DAY

Ray is setting up the tripod, and the camera while daphne stands close by running her lines.

RAY:

Ok, I think I'm almost done, This shit is harder to attach then I thought.

Daphne goes over to ray, she starts trying to act out the lines on the paper in her hands, she's a horrible actress.

DAPHNE:

Barry, your dying of cancer.

RAY:

Daphne stop fucking around.

DAPHNE:

Barry, please Barry, don't die on me.

Ray finishes setting up camera to tripod.

RAY:

Ok, there, done. Let's run the lines all you have to do is press this red

little button to record.

Ray goes, and sits in the chair that's in front of the Camera set up in a mid-shot, Daphne walks to the opposite side of camera and presses a button.

RAY:

Ok, ready when you are.

DAPHNE:

Ok, action, Barry! You have cancer!

We go into a time lapse as they repeat the scene over, and over till the hour is done.

RAY:

Ok, I think we're good. Press stop on the camera.

Daphne looks down at the camera, she never hit record.

DAPHNE:

Dam cuzz, I think I messed up.

RAY:

Huh? What you mean?

DAPHNE:

I was suppose to press the red button right?

RAY:

Daphne fuck! Now I'm gonna miss the deadline.

DAPHNE:

But, Barry, you don't have cancer?

INT. DAPHNES CAR - GOLDEN HOUR - EVENING

Car comes to a sudden stop, Daphne turns off the car.

DAPHNE:

Yea, so sad, \$50 down the drain. You could've just gave it to a homeless.

RAY:

your one of my favor people on this earth, but you still never gonna get it are you?

DAPHNE:

Get what?

Ray ignores her, and just laughs it off.

RAY:

I love you cuzzo.

DAPHNE:

love you more, You ready?

RAY:

Yup, missed steavy like a mother fucker. For a moment thought he was gonna die on a nigga.

INT. UNCLE P'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Daphne, and ray walk into the house. They see a sign that says "welcome home steavy" , a big bouquet of roses arranged into a rainbow flag. Daphne excuses herself to the bathroom.

she refreshes her makeup quickly, but not before having one good cry, her brother almost died. She's overwhelmed, but relieved.

EXT. STEAVYS BACKYARD A.K.A. TIO P'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ray walks out to the backyard, close friends and family of steavys surround the memorial. Ray goes to get a drink from the table that was catered by "Mas Duro"; all the empanadas, and cocito your heart desires. Ray hears a distant AUNTY M, 50s, Latina, olive skin, short hair; talking to tio P. About "harmony", rays aunt.

TIO P:

Wait so say that again?

AUNTY M.

Pero de verdad, someone told me they saw harmony, they said she was uptown, por el 191 en broadway.

TIO P:

And what you said that they said she was doing?

AUNTY M.

Ello dejeron que Ella estavas, con un tipo, with some guy that looked like

an old pimp-

TIO P:
An old pimp?

AUNTY M.
Pero tu no me Estas hoyendo, yea an
old pimp.

TIO P:
Ok Emma so get to it, then what?

AUNTY M.
I don't know, they said something
like, she looked strung out, and was
about to go suck dick for \$20.

TIO P:
What? Emma, where? What? Who? Is
telling you these things?

AUNTY M.
Pero papito, eso es la verdad. That's
the truth.

Ray grabs his drink and a empanada, he's heard enough.

RAY:
Sup tio? Hi Titi.

AUNTY M.
Ayyye papi, how are you? I haven't
seen you in so long.

TIO P:
Emma stop your lying, you just saw
everyone at my company's picnic.

RAY:
It's ok tio.

He looks over at auntie M.

RAY:
I miss you to Titi.

AUNTY M.
So tell me, how you been?

RAY:
I've been good, and you?

AUNTY M.

You know dealing with lil Jamie, you know he's autistic, and lately he has been doing to well, he's been going a little stir crazy, this pandemic luckily is coming to an end. He needs to be outside, to he needs stimulation. Walking outside and him touching a tree or walking barefoot in the grass, those are the things that keep him sane.

RAY:

Yea, I feel you Titi.

AUNTY M.

Yea, you know it be the little things, thing's we take for granted on the daily. lil Jamie appreciates those things, shit, he teaches me more on a daily basis than I could ever teach him. I just wish the world knew how brilliant he is, and wouldn't judge him for what they see or expect to see inside due to his exterior being a little different.

RAY:

Don't worry Titi, lil Jamie is one of the most smartest, bravest, boldest, most confident lil niggas I know. He will be just fine, trust. I'll be right back, let me get another drink.

Ray walks off to get another drink, as grams approaches aunty M and tio P, aunty M sneaks in a slick remark.

AUNTY M.

Dam he drank that fast.

GRAMS:

Yea, don't mind him, he's been stressed lately.

AUNTY M.

I'm mean I know, but not for nothing poor papito is living in a dream world, I'm surprised he's still even trying.

GRAMS:

Yea I know, he thinks he's going to be some big time Hollywood star some day.

TIO P:

Bendito, poor papi, he so lost with reality it really is quite sad.

AUNTY M.

How could he think that people like us could just be some big movie star, and I heard him sing last Christmas at your house he's good.

TIO P:

leave the kid alone he's been through enough.

GRAMS:

I let him believe what he wants, I'm his grandmother, who am I to crush his dreams, it's something he will have to learn for himself.

AUNTY M.

That's right it's real cold out there, and shit is really different now.

Ray hears every word, his anxiety is on 100, he sneaks off around the side of the house. Steavy finally appears, he goes to the center of the crowd to get everyone's attention, he's about to make a thank you speech. Still a bit weak fatigue though.

STEAUVY:

Hi every! Excuse me! Can I get everybody's attention please!

Everyone stops talking and gives steavy thier attention.

STEAUVY:

I want to first say thanks to everyone that came out, I love you dearly. This last year has been really dark for me, I put myself through things I never thought I would ever go through. I realized I have so much people that love me. I don't want to hurt all of you

anymore, and most of all I don't want to hurt anymore. I love you all, and I hope everyone gets home safely.

Ray is on the side of the house. Daphne walks over to him, takes him behind a bush before the family takes notice.

DAPHNE:

Hey, are you ok?

ray starts to shake, and hyperventilate, He's having a full on panic attack. daphne sees that certain family members with big mouths are starting to take notice, and before they have a chance to start gaslighting Ray even more she pulls him behind the bushes so no one can see.

DAPHNE:

Hey, calm down ok, it's gonna be ok, just breathe ok? Just breathe. Take a deep breathe in through your nose, hold 2,3,4 now release out your mouth, and hold 2,3,4, good. Now repeat that 3 more times.

Ray repeats it 3 more times.

DAPHNE:

Good, are you ok?

RAY:

Yea, I'll be ok, thank you.

DAPHNE:

It's ok, I learned a thing or two before I dropped out of John Jay.

They pause, Ray didn't know she dropped out. Before he can react, she dismisses herself.

DAPHNE:

I'll give you a minute to get yourself together cuz, I'll be out here if you need anything.

He has to put on a good front for the hypocrisy that is his family. Ray makes his rounds, says bye to everyone as they all make their way out at their own pace, you can see ray can't wait to just chill with steavy alone just like old times.

EXT. STEAVYS BACKYARD A.K.A. TIO P'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ray and steavy sit in his backyard, everyone in the house is sleeping, accept them two. They smoke weed, laughing heavenly, trying not to wake anybody. They share stories, and just haveing a ball together. They share a bong, and a bond like no other.

RAY:

Steavy what the fuck are you talking about?

STEAVY:

Ms. Thing, it was Halloween, I was cruella, my man was zorro, and Peggy was poison ivy.

RAY:

And where was peggys man at?

STEAVY:

Chillld, that pirate fucked up the whole night, you don't remember do you? Your ass was a faded ass gladiator.

RAY:

What you mean?

Rays phone starts to ring, it's an unknown caller, he puts it on silent.

STEAVY:

Anyways, Don't even get me started with that fagot.

RAY:

Well, I want to know so get started.

Ray thinks about it for a minute, he remembers.

RAY:

Oh yea, of course I remember, my memory was tryna forget that whole night, I forgot how many times I threw up-

STEAVY:

Ms. Thing started acting up as usual while we was still at the ball, I don't know what the fuck happend. All

I know is I turn around and boom. The pirate is fighting Glenda the good witch.

RAY:

Fuck, yea I remember now for sure.

STEAVY:

So dead ass you would think this was a 1980s aerobics class, ms thing.

Rays phone keeps flashing from the another unknown caller, they ignore it.

RAY:

I know that's right.

STEAVY:

Mmhm. Anyways, you remember we get kicked out the ball room, I barley got to walk away with a trophy. Then we finally get back to queens, where I was staying with Peggy in her old spot, wich she lost because of the pirate. Anyways that's another story, I'll tell you about that later.

RAY:

Ok nigga dam, finish the story, I know you haven't even gotten to the good part. I still only vaguely remember.

STEAVY:

You know the best part is yet to come.

RAY:

Of course, you left out the part of that night was the night I cheated on sandy.

Steavy takes another hit of the bong and passes it to Ray.

STEAVY:

oh yea, one minute you was at the bar, and the next thing I know I saw you slide off to the bathroom with cleopatra.

RAY:
Can we please not talk about it.

STEAVY:
Anyways, we get back to the crib, and Peggy, and her boo are already arguing in the Lyft we got. I'm surprised the driver didn't throw us the fuck out, especially after you threw up out the window.

Ray laughs, sets the bong down while coughing.

RAY:
that was wild

STEAVY:
What's wild is that once we get back into the apartment, I take my boo back to my room after putting your gladiator ass to sleep on the couch. Peggy goes into her room with her pirate nigga, and all of a sudden like 60 seconds later me, and zorro-

More flashes in the dark backyard coming from yet again another unknown caller. looks Almost as if foreshadowing paparazzi.

RAY:
Fucking zorro bro-

STEAVY:
Keep in mind he didn't even get to see his big middle eastern dick. so sad, anyways all we hear is the pirate beating peggys ass, that she just bought like barely 6 weeks ago in Dominican Republic.

RAY:
And you didn't do anything?

STEAVY:
Ms. Thing, I wasn't tryna get in between that, and zorro did not look like he wanted any pirate smoke either.

RAY:
Yo I can't with you.

STEAVY:

Anyways, all of a sudden, they storm out of the room, runs down the hallways, and comes barging in my room.

RAY:

Oh shit! So What you and zorro did?

STEAVY:

Bitch, for a second I just stood frozen, next thing I Knew Peggy was saying, "you didn't just hear that? He's beating the shit out of me"!

RAY:

Yoo

STEAVY:

And me and zorro was just like, "Awww, but nooo, we didn't, sorry"

RAY:

Yoo that is one for the books, for real, for real.

STEAVY:

Next thing I know, the pirate got zorro pressed, where he ended up running out the house.

RAY:

And what you did.

STEAVY:

What can I do? I ran after him, 1 stiletto in 1 hand, and my cruella wig in the other, which btw I used as my wig for my Nikki Minaj costume last year. That costume was le-gen-dary.

Rays phone starts to flash again as steavy snaps his fingers, and crossss his legs like a true classy queen that he is. Nothing, but confidence, love, and most of all a heart that shines brighter than the sun on its hottest NYC summer day.

Rays phone Starts going off. It's an unknown caller. Ray continues to talk to steavy, the phone keeps going off. It doesn't let up, after the Third time, ray goes to pick it

up, it's a call he can't ignore.

RAY:

Hello?

HIP HOLLYWOOD EXEC:

Hi, is this Ray?

RAY:

Yea, who's asking?

HIP HOLLYWOOD EXEC:

Well first off let me say congratulations. you have been chosen as a finalist in the heartbreakers, triple threat competition.

RAY:

Huh? What you mean?

Ray is stunned.

HIP HOLLYWOOD EXEC:

You and 2 other finalists will be flown out to Hollywood, where you'll have your chance to show the judges what you got for one final LIVE talent showdown. 1 winner will be announced, and take home the crown of the next Triple threat Heartbreaker. Please monitor your email for details on next steps.

RAY:

Oh shit, I mean wow, thank you.

UNKNOWN

No worries, you should be proud, you were chosen out of over 1 million contestants. Who knows, you might just be the super star we've been looking for.

RAY:

Wow.

UNKNOWN JUDGE:

Take care ray, see you in Hollywood.

The unknown judge hangs up. Ray puts his phone down, and tells Steavy the news.

RAY:
Oh shit, steavy, remember that
competition I told you about earlier?

STEAVY:
Yea, that heartbreak one? Yea what
about it?

RAY:
Nigga, I'm a fucking finalist, I'm
going to Halloween, I mean Hollywood.

STEAVY:
Biiiiihhhchh, look, look, look. You
gonna be a movie star ray-ray?

RAY:
Thanks steevinator.

Ray looks at the time.

RAY:
Shit, steavy you think your dad would
pay my Uber back down to the city?

STEAVY:
Heeelllll noo, but his union credit
card will.

Ray makes a crooked smile.

INT. BRONX APARTMENT, MEECHIES CRIB - NIGHT

Ray and meechie sit in the room smoking blunts and drinking
kettle one botanicals new hard seltzer, meechie got a
surprise for Ray.

MEECHIE:
O.M.G. Nigga! I'm so proud of you.

RAY:
Thanks meechie!

MEECHIE:
So you telling me they Gonna fly you
out to Hollywood, put you up at the
Beverly Hills hotel, and V.I.p.
Hollywood red carpet treatment, with
the designer of your choice to make a
custom fit to wear to the finals?

RAY:

All of it, and supposedly they giving crazy gift bags this year twice the size to make up for them not having the event last year, cuz of the covid.

MEECHIE:

Wow that's great Ray, I'm so proud of you.

RAY:

And they said that we get not only a record deal, but we also get a major motion picture deal that is a definite 7 figure deal. The biggest in the competitions history.

MEECHIE:

Dam nigga, and you did that all from a hospital bed?

RAY:

Facts.

MEECHIE:

Well what doesn't kill you only makes you stronger. Right?

RAY:

Amen!

MEECHIE:

Amen, now puff puff pass nigga!

RAY:

Relax, I barely even hit it.

MEECHIE:

Oh yea so, I got a surprise for you.

RAY:

Word?

MEECHIE:

Yea nigga!

RAY:

What is it?

MEECHIE:
Close your eyes nigga!

RAY:
Are you serious?

MEECHIE:
Yea, close your eyes or I'm not gonna give it to you.

RAY:
Fine.

Meechie goes behind her chair and takes out a Nike air Jordan box with a bow on it, it's the Olympic Jordan's, #7, Rays favorite Jordan's of them all.

MEECHIE:
Ok you can open them now.

Ray opens his eyes, it's like a 3 year old on Christmas getting exactly what he asked Santa for.

RAY:
Woow. Meechie no you didn't, those are for me?

MEECHIE:
Yea nigga, mines are over there.

She points to the opposite end of the room, hers are in a box inside a jimmy jazz draw string bag.

RAY:
Litty meech, I didn't even know that you knew I wanted these, these been sold out for over a week already, I thought I would never see these under the over marked 3rd party minimum price of \$555.

MEECHIE:
Well lucky for us I got a new side boo that, happens to boost them off the delivery truck before they get to the sneaker stores.

RAY:
Dam, that's dope, but fucked, but still dope.

MEECHIE:

It's ok all those major sneaker stores have insurance, they don't lose a penny, I think. Anyways so when do you leave?

Ray reviews email regarding next steps.

RAY:

Well it says here in the email that I have to be there, oh shit, it says I have to be there by tomorrow night.

MEECHIE:

Welcome to the fast life I guess.

RAY:

Shit, meechie I love you, but I got to go pack. Thanks for the sneakers, I'm gonna be mad drippy in L.A., I'll FaceTime you as soon as I get to my dope ass hotel they putting me up at.

He gets up to leave, grabs his Jordan's and goes to give meechie a kiss, as she walks him out to lock the door she tells him:

MEECHIE:

Ok baby, you be safe out there and fucking murder the competition, like I know you will. I'm so proud of you baby, go do your thang nigga!

EXT. NYC BRONX STREET - NIGHT

Ray walks down the block to grams house, it's dark out but the street lights are bright. From a near distance Ray hears a couple arguing, Ray goes to check it out. He realizes it's sandy arguing with her new boyfriend jay, he's in his 20's, Afro Latino, dark skin, tattoos, and a little bit of a thug.

SANDY:

Fuck you!

JAY:

Fuck you mean bitch, after everything I did for you-

SANDY:

You ain't do shit for me but give me

a fucking headache-

JAY:

Watch your mouth bitch-

SANDY:

Oh yea nigga, what the fuck you gonna do-

Jay bitch slaps her, gives her the back hand one time. Ray sees what just happend and loses his shit, it's on now.

RAY:

Aye yo, what the fuck you think you doing-

JAY:

Yo on some real shit, mind ya fucking business, you don't want the smoke bro-

RAY:

What nigga? Smoke this-

Ray punches jay in the face, but it barley seems to phase him, he swings at Ray, hitting him in the face, causing him to fall down, jay goes to pick up a glass bottle to hit Ray. Ray trips jay causing the bottle to break. Jay goes to cut Ray with the broken bottle, but Ray kicks jay in the face knocking him out cold. Ray kicks him in the face one last time. The cops, and ambulance pull up.

COP1:

What happened?

SANDY:

My ex boyfriend hit me and this nice guy came to my rescue?

Ray smiles, cop2 looks at cop1, but is referring to Ray.

COP2:

Isn't this the guy that hopped the train the other day?

COP1:

Davidson, cuff the suspect on the floor please, and make sure the EMT takes a look at his head before we haul his punk ass to bookings.

COP2:

Copy.

cop1 gets a quick statement from sandy, ray brushes himself off, and cop2 goes in ambulance with jay. They dispatch to the hospital, the streets clear and ray and sandy are left alone in front of her apartment building. Fading sirens/flashing blue, and red lights in the distance.

RAY:

You ok?

SANDY:

Yea, are you ok?

RAY:

Never better.

They take a moment, stare into each other's eyes like old times.

SANDY:

Thank you.

RAY:

Of course, you know I would never let anybody hurt you.

SANDY:

I know.

RAY:

soo you gonna tell me what happened?

SANDY:

I mean there's not much to say, I told him I was still in love with you, and he was a dub, plus I heard he was fucking all these little bitches on the block thinking he was low, when clearly he wasn't.

RAY:

Valid.

SANDY:

Soooo

RAY:

Soooo

SANDY:
So what you think?

RAY:
About what?

SANDY:
About us?

RAY:
I-I-I mean I don't know-

SANDY:
What you don't know? Isn't this what
you wanted?

RAY:
I-

SANDY:
For us to be together?

RAY:
Yes, I did want that, but now, I don't
know-

SANDY:
Wait, what? What are you talking
about?

RAY:
Sandy I'm a finalist is the
heartbreaks triple threat competition-

SANDY:
wait, what? You actually entered-

RAY:
Yea I did-

SANDY:
O.m.g. And you made top 3?

RAY:
Yea, and I'll be dum if I don't take
advantage of this blessing that god
just gave me-

SANDY:
Wow ray, I'm so fucking proud of you.

You actually set out to do something,
and you fucking did it.

RAY:
But I leave tomorrow-

SANDY:
Wait, what? So soon?

RAY:
Yea, there moving quickly, and my
performance is this Saturday, so I
need to be in Hollywood by tomorrow
night for rehearsal.

SANDY:
Wow, rehearsal? Look at you, Mr.
triple threat Hollywood heartbreaker.

RAY:
You better stop it, you know I love
you right?

SANDY:
I know.

RAY:
I wish we could be together, but right
now I need to do this for me, I never
done nothing for me. I never felt like
I had a purpose untill now, I feel
like I got a new shot at life. like
when we saw that Phoenix be reborn in
one of those Harry Potter movies. I
want to fly, and I know I have the
magic to spread my wings, and do just
that.

SANDY:
Just don't forget about all the small
people you left behind.

RAY:
Never.

SANDY:
you better not cuzz I'll find that
ass, but no seriously, on some real
shit. I'll be waiting here for you
when you get back.

RAY:

On some Bonny & Clyde ish?

SANDY:

On some Bonny and Clyde ish.

They take a moment to take each other in, they share a kiss. one filled with passion, unconditional twin flames of love. Ray watches Sandy go into her building, she turns back, they looks at each other, then ray continues his way to grams house.

INT. GRAMS APARTMENT - DAY

The sun is shining bright through the curtains, ray slowly wakes up, goes to the bathroom gets rid of his morning wood, flushes the toilet. He hears riz and her Thot girlfriend laugh once again as they slam the apartment door while they leave. Ray comes from the bathroom, his thief cousin strikes again, before he can blink he realizes she stole is blunt wraps and lighter yet again. annoyed, Ray grabs his weed, ebt card, and the keys from top of the dresser. Ray slides on his Nike slides, and slips out while grams is still out like a ligt, snoring.

INT. BRONX BODEGA - DAY

Ray walks into the bodega on the corner of the block, he's greeted by HABIBI early 40s, middle eastern, hairy, and handsome, he has swag, and looks/acts like he can be Dominican.

RAY:

Wassup, habibi!

HABIBI:

WAssup bro, I hear you leaving us?

RAY:

Dam, word travels fast around here huh?

HABIBI:

Sure does my bro, this block don't keep shit a secret.

RAY:

Facts tho, let me get 2 zig-zag, a Dutch, and a entourage. Oh yea and let me get that dark chocolate hershey with almonds, and some

Swedish fish. and throw in a Reece's cups. The dark chocolate one if you got it, if not I'll just take the regular one. oh yea, and throw in a blue, and a sour watermelon mike and Ike.

HABIBI:

You got it.

RAY:

How much?

HABIBI:

\$6 for the blunt wraps and \$3 for the candy.

RAY:

Put it on my black card.

He hands habibi his EBT card

HABIBI:

You got it my bro, but yo, I can't put the blunt wraps on your ebt card no more after today. I heard the bodega down the block got shut down for that shit.

RAY:

Word?

HABIBI:

Yea my guy.

RAY:

Dam, bro, valid. I appreciate you always.

HABIBI:

Of course habibi, you know you my brother from another mother.

Ray Grabs the little brown paper bag off the counter, habibi hands ray his EBT card with the receipt that had the remaining food stamps balance. Ray looks at The receipt, \$0.21 cents is left, Ray starts making his way out the bodega.

RAY:

Facts bro, See you on the flip side!

Ray throws up the peace signal.

HABIBI:

Peace!

EXT. NYC BRONX LOOK OUT POINT - DAY

Ray rolls up a nice phat blunt as he reflects on the good, and the bad. As he Lights the blunt he has flashes of memories with steavy, his last conversation with sandy, and all of the good that's about to come from starting this new journey to Hollywood. It's golden hour, time for him to shine bright like a diamond.

EXT. DREAM SEQUENCE

He day dreams of what it would be like. Before our very eyes rays surroundings transition into a arena stage, drake style, his clothes Turn into R&B pop star drip, the arena is full. The crowd goes wild, ray is on, he performs a song similar to Eli Sostre- New opps.

RAY:

Yeah

Fuck how you feelin', I'm feelin'
great...

we then abruptly hear grams.

GRAMS:

Mira tu, what you doing over there!

Ray hides the blunt that's still lit behind him.

RAY:

Nothing!

End of dream sequence.

EXT. NYC STREET - DAY

GRAMS:

Oh yea? Que tu tienes en tu mano?

RAY:

Nothing!

GRAMS:

Mira cono, bien aqui, come here. Help
me take up these groceries.

RAY:
Bet, I got you grams.

GRAMS:
Claro, of course you got me, and I
always got you to mijito. Forever. Now
get these Groceries upstairs quick,
you have a plane to Catch.

RAY:
Oh shoot, I lost track of time, abuela
que es la hora?

Grams looks at the time on her watch as they reach the front of grams apartment building. Ray has both hands full of bagged groceries, he pushes the lobby door open to go upstairs.

GRAMS:
It's, 2:22pm.

RAY:
Fuck my flight.

Ray rushes inside, pushes the door wide open so gram can get in while he runs rapidly up the stairs to drop off the groceries, and rush to get himself fully resdy, and packed for his flight that leaves At approximately 4:44pm

INT. BRONX APARTMENT - DAY

Ray rushes to back his Nike duffle bag, he throws everything he owns in there, grams shares some words as Ray calls for Uber.

GRAMS:
Of papi I sent the monies to your
account, it should be enough for your
Uber to the airport and a little
something extra for your pocket when
you arrive in California.

RAY:
Thanks gram, I appreciate, and love
you so much. You out of everyone is
the only one that has ever really been
there for me.

GRAMS:
That's right, thick as thieves.

RAY:
Grams, what you know about thieving?

GRAMS:
Ayyyye papi, I know a lot more than you think I do. I've been around for a long time.

RAY:
I love you.

GRAMS:
I love you more, mijito. Just always remember I am always proud of you, and I know you are going to win, in my eyes you are not a winner, but thee winner! siempre.

She puts up her arm to flex as much as grams can flex, they share a laugh.

RAY:
Thank you for always lifting me up when this world does nothing, but try and bring down guys like me. People see me and always judge a book by its cover, but now it's time that I write a new chapter. One worth wanting to read. With a happy ending instead of a tragic one, like everyone seems to crave unconsciously, for their own bitter satisfaction. Programming at its best.

Ray gets an Uber alert the driver has arrived.

RAY:
That's the Uber grams, thanks again for everything, but I got to go, don't want to miss my flight. Love you.

GRAMS:
love you you to, Take care of yourself mijito!

EXT. BRONX STREET - DAY

Ray runs out grams apartment building, and throws his bag in the trunk of the Uber, gets in and they drive off to JFK airport.

EXT. JFK AIRPORT - DAY

Ray gets out of the Uber and grabs his duffle bag and closes the trunk, he walks to go in terminal. Thanks Uber driver as he makes his way.

RAY:
Thanks bro!

Ray takes a moment, looks at the jet blue terminal, reflects on where he is going and where he came from. He takes a deep breath before he goes to check in, we hear the announcer at the terminal.

AIRPORT ANNOUNCER:
Next flight to Los Angeles
international Airport, will be
departing at approximately 4:44pm. All
passengers proceeded to terminal 44
for boarding.

Ray proceeds to terminal, he boards the flight. The plane takes off into the sunset.

FADE TO BLACK.