

"AN HONOR BY CHOICE"

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SPRING 1997

EXT: CONVENTION CENTER - NIGHT

On the outside of the building the sign reads: "May 4th
Martial Arts Championship Tournament."

CUT TO:

INT: CONVENTION CENTER - SAME

Final matches are being announced. People are taking there
seats.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Welcome to the Finals of the
Martial Arts Championship
Tournament! We are going to start
with our youngest competitor first
and work our way up to the over all
champions.

Cheers from the crowd.

CUT TO:

BRIAN DAILY, a white kid about 9 years old, and his father
"DAN" beside him are by the edge of the mat. Standing behind
him is his mother "SUSAN" and his very proud uncle "JAKE".

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Let give these two young men a
hand. In the last few hours they
have become the top 2 in their
division.

CUT TO:

The crowd starts clapping.

CUT BACK TO:

Brian and his dad walk onto the mat while his worried mother
get's pulled back by Uncle Jake.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Brian Daily, a first timer here at
the championship tournament. This
boy has put on quite a performance
to make it here tonight.

CUT TO:

ERIC MEE, a mean looking Asian boy with his father/coach are focused and ready for business. They walk to the edge of the mat.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
And Eric Mee, our defending
champion three times over.
Attempting to make a swipe at his
division.

Eric and his father/coach both just stare at Brian and his dad.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)
If little Eric wins tonight he will
go in our record books. A
remarkable accomplishment by such a
young competitor

CUT TO:

Dan prepared to give a prep talk to his son Brian.

DAN
Alright, buddy, you can do this.
This is it. Don't back down, not
even a little bit. Okay?

Brian stares at his opponent with a smile on his face because for him it is a sport and fun.

DAN (CONT'D)
Brian! Hey you hear me?

BRIAN
Don't worry, I'll get him,
I'm gonna make you proud.

Eric has a dead stare on Brian from across the mat area.

DAN
That's what I like to hear. Go get
him and make me proud.

CUT TO:

Susan, stands nearby, afraid for her son.

The crowd cheers so loud that it makes Brian's mom even more nerve.

Brian's uncle Jake a very competitive person by natural and he gets revved up by the applause for his nephews opponent.

JAKE

That little punk is going down.
Knock him out Brian.

Susan slaps Jake on the shoulder.

SUSAN

Hey! They are us kids?

JAKE

Yeah but you should be rutting for your son. This is a competition and a chance to change history by taking down the champion. It's a fighters dream "the changing of the guard".

Jake started yelling he is so excited.

SUSAN

They are not fighters they are children.

JAKE

That's what they about to do and today I get to see my nephew become a champion.

CUT BACK TO:

Brian and the Referee are on the mat waiting for Eric to step up for the match. Eric is getting some last minute coaching from his father. Brian looks back and waves to his mom and uncle. Eric walks up to the referee.

REFEREE

OK boys! You both know the rules. You've done a great job here tonight and I would like to wish you both luck and let's have a nice clean match.

CUT TO:

Susan turns her head and ducks into Jake's Shoulder.

JAKE

You been doing this all day. He made it to the finals and you aren't going to watch?

SUSAN

When it's your kid out there you
tell me how easy it is to watch?

CUT BACK TO:

Brian gets a point and most people are shocked.

CUT TO:

Jake is laughing and cheering.

JAKE

That's right baby. Take him down
buddy.

SUSAN

What's Happening?

JAKE

Brian is kicking the little Asian
kids ass.

Susan smiles then tries to make herself look.

CUT BACK TO:

Brian and Eric are separated from a heated struggle by the referee. Eric looks back to his dad and see him smack the back of his hand as to motion a move to try. The match continues and Eric blocked Brian's punch with a left arm block. Then he pushes Brian's arm away while spinning around and delivery a hard chop to the back of Brian's neck.

Brian collapses to the mat. Dan comes running to his son followed by others. Eric is in shock and just stands there watching. Susan is crying and being held back by Jake who has his eyes on Eric's dad.

Paramedics/Physician on hand at the event are checking Brian out.

Eric's father calls for him but Eric is still in shock so he has to pull him back off the mat.

Brian is put on a stretcher and is taken out with his mom and dad by his side.

Jake walks over to Eric's dad.

JAKE (CONT'D)

If he doesn't recover I'll find
you.

ERIC'S DAD
(Broken English) You want my
address?

They stare at each other and officials step in to split them
up.

ANNOUNCER
Eric Mee has been disqualified for
an illegal hit.

The referee holds up the trophy.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)
Our new champion Brian Daily!

Jake grabs the trophy from the referee and walks off. Eric is
still stunned and watches Jake leave. Eric's dad turns his
son around to give him advise.

ERIC'S DAD
Listen! Not mad, he was to weak and
they should of gave you that
trophy. Points don't count with
real fighters. Next year, new
weight class new titles.

Eric turns to stare again at the mat.

FLASHBACK:

Eric watches Brian drop in slow motion.

CUT BACK TO:

Eric just stares at the mat.

ERIC'S DAD (CONT'D)
(Yells) Eric!

Eric wakes from his trance.

ERIC
Dad!

ERIC'S DAD
Is he a friend?

ERIC
No!

ERIC'S DAD
Family!

ERIC

No!

ERIC'S DAD

Then he does not matter.

Eric help his dad pack up.

FADE OUT.

"A FEW WEEKS LATER"

INT. BRIAN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Brian is being carried into the room by his dad. Susan pulls the covers back and Dan places Brian into the bed.

BRIAN

So how Long?

SUSAN

Doctors don't know baby. Could be a few hours or a couple of days. But you have it easy. Your dad and I need to wait on you hand and foot. Get you cookies and ice cream all doctors orders. (Smile)

DAN

Yeah champ! Whatever you want you name it?

BRIAN

I like to know what I did wrong?

Susan lays in the bed with him.

SUSAN

You didn't do anything wrong it was an accident.

DAN

Yeah buddy! He cheated.

Dan pulls the trophy out of a bag.

DAN (CONT'D)

But we got the trophy.

BRIAN

I understand what you guys are saying but what I am trying to say is "What did I do wrong in the match?" I need to know so next year I won't make that mistake.

Dan and Susan look at each other. They know they need to keep his spirits up and need to watch what they say.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Like you said daddy! I need to keep learning to get better.

Susan trying to hold back tears. She gets out of his bed.

DAN

Brian! I think this is the end of -

SUSAN

- the worst. So let's plan for tomorrow and rest up.

Dan is in a little dazed and he puts the trophy on the dresser. Susan tucks Brian in then goes to the dresser.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

Sweetie! I would really prefer not to have the trophy up here. It might fall.

She picks it up and heads to the door with Dan.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

Baby! You hungry?

BRIAN

A little bit.

SUSAN

OK! I will fix you your favorite and your dad will shine this up for you.

She hands Dan the Trophy.

BRIAN

Don't forget to try to get me a tape of the fight.

Susan looks at Dan who lowers his head.

SUSAN
Sweetie! You rest and I will be
back up with your food.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE BRIAN'S ROOM - MORNING

Jake is waiting as Susan and Dan walk out.

SUSAN
Get that thing out of here. I don't
want it in this house.

DAN
It's Brian's trophy.

SUSAN
Yeah look what he won. Our boy may
never walk again and you want to
have a reminder of that staring him
in the face.

DAN
He doesn't know that and what are
you going to do about the video
tape?

JAKE
What Tape?

SUSAN
Brian wants a copy of the fight so
he can fix his mistakes.

DAN
He knows you can buy copies of the
matches because we talked about it
before we went.

JAKE
I know for a fact the Asian team
was taping. I'd be glad to check
with them for a copy.

SUSAN
You do and you will not be welcome
in my home again. I know your
temper.

She turns to Dan.

SUSAN (CONT'D)
As for Brian. We'll put it off
until he forgets or gets better.

DAN
You know it's not just you dealing
with this.

Susan gives them both a stare that freezes them.

SUSAN
You both like to fight. You are at
matched this time. You are both to
blame for this. I dare you to cross
me.

She starts walking away.

SUSAN (CONT'D)
I am going to get his food.

Susan walks down the steps.

DAN
Here!

Dan give the trophy to Jake.

DAN (CONT'D)
You hold on to it.

Jake takes the trophy.

JAKE
So He's really going to be
paralyzed for the rest of his life.

DAN
Doctors said 50/50 on one arm
because he does have tingling in
his fingers. Both arms would be a
miracle and walking not a chance.

JAKE
(Sad) Damn! - (Mad) Shit!

DAN
Go talk to him.

Jake looks down towards the steps.

JAKE
What the Asian kid? Can you make
sure she won't find out.

DAN
No! Go see Brain

JAKE
No! Not a good Idea.

Susan is coming back up the steps with the food.

DAN
So you are going through with your
fight.

SUSAN
Great! I'll get a second bed next
to Brian for you.

DAN
Hey! That is uncalled for, he
doesn't need that image right now.

SUSAN
Maybe he does? He's my brother.

She turns to Jake.

SUSAN (CONT'D)
You get hurt who you think is going
to take care of you. You want me
wiping your ass too.

Susan motions for Dan to open the door. And He does.

SUSAN (CONT'D)
Good luck in your match.

Dan shuts the door after she goes in but Jake get's a glimpse
of Brian in the bed as the door is shutting.

JAKE
I'll see you later.

Jake starts to walk away.

DAN
Jake! Don't have regret.

Jake thinks for a few second then turns to Dan.

JAKE
We all have regret in life.

Jake looks at Brian's door.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Don't you?

Jake walks down the steps. Dan just stares at his son's door then puts his head down.

FLASH FORWARD.

ONE YEAR LATER....

INT. BRIAN'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Brian is using one hand to turn the TV up to drain out his parents arguing.

Dan comes in with a bag.

DAN

Boy! You are going to go deaf?

Brian turns the TV off.

BRIAN

Just don't like hearing you guys fighting.

DAN

I thought you like fights.

BRIAN

Not my parents!

Dan rubs Brian's head.

DAN

I just kidding. We talked about this. Sometimes your mom and I don't see eye to eye.

BRIAN

Yeah! Yeah! And whoever is the loudest wins.

DAN

(Laughing) That's right! (Smiling)

Dan sits on the bed.

BRIAN

So I missed this year but look.

Brian makes a fist with his good hand.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

I will focus on making next years competition.

Dan is at a lost for words at this point.

DAN

----- Sounds good buddy. But listen! Your mom just really can't handle you talking about fighting so at least around her we need to not bring it up.

BRIAN

I don't understand? I thought she was proud of me?

DAN

She is! She just feels that it's her fault and if she wouldn't let you fight you wouldn't of gotten hurt.

BRIAN

Yeah but you told me if I was doing something else I still might of gotten hurt. Maybe even worse.

DAN

Well, that's my belief. And don't tell your mom I said that. She believes in a different way of thinking.

Dan reaches into the bag he's carrying.

DAN (CONT'D)

Speaking of that I have something for you. But you can't tell mommy.

Dan shows him a video tape of the fight. Brian smile.

BRIAN

Yes!

DAN

But for now.

Dan looks back to Brian's door. Then hides the tape under his bed.

DAN (CONT'D)

We'll keep it here until mommy's at work and it's just us.

Then he kisses Brian and hugs him.

DAN (CONT'D)
I love you so much buddy.

Dan seems like he's holding a lot of emotion back.

DAN (CONT'D)
Hey! Daddy's going to be working a lot more so you won't see me as much.

BRIAN
I don't want that.

DAN
I know but it's how things have to be right now.

BRIAN
Why? First uncle Jake working and doesn't visit and now-

DAN
- Whoa buddy! I not going to be gone that much. I be here on the weekends.

Susan walks in.

SUSAN
Hey Baby! Bath time...

BRIAN
Again! It's not like I go anywhere to get dirty.

DAN
HA! He does have a point.

Susan give him a look.

SUSAN
Don't be part of the problem. Be part of the solution. Now let's stop complaining and get it done.

BRIAN
Daddy! Will you give me a bath?

SUSAN
That is a great idea because he is getting a bit heavy for me.

Brian turns to his dad and makes a puzzled face.

BRIAN
Did she just call me fat?

Susan goes to tickle him.

SUSAN
No! And where are you going?

Brian is laughing as Susan is tickling him.

BRIAN
This is torture. She is torturing
me. Daddy help!

DAN
I would but you know your mom. You
try to fighter her it just get's
worse.

FADE OUT.

FLASH FORWARD ANOTHER YEAR.

INT. BRIAN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Susan walks in with a black lady named "MONICA". Susan sits
on Brian's bed.

SUSAN
Brian this is Monica. She will be
helping out around here. Mainly
during the day. Or at least for
today because I have to try to go
back to work.

BRIAN
Where's daddy? He has visited in a
few months, And Uncle Jake and now
a black lady. Come on!

MONICA
Excuse me! I'll wait outside.

Monica see this kid has a lot to deal with and she wants to
make this easier.

SUSAN
Yes please!

MONICA

Brian! It was nice to meet you.

Monica goes to leave.

BRIAN

Yeah right!

Susan not happy with Brian's behavior.

SUSAN

Brian! That was rude. Apologize!

BRIAN

(Sarcastically) Sorry! - There you happy.

Susan feels ashamed.

SUSAN

I am sorry about -

MONICA

- Miss! The kids daddy, uncle, that bed and now me. He knows he can't control things but you have to let him vent. I'll be down stairs.

Susan thinks about Monica's statement as she leaves the room.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE BRIAN'S ROOM - SAME

MONICA

Lord! What did you get me into?

CUT TO:

INT. SUSAN'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Monica is making herself a sandwich when Susan walks in.

SUSAN

I don't know if this is going to workout?

MONICA

I totally agree. That's why I'm at least getting fed.

Susan is paranoid about leaving.

SUSAN

I was suppose to leave a half an hour ago and -

MONICA

- You better go. It's a little weird how you sprung me on to your son. I am guessing no one else wanted this job. I don't even know if I want.

SUSAN

Yeah! I can see that.

MONICA

Go to work and well see how things play out. I have 2 children myself. One mother to another. I got him. Go!

Susan looks at the time and really does not have a choice.

SUSAN

You have all the numbers.

MONICA

Yes!

Susan grabs her things.

SUSAN

OK listen! He's also worried about going to the bathroom with you.

MONICA

Well hell! Now I am too. Thank you.

Susan stops. Monica knows she has to put Susan's mind at easy.

MONICA (CONT'D)

Hey! I am not going to freak him out. We just met but we'll figure things out.

Susan takes a few breaths to get the courage to leave and does.

Monica goes to the refrigerator to get a drink to go with her sandwich. She hears a loud bang from upstairs.

MONICA (CONT'D)

Oh Shit!

She goes running.

INT. BRIAN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Brian is on the floor with a video tape in his mouth and he is crawling to the TV. His legs and body from the waist down are dead and being dragged behind him. Brian become a statue at the sight of Monica running in.

MONICA
You trying to escape?

BRIAN
(Mumbling)

MONICA
Look! I don't know what you are up to but I need to get you back into bed.

Brian lowers the tape to the floor so he can get it out of his mouth to talk.

BRIAN
My Dad and I would secretly watch this tape.

MONICA
OK! The less information I know the better.

BRIAN
It's of my fight.

MONICA
Whoa! Thank you lord. Sorry! Just secrets, white people and video tapes are usually bad things.
(Laughing)

Brian starts crying and Monica sits on the floor to try to take a friendly approach.

MONICA (CONT'D)
We have all day. I'll listen. I have a feeling that's what you need right now.

BRIAN
Why do people keep leaving?

MONICA
Truth?

Brian shocked by her response. He wipes his tears.

BRIAN

Please!

MONICA

I am guess some of it might have to do with you're a sad sight.

Brian tries to be brave and listen.

MONICA (CONT'D)

Look! It's not your fault. We just can't help you.

Monica reaches out to Brian but he pulls his arm away.

MONICA (CONT'D)

So! Can I ask you a question?

BRIAN

Yes, I don't like you.

MONICA

Not my question and by the way I don't like you either.

They both stare at each other for a few seconds.

MONICA (CONT'D)

What's with the arms? I thought you could only use one.

BRIAN

When my Dad started missing his visits I would beat on my pillow. After awhile I started using both arms. I didn't tell my mom because I wanted to surprise my dad when he came back.

MONICA

That's Cool.

BRIAN

But I still can't walk.

She lays on the floor.

MONICA

Two things I've learned in my life so far. One! Nothing is permanent.

(MORE)

MONICA (CONT'D)
And the second is life will
surprise us when we least expect it
to.

She sits up. Then gets to her feet.

MONICA (CONT'D)
This is an example. Now if I take
this job I don't have to worry
about wiping your butt.

Brian get's up on his arms.

BRIAN
You aren't a nice person are you?

MONICA
All depends on the day.(Laughing)

BRIAN
My Mom isn't going to give you the
job. You are just a fill in for
today she told me.

MONICA
No! I think I have the job. Because
I think you are going to tell her
that you love having me around.

BRIAN
(Laughing) I don't think so. I mean
you seem OK but-

Monica picks up the video tape. Before Brian can pick it up
with his mouth.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
- what are you doing?

MONICA
Looks can be deceiving. Where I
come from the person who holds all
the cards makes the rules.

Brian get's very serious.

BRIAN
You really think you can blackmail
me?

Monica takes a good hard look at Brian.

MONICA

No! No I don't.

She puts the Video tape in the VCR.

MONICA (CONT'D)

But I do know you have no idea the
hard road ahead of you.

Monica reaches down and drags Brian closer to the bed.

MONICA (CONT'D)

Kid! You are going to go through a
few very hateful years. You are
going to need someone with
patients. -Ready 1 - 2 - 3

They both work together to get Brian back in Bed.

MONICA (CONT'D)

I am that person.

SUSAN (O.S.)

Monica!

Brian watches Monica goes over and pull the tape out of the
VCR and hide in under a stack of clothes.

MONICA

Yes Ma'am!

Susan walks into the room.

SUSAN

Look I can't. I was late anyway.
Let them fire me I can't leave my
boy.

She sits on the bed and hugs Brian.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

I'm here baby!

Monica is confused at the out come and decides to make a
point.

MONICA

Brian! Do you have a baseball bat
so I can use it on your mom?

Susan gets offend and stands up.

SUSAN

Excuse me! I think you better
leave.

MONICA

No! This is my job and you need to
take your white ass back to yours.
I don't give a shit if your late.
You get down on those knees and beg
them to keep you. Not for you but
for him.

Monica points at Brian.

MONICA (CONT'D)

You played the grieving mom for 2
years. You want to do that while
you are home. Go ahead but time to
step up and show your son quitting
is not an option. Time to make that
money to keep a roof over his head
and food on my table for my kids.

Susan and Monica get in each others face not backing down.

SUSAN

You have a lot of nerve.

MONICA

No! I am just stating the facts, We
are all depending on you like it or
not. And yes life sucks but just
like your boy. You do not have a
choice.

Monica turns to walk away.

MONICA (CONT'D)

Now get your ass back to work.

Monica mumbles as she's leave the bedroom.

MONICA (CONT'D)

Damn! White people. We have to
teach them everything.

Susan sits down to console Brian.

SUSAN

Don't be scared honey. I'll call
your uncle to get her out of here.

She picks up a house phone next to Brian's bed.

SUSAN (CONT'D)
I knew this was a mistake.

Susan dial the phone.

Brian looks at the VCR. Monica didn't rat him out made a impression on him.

BRIAN
Stop Mom!

SUSAN
Mommy knows best. She's gone, one way or another. Don't worry.

Brian tries to think what he could do.

BRIAN
Mom!

Monica peeks her head in the room.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
She did this!

Brian raises both of his arms and Susan drops the phone and jumps into his arms for a long awaited hug.

SUSAN
(Crying) Oh my GOD! - Oh my GOD! I can't believe.

Brian looks over his mom's shoulder to notice Monica in the doorway watching and eating her sandwich. Monica smiles.

MONICA
(Silent words) You Bad.(Smile)

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE BRIAN'S ROOM - SAME

Monica turns around and heads for the steps.

MONICA
Here we go!

FADE OUT.

"A FEW WEEKS LATER"

INT. BRIAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Monica and Brian are playing chess when Uncle Jake knocks on Brian's door frame. Brian is shocked to see him.

BRIAN
Uncle Jake! Look!

Brian raises both arms.

JAKE
Yeah I heard. I'm proud of you.

BRIAN
Is Daddy with you?

JAKE
No! Just have a few minutes. Here!

Jake holds out a present.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Happy Birthday - I have to go.

Jake hands him the present and leaves quickly. Even before he can open it. Brian looks at Monica.

BRIAN
Damn white people!

Monica starts laughing.

MONICA
Open it.

Brian opens the present it's a puzzle.

BRIAN
Well, He's making progress. Took
him 2 years to enter my room.
Another 2 years and I might say
this to him.

Brian moves his queen in the chess game.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Check mate!

Monica acts surprised that Brian beat her but she didn't like the game anyway.

MONICA
OK! I didn't want to say it but
this is a white man's game.
(MORE)

MONICA (CONT'D)
You got a pair of dice and some
money. I show you a really good
game. (Smiling)

FADE OUT.

FLASH FORWARD ANOTHER 3 YEARS.

INT. BRIAN'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Brian's bed is now up against the window so he can look
outside. He sees kids getting off the bus from school and
playing around outside. Brian is 14 now and a bitter teen.

Jake walks in and hands him a present. Brian grabs it and
shakes it then throws it on the floor.

BRIAN
Another puzzle! If I put all the
piece together do I get to walk?

Jake turns around to walk out and Monica comes in carrying
books.

JAKE
Is this what you are teaching him?

MONICA
You better watch it. This isn't a
black thing. It's a teenage thing.

Jake leaves. Monica walks over to Brian.

MONICA (CONT'D)
Remind me next year on your
birthday to put an afro on you.
That will really piss him off.
(Laughing)

Monica puts the books on the drawer.

MONICA (CONT'D)
So I marked the pages you need to
work on. You need anything before I
go?

Brian still staring out the window.

BRIAN
Legs!

MONICA

I'll get that tomorrow. Anything I can do for you now.

BRIAN

Nothing! Leave (Angry)

MONICA

Oh! One of those moods. I think it's tickle stick time.

She picks up a padded stick with a fake hand and a finger pointing out. Monica knows Brian's weakness is tickling.

BRIAN

Don't even think about it. I'm warning you.

Monica plays the threat off.

MONICA

Oh! Now it's on -

She goes to poke him with the stick.

MONICA (CONT'D)

What's you gonna do? Run after me.
(Laugh)

Before she could finish her laugh Brian grabbed the end of the stick and used it to pull her forward then down on the bed. He holds her down on the bed with the stick.

Monica is scared. This was a first time for this.

MONICA (CONT'D)

Oh Shit!

BRIAN

I warned you.

MONICA

OK! I get the hint. Not a good day.
Can you please -

Brian let's her go. Then he returns to stare out the window.

MONICA (CONT'D)

I ---

She decides not to talk just leave the room.

INT. SUSAN'S KITCHEN - EVENING

Jake is trying to hand Susan money but she isn't taking it.

JAKE
You need it.

Monica walks in.

SUSAN
Look - I know if I start taking
money now it won't end. -No!

MONICA
The woman has pride don't take that
away from her.

JAKE
I wish I could take some loud mouth
help away.

MONICA
Bring it on grumpy.

Monica puts her fist in the air to play fight. Jake turns to Susan.

JAKE
She's asking for it.

SUSAN
You two need to stop and I said
"no".

JAKE
You don't have a choice.

MONICA
We all have choices. Haven't you
heard.

Monica goes to make a sandwich.

JAKE
No! She doesn't.

MONICA
You think you know everything.

JAKE
I know if she doesn't take the
money. You don't get paid.

Jake looks at Monica. Monica stops making the sandwich.

MONICA

In this case I'm going to have to side with grumpy. Take the money.

SUSAN

I can pay her.

JAKE

Yeah but then you can't eat so what's the difference. You still need the money.

Susan has a break down. She start pounding on the counter.

SUSAN

Why? Why? (Crying)

Jake comes to console her. Monica grabs the food.

MONICA

I'll check on Brian before I roll out.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIAN'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Monica walks in with food.

MONICA

We Cool?

BRIAN

(Sarcastically) Sorry!

Monica pull out the tape.

MONICA

You want to watch.

Brian grabs the tape and throws it against the wall.

MONICA (CONT'D)

A simple not now would of been fine.

She turns to look at the door.

MONICA (CONT'D)

No one is coming running! You wondering why?

Brian turns to look at her.

MONICA (CONT'D)

Your mom is downstairs having a nervous break down. I am done for today so have fun with your pity party.

She waves to Brian.

BRIAN

Bye!

MONICA

Boy! You are one tough cookie.

Monica goes over and sits on the bed.

MONICA (CONT'D)

You know you scared me.

BRIAN

I said I was sorry.

MONICA

Yeah but how did you do it?

Brian just looks at her then looks back out the window.

MONICA (CONT'D)

Please!

Monica is not a please person so Brian breaks down.

BRIAN

What I was taught in martial Arts.
You compete at levels and fight
opponents until -

Brian just stops talking probably missing his dad.

MONICA

Until what?

BRIAN

You fight your opponents in your
mind and I been fighting mine for
years.

MONICA

Who?

Brian point at the tape busted on the floor.

BRIAN

One day I am going to kill him.

Brian gets very angry. Monica gets up and at a safe distance from him.

MONICA
I'm not going to give you a speech.
However! (Smiles)

Brian turns to face her and grabs the edge of the bed like he is ready to get up.

MONICA (CONT'D)
Don't even try it I'm to far away.
And I'm going -- But "A person that
can't forgive can't Live"

She goes to the door. Brian turns back to look out the window. Monica leaves.

BRIAN
I'm in Hell!

Monica pops her head back in the door way.

MONICA
In hell. You don't have friends.
I'll see you tomorrow.

FADE OUT.

FLASH FORWARD ANOTHER 10 YEARS.

INT. SUSAN'S KITCHEN - EVENING

Susan is going throw her purse and Monica comes walking in.

SUSAN
Monica! I need you to do me a
favor.

Monica walks over to her.

SUSAN (CONT'D)
I only have this much but I want
you to take this -

Susan handing Monica her jewelry.

MONICA
No! I can't.

SUSAN

Please! I just been pawning it
anyway. You'll save me a trip.

Jake walks in.

MONICA

Look! I been here for 13 years. I
can not take your jewelry.

SUSAN

But I can't pay you.

MONICA

We both had husbands that left and
are raising kids. We are in this
together.

Jake breaks up the heart filled moment by hands Monica his
trash from eating at a fast food place.

JAKE

Here be useful throw this out.

SUSAN

Jake!

JAKE

What! She works for you she's
suppose to do stuff.

MONICA

It's OK. Just another day for
grumpy. See you tomorrow.

Monica leaves with Susan still complaining to Jake about his
attitude.

EXT. TRASH CANS - EVENING

Monica is at the trash cans to throw away Jake's trash. She
looks around to make sure no one is watching then she opens
the bag to get her money. This is how Jake has to pay her so
Susan doesn't know.

FADE OUT.

EXT. FRONT OF THE HOUSE - MORNING

Monica shows up for work but can't get in. She knocks but no
one comes. She takes out her cell to call Susan. Monica then
calls Jake.

MONICA

Hey - I can't get in - Dead bolt -
Don't you think I would of already
try that before calling your grumpy
butt. - Well I'm not going any
where, just hurry. Bye!

CUT TO:

Jake pulls up and meets Monica at the front door.

JAKE

And you knocked?

MONICA

I been knocking off and on for 45
minutes waiting for butt. Remember
Brian's in there I don't want him
freaking out even though I am.

Jake knocks then backs up. Bad thoughts are going through his
head.

JAKE

What do you want to do?

Monica grabs his arm then has a tear come down her face.

MONICA

You go though this door and I go
for Brian. That's all we can do.

JAKE

She might just be sleeping then I
have to fix the door.

MONICA

Jake! One way or another I need you
to open that door.

Jake takes a breath then kicks it in.

Monica is shocked.

MONICA (CONT'D)

No alarm?

JAKE

We haven't pay that in 6 years.

Monica is waiting for Jake who isn't moving.

MONICA

Prepare for the worst but hope for
the best.

She pushes him in. As they walk into the house things look normal so they split up.

INT. BRIAN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Monica walks in Brian's room. Brian is now about 24 years old.

BRIAN

Why the fuck were you bawling for
so fucking long?

MONICA

I wanted to get your attention. You
have a problem with that.

JAKE

You are so weird sometimes.

MONICA

Yeah but that's why you love
me. (Smiles)

JAKE (O.S.)

Monica!

Monica's face goes from a smile to sadness. She walks out of the room.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE BRIAN'S ROOM - SAME

Jake is crying so Monica starts crying also then hears.

BRIAN (O.S.)

What's going on. I can hear you
guys. Don't make me crawl out
there.

Jake looks at Monica.

MONICA

(Whispering) He's your nephew.

JAKE

(Whispering) He needs you more.

BRIAN (O.S.)

Hello!

MONICA
(Whispering) I hate it when I have
to agree with you.

INT. BRIAN'S BEDROOM - SAME

Brian is grabbing the edge of the bed when Monica walks in.

BRIAN
Just in time because I was coming.

MONICA
Brian! We need to talk.

BRIAN
Hey! I been good. Don't need any of
your lectures. (Smiling)

MONICA
(Sad) It's about your mom.

Monica start weeping.

BRIAN
Is she dead?

Monica can't answer but started crying. Brian turns to look
out the window and starts crying.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE BRIAN'S ROOM

Jake is sitting on the floor up against the wall crying.

FADE OUT.

INT. BRIAN'S BEDROOM - EVENING

"After funeral"

Jake wheels Brian into the room in a wheel chair and pulls it
to the bed. Brian reaches for the bed and when Jake tries to
help him. Brian goes off and tries fighting. Jake backs off
and Brian hits the floor.

JAKE
(Yelling) You want to help me now
where were you for the last 15
year.

Monica comes running in.

MONICA
What's going on?

JAKE
He fell!

MONICA
Then help him up.

BRIAN
I don't want his help. Get
out!(Yelling)

Monica holds Brian who is crying.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Now he wants to be here.

Jake puts his head down and walks out.

Brian gets so mad he punches the floor and kicks the bed.

Monica lets go and starts the back away.

MONICA
Stopp!!!

Then she realized he just kicked the bed. Brian stops crying and Monica is speechless. Brian has also realized what he has done. They looked at each other and both are thinking.

MONICA (CONT'D)
Your uncle is an ass.

She sees nothing so she backs away and get's even more mean.

MONICA (CONT'D)
Your mother is dead in the ground.

Brian confused and sad. Monica kicks Brian.

BRIAN
Ow! What are you doing?

MONICA
Don't be sad get mad damn it. We
both saw it.

She grabs the poker stick and tries to hit him.

MONICA (CONT'D)
Come on!

She whacks him in the butt.

BRIAN
Stop! You are hurting me. Why are
you doing this?

MONICA
Making you mad.

She grabs a drink from the dresser and pulls it on him.

BRIAN
Stop it!

MONICA
Your mommas dead! Your mommas dead!

BRIAN
Shut up!

MONICA
(Singing)Your moms dead! Your a
cripple and your will never-

BRIAN
Don't say that!

Brian kicks the bed with both feet. Monica backs up.

MONICA
You never loved her anyway.

BRIAN
I hate you!

MONICA
Tell me that to my face you
crippled bastard.

Brian pulls himself up on the bed.

MONICA (CONT'D)
Come on! No one wants you! Your
mom's dead, your dad ran off.

Brian uses every bit of strength to push himself up to stand.

MONICA (CONT'D)
Yes!

Brian falls forward taking Monica down with him.

MONICA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Ow! That hurt.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE BRIAN'S ROOM

Monica sticks her head out the door way.

MONICA
Jake get your white ass up here.

CUT TO:

INT. BOTTOM OF STAIRS - SAME

Jake motions and shows her he's on the phone.

MONICA (O.S.)
I don't give a shit! Whoever it is
call them back this is more
important.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIAN'S BEDROOM - SAME

Jake walks in.

JAKE
What?

Brian is just on the edge of the bed.

MONICA
Show him.

Brian slowly swings his legs.

JAKE
Holly shit! How?

MONICA
The boy has a lot of will and even
more anger.

JAKE
Your mom -

Brian puts his head down.

MONICA
She knows. She's watching.

Monica turns to Jake.

JAKE
Man you are all about the negative.
Good job grumpy.

They are all just silent.

FADE OUT.

INT. BRIAN'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Jake walks in to Monica helping Brian with leg therapy.

JAKE
OK! Straight up not holding back.
Your mom missed a few payment on
her life insurance.

BRIAN
So?

MONICA
Brian! Insurance companies are
heartless. Pay them for 25 years.
Miss one payment and they don't pay
you a thing.

BRIAN
Why would she do that?

Brian's focus falls on Jake.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Why didn't you help?

MONICA
Hey! He is an ass but he's been
paying for years.

Jake is about to comment back on her statement but let's it slide.

JAKE
I told her to get a smaller place
but she refused. She didn't want to
change things for you.

BRIAN
So it's my fault?

JAKE

I did not say that. We all make choices and good or bad have to live with them. She loved you and was just things of you.

MONICA

The important thing is to figure out what to do now?

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE - EVENING

There is a Foreclosure sign in the yard. The grass is overgrown and the place looks run down.

CUT TO:

INT. SUSAN'S KITCHEN - SAME

Jake is sitting at the table drinking. He has a beard and doesn't look like he's had gotten up in days. Monica walks in.

MONICA

I saw the sign.

Jake pours himself another drink.

JAKE

You want one?

MONICA

No! It looks like you are drinking enough for both of us.

JAKE

(Laughs) I don't know how she did it. She owed everyone and there is nothing left.

Monica grabs the bottle so Jake can't drink anymore.

MONICA

What about Brian?

Jake looks up at her and waits a few seconds to speak. It's not a proud moment for him.

JAKE

You want him?

Monica's mouth drops. She is speechless.

JAKE (CONT'D)

It's either you take him or he becomes a ward of the state. GOD knows I can't take of him.

MONICA

You sister would be kicking your ass if she was here.

JAKE

She did that a long time ago when she kick Dan out.

Jake holds up is glass.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Matter of fact she kicked her own ass with that one.

Jake drinks what he has left in his glass.

MONICA

What are you talking about?

Monica looks around and sits down and starts drinking from the bottle.

MONICA (CONT'D)

I get him on him feet - completely and he's coming back to you. So get yourself together.

She puts the bottle down and gets up. Jake reaches for it but Monica grabs it first.

MONICA (CONT'D)

I said be ready.

Monica walks out with the bottle.

FADE OUT.

EXT. MONICA'S HOUSE - DAY

Monica and Brian pull up in a cab. Brian slowly gets out.

BRIAN

This is nice.

MONICA

We have to work on your sarcasm?

Monica pays the cab drive. The cabbie really wants to leave. So he puts there bags on the curb and gets back in and drives away.

BRIAN

Man! He was in a hurry.

MONICA

Smart man.

Monica's kids both in their twenties come out to help. TABATHA about 24 like Brian and DEREK a few years old.

BRIAN

Hey! We have stranglers coming at us.

MONICA

No! That's my family. Which you should remember.

DEREK

Mom! Can we get the white guy in the house before someone see him?

MONICA

Get the bags.

TABATHA

You need help.

Tabatha has Brian and she put his arm around her to have him lean on her. Brian doesn't really know her and doesn't know what to do.

BRIAN

Umm! Have we met?

Tabatha is helping Brian to the house.

TABATHA

A few times when we were a lot younger. I just would wave at you in your room. You would give me the finger.

BRIAN

Sorry about that. (Smiling And Embarrassed)

CUT TO:

EXT. MONICA'S PORCH - SAME

Derek is holding the door for everyone.

DEREK

He's white what do you expect. Now get him in here.

MONICA

Boy! You need to watch it.

DEREK

Mom! You should of bought him home at night so the neighbor wouldn't be able to see him.

Brian and Tabatha go in with Monica following them.

MONICA

I tried but no Cabs would bring us here at night.

Derek looks out before shutting the door.

CUT TO:

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Brian is on the couch and Monica checks on him before she goes to bed.

MONICA

You need anything?

BRIAN

What's that popping sound?

MONICA

You only need to worry about that when it's really loud. You will get use to it.

BRIAN

You know I really appreciate this. I figured uncle Jake wasn't -

MONICA

- ready for you yet but he's getting there. A lot has happen, we are all trying to adjust and figure it out.

BRIAN

Yeah! Speaking of that. I feel bad
I didn't remember Tabatha.

MONICA

You guys were kids.

BRIAN

She's not a kid anymore.

MONICA

Excuse me?

BRIAN

Nothing! I mean when she put her
arm around me I had moment in a
place that puzzled me. (Smiling)

MONICA

Boy! You know you want to keep that
movement it better stay away from
my little girl.

Monica hits him with a pillow.

MONICA (CONT'D)

Get some sleep. Tomorrow big
changes.

She starts to walk off.

BRIAN

What do you do mean?

MONICA

(Smiling) No more 8 hour days. I
have you for 24 now. You thought
you hated me before. Oh Boy!
(Laughing)

Monica leaves.

BRIAN

Oh GOD! Here we go.

FADE OUT.

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE

Brian is being helped by Monica on walking. Every time he
sits down she gets him back up. If she walks away Tabatha
starts filling in.

Monica would try to jump in if she saw Tabatha helping. Day after day it's either Monica or Tabatha and Brian walking and training in the house.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE - MORNING

Brian is up before everyone and he goes for a run in the neighborhood. People at the bus stop on the street don't know what to think when a pure white boy in jogging in their street waving and saying "Hi" to everyone. Most are scared he is crazy.

CUT TO:

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE - MORNING

Tabatha can not find Brian anyway.

TABATHA

Mom! Mom!

Monica comes running out.

MONICA

What's wrong?

TABATHA

Brian's not here.

Derek comes out.

DEREK

Well it's finally over.

MONICA

What did you do?

DEREK

I didn't do nothing. He probably went out. Dumb ass!

TABATHA

Mom!

MONICA

Let get dress and we'll go find him.

DEREK

I would start with the morgue.

Brian walks in breathing heave and tired.

BRIAN

Hey!

DEREK

Damn! He out ran them. (Surprised)

BRIAN

What?

MONICA

Boy! Where did you go?

Tabatha smacks his shoulder.

BRIAN

I went for a run. I can't get a good workout stuck here in the living room.

TABATHA

It's dangerous out there.

MONICA

Look I am glad you are feeling so good but you can't go out.

BRIAN

(Laughs) Who's going to stop me?

Derek smiles and goes toward Brian.

DEREK

Finally! He asked for it.

Derek luggage for Brian who moves out of the way just in time and Derek falls over a chair.

MONICA

So what you ready to fight the world.

Brian tries to help Derek up who is mad and won't except the help.

BRIAN

I am not fighting anyone. But I am not being stuck in the house either. Did that for years. No more, it's time to experience stuff. Like a bus. (Excited) You know I never been on one.

(MORE)

BRIAN (CONT'D)

I tried this morning but they said
it cost money and everyone looks
really scared I was trying to get
on.

MONICA

(Laughing) Oh Boy you are going to
be trouble.

BRIAN

For what, trying to live?

TABATHA

Mom! He can't do these things.

Monica throws her hands up and turns around and walks away.

MONICA

I am going back to bed. Hopefully I
am dreaming.

Derek point at Brian and giving him a mean look.

DEREK

This isn't over punk.

Derek walks off.

BRIAN

I take it a Punk isn't a good
thing.

TABATHA

No it isn't. But you being safe is.

She looks back to make sure her mom and brother are gone.

Tabatha kisses Brian. He is frozen because he doesn't know
what to do.

TABATHA (CONT'D)

Well!

BRIAN

I don't know what to say.

TABATHA

Look I know that was a first for
you. But did you like it?

BRIAN

Yes!

Tabatha smiles then smacks his shoulder.

TABATHA

Good! You want more of that you don't ever leave without telling me.

She turns to walk then turns back and smacks him again.

TABATHA (CONT'D)

Ever!

Then she walks away.

BRIAN

I think I was safer outside.

FADE OUT.

EXT. MONICA'S PORCH - DAY

Brian is on the porch waving to people in the neighborhood. Tabatha is out there with him laughing her butt off.

CUT TO:

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE - SAME

Derek watching at the door then walks over to talk to Monica who is cooking.

DEREK

You aren't going to do anything?

MONICA

What am I suppose to do? He's on the porch at least we know where he is.

DEREK

And so does everyone else.

MONICA

Everyone who? Most of them think he's crazy. Which is a good thing. Black folks don't like crazy white people. Makes him safe.

DEREK

I told my friends he's retarded.

MONICA

Why you do that? (Laughing) Crazy isn't enough.

DEREK

Tabatha is out there with him or
don't you see that.

Monica throws a pot in the sink.

MONICA

Look! I am just as worried about
this as you actually a lot more but
showing it isn't going to help.

She looks out the window.

MONICA (CONT'D)

They smell fear. Don't give them
that.

Monica turns to Derek.

MONICA (CONT'D)

Boy you grew up here. You know how
to handle this. Lye, lye and lye
some more.

FADE OUT.

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE - MORNING

Tabatha sneaks out in the morning to see Brian but he is gone
again. She is upset and hears him come in the front door.

TABATHA

You promised me.

BRIAN

True! But in my defense.

Brian is carrying a bag.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

I borrowed some money yesterday
from your mom and had to sneak out
this morning to get you breakfast.

Brian holds up the bag. Tabatha is smiles that he did that
for her.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

I was shooting for impressive and I
was going to cook you breakfast but
than I realized I don't know how to
cook.(Smile)

She hugs and kisses him.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
So I went with donuts and Bagels.

TABATHA
Nice!

BRIAN
Did you know you can get this stuff
anytime of the day?

TABATHA
Yes!(Laughing)

BRIAN
I like kissing you.

TABATHA
Trust me it gets better -

She smiles but they here Monica and Derek coming so they back
off of each other.

MONICA
- What's that?

TABATHA
Brian got donuts and bagels.

Derek grabs the bag.

DEREK
Using our money.

BRIAN
Yeah sorry but I look forward to
working. So how do I get a job?

DEREK
He really is retarded. No one like
to work.

BRIAN
"I won't know until I try it."
Right?

Brian points at Monica. She smiles with pride.

TABATHA
It's good to try new things.

Monica walks in front of Tabatha.

MONICA

Depends on what the things are
young lady?

Monica notices the attention Tabatha is giving Brian. She is not happy and does not know how to play it yet.

Derek opens the refrigerator.

DEREK

No juice!

MONICA

I just bought some yesterday.

DEREK

I guess you didn't take in to
consideration the extra mouth in
the house.

BRIAN

I will run to the store.

TABATHA

No!

BRIAN

It's only 6 blocks. I run by it
every morning.

MONICA

Derek can go.

BRIAN

I can go.

DEREK

Why me?

MONICA

White.

Points at Brian.

BRIAN

Hello! I'll be back.

MONICA

Brian I said no!

BRIAN

With all do respect. I drank some
and if I can borrow some money
(Smiling) I will go get some more.

(MORE)

BRIAN (CONT'D)

You know you aren't going to change
my mind so let's not fight.

Monica hands the money to Derek.

MONICA

Who's fighting. (Smiles)

Brian walks up to Derek.

BRIAN

Let's go! (Smiling)

Monica knows how stubborn Brian is and gives up.

TABATHA

Then I am going too.

Monica watching them all leave.

MONICA

Lord! I hope you know what you are
doing.

FADE OUT.

EXT. OUTSIDE - DAY

All three of them are walking down the street and Brian is
smiling and waving at everyone from Old people to Gang
members. At the corn of the block Derek confronts him.

DEREK

Look! It might be a joke for you
but we have to live here. Keep you
head down and don't make trouble
for us.

Derek turns and keeps walking. Brian looks at Tabatha.

BRIAN

What's his problem I live here too
I am just trying to be friendly.
People like friendly people. Right?

TABATHA

Here being friendly is a weakness.

BRIAN

I don't understand.

TABATHA
You don't have to just stay close
to me.

They continue to walk as a car with dark windows follows
them.

After a block the car honks it's horn and Derek goes over to
the car. Tabatha holds Brian's arm like she is gliding him.

BRIAN
What's going on?

TABATHA
(Whispering) Shut up!

Derek comes back and the car drives away.

BRIAN
So who are they?

DEREK
Just shut up and get to the store.

TABATHA
What did you tell them?

DEREK
Whatever they wanted to here? Come
on!

CUT TO:

EXT. MONICA'S YARD - DAY

The three return home with groceries and as they turn into
the yard Tabatha almost drops a bag but Brian catches it for
her. Since he is so close to her and Derek in is front of
them and can't see. Brian sneaks a kiss. The Kiss is in slow
motion because just as it is over Gang members run up.
Tabatha and Derek run to the house but Brian just stands
there.

BRIAN
Hi!

The Gang leader "G" tries to punch him but Brian moves and
"G" misses. Other Gang members knock Brian down.

G
You think you are fun.

BRIAN

No! But you are defiantly not friendly.

G

I knew you weren't retarded just another sneaky white boy trying to steal our women.

Brian still on the ground. G punches Brian.

BRIAN

You have issues buddy.

G

What you don't know how to fight back. Time to teach his white ass where he is.

The Gang beat on Brian. They all kick and punch him. Monica comes out with a gun firing in the air. They run away not knowing who's shooting. Tabatha runs out of the house to be by Brian's side. Derek peaks his head out but doesn't come out of the house. Monica is very upset looking down at Brian being blood.

FADE OUT.

INT. BOXING GYM IN THE CITY - DAY

In the ring is a big guy getting beat pretty bad by a mean smaller Asian guy. They are only sparring but the Asian is fighting like it's his last day to live. A coach calls time but the Asian guy doesn't stop. Other fighters jump into the ring which doesn't stop the Asian guy. He fights them also until they all wise up and get out of the ring.

The Gym owner comes out mad.

GYM OWNER

I told you before to control yourself. This is a place to train only. Get you shit and get out of here.

The Asian is Eric all grown up with a bad attitude.

ERIC

If they don't have the skills they shouldn't gotten in the ring.

GYM OWNER

Get out!

ERIC
Make me! (Smile)

The gym owner turns around and walks away.

GYM OWNER
I'm calling the cops.

Two big guys look at each other and nod at each other to work together. They climb in the ring behind Eric who is watching the owner leave then Eric get's focused on a TV in the gym.

The Bigs guys are silently arguing to each other who is going to be first to attack Eric.

Eric still focused on a picture of Brian on the news.

ERIC
(Yells) Hey turn that up!

A guy by the TV turns it up and Eric jumps out of the ring. The two guys prance around in the ring as if they made Eric get out.

Eric goes up to the TV to see the News story.

TV REPORTER
"Brian Daily was a promising young fighter who had the miss fortune of being injured at a very young age of 9. He spent 15 years confined to a bed until a few months ago miss fortune return with the passing of his mother. He's story takes a twist with an uplifting turn of events. The hired help Monica Turner not only took in Brian but miraculous helped him recover from his injuries. Just weeks now able to walk. A story that should be uplifting but thanks to our inner city has again brought miss fortune into Brian's life. Brian is at -

The TV get's turned off.

ERIC
What the hell?

Eric turns around to see the owner with the remote in his hand and smiling.

ERIC (CONT'D)
Man! You aren't going to be smiling
in a minute.

GYM OWNER
Cops are on their way. You want to
dig yourself in deeper go
ahead. (Laughing)

Eric stares at him very serious.

ERIC
OK!

Gym owner smiles.

ERIC (CONT'D)
I'll go deeper. Come here!

The gym owner takes off running and Eric smiles and get's his
stuff as he walks out.

CUT TO:

EXT. MONICA'S HOUSE - DAY

Because of the news story the police have officers at the
house when Monica get's home with Brian in a cab.

MONICA
Oh! Now you are here. Where were
you guys when it happened?

Monica sees her neighbors watching.

MONICA (CONT'D)
What are you looking at? It's not
like you are any better.

TABATHA
Mom!

Monica is mad at the world. Derek comes out of the house.

DEREK
Mom! He's a punk. He didn't even
try to fight back.

Tabatha gets offended and stands up for her man.

TABATHA

Yeah! Well you are a pussy who wouldn't even come out of the house to helping.

DEREK

What I'm suppose to fight his battles for him.

Derek is trying to act like he could of helped if he wanted to which just makes Tabatha even more mad.

Tabatha and Monica help Brian into the house.

CUT TO:

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE - DAY

When they all are entering the house both Derek and Tabatha are still giving each other attitude. Monica gets mad.

MONICA

Stop it! It's not any bodies fault but the criminals out there.

BRIAN

Look! I am sorry to be so much trouble. Fighting you know took my life away.

Monica and Tabatha get brian to the couch.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

I won't let that happen again.

MONICA

Different time different circumstances. Here we fight to survive.

BRIAN

(Sarcastically) Than I will die. At least I will go with a peacefully conscience.

MONICA

Not funny!

DEREK

It's true though.

TABATHA

Shut up!

Monica just gives them a look to show she is mad so they stop and Monica turns to Brian for a lecture but he beats her to it.

BRIAN

"The honor of a man is the choices he makes for himself to live by". You taught me that.

MONICA

I said that?

BRIAN

Yeah!

MONICA

I'm an idiot! I got my teacher degree off the internet because your mom couldn't afford a real teacher.

BRIAN

"No one has the right to force someone to do something they don't want to do"

Monica starts getting mad at Brian but in a way she does also like that fact that all her lectures got though.

MONICA

You keep throwing all my lectures in my face. Boy! You and I are going to have it out..

Monica has to walk away.

MONICA (CONT'D)

"Rules change depending on where you live". There! A new one for you.

BRIAN

You said! "Change can only come by the one's willing to stand up for it".

Brian stands up on his own even though he is hurt.

Monica is speechless. Then they hear someone yelling outside.

G.

White Boy!

Monica gets pissed off and goes for her gun.

TABATHA

Mom! They have guns that will just set things off. They don't have their backs turned this time.

BRIAN

I'll go have a chat with them.

TABATHA

No! (Yelling)

Monica goes out. Tabatha turns to Derek.

TABATHA (CONT'D)

Why don't you help?

DEREK

Like how?

CUT TO:

EXT. MONICA'S HOUSE - DAY

Monica very anger goes up to the gang.

MONICA

Why do you all act like animals?
Mind your own business.

Tabatha, Brian, and Derek come up to support Monica.

G the gang lead pushes Monica down.

G.

This is our jungle.

Brian runs up and hovers over Monica to protect her.

G

We saw your news story.

G takes this opportunity to kick him in the back of the head since he was down covering Monica

G.

Is that your injury spot.
(Laughing)

Derek is to scared to move but Tabatha is so pissed that she smacks G in the face. The other gang members are shocked then laugh which makes G very angry.

G grabs her then pulls his hand back to smack her. Eric grabs his hand and bends it to hurts G.

ERIC.
Let go of her!

Another gang member puts a gun to Eric's head.

ANOTHER MEMBER
Let go of him!

Eric turns to the gunman.

ERIC.
No! (Smiles)

Gang member TEG yells.

TEG
5 o!

The gang all runs away before the police cruiser comes down the street

Brian helps Monica up. The police stop and question Eric because he is the odd looking one.

COP
(Mean) What are you doing here? You are only causing trouble.

TABATHA
Really! G's Gang throws my mom down and you are going to give him shit.

The second cop is "ROGER" who has had a relationship with Tabatha before.

ROGER
Tabatha! You know if we go down there. They will have 20 people saying they weren't here.

TABATHA
So what Roger? I guess you do nothing! You are very good at your job!

MONICA
Everyone in the house they are not going to help.

Monica looks at Roger and then at her daughter and wonders why Tabatha knows him by name.

CUT TO:

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE - DAY

Brian goes in and walks to get ice for his head. Tabatha is helping him as Monica comes over.

MONICA
How do you know that cop?

TABATHA
You were never home. We had friends
mom.

Tabatha doesn't really want to talk about it in front of Brian. She turns her attention to Eric.

TABATHA (CONT'D)
Who are you?

ERIC.
You're welcome?

TABATHA
Thank you! Now who are you?

ERIC.
My name is Eric. I am what you
might say "an old acquaintances".

Brian stares at him. Monica realizes who Eric is and she gets in front of Brian.

MONICA
You need to leave!

TABATHA
Mom! Why?

BRIAN
Good question. Why now?

Brian pushes Monica to the side.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
I'm OK.

Monica still stays by his side.

ERIC.

Look! I know you must hate me. I hate myself. Everyday and night since that hit. I saw on the news that you have a little trouble and I figure maybe I can pay off some of the debt I owe you. I want to devote myself to you.

Brian thinks for a moment than response.

BRIAN

You aren't my type. I am not gay but if things change I'll call you.

Tabatha smack Brian's shoulder.

TABATHA

Be serious this guy is sincere.

BRIAN

It's crazy! We weren't friends and you don't owe me anything. Yeah for years I hate you but someone taught me "A man that lives with Hate can't live". Something like that.

Monica smiles with pride this time.

MONICA

(Smiles) Close enough. -You are amazing! Oh my GOD! But you are still crazy.

BRIAN

Yeah! I get that from the lady who raised me.

Derek get's upset by that remark.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Hey! I am sorry you all don't understand why I won't fight. I'm not scared of getting hurt.

Brian takes the ice off his neck.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Well! Maybe a little but I can only image the demons that have haunted you -

Talking to Eric.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

- over the years. I don't want that just as much as I do not want to be back stuck in that damn bed again.

MONICA

People don't see consequences. That's why we have violence.

DEREK

Yeah but 9 out of 10 times you don't get caught. You might as well get what you can get.

Monica gets upset and angry.

MONICA

Don't you listen to anything.

ERIC.

Trust me! Living with it is not easy.

DEREK

Pathetic! You guys need to grow a pair.

MONICA

Don't tell me I raised a son with no feeling.

DEREK

Oh!(Laughing) I have feeling.(Serious) All of them. You know the ones looking for my mom who was always taking care of her white boy rather than be there for me.

MONICA

That white boy paid for your clothes, your food, school supplies and those shoes.

DEREK

No! I stole these your broke ass couldn't afford these shoes.

Monica get's offended and slaps him across the face.

Derek gets mad and looks like he's going to hit her back but Eric is stand there.

ERIC.

Take a walk. Because I'll put you down.

Eric is a lot shorter than Derek but Eric is also all muscle and looks very mean. Derek storms out.

ERIC. (CONT'D)

I thought my life was a mess. I guess it's true everyone has problems.

Eric leaves without saying goodbye.

TABATHA

You just going to let him go?

BRIAN

I didn't invite him here. He doesn't strike me as a person who will really do what you ask anyway.

Brian looks in the refrigerator.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Great! No juice. I'll run to the store anyone need anything?

TABATHA

Yeah right? (Smiling)

MONICA

You can't go out. Those thugs are out there just waiting.

TABATHA

Mom he was kidding.

Monica knows Brian better than Tabatha.

BRIAN

I'm not going to be a prisoner. I had that life. They are angry that's their problem.

Eric walks back in with a sleeping bag then lays it on the floor.

MONICA

You can't sleep on the floor. We have roaches.

ERIC.

You do know roaches can climb so
the floor doesn't matter.

Tabatha acts like she didn't know that and is now grossed
out.

TABATHA

Of my GOD!

ERIC.

Beside! I'll eat the little
bastards they mess with me.

BRIAN

Hey! I am going to the store you
want anything?

ERIC.

I'll go with you.

Brian turns to Tabatha.

BRIAN

Cool! See, I am sure they would
rather shoot his ass then me. He
can get the bullet and I will get
the groceries.

MONICA

That's not funny.

TABATHA

Please don't go.

BRIAN

Listen! Being scared stops you from
living.

Brian looks at Monica who just shakes her head.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

I want a lot out of life and if I
run away I don't get to have them..

Tabatha grabs Brian's face to get it focused on her.

TABATHA

I want a lot too but I can't have
it if I lose what I want.

Brian likes what he hears but try to get her to see his side.

BRIAN

I understand! But I am not trying to change you. And remember you started having feeling for me because of my courage and strength. Don't take that away from me.

Tabatha turns to her mom.

TABATHA

Mom! Why did you make him like this?

MONICA

He made himself and after years of watching him. He won't changes is mind.

Eric walks closer.

ERIC.

I prefer he doesn't go either because I don't want the bullet but if the bullet is waiting, it will wait for an hour, a day, weeks, months or whenever.

BRIAN

I like your thinking. (A little softer voice.) Like my dad. Let's go.

TABATHA

If you stay I'll have sex with you?

Everyone is shocked by her statement.

MONICA

What?

ERIC.

Him or me? (Smiles)

Brian looks at Eric because he don't know what to say.

ERIC. (CONT'D)

Hey! Do we really need groceries?

MONICA

Listen!

Tabatha grabs her mom and starts crying.

TABATHA

Mom! He doesn't understand how they are? I don't want to lose him.

ERIC.

How about I just run out?

BRIAN

No! This is who I am? I didn't ask for any of you to follow me. I honor myself by living my life. I really care for her.

Brian walks over and wipes some of her tears.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

I even believe I love you. I am who I am. I change for me and no one else otherwise I will not be happy. Every step I take is a new memory that no one here can ever understand or appreciate like me. I hope you can forgive me but I am going to get juice. Because I am thirsty and I want to.

Brian hugs both Monica and Tabatha then walks out. Eric goes to hug them and they just look at him.

ERIC

OK! I was just hoping.

Eric leaves.

CUT TO:

EXT. MONICA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Brian walking to the curb and Eric comes running to catch up.

ERIC.

Still alive so far.

BRIAN

The store is 6 blocks this way.

ERIC.

My car is this way.

BRIAN

I am not hiding in a car.

ERIC.

This isn't about hiding. I am not caring groceries for 6 blocks.

Brian smile and they walk to his car and drive away.

CUT TO:

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Monica and Tabatha are walking to the couch.

TABATHA

I've had boyfriends and yes even sex with guys you don't know about.

MONICA

(Trying to catch her breather) Let me sit down for this.

They both sit on the couch.

MONICA (CONT'D)

Well! I can assume who one of them was. I guess this talk is long over due.

TABATHA

Mom I am 24. I know things. I am fine.

MONICA

No you aren't. Not throwing sex out there just to try to keep him-

TABATHA

- I never slept with him but he is all I think about.

MONICA

Please tell me it's not -

Tabatha shakes her head and starts weeping.

TABATHA

- I thinking about where we are going to live and raise our children.

MONICA

Oh baby girl that sounds like love.
I thought you were just, you know
"Crushing" on him or whatever you
kids call it now of days.

TABATHA

What do I do?

MONICA

This is serious.

Monica wipes her daughter eyes.

MONICA (CONT'D)

I always told you to follow your
heart and you can not go wrong.

TABATHA

Yeah didn't daddy follow his heart
right out the door. What if Brian
doesn't feel the same about me.
Look he won't listen to me.

MONICA

First of all your dad wasn't
following his heart. He was
following something else -

TABATHA

Brian is still a guy.

MONICA

With love we have to take chances.
Sometimes it only last for a little
bit and sometimes you hit the jack
pop. At least that's what I like to
believe. I love you but I am not
happy about your feeling for him
especially how messed up things are
now. You know this is just the
beginning of a long struggle.

TABATHA

I am will to do whatever -

MONICA

- You say that now. The world is
not a nice place and truth is we
can choice who we love and who we
don't. I don't want this for you.

TABATHA

But I do and you have to let me try.

MONICA

No I don't I am your mother.

TABATHA

And that is also the reason you need to support me. You give me all the lectures, tell me all the things to watch out for but in the end. You only really need to do one thing.

MONICA

I am in a position most mothers will never be in. I have been with this boy for 12 years.

Tabatha smile waiting to hear good news.

MONICA (CONT'D)

He is a great person but stubborn like no other. You are going to need a stick. (Laughing)

Monica gives her daughter a hug.

TABATHA

If he makes it home?

MONICA

Everything is going to be OK.

Monica's face shows she doesn't believe that but she figures that now is not the time. Her goal is just to be supportive right now.

MONICA (CONT'D)

I need you to call your brother because he isn't going to answer my cell. Tell him to get him and his chip on his shoulder home. Give us one less thing to worry about.

CUT TO:

INT. SMALL GROCERY MARKET - EVENING

Brian and Eric are caring a few items to the check out.

ERIC

Well! I spent the last 15 years hating myself and my dad. All the things he taught me was bull shit. I mean the skills are good but the meaning are crap. Except, I do kind of believe in one old way of thinking. They honor the belief of "Take a life you own a life".

BRIAN

So what you owe me 15 years. Honestly buddy I am not into long term commitments right now.

ERIC

We both know that neither one of us is going to live that long so relax.

BRIAN

Speak for yourself. I don't plan on going anyway.

They put the stuff of the counter to check out.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Hey this whole owe me thing. Does that mean you will pay for things too? Or is it just about my body?

The clerk starts ringing stuff up.

ERIC

I don't pay for it. I am just here to be behind you or in front. However you want it?

The clerk was listening and gets the wrong idea. Eric sees his reaction.

ERIC (CONT'D)

It's not how it sounds?

CLERK

Son! It never is but my only concern is how much you buy not what you do with it when you get it home.

Brian picks up a box of condoms.

BRIAN

Dude! I better get some of these. I heard that they are important.

Eric is shocked and puzzled because it wasn't the topic they were talking about but it falls in with what the clerk was thinking.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Tabatha! - Things are getting heated.

Brian ask the clerk?

BRIAN (CONT'D)

What's the difference between normal and magnum?

A very big black football player type is behind them in line.

THE BIG GUY

Magnums are for fellows such as myself and normal are for people like you two young men.

Eric turns around and sees how big the guy is but really doesn't care.

ERIC

Don't judge a book by it's cover I can barely squeeze into a magnum.

THE BIG GUY

(Smiling)That was visual information I did not need to know sir and if I offended you in any way, I am truly sorry! I was just stating physical acknowledgement of our biological structural in the difference in anatomy between races.

The clerk rings everything up except the condoms.

ERIC

Yeah well I was just stating facts about what I know and how not everything follows the laws of nature. You for instance. -

The big guy can see that Eric is starting to be threading and the clerk reaches under his counter also expecting a bad out come.

ERIC (CONT'D)

- Very big but doesn't mean you can take a punch. I mean in theory you should be able to but -

BRIAN

-Dude! You have issue! The guy was giving his opinion to help.

THE BIG GUY

They do have place you can go to talk to people.

CLERK

Not everyone is bad.

Eric has is back to the clerk yet still knews what he was doing?

ERIC

If you feel that way why did you reach for the gun?

CLERK

(Seriously) It's my store.

BRIAN

Man you are trying to get us killed by the wrong people.

ERIC

I apologize for my behavior. Now tell the old man to put down the gun before I take it from him.

BRIAN

Sorry! It's a work in progress he has along road ahead of him.

The clerk looks at Eric then pulls out which is a sawed off shot gun but before he gets it out to point it at Eric. Eric already has it out of the guys hand.

THE BIG GUY

Damn! That was fast!

CLERK

I just wanted to see if you could really take it.

Eric turns the gun around and hands it back to the clerk.

ERIC

Yeah! Me too. (Smiles)

BRIAN
OK! You are both nuts.

Brian turns to the big guy.

THE BIG GUY
I agree! I thought it was cool but
I might need to check my underwear.

They all laugh and seem to bond a little.

CLERK
So do you want the condoms, you
think she is ready?

BRIAN
She is but I'm not.

CLERK
Then don't get them. Nothing worse
then people making you do things
you don't want to do.

THE BIG GUY
Amen to that.

ERIC
Yeah! I agree.

Each guys has a moment of reflection on life.

CUT TO:

EXT. MARKET - EVENING

Brian and Eric walk to the car and the Gang members pull up
before they can get in.

ERIC
Well it was fun while it lasted.

Eric opens up his door. Brian just stands there and hands him
the groceries.

G
Going some where?

ERIC
No! Just putting the bags in the
car.

G

So! I guess you are ready to stand up like a man. Or you gonna cry like a little bitch and beg us not to kill you.

BRIAN

Shouldn't it be cry like a baby.

Brian turns to Eric.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

I mean doesn't it make more sense.

ERIC

He's an idiot what does he know.

G looks back at his gang.

G

Oh! Together they get all brave. (Smiling)

G flashes his gun that he has under his shirt.

G (CONT'D)

Let see how far that mouth with take you.

The big guy walks out in the middle of the heat discussion. He stops in his tracks which get's the gangs attention.

G (CONT'D)

You have a problem? You big ass piece of shit.

THE BIG GUY

I can see you fellows have a serious discussion I would be so graceful if you would let me be on my way and then you can continue your business.

G

Oh Shit! We are surrounded by pussy.

THE BIG GUY

Now young man that is an unfair accusation to make. You do not know my situation. I am merely trying to stay on course and continue my journey to a better future.

All the gang member are laughing at the nice talking big guy.

THE BIG GUY (CONT'D)

What? It's funny to study hard and do what I need to for your family and I must admit I am days away from a big football contact.
(Upset) This is my chance. Can you guys just settle this like men.

ERIC

That won't work. Because I will kick anyone of their asses and they will just come back with more to try to beat me. It's just better to get it over with.

Eric slams his car door shut and starts to walk to the Gang.

THE BIG GUY

You are not helping the situation.

The store clerk comes out with his sawed off shotgun.

CLERK

Not here and not now.

G

You sure you want to get in this Bill?

The Clerk's name is Bill and G has know the old guy for years.

BILL/CLERK

I don't care what your problems are and I don't want a problems with you. But you guys open up those guns and my grand kids playing in the back of the store can get hit by a stray bullet.

Bill/Clerk walks a little bit closer and aims for G.

BILL/CLERK (CONT'D)

That's not going to happen today and if you try to prove me wrong. I promise the good lord you are going first.

Bill is just focused on G.

G

You are out numbered old man.

BILL

Maybe so but this here will take at least two of you to hell and let a couple of your friends remember her scream for the rest of your lives. Now! Take your business somewhere else.

A cop car comes down the street.

BRIAN

Looks like the odds are improving.

The Gang takes off before the cops get the Bill.

COP

Everything OK Mr. Bill?

BILL

Late as usually guys.

Brian and Eric get in the car and wave to the big guy and Bill still chatting with the cops.

INT. CAR - SAME

BRIAN

See you understand that it's a never ending cycle that needs to be broken. One beat down comes back with another and so on.

ERIC

True but a little insight. If you do care about that girl? Yes! Women want a guy such as yourself that would take a bullet for her but they also want to have a guy willing to fight for them. It makes them feel safe which you won't do. Where does your boundaries of honor lie? You need to think about that because this shit is far from over?

Brian just stares for a few seconds just thinking.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Isn't that her son?

Brian looks and sees Derek walking home.

BRIAN

Yeah! Pick him up.

When they pull over Brian notices that Derek has a busted nose and a bloody lip.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
What Happen?

DEREK
None of your business.

Brian get's mad and jumps out of the car.

BRIAN
Get in the car!

Derek has attitude for a few seconds but its all a front that he puts up. He still tries to act tough but does get in the car.

DEREK
Yeah! I'm tired of walking.

He get's in the back seat and Eric starts driving but slowly because his is looking in all directions for the gang members. Derek lightly snaps the back of Eric's head.

DEREK (CONT'D)
Drive fast damn it!

Eric stops the car puts it in park. Leans the seat all the way back until he is laying in the backseat area and looking up at Derek. Eric then puts his fist up.

ERIC
I can lay down be backwards or up side down and even only use one finger. And I would still be able to kick your ass. If you ever disrespect me again? I will knock you right through that fucken back window.

Eric puts his fist down.

ERIC (CONT'D)
You need to stop with the attitude. We all can see the only person that you are truly angry with is yourself. Scare to be a failure ,a fear you won't amount to much in life. You don't like yourself that much then make a change and stop acting like a baby.

Eric raised the seat back up.

BRIAN

Damn! Who needs fortune cookies
with you around.

Eric just gives him a mean look and puts the car back in
drive and they start moving again.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

You know that's good advise for you
too.

ERIC

There is a difference. I hate
myself and I am OK with it.

They drive away.

CUT TO:

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE - EVENING

They all walk in Monica is so happy to see Derek. Tabatha
runs into Brian's arms. Eric just standing there holding
groceries.

ERIC

I guess I'll put the food away.

Brian get pull to the back room by Tabatha as Monica notices
Derek's face.

MONICA

What did you do?

Eric hears Monica's response to Derek's bloody face.

ERIC

What? You're the mom. Shouldn't you
be like "what happened to you"?

DEREK

See!

MONICA

It was a reaction. I am sorry. (To
Derek)

Then she turns to Eric who is putting food away.

MONICA (CONT'D)

(MORE)

MONICA (CONT'D)

And by the way you are a guess here
so shut the hell up!

Derek just shakes his head and tries to walk away but Monica stops him.

ERIC

Damn! Maybe he does have a reason
to be mad.

Monica gives Eric a mean look then hugs Derek even though he doesn't hug back.

MONICA

Look I am sorry for everything or
whatever you are mad at. I love you
so much.

CUT TO:

INT. BACK ROOM OF MONICA'S HOUSE - SAME

Tabatha is kissing Brian and pulls back.

BRIAN

I almost brought condoms I thought
we were getting to that point.

TABATHA

Absolutely!

Brian walks away from her.

BRIAN

But we have a problem.

Tabatha playfully walks up to him.

TABATHA

I can fix your problem.

She tries to kiss him but he stops her.

BRIAN

I have issues and I won't fight.
You deserve someone who will fight
for you.

TABATHA

Growing up here all I saw was
fighting. I don't like it and I am
glad you don't either. And I think
you sell yourself short.

(MORE)

TABATHA (CONT'D)

A women wants someone to protect them. I saw the way you covered my mom outside. You have that brave instinct. Whether you know it or not. And who cares who will fight for who?

BRIAN

You don't understand I don't know what I will do in -

TABATHA

- No does (Angry)

CUT TO:

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE KITCHEN - SAME

Eric is looking out the kitchen window. He spots something.

ERIC

(Yelling) Everyone down!

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

The gang drives by shooting at the house.

CUT TO:

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE - SAME

Eric gets up with broken glass falling off of him.

ERIC

Everyone OK?

CUT TO:

INT. BACK ROOM - SAME

Brian is on top of Tabatha.

BRIAN

You OK?

TABATHA

I think so just give me a minute.

BRIAN
(Yelling) Ms. Monica!

MONICA (O.S.)
Yeah! We're OK. (Yelling) Tabatha?

BRIAN
She's OK?

CUT BACK TO:

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE - SAME

Eric is looking out the window.

ERIC
I'm fine! If anyone cares?

Everyone meets Eric in the kitchen.

BRIAN
Hey! You OK? (Smiles)

ERIC
Why yes I am. Thank you for asking.

DEREK
Why you to are joking and think
this is a game they are reloading.

Derek turn to Tabatha.

DEREK (CONT'D)
Do we all have to die before you
realize that some things aren't
meant to be?

TABATHA
This isn't my fault!

MONICA
Stop! No one is to blame but -

DEREK
- Really! You are still defending
this even after you told me you
don't want them together either.

Monica is in shock that Derek said that because she didn't
want Tabatha and Brian to know how she really felt.

TABATHA
Mom! You said that?

ERIC

Hey! Focus people. First things first. This place isn't looking good. Where can we go?

BRIAN

I guess there is only one place to go.

MONICA

Where? Your house was taken by the bank remember.

Monica looks at Eric.

ERIC

Don't look at me. I drove here in mine. Long story not going into it.

BRIAN

No! There is one person that has no choice but to take us in. You can say he owes me. (Smiling)

DEREK

Who could you know? You haven't been outside in 15 years.

Monica knows who Brian is talking about.

MONICA

Oh no!

DEREK

All no what? Who are we talking about?

BRIAN

Bullets and your kids. You don't have a choice.

FADE OUT.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jake is passed out on the couch when he is wokened by someone banging on his door.

JAKE

Who is it?

BRIAN

Your family! Now open up.

Jake look at the time which is one o'clock in the morning.
He opens the door to see all of them.

JAKE

You brought the whole neighborhood,
huh?

They are start walking in one by one.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Is that it or is more coming?

Eric just stays by the door as Jake shuts it.

ERIC

Can I use your bathroom?

JAKE

Yeah it's in the back.

Jake looks at Eric as if he recognizes him.

When Eric is gone Jake turns to Brian.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Is that?

BRIAN

Yeap! Crazy isn't it.

Brian walks over and sits on the couch where Tabatha is
already.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

So anyway! This gang of street
punks want to kill me. The same
ones that just put me in the
hospital that you didn't visit me
for.

MONICA

Enough! None of us are perfect. We
need a place as they say to lay
down.

DEREK

"Lay low" mom (Laughing)

Derek is eating Jake's chips.

DEREK (CONT'D)

Hey Man! Do you have cable?

JAKE
No! How long?

MONICA
It's Mr. Jake. (To Derek) Grumpy!
That's my son Derek and my daughter
Tabatha.

JAKE
Nice to meet you! How long?

BRIAN
Don't know! I would of looked up
dear old dad but haven't seen him
in 13 years.

Monica walks to the kitchen part of the apartment.

MONICA
Your mom mention before that your
uncle knew where he was but why
look up some who didn't care to
stick around.

Monica only sees beer in the refrigerator.

MONICA (CONT'D)
Yeah! Only beers. This isn't going
to work.

JAKE
Sorry! I wasn't expecting
company. (Angry)

MONICA
What did I say?

Derek and Tabatha are fighting over the remote. Brian gets up
because he is curious. He did not know Uncle Jake knew where
his dad was all these years.

BRIAN
So where is dear old dad?

Jake hesitates to answer. He walks to the kitchen part to get
a beer.

JAKE
Brian! I am sorry but your dad died
about 12 years ago.

BRIAN
Really! How? Mom never mention
anything.

JAKE

I don't even know if she knew. I didn't tell her, she had enough to think about with you. And just did not think at the time she need to hear about it.

BRIAN

Well! (Louder) I need to hear about it. (Sad) Even though he left us he was still my father. What happen?

JAKE

Things aren't always how they seem Brian! You dad was a great guy. And it tore him apart to leave. He started drinking just to deal with his depression.

BRIAN

Yeah whatever! Just tell me how he died.

JAKE

Bar fight that he won but the guy came back mad with a gun and shot him in the street.

Brian jumps around.

BRIAN

Thank you! My point proven again. Fighting only leads to bad things. This is why I won't do it.

Tabatha loses on the TV channel battle with Derek so she gets up and goes to Brian.

TABATHA

Can we finish our private talk from before?

BRIAN

Bullets were flying. That will always stop a conversation. But did you hear my dad proved my point.

TABATHA

I got a point to show you.

Tabatha drags him to another room.

Jake turns to Monica.

JAKE

Ummm?

MONICA

Like we could stop it. They will figure things out. We have bigger problems.

JAKE

Speaking of that!

CUT TO:

INT. JAKE'S BACK WORKOUT ROOM - SAME

Jake walks in to see Eric looking over the old trophy, pictures and newspaper articles about Brian and Eric's fight.

JAKE

You were a great fighter but -

Eric spots his picture on Jake's punching bag.

JAKE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Shit happens!

ERIC

Everyone knows that but no one can tell you how to live with it.

Eric walks out of the room.

JAKE

Tell me about.

Jake rips Eric's picture off his punching bag.

Monica walks by the door way.

MONICA

We need to get a lot of groceries in the morning. Good night!

She walks away.

JAKE

Again! (Loud) How long?

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Gang members are hanging out.

G

We need to find them.

TEG

Why? They are running scared. You prove a point that we are bad asses.

He goes to punch fist with G but G doesn't share his opinion.

G

They made me look bad in front of the boys. And her -

G has discuss with Tabatha because he had feeling for her.

G (CONT'D)

Get the word out. This isn't over.

FADE OUT.

I/E. JAKE'S CAR - MORNING

Jake and Monica park in front of the apartment building.

JAKE

Yeah! Dan was my best friend we both were in the sport. I was the one who introduced him to my sister. He was good guy.

MONICA

He left his family.

Jake turns the car off.

JAKE

Not everything is how it seems. You shouldn't judge a person until you walk in their shoes.

MONICA

Sorry! But I have experience with guys like that. My kids father walked out and never gave them a single thought.

JAKE

Dan had reasons. Honorable ones. He cared about Brian and my sister. She wanted him to leave to give them time to deal with their issues but being away from Brian may a bigger issue. He started drinking and they never had a chance to patch things up. But Brian's injury changed all of us. That match did more than break my heart. I was up for my big championship fight. All my dreams right there.

Jake looking at his hand to show how close is goal was to achieve.

MONICA

Did you lose?

JAKE

Worse!

Jake turns to her.

JAKE (CONT'D)

I couldn't get Brian out of my head and my sister was determine to keep me reminded of that it could happen to me. - So I didn't even try.

Jake starts rubbing his head in frustration.

JAKE (CONT'D)

I never meant to make Brian feel like I didn't care. Every penny I had went to my sister to help out with him.

MONICA

I know!

JAKE

I just. - Looking at him makes me -

MONICA

- Hating yourself for being scared and giving up. Brian reminds you of that every time you see him.

She shakes her head for the fact that all these years she had the wrong thoughts of Jake.

JAKE

You are a very wise lady.

MONICA

No! I think we are all just starting to really see each the right way.

They both get out of the car.

JAKE

Well! Let's grab what you can and I'll get them to help me come back for the rest.

MONICA

I'll keep an eye on the stuff until you come back.

JAKE

Are you just trying to get out of helping? I mean if someone wants to steal the groceries that bad they can have them.

MONICA

It's a habit! People in my neighborhood will steal anything even if they don't need it.

JAKE

OK! (Smiles)

Jake leaves struggling with 3 full bags. Monica looks around and see how different the city is in this part of the state.

As she is waiting for Jake. Four guys jump her.

BAD GUY JUMPER

You think you can hide? That just makes it worse lady. Now we have to deliver a message.

JAKE

I got one for you. (Running to her) "I'm seeing red"!

Jake punches one guy and throws another guy down. The guy holding Monica pulls out a gun which is kicked out of his hand by Eric. Jake then starts punching that guy and he lets go of Monica. Eric jumps to the fourth guy who tries to get the gun that the third guy lost. He get's the gun but Eric grabs it out of his hand so he runs.

Monica pulls Jake off of the guy he is beating on the ground. The guys all run away as Derek walks up.

DEREK
What did I miss?

Monica and Jake are trying to catch their breath.

DEREK (CONT'D)
Hey! Did you get the Cheetos?

CUT TO:

INT. JAKE'S APARTMENT - SAME

Monica has an ice pack on her neck. Tabatha is taking care of her.

BRIAN
Well! I guess I better go talk to them.

Jake starts laughing as he is drinking a beer.

ERIC
No! He is serious.

BRIAN
Yeah! I watch this talk show this morning. They said the best thing is communication. I'll Be back.

Brian walks to the door. Tabatha runs to stop him.

TABATHA
Stop! You can't go!

JAKE
Oh my GOD! I guess it was a good thing I stayed away. You turned out like your mother wanted. A great person - just unrealistic.

Brian kisses Tabatha.

BRIAN
I just have to end this, I hope you understand?

TABATHA
I do! But I'm coming with you I hope you understand that?

MONICA & DEREK
No your not!

JAKE
I'm in!

Jake turns to Eric.

JAKE (CONT'D)
What about you?

ERIC
I go where he goes.

Eric points at Brian.

TABATHA
Let's all go.

BRIAN
That's Stupid!

ERIC
Just as stupid as you going.

Eric walks pass everyone.

ERIC (CONT'D)
I'll be in my car. Who's riding
with me?

Everyone is just looking at each other.

CUT TO:

INT. JAKE'S CAR - DAY

Jake is driving with Monica, Tabatha and Derek. They are following Eric's car that Brian and Eric are in. Everyone is silent.

DEREK
Does anyone else feel like they are
going to be on the evening news
tonight?

TABATHA
Derek! Shut up!

JAKE
I am actually feeling pretty good.
(Smiling)

Monica get's worried.

MONICA

Jake! You are here to help the boys. Not try to re-live you youth. Don't make things worse.

JAKE

(Laughing) You called me Jake!

MONICA

(Smiling) Behave or I will call you something else.

They Pull up to Monica's House. Jake, Monica, Tabatha and Derek get out. Brian get's in the back seat and Jake get's in Eric's car.

TABATHA

Please be careful!

BRIAN

We'll be right back.

JAKE

Yeah! Just going to talk.

Jake reaches out to Monica to make it look like he is shaking her hand but really slips her his keys to his car and apartment.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Pack up what you guys can.

They pull off and Monica holds Tabatha as Derek goes to their house.

CUT TO:

INT. ERIC'S CAR - DAY

Brian in the back looking at his uncle and Eric.

BRIAN

You know you guys don't need to be here?

ERIC

Being a person with a death wish, where else am I suppose to go?

BRIAN
 Since when did you get this death
 wish attitude?

ERIC
 The moment my dumb ass looked you
 up. (Laughing)

Jake turns around to Brian.

JAKE
 This is really crazy! You can not
 change these guys. This is a way of
 life for them.

BRIAN
 I'm not trying to change them. They
 are trying to change me. I did not
 ask for this. But I can't walk away
 either.

JAKE
 Why?

CUT TO:

EXT. A RUN DOWN GANG HOUSE - DAY

They pull up to the house.

JAKE
 This it?

ERIC
 It's the address Derek said? Who
 get's to knock? (Smiling)

They all get out of the car. Brian starts walking up first,
 Jake and Eric follow.

ERIC (CONT'D)
 Some body's in a hurry.

JAKE
 Let the fun begin. (Sarcastically)

Brian knocks on the door. Eric looks around making sure no
 ones sneaking up on them. Jake looks at Brian because no one
 is answering the door. Jake bangs really hard.

ERIC
 Oh Shit! This is funny.

Eric kicks on the door.

BRIAN

Dude!

ERIC

Man! They're trying to kill us, you think I give a shit about breaking there door.

A little boy rides up on a rusted old bike.

LITTLE BOY

They are out hunting bad people.

They all can't believe what they just heard.

ERIC

Well! Can you tell them that the bad people stopped by.

JAKE

Oh Well! We tried, let's go help the others pack.

BRIAN

Yeah! If we get lucky maybe we'll run into them on the way back.

They all walk back to the car.

CUT TO:

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Brian walks in and Tabatha runs to him with a puffy face because she was crying so much thinking he wasn't coming back.

TABATHA

But How?

Eric walks pass them.

ERIC

No one home. We live another day.

Jake walks in.

JAKE

Bathroom?

Tabatha is just about to kiss Brian but has to stop to answer.

TABATHA
Second Door.

She then goes to kiss him and drags him into a back room.

Derek and Monica are bring bags of clothes and stuff to the front door

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE MONICA'S HOUSE - EVENING

A small group of 6 new gang members with a 9 year old boy is outside calling for Derek.

GANG LEADER
Derek! Get out here.

Monica is pissed but Derek grabs his mom to ensure her things are OK.

DEREK
Mom! It's cool. Trust me!

Derek goes outside and talks to the Gang members. The Gang leader punches him and he goes to the ground. Monica comes running out.

CUT TO:

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Brian and Tabatha comes out of the back room. They don't see anyone but heard the yelling outside.

CUT TO:

EXT. MONICA'S PORCH - SAME

Brian and Tabatha walk out to see Eric sitting on the porch wrapping his hands up preparing for a fight. Monica is yelling out the Gang members trying to stick up for Derek for what he did.

BRIAN
Tabatha! In the house.

TABATHA

No! This is my family.

He grabs her arm to stop her from going out there.

BRIAN

Then call your police friend if you want to help. Giving us more people to have to protect isn't helping.

Tabatha looks at her mom and brother then runs into the house.

ERIC.

By the way that was really fast. (Laugh)

BRIAN

(Serious) We were just kissing. What's going on? Who are these guys?

Eric spits on the ground and then stands up.

ERIC.

Well! As crazy as it may sound. Actually, funny if you think about it. Apparently Derek broke up a fight between two 9 year old's yesterday.

Brian looks at Eric as he realizes something.

BRIAN

That's where he got the busted lip.

ERIC.

Mostly likely. Now! For his good deed these ass holes want to hurt him because he stopped the fight.

BRIAN

That doesn't make any sense. Who are they?

Another gang of 6 are walking over to where Derek and Monica are arguing.

Eric starts punching his palms making sure his straps feel good.

ERIC.

Probably the other ass holes. Look
there is another 9 year old.

CUT TO:

The new Gang joins the other bad gang and everyone is on pins
and needles about this event. This new gang is not there for
a bad reason. The Good gang leader has his son in front of
him.

GOOD GANG LEADER

My son would like to thank you for
stopping the fight.

BAD GAND LEADER

Yea! Because his little punk ass
was getting messed up?

GOOD LEADER 9 YEAR OLD

Look at his face and look at mine.
Who you think was winning?

Good Leader smacks his son on the head.

GOOD GANG LEADER

Not important! You shouldn't of
been fighting to begin with.

BAD GAND LEADER

Bull shit! Survival of the fittest
bitch.

CUT TO:

Jake walks out on the porch.

JAKE

What's Up?

ERIC.

Mom and son caught between two
gangs. Asian connection to the
rescue.

Jake walks down the steps.

JAKE

Well hell! Someone has to speak for
Brooklyn.

ERIC

(Smiling)Let's do it.

As they try to walk over Brian grabs their shoulders and they turn around.

BRIAN

You guys go down. I'm coming in.

Eric happy to hear it and give him a friendly tap on his shoulder.

ERIC

Man! That means a lot. It really does. Actually! (Thinking) It doesn't because all this shit started because you wouldn't fight to begin with.

JAKE

Brian! We are doing this because of your honor. Do not disgrace that. No matter what happens. No one should ever be forced to fight.

Jake holds both of Brian's shoulders.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Your parents would be so proud of you. I know I am!

Jake gives him a hug.

ERIC

Are you coming? It's about to start.

JAKE

Hey! I have to say my good-byes.

CUT TO:

Monica gets extremely mad and loud at the gang members.

MONICA

Leave us alone. No matter what, good or bad you just want to hurt someone.

Jake and Eric walking over.

MONICA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

You are all just animals.

JAKE

I guess that makes us the zoo keepers. (Smiling)

Jake grabs Monica and pulls her back while Eric walks through the guys and helps Derek.

The gang members are in disbelief as Eric moved Derek out of harms way. The gang jokes that they are acting so tough.

JAKE (CONT'D)

You both go in the house now.

Jake waves his hands around to motion flying things.

JAKE (CONT'D)

You know stray bullets will be flying.

Eric is staring guys down trying to provoke them.

ERIC

Yeah! We'll take out the trash.

GANG MEMBERS

Oh!

BAD GANG LEADER

I think you might want to change what -

Eric get's in his face.

ERIC

-Shut up! Idiots, dumb asses, cock suckers what about niggas? Whatever I have to call you to get this party going. I will! I am tired of waiting.

JAKE

I totally agree! I'm getting old here.

A car pulls up and even more Gang members show up including a very large muscular man called "BIG KEITH".

ERIC

Damn! That is a big ass hole.

KEITH

What did you just call me you little Asian piece of shit.

JAKE

Oh! I think he's going to get the party started.

BAD GANG LEADER
Kill him big Keith!

GOOD GANG LEADER
Keith! We were here on good terms.

KEITH
I don't give a shit!

Jake is just staring then burst into a little laugh.

JAKE
(Laughing) Dude I know you. Keith -
Keith Taylor. This just get's
funnier.

Jake extends his arm out for a handshake. Keith smacks it
away.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Jake Barnes! We use to spare back
in the day.

Keith tries to intimidate Jake.

KEITH
Yeah! Well we aren't sparing today.
These are my streets.

JAKE
Damn! Sounds like you took to many
hits to the head or is that the
steroids talking?

Keith gets mad but Jake is more concern with the police
cruiser driving down the street.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Oh Hell no! Everyone stay right
here.

Jake walks right past Keith and into the street. The Cop car
pulls up and stops.

JAKE (CONT'D)
I'll be damned if we are postponing
this shit?

The cops roll down there windows.

COP
Everything OK Fellows?

JAKE

Hell No!

Jake upset and kicks the cop car.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Your ass needs to leave.

Gangs are impressed and enjoying watch Jake kick the car. Jake kicks it again.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Go! Get out of here!

Jake turns to the Gang as the police slowly open their doors. The police are pretty scared with so many gang members around that they just open their doors and stand outside the car ready to jump back in at a moments notice. They know this situation can turn deadly any second.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Someone pull out a gun and get these pigs out of here.

COP

Buddy! You need to calm down.

The second cop uses his radio to call in back up.

COP # 2

We are going to need back up -

Jake walks up on top of the car that Keith drove up in.

COP # 2 (O.S.) (CONT'D)

- On Dogwood and Carter Ave.

JAKE

Keith! This shit yours?

COP

Sir! Get down please!

The cops can't be to forceful because of the fact that they are out numbered and walking away from their squad car is not an option.

KEITH

Fuck that! This bitch is going to die.

Keith walks over to his car. The cops do not know what to do. There are just to many gang members and Jake and Keith are both big men.

JAKE

(At the cops) If I was you guys I
would get the hell out of here?

Keith tries to grab Jake but he jumps down on the other side of the car. Then Jack kicks the headlights out and runs back up on top of the car. Keith runs around to see the lights and get's really mad.

JAKE (CONT'D)

I never got a title shot. I guess
all you sons of bitches will have
to do.

Jake jump off in the street and stays there waiting for Keith to come around and meet him.

KEITH

I'm gonna kill you.

JAKE

Take your best shot.

CUT TO:

Eric notices a car slowly drifting down the street.

ERIC

Heads up!

Jake and Keith are about to fight.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Chichen ass drive by coming.

Everyone turn to see the car coming. Keith is so heated from being pumped up to fight Jake. Keith screams at the car.

KEITH

I dare you!

Keith and Jake stand in the middle of the street stopping the car. The windows are tinted so they can't see who is inside but Keith is known by everyone and not one to be messed with. Jake jumps on the hood to piss them off.

JAKE

Hey guys! Join the party.

He jumps up and down. The Cops already have been holding there guns because of all that has been happening. G and his gang figure a fast reverse one would make them look bad and also would probably cause a shoot out.

So they play it tough and get out of the car as Jake starts kicking in the windshield.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Let's get this over with.

As G's gang is getting out watching Jake kick the hell out of their car. G looks to the cops.

G
Officer! Aren't you going to do anything?

COP
I don't think nothing is going to stop what's about to happen here.

Jake is still on the car when Eric walks to the street.

ERIC
Hey old man! You do realize everyone has guns but us.

Jake sits on the top of the hood of the car.

JAKE
So! We are just going to have to take them from these knuckle heads.

Jake seems to be very happy and enjoying himself that everyone is just waiting for him and standing still. He jumps up and runs off the car.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Either way! I'm betting less than 10% of us will live through this shit anyway.

Everyone looks at each other and is very nervous. A lot have there hands in their pockets on weapons ready to go.

BRIAN
Wait! This isn't right.

ERIC
Dude! None of this is right but I do think we can all agree that the 2 kids need to take shelter in the house.

The good gang leader looks down at his son and pushes him away.

GOOD GANG LEADER

Go!

He runs to Monica's house. And when the other boy tries to go the bad gang dad holds him back.

BAD GANG LEADER

My boy will be here like a man.

Eric walks over to them.

ERIC

Your stupidity is going to get your boy killed.

Eric tries to pull the boy away and the gang leader goes for his gun. Eric twist the guys arm and takes the gun.

ERIC (CONT'D)

But not today.

Eric pushes the boy.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Get in the house.

Jake walking over to Eric as the other boy runs to the house.

JAKE

See! I told you we just take it from them.(Smiling)

Brian walks up to "G".

BRIAN

Look! No one else has to die here. Let's just deal with our problem. You want to kick my ass again I am right here.

G

You think I'm dumb enough to do things in front of witnesses?

BRIAN

Witnesses! I thought you would like that. Make you feel like a big man.

Keith walks over closer to them and Jake.

KEITH

I don't know what you two's problem is but I have issue with -

BRIAN

- Shut up! (Mad) And back off or you will be sorry.

KEITH

Ah! Really! (Laughing)

Brian walks up to him calmly.

BRIAN

Sir you don't scare me. Matter of fact I am the only one here that's not scared. (Thinking)- Maybe that's the problem.

Brian turns around to G.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Either you are scared of me or your jealous because you like Tabatha. I don't care. She like me and as for my fear. Jail or not? You guys haven't seen hell until to are strapped to a bed for 15 years. To me you are all (Loud)pussies. At first I thought it was a color thing but no you all might act tough but your aren't.

BAD GANG LEADER

Who do you think you are?

Brian turns to him and starts walk to the bad gang leader dad.

BRIAN

I am the person who see you all clearly now. You think you are going to have a short life I might as well be a bad ass and hope someone ends it quick because GOD forbid you wake up years from now thinking what the hell did I do to all those people.

Brian point to Eric. But still looking at Bad leader dad.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

He can tell you about that hell. Now! Maybe you will be able to handle it -

Brian starts walking back to G.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

- or maybe not. But you are still weak. Because none of you are strong enough to take yourself out to spare with world of your worthless existence.

Brian gets really mad and emotional and in G face.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

I am! Give me a gun. I show you a will that none of you have. I WILL NOT! Go back in that bed. I will die first.

Brian turns to everyone again.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

You all aren't as bad as you think you are. Death has been waiting here for the last 20 minutes yet not one of you had the balls to pull out a gun and get this death party going.

Brian points at bad gang dad.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Except for him but we all can agree he's just evil, Probably would of used his son as a shield if the bullets were flying.

Brian turns back to "G".

BRIAN (CONT'D)

What about you? How tough are you? Hurting people and being bad is easy. The hard thing is to not. Anyone of those bullets you guys are carrying around can put you in that bed that I was in for 15 years. Having someone else wipe your ass and feeding you. Never to see the outside again begging for it to end.

Brian brings down his tone and get serious.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

All I wanted to do was live my life. You made it personal with issue that you have on your own.

(MORE)

BRIAN (CONT'D)

But I now, I know I have to getting involved.

G

So you are ready to fight me?

BRIAN

Yeah! But not with fist.
I am going to start a youth center right in the middle of your hell hole. And none of you guys are aloud in but it will be a safe haven for kids to give them some time away from ass holes. That being you guys.

Brian gets up in "G" face.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Now! If you are going to do something you better make it quick because we are about to have company.

Seven squad cars ride up the street. Everyone runs and the two cops there get a sign of relief that they are going to live.

Jake walks up to Brian.

JAKE

What was with all that bull shit you were saying. And none of that solved a damn thing.

BRIAN

True! But it did buy some time for the cops to get here. (Smiling) Eric and you should not be fighting my battles.

JAKE

You're an ass hole, that was our choice. I wanted this. Hell, I needed it.

BRIAN

Why you rather die than have to step up and be a real uncle?

Tabatha walks out on the porch and Brian walks over to her as the cops come to Jake.

TABATHA
I was so scared.

BRIAN
Wasn't meant to be.(Smile)

TABATHA
And us?

She hugs him.

BRIAN
What do you think?

Brian kisses her.

MONICA (O.S.)
Tabatha I need you in here.

Tabatha smiles and backs into the house. Eric walks up on the porch.

ERIC
You didn't change a thing you know?

BRIAN
Gain respect with some.

ERIC
No! Just made more enemies.

Both the good and bad gang dads come back for there son's. Naturally weapons free with all the cops around. Brian goes in to get them. Inside they are talking and hanging out like good friend but the moment they walk out and see their dad's they push each other like enemies.

BRIAN
Did you see that? Is there an answer?

ERIC
Of course! But sorry to say we won't see it with our life time. If anyone has more than another. Someone is always going to want it. If life was fair it won't be called living. I got all those from fortune cookies.(Laughing)

Both Brian and Eric watch Jake makeup up stories to the cops and the neighbors looking on. Eric walk to the door to go in but stops and turns to Brian.

ERIC (CONT'D)

The truth is there was and is an answer.

Brian turns to him to listen.

ERIC (CONT'D)

To fix a problem you need to take a step back and look at it then come back to it. The problem is no one every does the last part. Everyone turns and runs. You won't be able to fix this problem yourself. It will take a lot of people to reverse the damage done by the people who walked or ran way.

BRIAN

So you are say it's a waste of time?

ERIC

No! But I do not share your views on honor. And people shouldn't blame a person that is to weak to fight and runs away. He doesn't have a ability to make a different. But a fighter that runs from a fight that he can stop and make a different. He can be blamed for everything.

BRIAN

That seems like it was directed at me.

ERIC

Take it how you want to take it.

BRIAN

People that make bombs good. That doesn't mean they should have keep making bombs if it's killing people.

ERIC

Everyone has there own opinion. My opinion on this.

Eric points out to the neighborhood.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Our country has warriors dying in other parts of the world to help other people but the bad guys that is going to hurt their families don't get any attention here.

BRIAN

So the plot thickens. You are into politics too.

ERIC

I dabble..(Laugh)

Eric goes into the house. Then pops his head out the door.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Hey! We don't have to agree to be on the same path and every step we take continues our journey.

BRIAN

Now that sounds like a fortune cookie. Why are you really here man? Really?

ERIC

My families martial arts was base on a principle.
"STRONG ENOUGH TO STAND BUT BRAVE ENOUGH TO FALL YOU ARE UNSTOPPABLE"
I wasn't brave enough to fall back then but I am now and you know you are strong enough to stand. We just fit.

Eric walks in the house.

BRIAN

Great! I am not getting rid him?

Jake walks over.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

So how did you explain things?

JAKE

Lied, Lied and lied some more.
Sometimes to have to do the wrong things for the right reason. You really want to stay here?

BRIAN

It's as good of place as any. Plus
your apartment is to small.

Jake points at the house.

JAKE

There's bullet holes. (Smiling)

BRIAN

It's good ventilation.

FADE OUT.

A WEEK LATER

INT. CONVENIENCES STORE - NIGHT

Tabatha and Brian stop at a grocery store. Tabatha grabs an
item.

TABATHA

So are we going to get these or
not?

She holds up a box of condoms.

BRIAN

Absolutely! I want to start truly
living and I can not think of a
better adventure then you.

She gives him a big smile and then they kiss.

TABATHA

Where is my mom's list?

BRIAN

I left it in the car.

He gives her a quick kiss.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

You get these and whatever else you
think we might need and I'll get
your moms list.

Brian walks out of the store as a car just turned off his
engine. Brian opens his car door and a guy grabs him from
behind. Brian pushes back then ducks out quickly while
throwing the guy down.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
 Sorry reflexes.

As the man get's up Brian see that it is G. G pulls out a gun.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
 Damn! - I was going to have sex.

Brian closes his eyes.

G shoots him and continues to shoot him as he falls to the ground.

CUT TO:

The Store clerk and also Tabatha get up when they hear the car sketching away.

FLASH TO:

Tabatha runs out with the Clerk and his gun to find Brian in a pull of blood lifeless. She screams and cries. The clerk calls the 911.

FLASH TO:

G gets to a party that the gang thugs are having. TEG a gang member comes out of a room to greet him.

TEG
 This is off the hook. Shorties everywhere. Did you 40's?

G
 I couldn't get them but I got something to tell you?

TEG
 Later man!

A girl grabs TEG

TEG (CONT'D)
 It's a party.

FLASH TO:

Crime scene and cops trying to calm Tabatha down. Jake, Monica and Eric come running.

FLASH TO:

G is sitting in a chair in the corner by himself alone while the party is going on. No one wants to hear about what he did.

FLASHBACK:

EXT. BRIAN OPENS HIS EYES.

Brian is facing down the bullet. He hit G's hand with gun(The gun fires) and spins around and crops G in the back of the neck the same way Eric did him in there match. T falls to the ground.

BRIAN

Sorry! Not dying just to prove a point.

Tabatha comes running out screaming and see Brian standing there and hugs him. Bill the clerk calls 911.

FADE OUT.

EXT. MONICA'S HOUSE - DAY

Monica is putting a for sale sign up in front of her house. Brian is watching her.

BRIAN

This is not the answer.

MONICA

Boy! I had enough. You tried but this here.

Monica points around the neighborhood.

MONICA (CONT'D)

No more. It wont stop.

BRIAN

The guy can't move how can he hurt me.

MONICA

His dumb ass -

Before she could finish 10 guys come running up. Brian tries to run to Monica thinking they were going to hurt her but all were focused on Brian. He got grabbed by all so fighting back was hard and they knock him out with pipes and wooden sticks.

MONICA (CONT'D)
 (Yelling) Jake!!!!!!

Eric comes running out first but they throw Brian's body into a car that pulls up and the gang members run in all directions. Eric turns to Jake who is just running out.

ERIC
 Get my keys.

Jake runs back in. Monica tries to runs to Eric who doesn't know what to do at first so he takes off running down the street. Jake runs out and jumps in Eric's car and peels out down the road.

CUT TO:

Jake pulls up to Eric running.

JAKE
 Get in!

Eric jumps in without Jake stopping.

JAKE (CONT'D)
 Which way?

ERIC
 I don't know(yelling) They turn left then right and I couldn't keep up. Just drive.

They are panicking.

CUT TO:

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tabatha crying and the police taking Monica statement.

Jake comes in and they look at him. He looks really tired and he grabs his keys and leaves.

FADE TO:

EXT. MONICA'S PORCH - DAY

Tabatha is just sitting there staring out looking around. Monica walks out to sit with her.

MONICA
 Baby!

TABATHA

Two days mom. Two days.

She starts crying and Monica hugs her. Derek comes out with a drink for Tabatha.

DEREK

Tabby! Remember what mommy always told us. "Sometimes no news is good news".

She takes the drink and wipes her tears.

TABATHA

Thanks Derek but an answer beats a question every time.

She starts crying again. Derek sits down with his mom and sister. Eric and Jake walk out of the house.

ERIC

I'll start at Ninth st.

As they walk off the porch and Derek runs down.

DEREK

Can I come with one of you guys? It will be easier for you driving and me looking.

Jake and Eric look at each other.

JAKE

Pick a car buddy.

They walk to the cars and Tabatha gets up.

TABATHA

I going to call Roger again.

She goes in the house. Monica watches the guys drive off.

A few neighbors walk over with food.

FADE OUT.

TWO WEEKS LATER

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE - DAY

Roger the cop comes over with a Detective Johnson. Derek answers the door and lets them in. There are a few people from the neighborhood there.

ROGER

Look! I know it's been two weeks
but we have some news.

MONICA

And that is?

DETECTIVE JOHNSON

With all do respect ma'am. We can
only talk to immediate family.

Monica jumps up. Which wakes Jake who is sleeping in a chair in the corner.

MONICA

Everyone out. Now!

I/E. MONICA'S FRONT DOOR - SAME

Monica leads them to Derek who shows everyone out and as the last person is leaving Bill comes to the door.

DEREK

Sorry! Mr. Bill we have the cops
here and my mom can't speak right
now.

BILL

No problem Derek! You tell your mom
and your sister anything they need
to let me know. And you come down
to the store tomorrow and fill me
in. I hook you up guys up with some
supplies.

DEREK

Thank you Sir!

Derek shuts the door. As He walks in everyone is sitting down for the meeting and Eric is coming out of the back room.

DETECTIVE JOHNSON

Well! It's sad news I am here to
deliver.

Tabatha and Monica start crying but try to be brave.

ERIC

This long we already figured that.

Eric sits down.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Give us the details.

DETECTIVE JOHNSON

I can only tell you some because
the case is on going.

JAKE

Do you have the body?

MONICA

(Upset) Jake!

ROGER

We have a lot of bodies thanks to
Brian.

The Detective gives him a shocked look.

DETECTIVE JOHNSON

That information wasn't needed
Officer.

ROGER

Hey! If it was your family wouldn't
you want to know everything. Like
it or not I am going to tell them.
They been searching non-stop for 2
weeks. Damn! Give them some
closure.

The Detective thinks about it and looks around like he's
about to tell a secret.

DETECTIVE JOHNSON

I will deny ever saying this and
but you want the cold hard facts?

MONICA

We don't want it. We need them.

DETECTIVE JOHNSON

We have 3 of the abductors in
custody and warrants issued for the
other 7. We also have -

The Detective hesitates to drop the big bomb on them.

DETECTIVE JOHNSON (CONT'D)
4 of the Murders in custody and 3
warrants issues.

Tabatha starts screaming and Monica calms her down.

DETECTIVE JOHNSON (CONT'D)
I am sorry I know this was I bad
idea.

Monica takes Tabatha out of the room.

ROGER
Yeah because to are taking to long
and dragging it out. Here is what
happen -

FLASH TO:

Brian being taken to G who is bedridden.

CUT TO:

ROGER (CONT'D)
Then he was hand over to the new
leader.

FLASH TO:

EXT. A RIVER BANK - NIGHT

Bad gang leader dad "Zeus" is smiling as they hold Brian as he uses him as a punching bag. Then they stuff him in a very big duffle bag with weights attached to the handles. They toss him in the river.

CUT BACK TO:

Monica walks back out.

ROGER
One of his brother in arms
confessed to about 19 bodies in
that river. I guess it was Zeus
sick way of keeping trophies of his
victims.

MONICA
I hope you have him in custody?

ROGER
No yet. But we will.

DETECTIVE JOHNSON

We found 14 so far and identified 6 to which thanks to Brian's case at least their families can have closure. Not that I know that helps. But his death did matter.

JAKE

Oh trust me everything matters.
(Angry)

Eric gets up and starts to walk out.

MONICA

Jake stop him.

JAKE

Hell no! I am having a hard enough time stopping myself.

Eric leaves the house.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAR - DAY

Eric gets in and drives away very fast.

FADE OUT.

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Derek is looking out the window. Jake walks over.

JAKE

Is that him?

DEREK

No! But there are a few guys hanging out on the corner. Been there for 20 minutes.

JAKE

Well! Let's go see what they want.

Derek looks scared.

JAKE (CONT'D)

OK! I'll go, you keep watch.

Jake walks out of the house. Monica walks out from a back room.

MONICA
Where's he going?

DEREK
To talk to the neighbors.

Derek see Jake push one guy down so Derek closes the curtain so his mom can't see.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - SAME

One guy on the ground getting up and two others backing away from Jake. One of the guys "LEE" is trying to calm Jake down.

LEE
Hey Man! We are here just to watch over you guys.

JAKE
Explain! Because the neighborhood punch club is about to have a meeting with your face.

LEE
It's a rumor they caught Zeus and someone is making us keep watch to make sure his boys don't come here.

JAKE
Who?

None of them want to say but Jake spots Keith driving by.

LEE
We can't say but we are more scared of him than you so dude just let us stand out here.

Eric pulls up in his car and gets out. Eric points to the guys.

ERIC
Trouble?

JAKE
No! - Where you been?

Eric's knuckles are bloody.

ERIC

I needed to blow off a little steam. And if the cops come here? 2 had guns, 3 had knives, one had a baseball bat and they all had it coming. I going in to take a nap.

JAKE

Use the hose on the side to clean up so they don't see all that blood.

Eric walks away. Jake turns to the street guys.

JAKE (CONT'D)

(Mad) You tell your boss.

MONICA (O.S.)

Jake is everything OK?

Jake is reminded of Monica hearing her voice so he realizes it's a good thing these guys are there. His anger turns to whatever type of attitude and he just walks back to the house.

FADE OUT.

INT. MEMORIAL AT A CHURCH - DAY

Brian's so called funeral. Jake goes up to say a few words next to a picture of Brian.

JAKE

I wasn't there for him for most of his life. I should of been but wasn't. I tried to make up for it and that didn't happen.

Jake touches the picture.

JAKE (CONT'D)

But I know what I have to do and I am going to do it for him.

Jake walks out and Monica gets up to follow him. She catches up to him outside the room.

MONICA

You better not do anything stupid.

JAKE

I am going to the bathroom.

He points to the memorial area.

JAKE (CONT'D)

What I meant in there was we need to build the youth center in his name.

MONICA

Where we going to get the money?

Jake turns to walk away.

JAKE

From Brian of course.

MONICA

What?

Jake stops and turns around.

JAKE

Look I really have to go. I will give you the quick version. Dan got a life insurance policy out on Brian. Pissed my sister off, last straw that killed they relationship. -- Anyway he did, when he died I had my sisters name put on as beneficiary. When she died I switched the name again.

MONICA

So how much are you getting?

Jake turns to walk away.

JAKE

Not me -- you?

MONICA

What?

JAKE

You were the one taking care of him. I am going to bust, we will discuss the center and money later.

Monica is in a daze and after Jake turns the corner.

MONICA

How much?

FADE OUT.

3 MONTHS LATER

"BRIAN'S YOUTH CENTER" sign on a old building.

FADE TO:

INT. YOUTH CENTER - NIGHT

TABITHA

Sir, our policy is no drinking. I don't know how you got in here but I am going to have to ask to leave.

DRUNK

I'll leave when I'm ready and I might take you with me.

Eric walks over.

ERIC

First we ask nicely (Laughs)Then we kick your ass out the door.

The drunk guy swings on Eric. Eric catches the punch.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Oh Thank you.

TABITHA

Hey - we have children here take him outside.

Eric has a sad face.

ERIC

But he'll just try to run away out there.

TABITHA

Outside please.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT OF BUILDING - NIGHT

Jake and two other tough Mike (a Steve Austin type) and Carlos (Danny Trejo type) of guys are out in front to keep bad people away. Keith walks up.

JAKE
Still mad about the car?

KEITH
Nah! Here to pick up my nephew he is in there playing.

JAKE
Cool!

Eric walks the guy out and as soon as he let's him go the guy runs away.

ERIC
Told her he was going to run.

Eric turns to Keith.

ERIC (CONT'D)
You here to make trouble?

KEITH
No! Here to pick up Shawn Blackwell.

ERIC
Damn it! I never get to have any fun. I will go get him.

JAKE
Why are you so mad today? I guess you couldn't make piece with your father.

ERIC
Worse! I found out he died 2 months ago. Now, I have to live with waiting to long to resolve that feud.

JAKE
Sorry man..

ERIC

Yeah yeah! I need to hit someone.
I'll be right back with your kid.

Eric goes in to the building.

KEITH

Speaking of resolving things. You know I could help you find a little quiet time with some of those who did you know what?

JAKE

I wanted to kill them. Anyone would but my nephew wouldn't want me behind bars. He wants me here in front of this building. Giving these kids their time to be kids. The childhood he never had.

KEITH

How long do you think you can keep it open?

JAKE

Until the money runs out. I will stretch it as far as I can. Ask these guys to take a pay cut if necessary.

MIKE

Yeah! I wouldn't do that pal. We go way back but I only risk my life for money.

A drug addict stumbles up to drop off his 6 year old.

DRUG ADDICT

I just need a little time alone.
Can my boy play here?

THE 6 YEAR OLD

Will I really get to play games?(Smiling)

The little boy melts Mike's mean tough heart.

MIKE

Yes little man! It playtime.

Mike picks the little boy up.

MIKE (CONT'D)

OK Maybe! I might take a pay cut.

Mike cares the boy in.

DRUG ADDICT
Hey Keith you help me out?

KEITH
Not here Tray! I am not going to
dis my man place. I meet you at
Pete's in about 20 to 30. I have to
take my nephew home.

Eric comes out with "Shawn Blackwell" Keith's nephew who is
so excited.

SHAWN
Oh it was so fun they have
everything in there. Video games,
even a wall for rock climbing.

KEITH
All man! Your mom going to be so
jealous she always wanted to do
that. Give me a second with this
guy.

Keith is writing something on a piece of paper. Mike comes
out Eric goes back in.

Mike to Drug addict.

MIKE
Hey buddy, I need your information
in case you don't make it back.

DRUG ADDICT
Why? What are you going to do?

He stumbles away.

CARLOS
Well now what do we do with the
kid.

KEITH
Hey guys, I know the man and if the
boy needs a way home call me.

Keith gives Jake the piece of paper and then shakes Jake's
hand.

KEITH (CONT'D)

Plus you never know when your funds may end if you might need a private investor. So keep the number handy.

JAKE

I don't know if we can except that.

KEITH

Your choice, I still have to make a living and survive out here. Just know that sometimes it doesn't matter where the help comes from but what good it can do.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIAN'S CENTER - SAME

Eric sees some older teen kids following Tabatha around. He gets in behind them. The kids were egging one another to get the guts to grab her butt. One of them try to grab her when she was not looking. Eric kicks him in his butt. Tabatha turns around.

DOUG THE KID

I wasn't going to do it. We were just playing.

ERIC

Next time you are out of here.

TABATHA

What were they doing.

ERIC

Trying a grab and run I guess.

TABATHA

So does this mean since Brian's gone your debt to him is now mine.

ERIC

No! I protected Brian because I had to. I protect you because I want to.

Eric see something and walks away. Tabatha left there in shock with her mouth open that turns into a big smile.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRIAN'S CENTER - SAME

Monica is walks up carrying a lot of food.

Shawn tugs on his uncle.

SHAWN

Come On! I want to tell my mom. You think she will let me come back tomorrow.

KEITH

All you can do is ask.

Monica looks at all of them.

MONICA

OK Boys! I have a car full of donated food so let's get it in there so these kids don't go home hungry. Oh and Jake, get one of these guys to cover for you tomorrow. I haven't been on a date in years and I need to relax.

JAKE

So wait! That's your idea of asking me out?(Laughing) I think you might have to do a little better than that.

Jake takes a plater of food from her.

MONICA

There are children around. You want me to spell it out for you. No man in years feed me first.

She walks in the building and Jake is holding the food and getting shocked looks from his tough guy buddies.

JAKE

Hey! What can I say. I am from Brooklyn.

Mike and Carlos are laughing. Keith and his nephew also help with getting the food out of the car.

In a dark car parked across the street watch them are two guys. When Jake and the others go into the building the driver starts the car. As the car comes on it's reveal that it is Bill the store owner/clerk.

BILL

See! I told you sometimes people
are better off without you.

The passenger is revealed to be Brian.

FLASHBACK:

Brian is thrown into the water in the duffle bag but there was so much dumped dirt bike and stuff in there the bag rip a hole going down and Brian was so angry he was able to rip it bigger to get out.

FLASH TO:

Brian wet and bloody stumbling down the street in the middle of the night when Bill was closing up his store. Brian passes out on the street and Bill hides him in his store to recover.

FLASH TO:

Brian getting better and ask Bill to get Tabatha. That was when Derek turned Bill away at the house.

FLASH TO:

Bill telling Brian how people are coming together for Monica and Tabatha. Asking Brian to give him time to prove that things are changing for the better because Brian is gone.

CUT TO:

EXT. BILL'S CAR - NIGHT

Bill stops across the street from a bus stop.

BRIAN

So that's it, I just run away.

BILL

You aren't running. You are walking to the bus and riding away. Here is four grand. This is really hard for me and I know it is for you too but you have to think of the big picture.

BRIAN

So I am more important dead?

BILL

Hell Kid We all are. Sad but true.
 People that won't even lift a
 finger for you will come over when
 your gone. You ever hear of the
 saying "For the greater good".
 People get inspired to make changes
 when the end happens. You wanted to
 experience life. It's time to go do
 it.

Brian gets out of the car.

BRIAN

Well at least I get to ride a bus.
 Thank you!

Brian reaches in to shake his hand.

BILL

No Kid! Thank you! At least for a
 little while there are some people
 willing to fight to make changes
 around here. And you made that
 happen. (Laughing) Even through you
 won't fight they will fight for
 you.

Brian walks across the street and there is another guy
 waiting for the bus.

BRIAN

Hello!

GUY

Hey!

BRIAN

Where you headed?

The guy pulls a gun.

GUY

As far as your money will take me.

Bill see this and opens up his car door which get's the guy
 to glance over and Brian knocks the guy out.

Bill runs over.

BILL

What the hell? Do you attract bad
 people? I thought you don't fight.

BRIAN

When they have a gun my morals and honor become a little bit blinded.

BILL

Shit!

A cop car pulls up. Bill waves to them and walks to the car door.

BILL (CONT'D)

You guys are always at the wrong place at the wrong time. A guy ran down the street.

Roger shines a flashlight in Brian's face.

ROGER

What the-

BILL

(Loud)Hey! Drive around the block and come back.

Bill just stares at them.

ROGER

Yeah! Let's go get a coffee and we'll be back.

They pull off.

BILL

Help me!

They grab the guys body lean him up against a pole.

BRIAN

What are we doing?

BILL

The bus isn't going to stop with him laying on the ground.

The bus pulls up and the door opens.

BRIAN

Any last advice.

BILL

Yeah money runs out quick so get a job fast and depending on where you are, your so called morals and honor will need to be adjusted.

BRIAN
See you around.(Smiling)

Brian gets on the bus.

BILL
GOD I hope not.

As the bus goes down the street the knocked out guy wakes up.

GUY
What happened?

BILL
You picked on the wrong guy dumb
ass.

The guy is looking around on the ground.

GUY
Have you seen my gun.

The cop car coming back around.

BILL
Jesus crisis boy get back in
school. Here ask them if there seen
your gun.

The Guy see the cops and takes off running.

The cop car pulls up and Roger hands Bill a coffee.

ROGER
Just another night.

Bill holds up the coffee.

BILL
Thanks! Make sure you guys park
over by the center when you boys
take those naps.

Roger holds up his coffee and the cops drive away.

Bill is drinking his coffee and walking back to his car when
he sees his car takes off down the street.

Bill looks up to the dark sky.

BILL (CONT'D)
Really! At this point you think
that is funny.

Bill starts walking down the street still talking to GOD.

Credits ROLL>>>>

BILL (CONT'D)

You know I could of left along time ago. You got me here to help. I hope you don't have any more jokes before I make it home.

THE END..

Cast...

Brian Daily

Eric Mee

Jake Barnes

Monica

Tabatha

Susan (Brian's Mom)

Dan (Brian's Dad)

Derek

Bill (Clerk)

Roger (Cop)

G (Gang Leader)

Keith