

GREENER

Written by
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OVER BLACK:

NNAMDI (O.S.)

Dads are dicks. Least you've got a rich one.

INT. FRAT HOUSE - BASEMENT - EVENING

NNAMDI ODARO, 19, rakes up piles of muddy leaves and beer cans. ADAM SILVER, 21, white with wrinkly clothes and expensive glasses inspects a fridge with a thermal camera.

ADAM

In my case, it doesn't even matter.

NNAMDI

Relax, you'll get something before the semester is over. Did you apply to any smaller offices? Lamont said D.C. is mad competitive.

ADAM

Did he now?

NNAMDI

Can we not.

ADAM

I'm just asking a question. Wasn't aware he knew so much about the program. When I first told him about it, he didn't seem to know much. That's all. Is he here tonight?

NNAMDI

You hear that shit up there?

Jersey club music blasts through the walls and ceiling from the party upstairs.

CUT TO:

INT. FRAT HOUSE - MAIN PARLOR

LAMONT MAY, 22, deejays a packed party. He greets friends and sips from a Solo cup.

INTERCUT LAMONT/NNAMDI & ADAM

NNAMDI

Of course he is. You know he's charging people, too, right?

ADAM

Of course he is.

Lamont dances in the center of the main parlor while everyone surrounds him and cheers him on.

NNAMDI

Yeah well it's fucked up. Everyone's broke enough from smoking his weed. How do you think he gets it everywhere? I was just talking to some girls upstairs who came up from Trinity and they were tryna tell me about the shit.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRAT HOUSE - BACK PATIO

Four cops descend upon the property - one fidgety, the other reporting their location into his radio, the last two trailing behind to antagonize students pissing out back.

CUT TO:

INT. FRAT HOUSE - BASEMENT

ADAM

I'd say that he moves it all by himself but that'd be giving him too much credit. We'll find out who it is eventually.

NNAMDI

Whoever it is, I hope they know he's leaving soon.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. FRAT HOUSE - MAIN PARLOR

The cops bust into the party and tear through the crowd of people. They proceed to grab ahold of Lamont's arms and hoist him out of the house.

CUT TO:

INT. CALL CENTER ACROSS CAMPUS

APRIL MAY, 21 with a snake bite piercing and purple box braids, sits in a cubical, working on a sketch. Headphones in, she begins to hum along to her music without realizing.

LUKE SCOTT, 22, white, casually dressed in sweats, watches her from the adjacent cubical.

LUKE

What are you listening to?

April beckons him to come closer with a come-hither pointer finger. Luke leans in and pushes the right side of his headset towards the back of his head.

She places one of her earbuds in his now free ear. Before she can retract her hand back, he grabs it and presses further into his ear. While their hands lay on top of each other, he clicks away at his mouse unfazed. April pulls away.

LUKE (CONT'D)

You've barely had any calls tonight and everyone that you did talk to gave. How is that?

APRIL

What do you mean "how is that"?

STEVEN YUNTZ, sophomore call center manager at Doddard University Undergraduate Student Fund, pops his head above the cubical walls.

STEVEN

Guys, c'mon!

April lowers into her chair and shifts closer to Luke.

APRIL

I'm good at my job. And I don't control your queue. Go ask Steven about it if you're so mad.

LUKE

I've had at least 10 people demand that I explain to them why their kid didn't get in after they've donated for years. The rest just yelled at me saying they didn't have any goddamn money.

APRIL

Lol. Us in five years.

Luke gets quiet and stares blankly at his screen. April lightly kicks his chair.

APRIL (CONT'D)

I'm just playing, damn. Don't worry, banking's gonna keep you more than good for the next two years.

LUKE

Year and a half.

APRIL

Oh, well excuse me.

LUKE

You know I'm not doing a whole two years of that shit. And I know you're not gonna be able to survive that long without me.

APRIL

Just make sure you don't spend all your money tryna keep up with your friends. I'm not the only one that needs to save for grad school.

LUKE

I think you might wanna save that speech for your cousin.

APRIL

Please, that's a lost cause. I'm serious though. We have to apply together.

LUKE

We will. As far as where we apply? I don't know because I'm not staying here in the cold.

APRIL

Fine, run away to California without me.

LUKE

I said you can't come with me?

APRIL

It's just kind of far.

LUKE

That's the point.

APRIL

That's ok, I know you're not gonna leave me.

(tapping her sketch)

Where else are you gonna draw inspiration from?

LUKE

If you're just gonna end up selling your designs to Doddard anyway, you're gonna have more than just me to worry about.

APRIL

I am not selling them. The plans I showed you last night are going directly to BSU. I made it for them. They've been raising money for that student center since before I got to Doddard. If they actually get it, I want it to be for us.

LUKE

Who is "us"?

Luke's queue moves him onto the next caller.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

ANTHONY STILLWELL, a banker in his mid-50s, sits down on his couch and answers the phone.

MR. STILLWELL

Hey Jack, sorry, I was just about to answer your email. We can probably turn those comments for you in the next hour. That multiple doesn't look great, maybe we should use...

Mistakenly thinking that his boss is on the other end of the phone, Stillwell continues to go on about work.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. CALL CENTER

Confused, Luke transfers his call to April.

APRIL

(mouths to Luke)

Really?

(answers into the phone)

Hello? Mr. Stillwell? Sorry to interrupt, but my name is April and I am calling on behalf of the Doddard University Undergraduate Student Fund. How are you this evening?

INTERCUT APRIL/MR. STILLWELL

MR. STILLWELL

Oh. I'm so sorry, I thought you were somebody else. Wait, who is this?

APRIL

April--April May. I'm a senior at Doddard studying architecture and I'm calling on behalf of the Undergraduate Student Fund.

MR. STILLWELL

April May, huh? Interesting name you got there.

APRIL

Oh thank you. I think my mom was going for that weird celebrity's kid-type name thing. My grandma wasn't too happy.

MR. STILLWELL

Well your grandmother is a smart woman. Names are important. I bet she was happier that your mother chose that than Shaniqua or Ladisha or some other foolishness.

APRIL

My middle name is Yaniqua. One of the things my grandfather hated the most about growing up down South was having to drive down May Street or cut through May Park to get to school. When I was little I thought it was cool that he grew up in a town where a whole street and park were named after him. Until he told me that those things were named after the people that owned us, not him.

(MORE)

APRIL (CONT'D)

My mom wanted her parents' first grandchild to have at least one name that was really their own. My grandma was happiest about that.

MR. STILLWELL

That's a beautiful name. Sounds like you and grandma aren't the only smart ones in the family.

APRIL

Thank you. My cousin Lamont actually goes here, too. He's a senior like me but he's studying political science.

MR. STILLWELL

Oh really? So did I.

APRIL

Yeah, he's had a couple internships on the hill and wants to eventually go to law school.

MR. STILLWELL

That's quite impressive. I'm sure your parents and grandparents are very proud of both of you.

APRIL

Thank you. For the past four years my grandma's been bragging about her grandson who's gonna be a lawyer. Now that we're finally graduating maybe she'll start talking about the both of us.

Stillwell clears his throat.

APRIL (CONT'D)

Well sir, I'm sorry, I don't wanna take up too much of your time but I did want to ask if you might be at all interested in donating to the fund this year? Even a \$10 donation goes a long way.

MR. STILLWELL

Put me down for \$50.

APRIL

Thank you so much! We really appreciate your donation, Mr. Stillwell.

MR. STILLWELL

You can call me Anthony. Now what can I expect from you in the next few years? We've already covered your cousin. What you got?

APRIL

Anthony. Well thank you, Anthony. After graduation I'm going to intern for an urban planning non-profit in D.C. My cousin actually just got a full-time consulting job there too, so I'm glad we'll be close. I wanna go to grad school for planning and design eventually. Maybe go back to where I'm from and work for the city.

MR. STILLWELL

Listen, that's not my field, but if I can help you in any way, don't hesitate to reach out. Here, let me give you my email.

APRIL

Oh don't worry, I already have all your information.
Thesixthstylistic74@gmail.com,
right?

MR. STILLWELL

Oh. Yeah that's me. I should probably change that, huh?

APRIL

No, it's ok! All good...it's memorable. Ok, so if I could just get your credit card number and expiration, that'd be great. What type of card i--

April looks down at her vibrating phone. She sees an incoming call from an unknown number. She tries to ignore it, but then quickly reaches over her desk and picks up.

APRIL (CONT'D)

Hello?

LAMONT (O.S.)

April. It's Lamont.

APRIL

Oh? Hey, what's up. I thought you were going out? You lost your phone again?

She takes her phone away from her ear and scans the "Unknown" on her iPhone screen one more time.

APRIL (CONT'D)

You calling from someone else phone?

LAMONT (O.S.)

Wait, let me talk. I'm at the police station. Call Gramma. Make sure she's sitting down. Can you go to my room and look inside my top drawer? I'ma need some socks.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAY HOUSEHOLD - SEVEN YEARS LATER - MORNING

The door to a modest burgundy house with white trim swings open and reveals a slightly-older April hurrying out of it.

GRAMMA (O.S.)

Baby can you bring me back a Pepsi?!

April stops and takes a few moments to think.

APRIL

Yes!

The door shuts behind her but she barely makes it off the porch before Fatima opens it again.

FATIMA MAY, 26, in black shorts, a red long-sleeved Doddard T-shirt, and red bonnet to match, shouts out one more request.

FATIMA

Oh and some glue if you can find it! Please? For Amaya's project.

When Fatima goes back inside and the door slams closed, April looks back and notices a piece of paper hanging off of it. She grabs it and begins to read in her head.

APRIL (V.O.)

Dear Mrs. May, you are hereby notified that the undersigned intends to foreclose...If the default is not cured by January 1,...

April keeps reading as she gets into her car. When finished, she folds the letter into over and over a few times and then places it in the glove compartment. She speeds out of the driveway.

CUT TO:

INT. MAY HOUSEHOLD - HALLWAY

AMAYA MAY, 8, runs through the hallway and down the stairs, looking for her backpack.

FATIMA

Hey! Stop running through this house like it's a damn racetrack!

Amaya stops at the base of the stairs and turns to face Fatima, sweeping up wads of Kankelon braiding hair off the living room floor.

AMAYA

Sorry, Mommy! We're gonna miss the bus!

FATIMA

I don't care! You're gonna break something. You know how old this house is?

AMAYA

Yes. Because Gramma's always telling us about how Granddad bought this house, built the shed, cut all the grass with them tiny little scissors Gramma use to cut her chin hair--

FATIMA

Aht! Stop! Don't be disrespectful. What Gramma's telling you is not a joke. It's not funny. It's your history. You know they were one of the first Black families to move into this neighborhood?

AMAYA

What's it matter if all the Black people getting kicked out now?

FATIMA

Hey! I don't know why you been so fresh lately. You can talk that way with your Aunt April, but I'm not her. You got it?

AMAYA

Yes.

Amaya proceeds downstairs.

FATIMA

And did you finish that homework?

GRAMMA (O.S.)

I know she better have! And helped her brother, too! Kamal, you finished that math?

KAMAL

Yes, Gramma!

KAMAL MAY, 7, runs to meet Amaya at the bottom of the staircase. They head out the front door together.

CUT TO:

EXT. ACROSS THE STREET

The door to a school bus swings open. Lamont, now in his late 20s, sits in the driver's seat. He waves to his children as they run toward him.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT PORCH

Lamont blows Fatima a kiss from the bus. She catches it, slinks down her shorts a little, and puts it in her panties. Lamont stares. They lock eyes.

GRAMMA (O.S.)

You know your husband's spoiling them, right?

Fatima jolts forward in surprise. GRAMMA, mid 70s, takes a seat on the porch and lights a cigarette.

GRAMMA (CONT'D)
Parking right in front of the house
like that. I know them other kids
mad as hell.

FATIMA
Your grandson didn't see them for
five years. Them other kids can
walk a little for the bus.

INT. SCHOOL BUS

Amaya and Kamal run up the steps, one after the other, to greet Lamont. Amaya goes in for a hug. Lamont scoops her up and kisses her on the forehead.

LAMONT
Hey!

AMAYA
Hi, Daddy.

Lamont stretches his arms out for a hug, but Kamal meets him with a dap.

LAMONT
What's up, man?!

KAMAL
Hey.

Lamont laughs at Kamal trying to be cool. Amaya and Kamal sit in the first row of seats behind Lamont. Lamont greets each kid as they file in. DARIUS, 9, grabs a seat in the back.

DARIUS
Hey Mr. May.

LAMONT
Hey man, how you doing? I see you
hitting that growth spurt early!

Darius turns to face the window so no one can see him blush. He composes himself.

DARIUS
Yeah, well you know.

LAMONT
Yerrr. You excited for fourth
grade?

DARIUS

Yeah I guess...depends. Is Mrs. May still teaching Social Studies?

A few kids laugh. Others look over at Kamal in anticipation.

AMAYA

No, Darius, my mom doesn't have time to sub this year. She's too busy figuring out how to bring back your mom's edges.

The bus erupts in laughter. Lamont slick reaches his hand back to meet Amaya's for a quick high five.

LAMONT

Alright, alright! Calm down! Calm down! But speaking of, be sure to tell y'all moms, sisters, aunties, whoever, to come to my wife for braids, locs, whatever y'all need. She got it. She quick too.

KID 1 (O.S.)

Where at?

LAMONT

Our house. Burgundy one on Clinton.

KID 2 (O.S.)

The one you always stopping in front of?

DARIUS

My dad said weave ain't the only thing sold out y'all house.

KAMAL

What?

Heated, Amaya perks up in her seat.

AMAYA

My auntie said the same thing about your mama's house!

The bus unravels into another round of laughter and further instigation from other kids. Lamont struggles to calm them down again.

LAMONT

Maya. Sit back.

Amaya does as she's told.

LAMONT (CONT'D)

Where'd she go this morning anyway?
I didn't see her on her way out.

KAMAL

I think she had to do the early
shift today.

CUT TO:

INT. APRIL'S CAR - BANK PARKING LOT

April stares into the glass double doors of the bank while
anxiously pressing her phone against her ear.

APRIL

Hey Drew, I can't do the early
shift today.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE SOMEWHERE ACROSS TOWN

DREW TARASEVIDGE, 34, sits in a cramped unorganized office
surrounded by several busy cubicles. The door to his office
reads "CUSTOMER SUPPORT".

INTERCUT APRIL/DREW

DREW

April, you're killing me. This is
the second time this week that
you've dropped a shift.

APRIL

Um...no it's not. I haven't worked
all week.

DREW

Oh. Well we've got a late notice
penalty. If you know you can't show
up for a shift, try not to sign up
in the first place.

APRIL

I didn't know that I wouldn't be
able to make it when I signed up.
I've got an emergency. Can you find
someone else? Maybe the other Black
girl you just confused me with.

CLICK.

CUT TO:

INT. BANK

BANK TELLER

Morning.

APRIL

Hi, good morning, I was wondering if I could speak with Andrea Malvoy? Do you happen to know if she's in yet?

ANDREA MALVOY, mortgage banker in her mid-40s, walks across the shiny black linoleum to her desk.

ANDREA

Morning, April. How can I help you?

APRIL

Hi, Andrea. Could I talk to you for a second?

ANDREA

Sure. Please, have a seat.

April places herself in the chair.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Before we get started, I wanted to say that I'm sorry to hear about the passing of your grandfather. Robert banked with us for so many years. We just wanted to give our condolences to you, your grandmother Dolores, and the rest of the family.

APRIL

Thank you, I appreciate that. It's been a few months, but thank you.

ANDREA

Of course. He always talked about how proud he was of you and your brother.

APRIL

Lamont's my cousin.

ANDREA

Right, of course. Well, let's jump right in. We've been expecting to hear from you or Dolores for quite some time now. We've tried to contact you a number of different ways about your impending foreclosure.

APRIL

I know. I didn't come here to dispute the money that we owe, but our house is all we have.

ANDREA

April, I understand, but there's not much I can do in this situation. Maybe if one of you would have come to us sooner, we could have figured out a payment plan of some sort.

APRIL

I've fallen behind on three other payment plans this month. Adding another won't help.

ANDREA

There's not much I can do at this point. You'll be required to vacate within three days.

APRIL

We've been in this house for 30 years. How do you expect us to pack up and leave in three days?

ANDREA

I'm sorry.

APRIL

What if we came up with half the money in that time?

Andrea takes a deep breath and sighs out her uncertainty.

ANDREA

Well, how would you do that?

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT OF MAY HOUSEHOLD - EARLY EVENING

April pulls into the driveway. She peers inside the house to see Gramma and Fatima laughing and talking as they prepare dinner. April rests her head on the steering wheel.

She shuffles through her socials and sees photos of friends' baby showers, graduations, weddings, etc. As she scrolls down the timeline, she notices a face in a random thumbnail. She clicks on it and a video clip plays:

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT OF GREENER WILDWOOD - DAY

NEWS REPORTER (V.O.)

New Jersey-based Greener has become the cannabis industry's latest unicorn, a moniker given to privately held startups upon reaching a valuation of \$1 billion. Founded by Doddard graduates Luke Scott and Adam Silver just five years ago, Greener grows, distributes, and sells luxury cannabis products, accessories and, most important to its CEO, experiences.

CUT TO:

INT. GREENER WILDWOOD - PARLOR

Luke and the news reporter sit across from each other in armchairs.

NEWS REPORTER (V.O.)

Bayonne native Luke Scott sat down with me to share his secrets to success.

LUKE

Today is definitely a day of celebration but tomorrow it's right back to work.

NEWS REPORTER

So tell me, how did you do it? How do you take Greener from an idea you and your buddy had a few years ago to now all of this?

LUKE
How much time we got?

They both give hearty, yet professional, laughs.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Our lounges are designed to serve our customers. We take pride in not just providing great product but also a great atmosphere to enjoy it in.

NEWS REPORTER
(looks up and around)
This is absolutely gorgeous.

Images of Greener Wildwood pop onto the screen:

- Wall-sized touchscreen menus
- Staggered recessed wall shelves around the perimeter
- A huge glass skylight with an amalgamation of stainless steel rods supporting light shelves descending from it, resembling a tree with branches

LUKE
Thank you. We try to live up to our slogan over there.

The news reporter looks over at an oil painting of a anthropomorphic planet Earth vaping with stunna shades on. He reads aloud:

NEWS REPORTER
"Greenhouse gas welcome". That's hilarious. Talk about that a bit more.

LUKE
That's what I want it to feel like when people come in here. They shouldn't feel like they're walking into just any other dispensary or lounge. It should feel like what it is, a luxury home for the most important plants on Earth.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT OF GREENER WILDWOOD

NEWS REPORTER

Greener is the tri-state area's new obsession and the company expects to continue expanding. Whether you're indulging in a custom pre-roll in the patio garden before a night out on the town or sipping a cannabis-infused cocktail after work, the grass is definitely always greener on this side.

END OF VIDEO.

April closes the app and goes into her email. She searches "Greener" and clicks on an email from NJ Cannabis of Color Connection titled "RSVP for a Chance to Win \$50 Greener Gift Card!". The email reads:

NJ CANNABIS OF COLOR CONNECTION

POP-UP SHOP @ GREENER ATLANTIC CITY

THIS FRIDAY

12P-6p

April looks at today's date on her ATM withdrawal receipt, seeing it matches the date in the email. She shoves it in the glove compartment. After a beat, she takes it back out and looks at the available balance at the bottom.

CUT TO:

INT. GREENER ATLANTIC CITY

The news reporter from the video interviews SOFIA GO, 32, board president of NJ Cannabis of Color Connection, while a small crew films them. The lower third reads "NJCOCC PRESIDENT: DIVERSITY CRUCIAL TO CANNABIS".

April walks in and looks past all the people and signs of the expo to get a better look at the recessed wall shelves, the same ones she saw lining Greener Wildwood in the video clip. She walks up to the registration table beside the register, eyes stuck on the building around her.

NJCOCC MEMBER

Hi there, got your code?

APRIL

My what?

NJCOCC MEMBER

You should've gotten one right
after you RSVP'd.

(to the line behind her)

Let's read the email and have your
code ready, folks!

APRIL

(checks phone)

8766

NJCOCC MEMBER

(hands her a ticket)

Raffle draw starts at 4.

April starts to wander back into the store.

NJCOCC MEMBER (CONT'D)

The panel event is members-only.

Turning back around, April continues to wander until she
looks up and recognizes the skylight, same as the one in the
video. She walks past a few spectators and the producer to
get a better look at it. Without realizing, she gets closer
and closer to the interviewer's area.

NJCOCC MEMBER (CONT'D)

Excuse me! Can somebody please get
her?

Two makeup artists and a first AC stand behind the equipment
chatting over coffee.

FIRST AC

Asking the governor for \$2 million
in grants and calling themselves NJ
Cock.

MAKEUP ARTIST 1

I think it's pronounced NJ Coke?

MAKEUP ARTIST 2

Both worthy causes.

Before April reaches the camera's view, still looking up at
the skylight...

NJCOCC MEMBER

Ma'am! It's members only!

The news reporter, board president, and everyone else in the store stop what they're doing and look over at April. As she turns to leave, she knocks over the studio lighting.

CUT TO:

INT. APRIL'S CAR

April sits in silence.

LAMONT (O.S.)

Yo!

INT. APRIL'S CAR

She looks up and sees Lamont walking up the driveway. He stops in front of the open passenger seat window.

LAMONT

Why you just sitting out here? Long day?

April nods yes.

LAMONT (CONT'D)

I know. Me too. C'mon.

CUT TO:

INT. MAY HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN

Lamont and April file in. Gramma clips coupons at the table while Fatima stands at the counter making Kool-Aid.

LAMONT

Gramma, them salmon cakes smell good!

Lamont wraps his arms around Gramma and hands her a 20z Pepsi out a plastic bag. He goes over to Fatima, gives her a peck, and squeezes her ass.

GRAMMA

I saw that.

Lamont looks back at Gramma.

GRAMMA (CONT'D)

You your daddy's son. I don't need to have my eyes on you to see you.

LAMONT

Thing 1! Thing 2! Where y'all at?

APRIL

(to Gramma)

How was your day? You remembered to take your medicine?

GRAMMA

Yeah I took it.

APRIL

You took the right one for today?

GRAMMA

Yeah.

APRIL

And the right amount?

GRAMMA

Girl, if you don't leave me be!

APRIL

I'm sorry. Just making sure.

GRAMMA

Your grandfather had the same thing I got and I took care of him since before you was born. I don't need no doctor telling me how to take care of myself now.

APRIL

Well Granddad's not here to co-sign your nursing skills so I think we should just listen to the doctor.

Gramma finally looks up at April.

APRIL (CONT'D)

Sorry.

GRAMMA

What happened to that piece of paper on the door this morning?

APRIL

You saw it?

GRAMMA

Well I saw it hanging on the door, but you took it, remember, so I ain't read it. What it say?

APRIL
Gramma, it said tha--

Amaya walks into the kitchen.

AMAYA
Gramma, you seen my glue?

GRAMMA
Here you go, baby. Say "thank you Auntie".

AMAYA
Thank you, Aunt April.

APRIL
What you need glue for anyway?

AMAYA
My diorama. My teacher said that we have to make our favorite place on Earth and write a story about it.

GRAMMA
So what you making?

AMAYA
This!

Amaya lifts her arms up to the ceiling and twirls around in a circle.

GRAMMA
Is that right? This old creaky house is your favorite place in the whole world?

AMAYA
Yup! It is old. And creaky. And dusty. But--

GRAMMA
I ain't say nothing 'bout dusty.

FATIMA (O.S.)
(from the living room)
Perhaps there's a certain young lady that could clean it!

APRIL
But what, Maya?

AMAYA

It's got all my favorite people in it.

GRAMMA

Lord, you hear this child?

AMAYA

(to April)

Can I use some of your pencils?

APRIL

For your project? No, you don't need those for that. Use the ones in that drawer over there.

AMAYA

No, it's for me. You said if I draw every day I'll get better, right?

APRIL

I did. You can use mine for now until I can buy you your own.

GRAMMA

You need to talk to your Aunt April about that project. She knows all about designing buildings and things. That's what she went to school for you know.

AMAYA

Yes, Gramma, I know. You always tell everybody that.

GRAMMA

Well it's true!

Gramma lovingly whacks April on the shoulder and gets up from the table to start cleaning up.

APRIL

(to Amaya)

Where's your dad?

CUT TO:

EXT. MAY HOUSEHOLD - FRONT PORCH - EVENING

April walks onto the porch and finds Lamont nursing a beer in a white plastic chair.

LAMONT

Thanks for the glue. How much was it?

APRIL

It's just glue. Don't worry about it.

LAMONT

Come here for a minute.

April sits down in the chair next to his.

LAMONT (CONT'D)

I know I haven't been much help with the house, but it's not gonna be like that for long. I see everything you do for Amaya and Kamal. When I get a few more things together, I'm not gonna forget. Ok?

APRIL

Ok. Good. Because we're gonna lose this house if we don't come up with \$50,000 in three days.

LAMONT

What you mean?

APRIL

I went to the bank today and they need at least half the money we owe them. If we don't get it to them in three days, they're gonna kick us out.

LAMONT

Hold up, how do we owe them that much?

APRIL

That's kind of what happens when you don't pay your mortgage.

LAMONT

Why's this the first time I'm hearing about this?

APRIL

It's not exactly top secret information.

LAMONT

Well I ain't know it was that serious. Why didn't you say anything? Between the kids and Fatima trying to get her salon, we don't have time to be asking you about no fucking mortgage!

APRIL

Fatima is the one starting a salon, not you, so don't use her as your excuse! And how I'm gonna ask you for some money that I know you don't have?

LAMONT

I don't make shit driving that bus every morning, but I'd drive eight others if it meant seeing my kids that much more. If you wanna blame my best, do that. But don't act like it's nothing.

APRIL

I never said it was! But it's not enough. And neither is mine.

LAMONT

Right. Well, now that we both got all that out, how do we fix this?

APRIL

I don't fucking know, Lamont. If I did, we wouldn't have just had an argument about it.

LAMONT

This ain't our first time being broke. We've had bills that we can't pay before. We'll figure out how to pay this one.

APRIL

This ain't no regular bill. This is Granddad's house.

LAMONT

Well did you ask Gramma? Maybe we should have her go to the bank and talk to them. They might--

APRIL

They might what? Feel even more sorry for us and not kick us out?

(MORE)

APRIL (CONT'D)

I don't know if you've noticed, but Gramma can barely move on her own now. I can't just ask her to come fix everything like how she does for you.

LAMONT

Gramma ain't ask you to move back and try to take care of all of us. If I can't use Fatima as my excuse, don't use Gramma as yours.

APRIL

That's 'cause you can't ask someone to do something like that. You expect it of them.

LAMONT

We grew up in this house like twins. Whenever I see Mal and Maya arguing or running up and down the street, I think of me and you. Fighting over the remote, fighting over food, fighting other kids for each other. I've known you all your life. But I don't know what it feels like to have people expect shit from you. I know everything getting dumped on you ain't right. But it don't feel much better when nobody looks for your help either. I fucked up and trusted people that I shouldn't have. And now I gotta teach my son how to be the man that I don't know how to be.

Lamont sets down his beer, stands up, and heads toward the front door.

LAMONT (CONT'D)

I'm gonna tell Fatima what's going on. I'll let you know if we come up with anything.

He goes inside. April picks up his beer and finishes it.

CUT TO:

INT. MAY HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - LATER THAT EVENING

Lamont stands at the kitchen counter eating a salmon cake. April enters.

APRIL
Was that the last one?

LAMONT
Nah, here.

Lamont reached into the refrigerator and pulls out the Tupperware that contains the rest of them. He hands it to April. She gets out a plate and pops one into the microwave.

APRIL
You're not the only one who trusted people you shouldn't have.

LAMONT
Really? Your friend snitched on you and got you locked up, too?

APRIL
Our friend.

LAMONT
What?

APRIL
Luke is rich?

LAMONT
Luke who?

APRIL
Luke Scott. I don't know if you remember Luke, but me and him were close. Probably closer than you and him.

LAMONT
Stop. You don't have to talk about what you did with him. He woulda fucked the dean if she let 'em, so we get it. You don't have to go into detail.

APRIL
Fuck you. Honestly.

LAMONT
I'm just saying.

APRIL
Are you gonna let me talk?

LAMONT
Go.

APRIL

Luke Scott is fucking rich and he owes us some of that money.

LAMONT

What you saying?

APRIL

You know Greener? It's like a lil' chain of dispensary lounges or something.

LAMONT

I stay clear of them shits. I don't need my PO fucking with me, you know that.

APRIL

It's Luke's company and he's making a shit ton of money. I just saw it today on the news. Mont, he ripped off my designs. Damn near every detail.

LAMONT

Great, so then let's go rob them for the money they owe.

The microwave dings finished with a loud "BEEP". April takes her plate out the microwave and proceeds to dig in as she stares back at Lamont.

LAMONT (CONT'D)

Stop looking at me like that's what you was thinking.

APRIL

You've known me all my life, right?

LAMONT

April, how am I gonna even think about doing some shit like that?

APRIL

You talked to Fatima, right? What'd you two think of?

LAMONT

Not this!

APRIL

It's not the best option, but when have we ever had that?

LAMONT

Never. But does that mean we turn into Bonnie and Clyde?

APRIL

Ew, please don't say that. Bonnie and Clyde were married.

LAMONT

Nigga, you know what I mean! I'm not doing it. I'll be the first one packing Gramma's shit out of here if it comes to that.

APRIL

Well start with her jewelry because I'm doing this with or without you.

LAMONT

I'm not going back to jail.

APRIL

You won't. I thought of how we're gonna do this ever since I saw that muthufucka on the news.

LAMONT

This place was just on the news and you want us to rob it?

APRIL

Do you remember that student center that BSU wanted? Back at Doddard?

LAMONT

What the fuck are you talking about? What is your plan on how to not to get us killed? They're not gonna just hand us the money.

APRIL

We go in pretending to be customers and then go out the roof.

LAMONT

What the fuck is that, a haiku?

April takes out her phone and pulls up Greener's Instagram page.

APRIL

We climb up the walls using the recessed shelves as holds.

(MORE)

APRIL (CONT'D)

Once we make it up there to those light shelves, we shimmy ourselves up each level until we reach the top and then slip out the roof. All their locations are still at limited capacity. It shouldn't take too long to clear them out or at least blindfold the six or so customers that'll be in there. Dispensaries aren't able to deposit their money into banks, so most store their cash in safes and lockboxes. It'll be heavy, but we can carry them in duffle bags on the way up. I showed Luke the designs I drew up for BSU. Greener is what that center should have been.

LAMONT

Why didn't BSU take it? Or if they did, how come nobody's noticed Greener looks exactly like it?

APRIL

When you left halfway through senior year, I stopped going to all the organizing meetings. I never shared with them what I finished. Only Luke saw. But I know every shelf, beam, and window in there. I'm not asking you to come with me. I came in here to let you know what I'm bouta do.

LAMONT

Fine. Go off and get yourself killed. Or locked up. See if you can handle it better than me.

Lamont gets up and begins to storm out of the kitchen.

APRIL

I know I couldn't because I wouldn't have you in there with me.

LAMONT

What makes you so sure we can do this?

APRIL

I'm not. But I have to try.

April gets up from the table, drops her plate in the sink, and stands toe-to-toe with Lamont.

APRIL (CONT'D)
If you're coming, meet me in the driveway at 5am with the pistol you hide in your sock drawer.

CUT TO:

INT. FATIMA AND LAMONT'S BEDROOM

Lamont stares out the window, looking down at the driveway.

FATIMA (O.S.)
You waiting for somebody?

LAMONT
Huh? Oh, my fault.

He slides back into bed next to Fatima while she lights their nightly Black & Mild.

FATIMA
What's wrong with April?

LAMONT
Why you say that?

FATIMA
Because she didn't eat all night. Now it's 11 and y'all got the Tupperware out. What's up?

LAMONT
We in a little situation right now, but I got it taken care of.

FATIMA
What's a little?

LAMONT
An amount you shouldn't worry about.

FATIMA
It's the house again.

LAMONT
We'll get the money.

FATIMA
How?

They're interrupted by a loud "BUMP".

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. AMAYA AND GRAMMA'S BEDROOM

Amaya lifts herself off the ground after having fallen off the step stool. She regains her balance and returns to pressing her ear against the wall to eavesdrop.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. FATIMA AND LAMONT'S BEDROOM

FATIMA

Amaya?!

LAMONT

Stop, let her sleep.

FATIMA

You know she sleep walks?

LAMONT

Yes, I know. We gotta figure out a way to keep her out the fridge late at night. Kamal got practice tomorrow. I'll hide the oranges.

FATIMA

Our daughter can't tell if she's asleep or awake because she has to do her fucking homework by candlelight. Maya can't just go out there and punch out all her pain. Don't ignore it just because she's not telling you.

LAMONT

The lights are back on.

FATIMA

And now we have to worry about the house.

LAMONT

Tima, what you telling me that I don't already know?

FATIMA

That Amaya's not ok. None of us are.

(MORE)

FATIMA (CONT'D)

And it's not just about the house.
Did you reach out to the lawyer
yet?

LAMONT

I forgot.

FATIMA

You didn't forget. You didn't do
it.

LAMONT

Because why should I?

FATIMA

To try and get your charges
cleared. They've been talking about
legalizing weed for how long? You
need to call Martin. Maybe he can
help.

LAMONT

He could have helped me when I was
21 trying to beat a five-year
sentence.

FATIMA

You had a bad lawyer. Had you not
gotten locked up, you would have
gone on to be a much better one. A
great one. And I'm sorry about
that, but I don't have only you to
hurt for anymore. I don't know if
they'll be able to clear your
record, but isn't it worth a shot?

Lamont walks over to his sock drawer and takes out a skinny
clip of money. He puts it in Fatima's hands and plants a
long, firm kiss on her lips. As he walks out the door:

FATIMA (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

LAMONT

Go get Maya. Let her sleep with you
tonight.

Just as Lamont shuts the door behind him, Fatima tries to
throw the money at him. She missed and it lands in the trash
can.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT OF MAY HOUSEHOLD - EARLY MORNING/BEFORE SUNRISE

April loads up her car with some days worth of clothes and supplies for the journey ahead. Lamont walks up to the driveway with a single backpack.

APRIL

You packed what you need?

LAMONT

No. But I'm not really able to carry common sense in a bag, so here I am.

April and Lamont get into the car and drive off.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE SPACE NEAR CAPE MAY - EARLY MORNING

Luke and Adam, now in their late 20s, pass by each other in the hallway.

LUKE

Sup.

ADAM

Hey!

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - OPEN FLOOR OF DESKS

Luke greets everyone by name, from the secretaries to the suits. Adam ducks into different employees' cubicles asking about work.

CUT TO:

INT. LUKE & ADAM'S SHARED OFFICE

Adam works away at his standing desk while Luke draws doodles on the dry erase board.

ADAM

How was that interview last week?

LUKE

What interview?

ADAM

The like 30th one you forgot to tell me about.

LUKE

I can't wait for you to approve every interview I do.

ADAM

A text would have been nice.

LUKE

You're the fucking COO. Why do I have to be the one to tell you about this shit? Ask one of the 50 people you've hired this past month. I'm trying to grow us. We need to be on every feed and platform out there.

ADAM

Well now that you mention it.

LUKE

No, not now. We spent all last week on this and I haven't changed my mind.

ADAM

You didn't even let me finish.

LUKE

Don't have to. I know what you're going to say. And you already know what I'm going to say. No.

ADAM

Taking this company public is what's going to grow us. Come to New York with me today.

LUKE

For what?

ADAM

Me and Dan have a few bank meetings lined up. You should join us.

LUKE

I didn't start this with you just to sell it off to some investors. They have no idea, nor interest in, what it's taken us to get here.

(MORE)

LUKE (CONT'D)

I know you think all the press and influencers and interviews is bullshit, but I'm building a brand. Not some fucking retirement plan. If you're not on board with that anymore, let me know, alright?

ADAM

Alright. But the meetings are already booked. Don't you want to be there to at least tell them no?

CUT TO:

INT. APRIL'S CAR

April drives while Lamont looks out the window.

APRIL

You said goodbye to Fatima and the kids?

LAMONT

Yeah.

APRIL

I hugged them while they were sleeping and wrote Fatima a letter. It's on y'all dresser.

LAMONT

What about Gramma?

APRIL

What did you say?

An awkward silence.

LAMONT

I didn't say goodbye. I couldn't tell her what we're doing.

APRIL

Me neither. That just means we both have to come back alive now.

April reaches over and flips open the glove compartment. There's a small handgun inside with a few stray bullets scattered around.

APRIL (CONT'D)

Here. Finish loading this one up.

Lamont looks inside. He reaches in and begins loading.

LAMONT

How do you know all the Greeners
are built like this?

APRIL

If he's lazy enough to steal my
design, he's probably lazy enough
to copy paste it across the state.

LAMONT

You think he'll be there?

APRIL

Who? Luke? I mean, hopefully not,
right? Probably don't wanna run
into the CEO of the company we're
robbing.

LAMONT

We need to get gas before we get on
the road.

CUT TO:

EXT. DINER NEAR WILDWOOD - PARKING LOT - MORNING

Luke and Adam get into the car.

LUKE

If we're gonna do this little road
trip, I'm gonna have to choose
where we eat.

ADAM

What's wrong with the food here? I
thought you would have appreciated
the down-homeness of it all.

LUKE

Just because you choose a place
that doesn't serve caviar and
crumpets or whatever the fuck rich
people eat doesn't mean that I'm
gonna like it.

ADAM

Nope, not what I meant at all. I--

LAMONT

It's fine. Just don't take us to anymore places where the sauce tastes like ketchup.

ADAM

Don't they both come from tomatoes?

Luke puts his seatbelt on while Adam examines a receipt. He shoves it back into his pocket.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Here, lemme have yours. You pick the restaurants, I'll keep track of the receipts.

Luke pulls the receipt out his pocket and skims it before handing it over.

LUKE

Wait a second, I think this is yours. You must have mine.
(takes closer look)
Why did you tip the waitress like two pennies?

ADAM

You just said you hated your food.

LUKE

Well she wasn't the one that cooked it. It's a shitty restaurant.

ADAM

She'll live without my tip.

LUKE

Come on, Adam's apple, that's not what you want the girls to say.

Adam flips Luke off.

ADAM

You can't keep living in the past, man.

LUKE

What are you talking about?

ADAM

I'm talking about how you're not working in that basement of a call center anymore.

(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

You don't have to worry about shit like tips, or anyone else's for that matter. We've worked hard for what we have, too? Don't forget to enjoy it.

LUKE

By the way, Doddard Dialers didn't allow us to get tips and we weren't in the basement. We were neighbors to the illustrious indecent exposure community of the grad school commons.

ADAM

My sincere apologies, pardon my ignorance. Didn't Dean Fletcher try to renovate some basement in the senior towers that one year?

LUKE

You mean that year he got fired for asking that girl to Freshman Formal?

ADAM

Shit, that's right. He left right before winter break and the athletic center he was trying to build down there never got finished. Then BSU got into that big fight with the Ad Board because they wanted that space for their club. Gridlocked the entire campus for hours.

LUKE

It was a peaceful protest of 20 and a pregame of about five.

ADAM

I never knew why they wanted it so bad anyway. Even after all those renovations, it's still a basement. They would've literally needed to have hired somebody to make it look like anything else.

CUT TO:

EXT. GREENER CHERRY HILL PARKING LOT - MORNING

April and Lamont sit in her car while she scrolls through the Greener Cherry Hill menu on her phone.

LAMONT

We can't afford none of this shit.

APRIL

These charges not hitting my account until tomorrow, so that's when I'll worry about it.

April adds several items to her cart.

LAMONT

What you getting all that for?

APRIL

I'm buying you enough time to find the safe. While the people up front help me pick out all this shit, you search the back. Simple. Ok?

CUT TO:

INT. GREENER CHERRY HILL PARKING LOT

NNAMDI

Is that who I think it is? April?
April Mays?

APRIL

No, I--. Yeah, it's me. May. No "s".

NNAMDI

Oh that's right, my bad. How have you been? Come on in. You guys beat everybody to the punch today, huh?

Lamont speed walks through the empty store all the way to the back.

NNAMDI (CONT'D)

Hey, excuse me. Sir!

APRIL

It's ok! He's just looking for the bathroom. Bowel issues. Sorry in advance. But, yeah I've been good. Just buying weed!

NNAMDI

Awesome.

APRIL

What are you doing here? I would've thought you moved back to Atlanta by now.

NNAMDI

I was down there for a little bit trying to get my restaurant up and running, but it didn't work out. Then out of nowhere I get a call from Luke Scott--You remember Luke?

INTERCUT LAMONT/APRIL & NNAMDI

Lamont bumps into some metal shelving and knocks over a box of melting chocolate edibles. He grimaces at the smell of mold as he heads into a makeshift office.

APRIL

Ye--I think so.

NNAMDI

I think you were in the architecture school with him, right?

APRIL

What do you mean with him?

NNAMDI

What?

APRIL

Sorry, yes. Yes, I was.

NNAMDI

Right. Anyway, he called me up and asked if I wanted to manage all of Greener's New Jersey stores. Budtending can't be that different than bartending, so I said "fuck it" and here I am. The new Head of Operations, or whatever my title is this week. I gotta tell him I saw you.

He whips out his phone.

APRIL

No! Don't call him right now.

NNAMDI

I'm not.

APRIL

Oh.

NNAMDI

Just texting one of our staff.
These guys are always late.

While searching through the office for the safe, Lamont sees said late employee unlock the back door.

APRIL

La--mar! Lamar, hurry up!
(to Nnamdi)
We gotta head out soon.

NNAMDI

No problem, I'll ring you up over here.

APRIL

Thanks. There are Greeners outside Jersey?

NNAMDI

Not yet, but soon. I'm counting on it. You remember Lamont?

APRIL

My cousin? No, what did he look like?

NNAMDI

Oh shit, I forgot you guys were cousins. I was just gonna say, Lamont wasn't lying. He used to tell us there wasn't shit out here and he was right! Soon as we open up in Philly, I'm gone.

They both hear a loud crash off-screen. Nnamdi looks to the back and starts to walk towards the noise. April thinks of a quick excuse to stop him.

APRIL

Sorry, no, he's fine. Really. Hit the pen a little too much before coming here.

NNAMDI

Got you. So what have you been up to since being back here?

APRIL

Working wherever's hiring. I moved back a few months after graduation. I held out for like a year trying to find something in planning or design, but it didn't work out.

NNAMDI

Yeah, Luke told me a lot of people in your class ended up having to move back home, too.

APRIL

Yep. Except him.

Lamont struggles the employee to the ground.

NNAMDI

I don't know if there's a need to build anything out here but I guess we've got folks like you to worry about that. Also, sorry if this is weird to ask, but how's Lamont doing? It's too bad what happened with him and, you know. Tell him to give me a call. We might be able to find something for him at Greener.

LAMONT (O.S.)

You can tell me yourself.

Nnamdi turns around to see Lamont standing in the doorway, a gun in one hand and two cashboxes in the other. The Greener employee, eyes taped shut and torso tied to a computer chair, pedals himself out the back.

LAMONT (CONT'D)

Sorry, Nnam.

April takes hold of the first few shelves she sees and starts shimmying herself up. Lamont follows behind her, struggling with the bags in tow. Once they reach the top, April unlocks the skylight latch and they proceed out the roof.

CUT TO:

INT. APRIL'S CAR

Lamont steadily books it down I-95.

APRIL

Were you friends with him?

LAMONT

Who, Nnamdi? Sort of. Why, what'd he say to you in there?

APRIL

That you said where we from ain't shit.

LAMONT

Never said that.

APRIL

Well you said enough to make him think that's what you meant.

LAMONT

And would I be wrong? Look around.

APRIL

I've been here, I don't have to look around. I never thought I'd go from my name being "Lamont's cousin" to people not remembering we're related. But hearing you now, I shouldn't be surprised.

CUT TO:

INT. LUKE'S CAR

Adam drives while Luke answers emails on his phone.

LUKE

Just answer me this. Am I allowed to have any type of fun on this trip? And if not, why?

ADAM

All I'm asking is that you focus on the task at hand.

LUKE

Jesus fucking Christ, it's one fucking pit stop in Atlantic City.

ADAM

This isn't just a "trip". I'm trying to close a deal and would appreciate your participation.

LUKE

If these banks are as excited as you say they are, aren't we already set? We need to be fucking celebrating.

ADAM

After the meetings.

LUKE

I know you're already rich and this isn't as exciting for you, but do you mind letting me actually enjoy this?

ADAM

I'm a part of this company because I want to be. That rich family that you're always busting my balls about? They've helped us get these meetings. And your interviews. I got my dad to help us get our first investment. He might've said yes after you pitched him for five minutes at dinner, but that was after a month of me buttering him up. Even after all the shit you got into senior year. It couldn't have been easy for him to do you a second huge favor, especially since that's two more than he's ever given...You know what, nevermind. Just don't talk shit to me about not being excited for this.

LUKE

Adam, you're the only person I know that had their dad get them a job at a company that didn't even exist yet.

Luke looks down at his vibrating pocket. He takes out his phone and answers it on speaker.

LUKE (CONT'D)

What up, Nnam.

CUT TO:

INT. GREENER CHERRY HILL - OFFICE

Nnamdi paces back and forth across his ransacked office while the employee ices his face.

NNAMDI

Hey buddy, how's it goin'. We've got a bit of an issue over here.

INTERCUT NNAMDI/LUKE

LUKE

If it's that motherfucking reporter snooping around again, I swear to God I'm bringing those fuckers to court.

NNAMDI

No, it's not that. We got robbed. They cleaned us out. I'm fine, though.

LUKE

Is the safe fine? Are the records fine? Did I ask if you were fucking fine?

NNAMDI

They had a gun!

LUKE

Just stay there. Don't leave.

Luke hangs up.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Change of plans. We need to go to Cherry Hill.

ADAM

We can't just drive there and fucking hunt them down. What about New York?

LUKE

You can go wherever you want when we get to Cherry Hill. I'm going to my store. Get on 70 West.

ADAM

Let's just calm down. This happened to my dad's shop last summer. I can call him up and ask wh--

LUKE

No! Why do you always have to go running to him? If that's what you wanna do, go ahead, but leave me out of it.

(MORE)

LUKE (CONT'D)

I didn't ask for his help back at Doddard and I'm not asking for it now.

ADAM

You didn't ask, but you took it. And when you told me about that subpoena shit with Lamont, you didn't have to ask. There was a reason you never went home during Break. I still don't know what it is, but it's probably the same reason you didn't ask your parents for help. My dad is 20 years away from my being thrown in a home. The least he can do is help somebody else's kid, if not his own.

LUKE

I don't know any of your family shit either. Unlike you, I've got nothing against your dad, but we're not calling him. Lamont may have gotten us caught back then, but if he woulda gotten in on this shit with me now, he wouldn't be telling me to go to New York.

CUT TO:

INT. GREENER TRENTON

VANESSA GRAHAM, 31, enters with her AirPods in, a freshly-poofted pineapple atop her head, and sculpted edges. She stops to chat with JAMES NORTON, 43, security guard.

VANESSA

Morning, James!

JAMES

Hey darling. How you doing?

VANESSA

Tired as hell.

JAMES

Go drink something from behind that counter back there. I'm sure they probably got something that'll wake you up.

VANESSA

Damn, James. We don't sell coke.

JAMES

Not yet.

Vanessa continues greeting her co-workers. On her way to the break room she pauses in the doorway of the main office. She wanders in and looks around at the plaques and expensive furniture.

MATT VERRICO, 35, Greener Trenton's manager, approaches the doorway in a white polo shirt with a noticeable orange stain on it. He stands and watches Vanessa for a bit.

MATT

Pretty cute, huh?

Startled, Vanessa turns towards the door and now faces Matt.

MATT (CONT'D)

(points to framed photo)

My kid. That's my daughter Sadie.
Just turned two last month. God,
they're motherfuckers at this age,
aren't they?

VANESSA

My goddaughter was awful at 2.
Honestly, she still is.

MATT

Praying mine grows out of it. You
have some of your own too, right? I
saw you and your boyfriend cleaning
out your car seat in the parking
lot the other day.

VANESSA

Oh, no actually--

MATT

Sorry - husband.

VANESSA

I was gonna say that I don't have
kids. I babysit a lot.

MATT

Oh.

VANESSA

And me and him actually aren't
together anymore.

MATT

I'm sor--

VANESSA

It's fine. Sorry I was in your office. I was looking for you to get your credit card. I was gonna run across the street to get some donuts. Team needs a morale booster.

MATT

Of course, here you go. Jelly's my favorite. Don't forget the receipt.

Matt hands her the card. She takes it and goes to leave out the back.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK DOOR/ALLEYWAY

When the door swings open, she sees Lamont staring back at her. He picks her up and flings her over his shoulder.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEARBY EMPTY LOADING DOCK

Lamont puts Vanessa back down on her feet, but still restrains her arms from behind. She fights back.

APRIL

What the fuck! You said you were gonna case the building. Why the fuck you bringing one of them back here?

LAMONT

Here, take her!

Lamont pushes Vanessa into April. April catches her but Vanessa quickly breaks away. Taking a few steps back, she takes Matt's credit card out of her pocket and holds it up for them to see.

APRIL

We don't want your money.

Vanessa stuffs the card back into her pocket. She glares at Lamont, then looks over at April. She rushes April and slams her against the car. April's gun falls out of her holster and onto the ground. Vanessa grabs the gun and points it at them.

LAMONT

Easy!

VANESSA

Yeah it was! The fuck kind of burglars are y'all? Get the fuck on the ground!

They do as they're told.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

I'm not tryna shoot you, but I will if I have to. Now get in y'all raggedy ass car and get the fuck out of here.

LAMONT

We can't do that.

Vanessa tightens her grip and focuses the gun on Lamont.

APRIL

Please.

CUT TO:

INT. DONUT SHOP

The three of them sit at a booth; Vanessa on one side, April and Lamont on the other. Vanessa eats a donut as she watches them from across the table.

VANESSA

Alright, talk.

LAMONT

We--

VANESSA

No. Let her go.

APRIL

Well...

April looks over at Lamont for help but he just shrugs.

APRIL (CONT'D)

We came here to rob your dispensary.

LAMONT

Jesus.

VANESSA

It's not my dispensary. I just work there.

LAMONT

Well yeah, we know that.

VANESSA

What is that supposed to mean? How do you know I just work there? You don't know me.

LAMONT

Calm down. I didn't me--

APRIL

(to Vanessa)

What's your name? We didn't get your name.

VANESSA

Why you need it?

APRIL

We talking, right?

VANESSA

Vanessa.

APRIL

I'm April. This is Lamont. He didn't mean to assume anything about you. We actually *know* know the owner of Greener. Like of all the Greeners. We went to school with Luke Scott.

VANESSA

Well shit, if you went to school with him, what you robbing him for? Don't y'all have money, too?

LAMONT

If we did, do you think we'd be here talking to you?

APRIL

(to Lamont)

Shut up.

(to Vanessa)

Me and my family are getting evicted. We don't have anywhere else to go.

(MORE)

APRIL (CONT'D)

We need a bunch of money to pay off our house and I don't know where else to get it.

LAMONT

(to April)

No, stop.

(to Vanessa)

We're not giving you our life story.

APRIL

We gotta tell her something.

LAMONT (CONT'D)

I told you I'm not going back to jail for this s--

VANESSA

You got a record and you pulling this shit? Can't say y'all not determined.

APRIL

We need you to help us clear everyone out of Greener.

VANESSA

I can't do that. I'm sorry about your situation. I've been there myself, but I'm just trying to survive. Just like y'all.

Vanessa gets up to leave. As she walks out, she reaches into her pocket for her phone. When she whips around to go back inside and get it, she sees Lamont standing in front of her.

LAMONT

Just surviving is what got us here. Something tells me that's what still has you here, too.

He offers her the phone with a small stack of money underneath. She takes it and reads a text from Matt: "Back with donuts yet? Leave receipt on desk, going for lunch early".

CUT TO:

INT. GREENER TRENTON - BREAK ROOM

LAMONT

How long is he usually out for?

VANESSA

You never know with him. Could be another 30 minutes. Could be two hours.

APRIL

Lock the door up front.

CUT TO:

INT. GREENER TRENTON - MAIN PARLOR

SHARONDA, janitor in her 30s or 40s, mops up a puddle of coffee outside of Matt's office. LENOXX, 25, budtender, tends to some jars on the bottom shelves.

SHARONDA

(to Vanessa)

What's up?

James clutches the gun on his waist. Lamont reaches for his.

JAMES

Nessa, who these two friends of yours?

VANESSA

It's ok, James. They're ok.

LAMONT

We didn't come here to hurt anybody.

LENOXX

Coulda fucking fooled me. James, what's going on? I saw you almost pat down Matt the other day. What's happening with these two?

JAMES

Hold up now, they haven't done anything.

LENOXX

Yet. This is the second time we've gotten stuck up this month. How long do y'all think it's gonna be before they start having to let some of us go?

LAMONT

Well you just said it yourself. You're not waiting on me to get you out of here. You wake up at the crack of dawn to warm up your car and kiss your kids good night and goodbye until the next time you see them. And for what? To stil choose between a week without lights or hot water? All while knowing you can get laid off whenever, like you never lifted a fucking finger.

JAMES

Speak for yourself. Ain't nobody struggling to keep nothing on in my house.

APRIL

Congratulations. Do you know how much this company is worth? Better yet, do you know how much your CEO makes a year?

VANESSA

(to the small crowd)
Matt?

Lamont turns his gaze to Vanessa. She clears her throat to signal to him that he should continue.

LAMONT

This shit is worth \$1 billion. I'm not here because I wanna stop you from feeding your family. I'm barely looking at y'all because I'm thinking about my mother looking down at me. But those \$50 Supreme ashtrays staring at me from over there is making it a little easier. I spent five years in a cage while Luke Scott got rich from doing the same fucking thing. You don't have to help us, but I'm gonna need y'all to look the other way. My mom's eyes are enough.

April takes out her pistol.

APRIL

Y'all got 30 seconds.

VANESSA

Lenoxx, you talk to Matt yet about that manager position in Deptford?

LENOXX

No. Why?

VANESSA

These two know some things about this place that we don't. You might wanna listen.

LENOXX

Vanessa, I don't know what you're up to this time but leave us out of it. In case you forgot, me and Sharonda have records. Not all of us can hold that accounting shit over everyone's head. We applied to this location for the same reason you did. Trenton likes to hire past offenders and sob stories like yourself because it makes Greener look good. They might have hired me for a photo op but that's not all I'm getting out of them. Save the scamming for that dispensary in your head.

VANESSA

There is no manager position, Len. There never was. They gave it to somebody they already know. So bring up my past shit all you want. Doesn't change the fact that even after all that scamming, you're still in the same spot as me.

Lenoxx deflates. James grabs his shoulder for support.

JAMES

Let's go get some air. C'mon Sharonda, let's go.

SHARONDA

Go where?

APRIL

Anywhere but here.

VANESSA

Everybody go in different directions. Can't be walking out of here like we're in a parade.

SHARONDA

Nobody go down 6th. I'm walking
that way to go pick up my kids.

April mouths "thank you" to Vanessa. James leads the charge
out the front door. Vanessa takes one last look at Lamont
before exiting. April clocks it.

LAMONT

C'mon!

Lamont springs into action. April remains standing where she
is.

LAMONT (CONT'D)

What are you doing? We gotta move.
You heard her. We don't know when
he's coming back.

APRIL

Then I guess you'd better start
looking for the safe instead of
looking at her ass.

April leaves Lamont standing there while she goes off to
search on her own.

CUT TO:

INT. MATT'S OFFICE

Lamont looks for the safe. April wanders in and stares at a
row of framed staff photos on the wall. Vanessa stands next
to the lone white man manager in each one.

VANESSA (O.S.)

I'm in.

April turns around and sees Vanessa in the doorway. Vanessa
walks in and starts helping them look through the office.

APRIL

What are you in? Besides the middle
of a crime scene that you were
trying to stop an hour ago?

Lamont looks up from behind Matt's desk and struggles to
stand up among the mess he's made.

LAMONT

What are you doing here?

VANESSA

I work here.

LAMONT

Which is why you can't stay. Thanks for helping us clear out but we got it from here.

VANESSA

I don't know what you got over there, but I came back to help her find the safe.

CUT TO:

EXT. FEW BLOCKS AWAY FROM GREENER TRENTON

Sharonda speed walks down the street with her head down and earbuds in. Matt spots her from the crosswalk a few feet away. He jogs to meet up with her before she passes him.

MATT

(waves hands)

Hey, hey!

SHARONDA

Oh hi! Sorry.

MATT

No worries. Shameeka, right?

SHARONDA

Sharonda.

MATT

Goddamn it, that's right. I'm sorry. You don't have a nickname, do you?

SHARONDA

No. I'm actually on my way to my kid--

MATT

That's actually why I wanted to stop you. I was wondering where you were going.

SHARONDA

I'll be right back. I'm just picking up my kids. They had a half day at school today.

(MORE)

SHARONDA (CONT'D)

I also wanted to get a good walk
in, so perfect timing.

Sharonda tries to scurry off but Matt continues on with her.

MATT

While I was on my drive, I saw at
least five of you walking away from
the store. Do you know where
everyone's headed?

SHARONDA

You sure you saw them? I think I
might have seen Vanessa go out for
coffee a little bit before me, but
the others should all be back at
Greener. I don't know if you've
noticed, but I've been doing a lot
of overtime lately, so I haven't
seen my kids all week. I'll be back
soon.

MATT

I've managed teams twice the size
of this group. I think I can
recognize a few of you walking down
the street.

SHARONDA

Have they been Black?

CUT TO:

INT. MATT'S OFFICE

Lamont looks at his reflection in the large wall mirror.

LAMONT

Does he use this as a dressing
room, too?

April feels Lamont's eyes on her but doesn't turn to face
him.

APRIL

Stop looking at me like that.

LAMONT

You done being mad at me?

APRIL

No. But I liked your speech.

April stares at the peculiar-looking right side of the mirror frame. She leans forward and grabs at what she now sees is a handle to a hidden walk-in safe. When she pulls, it locks tighter and a keypad lights up in red.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. MATT'S OFFICE - FEW MOMENTS LATER

Lamont raises his pointer finger up to the keypad.

APRIL

No!

He freezes.

APRIL (CONT'D)

Were you gonna try to guess? That could lock us out!

LAMONT

Man, no! I was tryna to see if I could maybe unscrew the handle or something.

APRIL

With no screwdriver?

Lamont backs away from the keypad. Vanessa comes storming into the office with a hammer. She thrashes it with all her might against the safe.

APRIL (CONT'D)

Shit!

LAMONT

The fuck are you doing?!

VANESSA

Getting the money?

APRIL

Ok that's obviously not gonna work. Look at your hand!

Lamont takes Vanessa's hand in his palm. They both look down at her throbbing reddish fingers, shaking from the aftershock of the blow.

APRIL (CONT'D)

Alright, that's enough looking.

He drops her hand.

LAMONT

Well she's right. Crazy as hell,
but right.

April plops down onto the couch in exhaustion.

LAMONT (CONT'D)

So now what?

Vanessa widens her stance and braces herself for a second lunge at the safe.

VANESSA

Hammer time.

APRIL

NO--

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. MATT'S OFFICE - FEW MINUTES LATER

APRIL

If I were a passcode, where would I
be?

LAMONT

Mirror, mirror on the wall, what
evil spirits do we need to call?

APRIL

Oh my God.

VANESSA

Please do not play like that.

LAMONT

Well what are y'all doing to get
the code?

APRIL

Not summoning demons.

A loud "BOOM" interrupts them. Sharonda busts through the office door with her forearms shielding her face. Matt follows behind her. He punches Lamont.

Matt and Lamont tussle throughout the office. April unplugs an extension cord and tries to strangle Matt while he's overpowering Lamont.

Matt steps backwards and smashes April against the wall behind him.

Lamont gets up from recovering on the floor and yanks Matt off the wall, releasing April. Matt and Lamont go back to hand-to-hand combat. Before Matt is able to finish him with one final blow...

Vanessa picks up the microwave off the shelf and smashes it over Matt's head. He rubs blood from behind his ear and passes out. Sharonda remains in fetal position. April goes back to searching for the code. Lamont applies pressure to his arm wound.

VANESSA

Sharonda, did Matt ever say anything to you about a safe code?

Sharonda sits herself up and looks over at Matt's hand. She gets up and struggles to pull his limp body towards the safe.

SHARONDA

Help me!

They drag Matt to the base of the safe door. Sharonda takes his hand and smacks it across the area of the keypad multiple ways. The palm print Touch ID is finally enabled and the safe opens. April and Lamont stare in awe.

SHARONDA (CONT'D)

Hurry!

They dart into the safe and start unloading cash into duffle bags, trying not to get distracted by the bags of oxy pills and firearms on the above shelves. Vanessa pulls Sharonda to the side.

VANESSA

How did you know?

Sharonda eyes dregs of orange buffalo sauce on the mirror frame/safe door handle area.

SHARONDA

Wild guess.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLEYWAY BEHIND GREENER TRENTON

OFFICER SMILEY and OFFICER HANSON, both in their 30s-40s, walk up to the building.

OFFICER SMILEY

Goddamnit, you can never tell the front entrance from the back with these fucking places.

OFFICER HANSON

Let's just wait until backup gets down here so we can batter ram both sets of doors.

OFFICER SMILEY

We have no idea where the hostages are. When chief gets here he's gonna want to know the safest way to enter the building.

OFFICER HANSON

And I take it you'll be first in line to advise him? Don't get too eager. This place is legit, we're not gonna be able to seize anything here. Basically a waste of our time.

OFFICER SMILEY

I'm gonna go see if there's anything going on out front.

OFFICER HANSON

I thought you didn't know which one was the front.

Smiley pretends to not hear him and continues walking. Hanson examines the back door.

CUT TO:

INT. BREAK ROOM

April and Lamont peep Hanson out back through the door slit. April holds up a fist and counts to three. Lamont follows her cue.

(1) Thumb - They go from being on their hands and knees to bear crawl position.

(2) Pointer - Lamont brushes his shoulder up against the door, bracing it for impact.

(3) Middle - Lamont jolts upward and busts the door open.

Hanson tries to snatch his gun out his holster, but fumbles upon seeing April in the doorway, sizing him up with a .22.

APRIL
GET ON THE GROUND!

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT ENTRANCE

Officer Smiley turns customers away as they try to enter. A small crowd forms as he speaks into his walkie talkie.

CUT TO:

INT. MATT'S OFFICE

A tied-up and terrified Officer Hanson is slammed to the ground in front of Matt's mirror. Vanessa throws a roll of duct tape over to April as she struggles to keep him quiet.

VANESSA
Watch your fingers. This one looks
like he bites.

OFFICER SMILEY (VIA RADIO)
Hanson. Hanson, are you there?

Vanessa bends down to the ground and slides the hammer over to April's feet. April proceeds to smash Hanson's radio with it.

VANESSA
(to Lamont)
Once she's through with that, we
gotta go.

LAMONT
What is the "we" shit? We don't
know if they've got the building
surrounded. Just chill out and let
me think.

Vanessa goes to check on Sharonda. Lamont stares at his reflection and then a framed photo of Luke that reads "Chief Executive Officer" underneath. He lingers back on his own image, not hearing April calling him.

APRIL (O.S.)
Mont! Get the bags!

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT OF GREENER TRENTON

INTERCUT APRIL ET AL./COPS

A team of officers batter ram the front door, now jammed by furniture and metal shelving.

INT. MATT'S OFFICE

Vanessa finally redirects Lamont's attention when she throws one of the duffle bags of cash at him.

VANESSA

Go!

April and Lamont fasten the duffle bags to their bodies and start crawling through the air vent.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

This don't have nothing to do with you.

The cops break down the front door and swarm the store.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

But do you think they'll be able to see that?

Vanessa and Sharonda follow April and Lamont out the vent. A cop catches a glimpse of Sharonda's foot and they start spraying, obliterating the mirror and shattering the bags of oxy.

The four of them make it out the building and sprint down various alleyways. They pair off: Lamont with Vanessa, April with Sharonda.

CUT TO:

EXT. LOADING DOCK

Lamont hops into the driver's seat of April's car while Vanessa dives into the back seat.

LAMONT

Stay down!

He kicks the car into gear and slams it to the main road, looking for any sight of April. Vanessa spots April and Sharonda in an alleyway.

VANESSA

Stop!

Lamont whips the car onto the sidewalk to meet them. Sharonda tosses herself in the back. April takes the passenger seat.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAY HOUSEHOLD - PORCH - DAY

Gramma sits on her rolling walker eyeing the stacks of old mail that have piled up on the lawn chairs and side table.

KAMAL

Gramma, can I go back inside?

GRAMMA

No, sit down.

AMAYA

But--

GRAMMA

But nothing. Y'all come help me clean up all this mail. I don't know why y'all just let it pile up like this.

KAMAL

Not me! Mommy told Amaya to clean it.

AMAYA

No! She been asking Daddy to, but he wouldn't until I said I would help him. Before he just up and left last night.

GRAMMA

Hush! Come on out here.

FATIMA (O.S.)

Stop all that yelling and listen to Gramma! I'm working!

The kids scoot themselves out the front doorway and sidle up beside Gramma's walker.

GRAMMA

You ain't hear them fighting last night?

Amaya looks down. Kamal looks confused.

GRAMMA (CONT'D)

We got enough going on around here.
I need some peace.

(motions to stack of mail)

Come help me with this shit. I don't know where your father went, but he's probably with your aunt so I'm not worried. They both been acting strange lately. Your mama, too. Your aunt's hiding the mail, your father's avoiding it like them wigs Fatima be practicing on. Meanwhile this pile getting so damn big, it's about to block the window.

FATIMA (O.S.)

I heard that!

GRAMMA

Did your client hear that? Mal, come on this side of me.

Kamal scurries over to the left of her.

GRAMMA (CONT'D)

Maya, take those piles over there.

(to Kamal)

You got the ones on that side.

(to both)

Look at each of those envelopes and find the date. If it's older than six months, put it on the ledge over there. If it's not, bring it over to me and I'll sort through it. Go 'head.

Amaya and Kamal make a game out of it, going through each piece of mail as fast as they can. Gramma sorts through her newly-formed pile.

We see each piece of mail that she looks through:

- A red, white, and blue campaign mailer from a woman in a suit running for local office.

GRAMMA (CONT'D)

Tasha from Teaneck! Running for governor. Go on, girl!

AMAYA

Gramma, that says General Assembly.

GRAMMA

Governor, general, it don't matter.
That's our girl. I don't know why
April ain't bring you and your
brother to the church last week.
Tasha was there speaking. Where
were y'all?

AMAYA

We got stuck and had to call Cousin
Darren to come get us, you don't
remember?

GRAMMA

Shit, that's right. I don't know
when they gon' fix them damn
potholes.

- A small stack of past due bills from the bank, PSE&G,
Sallie Mae, etc.

KAMAL

Grammy, should we make another pile
for the reds?

GRAMMA

The what?

KAMAL

Since you reading through all the
ones with the big red writing, you
want us to make you a red pile?
There're more.

GRAMMA

Oh. No darling, that's ok.
(grabs at her bra)
Where my cigarettes go? Mal, go get
my cigarettes from the kitchen for
me, please.

- Past due medical bills.

AMAYA

Gramma, a lot of these ones from
the hospital are for you. I can put
them on Aunt April's dresser for
her to open. If you want.

GRAMMA

No, Maya, that's ok. She already
got enough of those.

- A letter from the law office of Martin Rodriguez.

GRAMMA (CONT'D)

I said over six months goes on the ledge.

KAMAL

Oh, sorry.

Amaya goes to take the envelope from her, but Gramma shoos her away and proceeds to read the letter.

GRAMMA

No, that's alright. Tima!

Fatima pops into the front doorway.

FATIMA

Yes.

GRAMMA

Lamont ever talk to that Mr....What's his name?

FATIMA

Mr. Rodriguez. Martin Rodriguez. No, he didn't. Why?

GRAMMA

What you mean why? As many times Lamont done gone off about that \$5,000?

FATIMA

Please. I don't wanna hear Luke's name for at least another seven years.

GRAMMA

You the one that said his name, not me.

Fatima heads back inside.

- A colorful promotional mailer for a new Greener opening up near them soon.

KAMAL

Gramma, this one doesn't have a date.

GRAMMA

They need to be ashamed of themselves. Making this shit look like candy.

(holds mailer up)

(MORE)

GRAMMA (CONT'D)

Y'all stay away from these stores,
hear?

AMAYA

Yes.

KAMAL

Yes.

- A program from Granddad's funeral.

When she realizes what Gramma is looking at, Amaya stops racing. Kamal speeds up as he revels in beating her, but then stops when he senses something's wrong.

AMAYA (CONT'D)

Here, Gramma, I can take it.

Amaya reaches her hand out so that Gramma can give her the program, but instead of handing it over she takes Amaya's hand into hers.

GRAMMA

You remember when I told you at his funeral, it's not bye, it's see you later?

AMAYA

Yeah. Because we'll see him again in Heaven?

GRAMMA

You don't gotta wait that long. All this mail been sitting here stacked up because we don't need no more bad news. That's never stopped it from coming, though. So just like all these red papers out here, he's right here, too. Right here with us.

CUT TO:

EXT. EMPTY GAS STATION - FEW MILES NORTH OF TRENTON

April's car creeps into the frame and comes to a slow stop. Sharonda quietly exits out the back seat. As Lamont pulls off, April looks out the window and watches her.

APRIL

Stop the car.

Lamont exhales and puts it in park. April reaches for the duffle bag. He grabs ahold of it. April tries to yank it loose from his grip.

APRIL (CONT'D)

Let go!

He concedes. April gets out of the car and takes a few stacks with her. Running after Sharonda, she trips over her feet and falls to the ground.

Sharonda turns around and runs over to her. Momentarily, Sharonda is stuck staring down at all the cash that just fell out of April's hoodie. She soon snaps out of it and helps April up.

CUT TO:

INT. APRIL'S CAR

Lamont eyes Vanessa form the rearview mirror. She catches him a few times.

LAMONT

How much more do you want? That's why you're still here, right?

(looks to April)

Since we giving all this shit out now.

VANESSA

We need to go to Princeton.

APRIL

What's in Princeton?

VANESSA

There's a new Greener there. It opened only three months ago but them grad students been running it the fuck up. That should be the next and last job.

APRIL

And that makes it probably the most dangerous one. You want us to hit a Greener on a whole college campus?

LAMONT

Three niggas in hoodies looks suspicious in Wal-Mart. What do you think's gonna happen in there?

VANESSA

First of all, this is Ivy Park. Don't do it. Secondly, I know the Princeton manager, Carly.

(MORE)

VANESSA (CONT'D)

We did new hire orientation together. I can get her to leave the store. There's no security up there, you should be able to get in and get out.

LAMONT

I was gonna risk it and try to find a nice busy intersection to drop you off at, but you and this bullshit you talking gotta go now.

As he turns the steering wheel, Vanessa reaches up from the back and tries to stop him.

VANESSA

No!

APRIL

Let go!

The car swerves, nearly crashing. Lamont regains control and manages to pull over.

LAMONT

Everybody calm the fuck down!

Vanessa leans back in her seat while Lamont and April try to catch their breath.

VANESSA

You know why I saw April and Sharonda so fast back there? I used to park in those alleys after work and sleep in my car. I've never really had any family like that, at least not like y'all. I had a best friend that felt like all the family I had missed out on. And when she ran off with all the money we saved for our business license, I realized I wasn't missing out on shit. I had lost my apartment and was about to lose my car until I started stealing from Greener. When Adam found out, Luke said he wouldn't let him fire me if I helped him with the bookkeeping. He's been forcing me to help him cover up his oxy business ever since. Fuck Greener and fuck him. All my options disappeared and I ain't make new ones.

(MORE)

VANESSA (CONT'D)

But now here come y'all. Not what I was expecting, but serves me right.

APRIL

None of what happened to you is right. Look, Lamont and I have a plan. We can't just add a whole new stop and person.

VANESSA

Please. Is that really the wildest thing that can happen right now?

CUT TO:

INT. APRIL'S CAR - GREENER PRINCETON PARKING LOT

VANESSA

That's her. See, just like told you. Just her, no security.

CARLY ROSS, 23 with pink hair, gets out of her car and makes her way to into the building.

LAMONT

How do you know there isn't anyone in the back?

APRIL

Or anyone else coming?

VANESSA

Carly has an arrangement with Luke, among several others. Some bullshit medical thing she made up a few months ago. Apparently, being around people gives her mad anxiety or some shit. Not just crowds, like literally any person. Luke had Adam fire all the staff so Carly has the place to herself.

CUT TO:

INT. GREENER PRINCETON - CARLY'S OFFICE

Carly sits atop her desk and makes herself a vodka cranberry while EDM blasts in the background.

CUT TO:

INT. APRIL'S CAR

APRIL

What about the safe?

VANESSA

No safe. Just a cashbox.

LAMONT

Damn, they don't give a fuck about this location.

VANESSA

They have insurance. They don't give a fuck about her.

CUT TO:

INT. GREENER PRINCETON - FRONT LOBBY

Walking into the debonair reception area, Vanessa is greeted by Carly.

CARLY

What the fuck do we have here?!

VANESSA

Carly!

Carly envelopes Vanessa in a hug as big as she can give.

CARLY

What are you doing here?

VANESSA

I'm driving to Brooklyn to visit my friend for the weekend but I just realized I forgot to grab her favorite flower before I left.

CARLY

No problem, come on back.

VANESSA

Can we actually go outside and smoke? It's so nice today. Plus, I think I'm gonna just crash at my other friend's house tonight. The turnpike is disgusting right now. But she don't get off until like 6, so I've got some time to just fuck around.

CARLY
Say no more.

Carly grabs a box of pre-rolls.

CUT TO:

INT. APRIL'S CAR

April watches Carly and Vanessa walk out the front. Lamont cuts and crawls between cars and light poles to remain discreet on his way to the back of the building.

CUT TO:

EXT. OPEN FIELD ACROSS FROM GREENER PRINCETON

Vanessa and Carly walk along a dirt path sharing a joint. Vanessa takes out a snapback from her jacket pocket and puts it on to block her eyes from the sun.

CARLY
Oh shit, nice hat! Why didn't you tell me? I would've brought mine.

VANESSA
Stop. I forgot this was from orientation.

Carly stops to marvel at the back of Vanessa's head. She reaches out to touch her afro puff sticking out the back of the cap.

CARLY
What'd you do to it, though?

Vanessa feels Carly's fingers five seconds away from her hair. She ducks and turns around to face her.

VANESSA
I just cut out the back! Adam's one-size-fits-all company clothing line didn't account for my hair.

CARLY
Oh my God, I remember now! He got super pissed at you for cutting yours.

VANESSA

For literally no fucking reason. Acting like he was the one working in the damn sweatshop he ordered it from.

CARLY

So how are things in your neck of the woods?

VANESSA

Fine. We could use a few extra hands, but we've beat our sales goals for the past three months.

CARLY

Oh wow, seriously? How come Adam didn't mention it during the quarterly call?

VANESSA

You have to ask Adam that.

CARLY

Well that's great. I'm not surprised. Luke always raves about Trenton. How's that new guy they hired as manager? Weren't you gonna go for that job? What happened to that?

VANESSA

More questions for Adam.

CARLY

You know what? You don't need Adam. Do you wanna stay in cannabis?

VANESSA

Definitely. I've been tryna save up for a minute to get my own shop.

CARLY

My dad's firm just bought this new cannabis software company. They're probably going to be doing some new hiring in Customer Support. I can float your name across if you want.

VANESSA

Thank you, but that's ok. I've got something else in the works.

CUT TO:

INT. CARLY'S OFFICE

Lamont and April don't see anything except some yoga equipment and a file cabinet.

JUMP CUTS: They make several unsuccessful attempts to crack open the locked file cabinet with scissors, hair pins, and a wine bottle opener.

CUT TO:

EXT. OPEN FIELD ACROSS FROM GREENER PRINCETON

Vanessa sits on the ground with her legs crossed, while Carly lays on her back.

CARLY

I here you. I hate all of this bullshit, too. I hate having to deal with all these men talking to me like a little girl, including Luke. But, just like my dad told me when I got promoted, you have to be in this business for the long haul. Everyone across the country -- doctors, lawyers, dropouts -- they're all trying to get in on this. We're living through the second Gold Rush. It's gonna be a lot harder to mine than the first.

VANESSA

Your dad's firm has a stake in Greener, right?

CARLY

Yeah. Why?

VANESSA

No reason. Just wondering who floated your name.

CUT TO:

INT. GREENER PRINCETON - RECEPTION AREA

Carly flings the front door open in fury. Vanessa trails close behind her trying to get her to slow down. They both freeze when they see Lamont standing a few feet away from the doorway with a cashbox in hand. Before Carly can scream, Vanessa grabs a glass vase and breaks it over her head.

APRIL

Mont! I found more of them!

When April comes running out from Carly's office she looks down and sees her lying unconscious on the ground, blood leaking from her nose.

CUT TO:

INT. APRIL'S CAR

Lamont struggles to fit the last of the cash in the duffle bag. April sits in the passenger seat with her legs and arms tensely crossed. Vanessa sits in the back readjusting Carly's body so that she doesn't slump over.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEARBY PARK

Vanessa, Lamont, and April stand huddled around a park bench.

APRIL

Maybe if we cross her arms like this and maybe -- excuse me!

LAMONT

You see me still standing here, right? Am I not -- wow.

VANESSA

Ok can I get around? Damn. Wait, you know what? Maybe we need to just leave a bunch of product on her so it'll look like she got too high and passed out here.

APRIL

(points down)
Weed doesn't do this.

VANESSA

We don't know what she might've took before she got to Greener.

LAMONT

Right now it looks like she took a punch from a fucking bear. What are we gonna do about that big ass cut on the side of her head?

Carly sits on a park bench below them, still unconscious with a giant, pulsating gash on her forehead. April peers over at Vanessa's hat.

JUMP CUT TO:

EXT. CONCRETE PATH IN PARK

A man jogs down the path and sees what he thinks is a homeless person. As he gets closer he notices some dried blood beneath their hat.

MAN IN THE PARK

Miss? Miss, is there someone I can call for you? Where did you come from?

CARLY

(waking up, delirious)
Sweatshop.

MAN IN THE PARK

Oh dear God.

CUT TO:

INT. LUKE'S CAR - WAWA PARKING LOT

Adam opens the passenger door and inches in, trying to not spill the two coffees he just purchased inside.

ADAM

Here.

Luke grabs his coffee and takes a sip.

LUKE

Fuck, it's hot!

He throws the cup out the window.

ADAM

It's coffee.

LUKE

Tell me what we know.

ADAM

Not much. The security cameras from Cherry Hill and Trenton were damaged during the burglaries.

(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)
Still haven't heard back from the
detective in Princeton.

LUKE
Well get him on the fucking pho--

Adam's phone begins vibrating on the dashboard. He picks up.

ADAM
This is Adam.

Adam listens for a few beats.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Ok, thank you. Yep. Bye.

CLICK.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Do you remember them ever saying if
Vanessa was brought in for
questioning?

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM - SOMEWHERE NEAR PLAINFIELD

Lamont and Vanessa count money on the dresser. Excited by the
loot, they hype each other up, milly rock, inch closer to
each other, etc.

In contrast, April quietly sits on the bed, staring off into
space. Lamont asks her a question and she doesn't respond.
Vanessa repeats it. Lamont tries again.

LAMONT
April!

APRIL
Huh? Sorry, what. What happened?

LAMONT
You heard me? I said there's enough
in here for you, too. Not just for
the house. For you to go back to
school.

APRIL
Yeah, I heard you. Sorry, I'm just
tired. What about Fatima? Is there
enough in there for her shop?

VANESSA
Who's Fatima?

Lamont goes back to counting.

LAMONT
My wife.

VANESSA
Congratulations. I'm happy for her.
(to April)
And you.
(to Lamont)
Just so you know for the next time
you need to hit some licks, I'm
pretty sure you're still considered
married even when you leave your
ring at home.

Vanessa exits.

APRIL
You knew that was gonna happen.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOTEL BALCONY

While Vanessa stands on the balcony people-watching she feels an incoming call in her pocket. She looks at the screen and picks up.

VANESSA
Hi, Adam.

CUT TO:

EXT. WAWA PARKING LOT

ADAM
Vanessa. How are you? Just checking
in after the break-in today. Wanted
to make sure you're ok.

INTERCUT VANESSA/ADAM

VANESSA
Thank you. You didn't have to do
that. I'm totally fine.

ADAM

No, it's no problem. I know it's probably scary to have all these police talking to you guys. Did the police ever get in touch with you? Funny, but the police are saying that they haven't been able to track you down. Another funny thing, well, maybe less funny. Despite some mild amnesia -- cause still unknown -- Carly seems to have found something that belongs to you.

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM

April lays on the bed while Lamont cracks his back on the floor.

LAMONT

Why you so quiet?

APRIL

Do you really think Luke told on you?

LAMONT

How many times did you see him after I got arrested?

APRIL

I actually saw him a lot after that. In class, on the street, everywhere. He just never said a word to me.

LAMONT

Exactly. For three years this dude hung around me, got money with me, tried to get at you--

APRIL

Please. Don't start.

LAMONT

Tried to pretend to be your friend. Then as soon as I get busted, he don't know you.

APRIL

I hope I never see him again.

LUKE

Stay away from the news.

Vanessa enters.

VANESSA

We need to figure out how we're gonna split the money. Princeton was definitely the most but I'm fine with just \$10,000.

LAMONT

Just?

APRIL

Slow down. Can we not start this conversation off with a hard number? Let's talk and try to figure out what's fair.

VANESSA

That's what negotiating is.

LAMONT

We ain't negotiate when we just let you come with us.

VANESSA

That was before we got caught!

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

LAMONT

How do they know the hat is yours? You said Greener gives them out to employees for free. Don't a lot of you have them?

VANESSA

They do, but I made some changes to mine. When you're on Adam's shit list he watches everything you do.

APRIL

How do you even know he's telling the truth? They're not gonna pay you off and help fund their future competition. The second you give them the chance, they will turn you in right with us.

LAMONT

You told him you're with us?!

VANESSA

No! Adam assumed I'm not alone.
He's giving me until tomorrow
morning to come to him.

APRIL

Greener makes millions of dollars a
year while we're fighting over its
petty cash. Fine. If they want it
so bad, let's give it to them.

CUT TO:

INT. LUKE'S CAR - NEXT MORNING

Adam drives down the highway while Luke answers emails and
texts.

VANESSA (VIA TEXT)

Hi Luke, I know we're supposed to
be meeting up in an hour but we
need to talk.

Luke readjusts his body away from Adam.

VANESSA (VIA TEXT) (CONT'D)

The people I'm with are trying to
run. They don't believe Adam and
want to take their chances. They're
loading up the car now and trying
to leave within the next 15. I can
stall them. I'm at a different
hotel. We got into a fight last
night so I left to cool off. I've
got half the money with me and
they're not leaving without it. I
can handle them, but just meet me
at 2226 Parkside Ave in 30 minutes.
I'll be in the lobby.

Adam glances over at Luke.

ADAM

Dan'll probably have an extra
button-up with him.

VANESSA (VIA TEXT)

All the money will be there.

CUT TO:

EXT. GAS STATION PARKING LOT

Adam quickly pulls into a spot.

ADAM

We have to be there in an hour. I don't understand why you have to eat now.

Adam gets out of the car. He bends down and looks over at Luke, still in the passenger seat with his seatbelt on.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Are you not coming in?

LUKE

Gimme a second. I need to smoke before this shit.

Adam lingers on the car door.

ADAM

Lamont didn't get you guys caught. You probably should have been more concerned about tips back then than you are now.

(slams car door shut)

You always fuck with me about doing better at my job, but maybe I wouldn't have to try so hard if you didn't always fuck yours up.

After Luke watches Adam walk into the convenience store, he hops into the driver's seat and pulls forward a briefcase from underneath. He unzips it and stares down at the pistol inside.

He takes one more look inside before speeding back onto the highway. Adam hears it, runs outside, and watches Luke disappear into the distance.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT OF HOTEL - SOMEWHERE IN NEWARK

Luke pulls up to the front of the hotel. A valet parking attendant, who can only be seen from the waist down at this point, walks up to Luke's window.

ATTENDANT

Afternoon sir, how are you today?

LUKE

Fine.

As Luke turns to get out the car and hand him the keys, the attendant grabs his wrist and crushes it. It's Lamont dressed up as valet. Luke lets out a shriek that is cut short by a dense punch to his stomach.

April, also dressed in disguise, watches from the valet podium. She takes something from the bottom shelf and hops into the passenger seat. Lamont throws Luke into the back and gets into the driver's seat.

As Lamont starts the car, Luke suddenly springs up from the back. April clocks him in the face with a large metal cashbox. Luke knocks out. She takes out Adam's briefcase from underneath her seat, dumps all his shit out, and starts filling it with cash. Vanessa runs out of the hotel and gets in the back seat. The four of them drive off.

CUT TO:

INT. LUKE'S CAR - BACK SEAT

Luke blinks his eyes open and sees the back of Lamont's head. He looks down and sees his torso taped up. The cashbox lies open on the floor with bricks inside it.

CUT TO:

INT. APRIL'S CAR

April drives down I-95 behind Lamont. Vanessa keeps looking over at her from the passenger seat.

VANESSA

Where you gonna go to school? Once we deposit the money.

APRIL

When we deposit the money in your name, the only thing that's gonna be taken out is the mortgage. You know our plan. Take out what's necessary now, spend the rest later. Stay low.

VANESSA

Doesn't take almost a year to get your application together and whatnot?

(MORE)

VANESSA (CONT'D)

I know not now, but you have time to at least start thinking about it. And you still didn't answer my question.

APRIL

I don't know. I don't even know what I wanna do anymore.

VANESSA

Nope.

APRIL

Nope what?

VANESSA

You don't get to annoy Lamont with random ass Snapple fun facts about every building's design for the past 500 or however many miles just to say you don't want to be an architect anymore.

APRIL

How much have you and my cousin been talking?

VANESSA

Um, we're not finished discussing you, thanks. Now, back to your life.

APRIL

I already know it's not meant for me.

VANESSA

How do you know if you don't try?

APRIL

I did try. I found a program last year that was perfect. My grandmother gave me the money herself for the application. And then I didn't get in.

VANESSA

So where are you gonna apply now?

APRIL

I'm not. I'm not gonna get in anywhere else and I don't even think I want to. My Gramma don't know. I didn't tell Lamont either.

(MORE)

APRIL (CONT'D)

When you were talking about what's happened to you at Greener, I knew I had to let you come with us. I know what feeling stuck in the same place does to you. I just don't know if this money is actually gonna get me out of it.

VANESSA

Don't wait for it to. After you graduate, do they guarantee you a job right then and there.

APRIL

No, but--

VANESSA

So, even if you get in, you still depending on yourself to make things happen. Just like you've always done.

April perks up a bit.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

This man has gotten rich off your ideas, but now you have some of that money, too. You gonna use it on you or make some other muthufuckas rich again?

CUT TO:

INT. LUKE'S CAR

Luke opens and closes his fingers while trying to move his feet as much as possible, as the rest of his body is heavily restricted by duct tape.

He periodically pats and rubs the right pocket on his pants. Disturbed by the fidgeting, Lamont eyeballs him through the rearview mirror.

LAMONT

Cut it out.

Finally connecting the eyes, voice, and few glimpses seen earlier, Luke realizes it's Lamont May.

LAMONT (CONT'D)

Be cool.

LUKE

What are you doing here? Where are you taking me?

LAMONT

We're not at Greener. Why you saying "here" like you own outside? And even then everything in Greener ain't yours. That's clear from how easy it was to rob your ass. Should've taped your fucking mouth. You've got April to thank for that.

Luke's eyes settle at the sound of April's name. He stops trying to move.

LAMONT (CONT'D)

You remember her? Let me jog your memory some more. You remember Martin Rodriguez?

Luke looks down at his pocket.

LAMONT (CONT'D)

Look at me!

Luke does so.

LAMONT (CONT'D)

You weren't always this big fucking kingpin, so tell me, where'd you get the five grand to pay my lawyer to leave you alone? That's more than you made in a semester with that phone bank shit.

LUKE

I never meant for shit to end the way it did with you. Or April. Let me explain.

LAMONT

You picked a pretty fucked up time to start explaining.

LUKE

It was Adam's money. As soon as they took you in, he called his parents and three calls later Rodriguez was texting me.

LAMONT

Bullshit.

LUKE

Telling me not to reach out to you.
Not to talk to April.

LAMONT

You're lying.

LUKE

To stay away from the both of you.

LAMONT

Why would he need to tell you that
when you're the one that tipped off
the police?

LUKE

I'm trying to tell you that it
wasn't me! You think that office in
D.C. were the only lawyers Adam's
dad knew?

CUT TO:

INT. APRIL'S CAR - DOWNTOWN JERSEY CITY

Vanessa looks out the window at the financial district.

APRIL

You good?

VANESSA

Yeah.

APRIL

Good. We're a few minutes out. You
remember everything? When I drop
you out front, head straight to
private banking on the third floor.
Be careful with that, it's heavy.
Don't trip.

April motions to Adam's briefcase, now packed to the brim
with cash.

VANESSA

I see why Lamont was in charge of
the speechwriting back in Trenton.

APRIL

Talk to one of the bankers, open an
account, deposit the money. Lay low
in an Airbnb for a few days.

(MORE)

APRIL (CONT'D)

Take me and Lamont's cut out bit by bit and then wait for us to come pick it up. You go home, we go home.

Lamont swerves off into a parking garage. April continues to follow.

CUT TO:

INT. LUKE'S CAR

Lamont drives with one hand while he uses the other to maintain pressure on a shoulder wound. Luke, still in the back but now free from the tape, points his pistol at the back of Lamont's head. He holds an extra-fine-point black pen along the side of the gun, dripping with blood.

LUKE

Last level. All the way in the back. Hurry up.

Lamont steps on the gas. April loses them.

CUT TO:

INT. APRIL'S CAR

VANESSA

What the fuck is he doing?

APRIL

Luke.

CUT TO:

INT. LUKE'S CAR - PARKING GARAGE - LAST LEVEL

Physically incapacitated, Lamont remains in his seat. Luke dashes across the lot to the nearest elevator only to find that it's broken. He turns around and takes off up the ramp.

A muffled engine suddenly grows louder and louder by the second. April's car soars around the corner and guns it straight towards Luke. He retreats back down the ramp.

CUT TO:

INT. APRIL'S CAR

VANESSA
April, slow down.

APRIL
I'm not gonna hit him.

She spots a nearby trash bin, veers to the right, and hits it instead of Luke. It ricochets off the edge of the car and directly into him as he tries to run away. Luke falls to the ground in pain.

APRIL (CONT'D)
Not with my car at least. C'mon.

April gets out the car and runs toward Luke. Carrying the briefcase, Vanessa follows behind her. April greets Luke with a good kick.

APRIL (CONT'D)
Where is he?! Where's Lamont?!

Vanessa comes up behind April and tries to pull her off of him.

APRIL (CONT'D)
No! Go! Please.

Vanessa runs off. April puts her ear to Luke's chest to check if he's still breathing. He suddenly springs up and grabs a hand full of her hair.

April makes two fists and starts windmilling. She manages to get back on her feet and wrestles with Luke until he jettisons both of their bodies into the broken elevator. He pushes her into one of the elevator walls.

LUKE
Enough.

APRIL
Where is he?

LUKE
He's alive.

Luke rests his body on the elevator wall with the keypad, grazing a few buttons.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Why are we doing this?

APRIL
What's my name?

LUKE
April?

APRIL
I guess you remember it now. Not when you were on TV talking about my work. Turn around. I wanna see how much blood is on you. I can already tell you admitted what you did to Lamont. I wanna see if he got you for the both of us.

LUKE
You and Lamont always had each other. I was on my own. It was either him or me, me or you. I chose me, like both of you would've done. Accept the worst from people, expect the best from yourself. Money can't buy that kind of insurance. That's why I've always had it.

APRIL
I thought I was more than just people.

LUKE
You were. And a lot more than anything I was ever gonna be. I thought you'd be ok and make sure Lamont was, too.

APRIL
Nothing was ever easier for me just because I was better at it than you. I never had the chance not to be. If you want the money back, I don't have it. It's gone and you're not seeing that shit again. I might not either, but you're damn sure not.

While trying to balance himself, Luke accidentally presses several buttons at once. Lights flicker and broken alarms hum.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. BANK LOBBY

April shoves Luke through the elevator doors and onto the floor. He chases her further into the center of the bank. She tries to hide from him behind pillars and large office plants.

TELLER 1

Excuse me, ma'am? Ma'am!

Teller 2 presses a button below the counter.

CUT TO:

INT. BANK - THIRD FLOOR - OFFICE

INTERCUT APRIL/VANESSA

Vanessa sits across from JASON RIMELL, 34-year-old private banker, typing away at his keyboard.

JASON

Last four digits of social security number?

As Vanessa opens her mouth to reply, a frazzled secretary stumbles into the doorway.

INT. BANK LOBBY

Before April can make another sharp turn around a building fixture, she bumps into a security guard.

INT. BANK - THIRD FLOOR

Vanessa follows Jason and the secretary into the hallway. She looks off the interior balcony and sees two more security guards approaching April.

INT. BANK LOBBY

A small crowd forms. The guards physically force April to the ground.

INT. BANK - THIRD FLOOR

The bankers create a small crowd of their own, now watching, too. Vanessa goes to take the elevator down.

RECEPTIONIST

Excuse me! Security has asked us to lock down all floors. There is a disturbance downstairs.

JASON

Ms. Graham?

Vanessa turns around to see Jason holding up his laptop.

JASON (CONT'D)

Did you want to finish setting up your account in the meantime?

CUT TO:

INT. BANK LOBBY

At least three more guards funnel in through the front double doors. Luke slinks further to the back, with very few people noticing. The small crowd of onlookers steadily grows.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY

A pair of size 13 Armani's walks down the marble corridor.

INTERCUT LOBBY/HALLWAY

In the small crowd:

- A middle-aged man tries to quickly shuffle his mother around the crowd and out the door
- A young man whips out his phone and starts recording
- Two sisters argue over whether to intervene or leave
- Three teenagers shout at the guards to take their hands off of April

A guard reciting an on-scene report into his walkie talkie looks up and off to the right.

MR. STILLWELL (O.S.)

STOP!

Anthony Stillwell, now in his 60s, stands atop the stairs and momentarily halts the chaos in the lobby.

CUT TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. MAY HOUSEHOLD - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

SIMONE, 19, one of many cousins roaming around the house, watches the news on the couch.

NEWS REPORTER (O.S.)

We now turn to the ongoing investigation of local cannabis café Greener. After the robbery of three of their stores at gunpoint, CEO Luke Scott and Director of Business Development Adam Silver are under fire for what's now being reported as the largest drug bust of the year in their Trenton location. New Jersey State Police seized more than \$3 million worth of oxycodone and high-powered firearms at the Trenton crime scene. More than a dozen suspects were arrested on Monday, including VP of Operations Nnamdi Odaro, who is now facing conspiracy and weapons charges. Upon further investigation by the Bureau of Cannabis Control, over 600 pounds of molding marijuana were found unattended to in its storage facilities throughout Monmouth County. Scott took to Instagram Live yesterday to discuss the recent suspension of Greener's business license as well as his plans for a new "entertainment-related" cannabis venture. Silver, reached at his new office at Indica IT Solutions, declined to comment. Armed robbery defendants and cousins Lamont and April May both face 10-20 years in New Jersey State Prison. Their trial is in two weeks.

AUNT JOY

Turn that off.

Simone turns the channel. AUNT JOY, 50s-60s, continues cleaning up where she can. CHI, 35, connects their laptop to the TV. A home video collage plays:

- Granddad bringing Lamont's mother and baby Lamont home from the hospital
- April's parents cuddling after their wedding reception on the same couch that Simone and Chi are now sitting on
- Granddad teaching April how to ride a bike
- Gramma, Granddad, April, and Fatima holding up signs and cheering Lamont on at a high school track meet
- Gramma and extended family at April and Lamont's high school graduation
- Lamont and Fatima slow dancing in the middle of the living room on New Year's Eve
- Kamal rolling over for the first time
- April holding 8-month-old Amaya and singing Minnie Riperton's "Lovin' You", emphasis on last refrain's "Maya, Maya, Maya, Maya"

END OF VIDEO.

CUT TO:

INT. AMAYA AND GRAMMA'S BEDROOM

Kamal enters and hears someone crying. Amaya sits on the floor in the crawl space between the dresser and closet. She refuses to look up at him.

KAMAL
Are you ok?

AMAYA
Yes.

KAMAL
Then why are you crying?

AMAYA
I'm not.

Kamal takes a seat on the twin bed across from her.

KAMAL
Daddy was looking for you. Gramma's looking for you now, too.

AMAYA
So.

Kamal eases himself off the bed and walks out of the room. Amaya peeks her head from out the crawl space and watches him leave.

AMAYA (CONT'D)
Wait! Who's that old man
downstairs?

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN

Stillwell enters from the living room. Gramma struggles to lift a giant pan of mac and cheese out the oven. He hurries over, takes it off her hands, and helps her into a chair.

GRAMMA
Thank you.

MR. STILLWELL
No problem.

He opens a few windows.

GRAMMA
Thank you. It's hot in here, ain't
it?

MR. STILLWELL
Sure is. But that mac looks good so
it's worth it.

GRAMMA
(shouts upstairs)
Apr--Damn! Amaya! Sorry, I'm always
mixing them up.

MR. STILLWELL
Don't apologize. Amaya must be
smart.

GRAMMA
How do you know April again?

MR. STILLWELL
From Doddard. Alumni networking.

GRAMMA
Uh-huh.

MR. STILLWELL
And from the bank.

GRAMMA

Right. She told me that you been helping with the lawyers and everything. I just wanna tell you thank you. We all appreciate it.

MR. STILLWELL

I wish I were helping her in a different way. I don't know what the judge is going to say but I'm going to do everything I can. For her and Lamont.

GRAMMA

I know what he's gonna say. I've sent my children off like this before with April right there with me. That's why I can't understand why I'm sending her off now too.

MR. STILLWELL

I don't have any children but I had a grandmother who helped raise me. Her retirement helped me pay for Doddard. When she died while I was away at school, I was angry. She didn't tell me or my mother about her cancer. At the funeral I wasn't so angry anymore though. There was barely anyone there. When we got to the cemetery there were a few more of her people. They were all in plots near hers. Sometimes when we try to protect each other, we end up showing what scares us the most.

Fatima passes by the kitchen and sees the finished food on the stove and table.

FATIMA

Kamal! Amaya! Come eat!

CUT TO:

INT. AMAYA AND GRAMMA'S BEDROOM

Lamont enters with Kamal following behind him.

LAMONT

This where she hiding?

KAMAL

Mm-hmm.

Lamont bends down to meet Amaya at eye level. He reaches out to her and tries to pinch her cheek.

AMAYA

Stop!

Lamont stops and takes a seat on the bed next to Kamal.

LAMONT

Why you and your brother up here
hiding out?

Amaya turns her face to not look at Lamont.

LAMONT (CONT'D)

I'm not over there, baby.

AMAYA

You and Mommy haven't told us where
you're going. Or Aunt April. Why do
you care if I don't see you now?
And why are we throwing a party
over it anyway?

Lamont gets down from the bed and sits down next to Amaya.

LAMONT

It's not a party, even though I
know it looks that way. I'm sorry
for that. But all those people down
there are our family. Even that old
man. And no matter where I am,
they're gonna be here with you.
There'll be a lot of people that
talk about what me and Aunt April
did, but the only thing you have to
know is that I love you. So if I go
away and you hate me forever or
even right now, that's ok. Because
then I know I didn't waste my
second chance. When I came back
home I was scared that you and your
brother would never know me. You
were so young. Buy you do. Daddy
understands if you hate him for
becoming somebody that you miss
because you let me become somebody
that you know.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD

April sits on the ground in between Fatima's legs as she touches up her twists.

APRIL

Just a few of them on the side need to be redone.

FATIMA

I got you. Can't be up on that stand with loose twists.

Fatima draws her hand back.

FATIMA (CONT'D)

Sorry.

APRIL

It's ok.

FATIMA

Gramma wants you and her to talk to Pastor Chapman later. He said he knows someone who could get you and Mont on the news.

APRIL

For what?

FATIMA

To get y'all story out there and get us some more money. That man in there can't be the only one helping us out.

APRIL

Tomorrow around 4, you're gonna get a relay call from someone that I-- someone that Lamont and I know. An operator will do all the talking for her. Her name is Vanessa Justice Graham. Her social security is 447-80-9756. Her only living relative is Adrienne Marie Perry in Silver Springs, Maryland. Have her repeat all that information back to you through the operator to make suer it's really her. After that, she'll give you some wiring instructions. Then she'll hang up.

FATIMA

What are you talking about? And how do you expect me to remember all that?

APRIL

When you get the call, don't ask any questions. Just get the money and put some of it away for all of us. Not just us, but all of them, too.

April turns back and takes one long look inside the house.

APRIL (CONT'D)

Next time someone owes rent, we don't gotta put them on the news. If you forget any of her information, ask Lamont.

Fatima looks down and notices a backpack next to April's feet.

FATIMA

You going somewhere?

She reaches but April grabs it before her.

FATIMA (CONT'D)

For long?

APRIL

Hopefully not, but probably yes.

April retrieves a pack of drawing pencils and hands it to Fatima.

APRIL (CONT'D)

Can you give this to Amaya for me, please? Tell her that I'm sorry and that she doesn't ever have to defend me. Or defend herself against what people think of her.

April pats the side of her scalp and starts to get up.

APRIL (CONT'D)

You done?

FATIMA

No--

APRIL

No, it's ok. I think you are. We're good.

April hugs and holds Fatima tight. Backpack on, she walks over to the shed, pulls out a duffle bag, and slings it over her shoulder.

She hops the small metal gate, continues past the neighbor's yard, and eventually disappears into the brush.

GRAMMA (O.S.)

Where's April?

Fatima looks back and sees Gramma standing in the doorway.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END