

KAIROS

Written by

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WGA

EXT. DOWN TOWN - NIGHT

MARCUS is driving through the down town district listening to classical music still dressed in his work attire he approaches Q's house. Marcus exits the car and approaches the front door carrying a bottle of wine. He rings the doorbell Q dressed in blue jeans, a white shirt and a matching blue jean jacket Opens the door and greets Marcus with a slapping hand grip pulling him to his chest.

Q
What up Bruh!

MARCUS
What's happening man!

Marcus enters the house as Q Closes the door. As Marcus enters the living room DEVON, NAKIA, & Kenya are sitting on the sofa laughing and talking.

DEVON
Man I telling y'all, Herschel Walker is the biggest joke of the century! That fool is the Black Donald Trump!

KENYA
Kia get ya man! We gotta stay black! We can't be out here trashing our black men.

NAKIA
Girl! Raphael is black too! He's just got common sense!

MARCUS
In the context of equality, Herschel Walker is fair. He stands for pro life, banning abortions is more important than giving a basket of deplorables free money to go to Walmart and buy up all the TVs like it's Christmas 2.0. Warnock is not who we need running Georgia and you shall don't need that Stacy Abrams.

LAVETTE enters the room drying her hands with a paper towel.

LAVETTE
You must be Marcus.

MARCUS
Yeah, I'm Marcus. And who are you?

LAVETTE

Vette.

Marcus looking confused about who Lavette is and why she is speaking to him.

MARCUS

Like I said; Georgia needs strong leadership and people with a moral consciences leading our state. And the Reverend aint it.

LAVETTE

And you think Herschel Walker the werewolf has any type of conscience?

MARCUS

You can't blame him for his speech writers.

LAVETTE

And you can't make excuses for an idiot. You know good and well no human wrote that crap! That was him being him. He's just like Donald Trump! He goes off script and the real him shows up.

MARCUS

Whatever. Everyone wants to blame Herschel for Trumps errors. He's not Donald Trump.

LAVETTE

But he is. He allegedly paid for abortions, Stalked women, impersonated a police officer and allegedly attacked a girlfriend and his ex-wife accused him of holding a gun to her temple. He is NO DIFFERENT THAN DONALD TRUMP.

Marcus starts clapping.

MARCUS

Look at you! You read and listen to the mainstream media huh! When are we going to wake up and pay attention to facts and not what the tv shows us!

LAVETTE

And if you think for a moment that Herschel Walker is a saint, then I can say with certainty - Kenya... This was a mistake.

Marcus stares at Lavette

MARCUS

Mistake?

Q standing behind Marcus telling Lavette to stop talking.

LAVETTE

Tonight. This whole thing.

Nakia hits Devon motioning him to jump in.

DEVON

Marcus! My man! Meet Lavette. Ain't she pretty.

Marcus turns to Q.

MARCUS

Q. What did I tell you about this hook up junk? I know I made it very clear the last time y'all tried this crap that I don't need any help.

LAVETTE

It appears you can't be helped counselor.

KENYA

Marcus! Don't be that way. Come on! We all have been trying to help you.

MARCUS

I Don't need any help! I'm so happy with life!

DEVON

No you're not Bro! You're not!

NAKIA

Really Bro!

KENYA

Come on Marcus! You haven't been the same since

Q
Alright! Alright, give my man a
break!

Lavette is putting on her jacket and getting her purse to
leave.

LAVETTE
Thank's Kenya, but I'm going to go
ahead and head out!

Kenya tries to stop Lavette

KENYA
No don't leave!

Marcus walks past Lavette and enters the kitchen.

MARCUS
No! No! Don't take that woman's
choice, her freedom! Let the woman
go!

KENYA
He really is a nice a guy! It's not
you!

LAVETTE
He's a child and I do not have time
for it!

Q, Devon and Marcus are in the kitchen as Marcus is opening a
the bottle of Wine he carried in. Marcus is frustrated.

Q
Man you gotta get it together bro!
That's a beautiful woman you're
just letting walk out the door!

MARCUS
Y'all act like I NEED help finding
a girl!

DEVON
That's the problem Bro! You're
looking for a girl and you just let
a WOMAN walk out the door!

Q
Exactly! Dude you gotta be crazy!
Did you see her?

MARCUS

Then why don't you go run after
"the Woman"!

Q

Man Please! I'm happy with my lady!

DEVON

Dummy! What's wrong with her?

MARCUS

She's condescending.

DEVON

Condescending? You mean you're
insecure?

MARCUS

Insecure? Nigga Please!

Q

Wow! That struck a nerve!

MARCUS

Man, I'm bout to leave! I told you
stop the madness man! You ain't
cupid!

Q

Really Bro! And then, you know good
and dang well, you don't like
Herschel Walker! We talked about
this!

MARCUS

It was conversation! And she ran
with it!

DEVON

Bro, you defended the man like you
was his campaign manager!

MARCUS

I gave a compelling argument.

Q

No! Shhhh... Don't say that!

Devon starts laughing.

MARCUS

What?

Q
 You're an attorney and bro you
 didn't do a good job! She laid out
 facts that are known and real, you
 gave opinions!

MARCUS
 Who are you?

Q
 Man! I'm just a citizen sitting in
 the jury box!

Marcus downs his glass of wine and heads towards the living
 room.

Q and Devon Follows him into the living room, Nakia and Kenya
 are sitting on the couch drinking wine.

MARCUS
 Good night ladies.

KENYA
 Humph.

Q
 Come on Marcus!

KENYA
 Don't beg him. Let the Man go!

Marcus exits the door.

Q
 Dang!

FADE TO:

Marcus speeds off from the house. He's driving downtown and
 pulls up to a small diner on the corner of the street. He
 exits the car and enters the diner.

INT. SPARKY'S - NIGHT

A dimly lit diner, Marcus enters & approaches the bar, he
 sits at the bar and realizes Lavette is sitting at the end of
 the bar eating and drinking a glass of wine.

MARCUS
 Dang.

Marcus gets up and walks down to where Lavette is sitting.

LAVETTE
I guess this makes you Herschel
Walker the second.

MARCUS
Excuse me?

LAVETTE
Obviously you're stalking me!

Marcus lets out a chuckle.

MARCUS
Wow. Here I am convincing myself to
come down here and apologize and
look at you. Just a jack ah...

LAVETTE
Aht Aht!

A pregnant pause of silence.

MARCUS
I apologize.

LAVETTE
Oh really.

MARCUS
Yeah. How about we start over...

LAVETTE
I'm good. I mean really, the fact
that my friends thought the two of
us would be a good match scares me.

Marcus lets out a chuckle.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)
What's funny?

MARCUS
The fact that you think you're too
good for me. Wow! You don't even
know me!

LAVETTE
I learned enough about you in the
five minutes of you running your
mouth to know we have no business
in any type of relationship.

MARCUS

I could say the same thing about you. But I honestly don't know anything about you. Truthfully if a five minute altercate of political view points showed you who I was... Then equally you're certainly not worth my time.

LAVETTE

Sir, you followed me clear across town to continue this same atrocity clearly you didn't come to apologize.

Beat.

Marcus sticks out his hand for a shake.

MARCUS

Hi. I'm Marcus. Marcus Jo'Hnauthor.

Lavette stares at Marcus' eyes for a beat before looking down at his hand, she shakes his hand.

LAVETTE

Lavette... Lavette McMillian.
Pleasure to meet you.

MARCUS

The pleasure is all mine

Their eyes and hands still locked together, there's a spark between the two of them that's interrupted by an alarm that sounds on Marcus' watch. They release hands as Marcus takes out a sleek daily pill organizer.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Excuse me, let me get a glass of water Please.

Lavette stares at him for a beat.

LAVETTE

What are you taking?

The waitress brings him a short glass of water.

MARCUS

(hesitant)
Tegretol.[teh·gruh·taal]

LAVETTE stares at MARCUS.

MARCUS downs the two pills with water.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

What?

LAVETTE

You have seizures?

MARCUS

Yeah. A long-term issue from Meningitis.

LAVETTE

Aww. I'm amazed at how different people deal with their health crisis.

MARCUS

Nope. It's not a crisis, it's life and there's too much to live for. I want to enjoy every part of my life. This condition doesn't define me. It's just apart of who I am.

Lavette stares at Marcus and takes a sip of her wine. She nods sarcastically.

LAVETTE

Buoyant.

Beat

MARCUS

Listen, I intend on having a painting done of my father who passed away last year, so I'm going up to my family's cabin tomorrow to pick up a photo of him & clean out the fridge for the off season. Take a ride with me and give me a chance to make up for my atrocity.

Lavette lets out a giggle.

LAVETTE

What do I look like?

Beat

MARCUS

You look like beauty. Like the sun rise first thing in the morning.

(MORE)

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Like the first day of spring when all of the flowers are budding. You look like summer in December... You look like a man's dreams coming true... the question isn't what do you look like, but it is, to do or not to do... To give or not to give? To share or to keep? The question is, will you give me a second chance woman?

Lavette stares deep into Marcus' soul for a beat.

LAVETTE

Under one condition?

MARCUS

Name it.

LAVETTE

Treat me like a lady, I don't want to be impressed, I want to be treated like a lady.

Marcus stares at Lavette for a beat.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. MARCUS'S CAR - DAY

Marcus and Lavetta are on the highway.

LAVETTE

So does a meal come with this lil trip or is a sista gonna have to fast all day?

Marcus chuckles.

MARCUS

Oh so you're hungry huh?

LAVETTE

And is! I didn't eat breakfast!

MARCUS

Well now you know the old people say that's the most important meal of the day!

LAVETTE

Well it was either eat breakfast and be late getting to you or be on time and not eat! I chose to be on time!

MARCUS

You could have skipped the makeup and ate breakfast!

LAVETTE

Not too much sir!

Marcus chuckles.

MARCUS

So what do you like to eat? Like what's your favorite food?

LAVETTE

Shrimp!

MARCUS

Shrimp?

LAVETTE

Yes! Any kind, fried, baked, sautéed, in soup, in dip, with broccoli! Any kind of way I'll take it as long as it's cooked!

MARCUS

I guess!

LAVETTE

Yours?

MARCUS

Thirty Five day dry aged steak!

LAVETTE

Eww That's just gross.

MARCUS

You just don't know! I bet your one of those people that like their steak over cooked, chewy and pretty much shoe leather huh? Bet you buy your steak from Wally-world too!

LAVETTE

Here you go! Yes, I buy my steak from Wal-Mart, and yes I like my steak well done sir!

Marcus Shakes his head!

MARCUS

Girl! You have no idea what you are missing! Eating a steak properly cooked allows you to taste the meat as it is supposed to taste!

LAVETTE

But why 35 day old steak? and what is dry aged? That sounds like it'll tear up your stomach!

MARCUS

It's a process in which the steak is placed in a special bag, or special fridge that allows air to escape but no air in, it allows the meat to cure and makes the flavor super intense.

LAVETTE

Sounds expensive to me.

MARCUS

Just depends, I personally like a Japanese Wagyu A5 steak, that'll run you somewhere between 180 and 1200.

LAVETTE

Excuse me?

MARCUS

You fart?

LAVETTE

Sir, who pays \$180 for a steak and why would anyone pay \$1200 for a piece of meat?

MARCUS

Quality. You pay for what you get.

LAVETTE

But you're going to eat it and poop it out, it's not adding any value to your life, so why would you spend that amount of money on a piece of meat?

MARCUS

Because It's what I want to eat! Why else?

LAVETTE

That's that impressing stuff I'm talking about. You could eat a regular steak, but you'd choose to pay high dollar for a steak just so you look like you got money. But in reality, you know within yourself, it's stupid to pay that amount of money for a piece of meat.

MARCUS

See I told Q this wasn't a good idea.

LAVETTE

And I told Kenya this wasn't a good idea.

They both sit in silence for a BEAT.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)

Wait. Why did you say this wouldn't be a good idea?

MARCUS

Because for starters I don't date black women. Just being real.

LAVETTE'S attitude changes to hostile.

LAVETTE

Oh so because I'm a black woman this wouldn't be good...

MARCUS

No. It's just I don't know how to talk to a black woman. If you know what I mean.

LAVETTE

Please explain because what I'm gathering is that as a black woman I don't know how to appreciate an expensive meal and that has nothing to do with what I'm saying?

MARCUS

See how offended you are. See how your attitude just changed. I don't know how to contend with that.

LAVETTE

You're a black man and you don't know how to deal with an educated black woman? You can't deal with a Sista?

MARCUS gradually becomes offended.

MARCUS

I'm a black man that was raised by a white family and never had a real chance to interact with black people. So No. I don't know how to deal with a sista. and the one time I tried... I got my heart broke.

LaVette takes a sip from her tumbler.

LAVETTE

Well don't let her mistake be all of our's. We aren't all a like.

MARCUS

I'd like to believe that.

Beat.

LAVETTE

You best be glad there's something about you that I like.

MARCUS

Oh really?

LAVETTE

Yeah and against all of my instincts, something in me wants to explore a little bit. Give you a chance to prove who you really are.

MARCUS smiles.

CUT TO:

Birds eye view of the car driving.

They approach a gas station that has a little BBQ pit attached to it and Marcus get's off the Highway.

MARCUS

This is the last store before we get to the cabin, and there's nothing near the cabin. It's about 60 miles from here.

(MORE)

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Nothing but trees, so if you want something I'd suggest you get it now!

LAVETTE

Wait, you mean your taking me into the woods where there's nobody else for 60 miles?

MARCUS

Well, I mean there are a few neighbors who owns property around the cabin, but there's usually no one up there this time of the year.

LAVETTE

Oh, nah Bro! You didn't tell me you were kidnapping me!

Marcus stares at Lavette as he puts the car in park.

MARCUS

I could just leave you here and pick you back up in an hour if that's what you need. And oh by the way, you're grown it's call abducting not KIDnapping!

Lavette laughs as she exits the vehicle.

LAVETTE

You're a piece of work!

Marcus pumps gas and joins Lavette inside the store to get food.

CUT TO:

INT. GAS STATION - DAY

Marcus & Lavette are looking at the food inside the glass hot-bar trying to determine what they want to eat.

MARCUS

Pork Chops looks really good.

LAVETTE

Yeah, but I don't eat pork! Takes way too long to digest!

MARCUS

Oh my God! Really?

LAVETTE

Yes! That's what's killing us as black people! PORK!

MARCUS

Lady, our ancestors ate more pork than they took bathes and they lived for decades!

LAVETTE

Sir, Our ancestors WORKED in the fields day in and day out! Their bodies were in tip top condition! You sit behind a desk 90% of the day!

LaVette clears her throat.

MARCUS

You got a point! I think I'll have the half chicken and baked beans!

LAVETTE

I'll do a half chicken and the green beans. Please.

Marcus and LaVette are sitting down eating at a booth.

MARCUS

How's the food?

LAVETTE

It's good! I haven't had BBQ in like two or three years.

MARCUS

Clearly you're not a South Georgia girl!

Side eyeing him...

LAVETTE

What are you trying to say?

MARCUS

Oh I said it! You siddity!

LaVette laughs!

LAVETTE

Marcus! You're pushing it!

MARCUS

But I'm so right! I mean let's be real, if they would have had fried chicken you would have gotten it am I right?

LAVETTE

Excuse me? What do you mean?

Marcus looks at Lavette's big purse.

MARCUS

I'm just assuming you probably got a bottle of hot sauce in that bag right?

LAVETTE

And why would you assume that?

MARCUS

Cause most black women keep that kind of stuff on them because they like their fried chicken.

Offended.

LAVETTE

First of all, I'm not most black women. Secondly, don't ever assume you know some thing because you end up making a fool out of yourself. I love fried chicken, but it has nothing to do with me being a black women. Jerk.

Marcus laughs.

MARCUS

I'm a jerk because of observation?

LAVETTE

No. You're a jerk because of your freaking mouth!

MARCUS

Guess I'll just shut up for the rest of this lil trip!

Marcus is laughing. Lavette is very annoyed.

LAVETTE

You'd be better off if you did.

CUT TO:

EXT. MARCUS CAR - DAY

Marcus pulls into the private drive of the cabin. Lavette is asleep.

Marcus takes a picture of Lavette asleep, the sound of the camera wakes her.

LAVETTE
You're so childish!

MARCUS
You're worst than my niece! Five minutes into the drive and you're snoring!

LAVETTE
It was the food!

INT. THE CABIN - DAY

Marcus opens the front door and let's LaVette through the door.

LAVETTE
Marcus this is beautiful.

MARCUS
See. It was worth the ride out here.

LAVETTE
The verdict is still out on that one.

MARCUS
Make yourself at home.

EXT. BALCONY - DAY

MARCUS comes up the stairs with two wine glasses and a bottle of wine. LaVette is staring out the windows at the marsh area.

He hands LaVette a glass then pours them wine.

LAVETTE
How often do you all come up here?

MARCUS
Not enough since my Grandpa died back in nineteen.

LAVETTE
So this was his get away?

MARCUS
Yeah, he would always bring us up
on the weekends!

LAVETTE express with her eyes that the wine is expensive.

LAVETTE
How much was this bottle of wine?

Smiling MARCUS sits down on the cushioned bench.

MARCUS
Oh... Round about Umm...

LAVETTE
(Laughing)
How much?

MARCUS let's out a chuckle.

MARCUS
Twenty two fifty!

LAVETTE
You're such a liar!

LAVETTE takes another sip of the wine.

MARCUS
No! Seriously Twenty two fifty!

LAVETTE
Two Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty
Dollars?

MARCUS
Yup. But that was for the case! So
about three seventy five per
bottle.

LAVETTE
That doesn't change the facts sir.

LaVette sits beside him.

(BEAT)

MARCUS
This was actually my Dad's favorite
place to sit in the mornings during
the summer.

LAVETTE

I can image I'm sure it's beautiful
first thing in the mornings when
the sun is rising.

MARCUS

Yeah. The whole room is filled with
golden sun light.

(BEAT)

LAVETTE

Q says you've been single for Nine
years?

MARCUS

Here we go!

LAVETTE

Seriously! It's unreal. Matter of
fact I don't even believe you.

MARCUS

You don't believe me because I'm a
man or because It's just
"Impractical"?

LAVETTE

Both! Why so long?

MARCUS Pauses for a BEAT.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)

You don't have to if you don't want
to...

MARCUS

No. That was just a hard time in my
life. Needless to say it took nine
years to get over it.

LAVETTE

(Chuckle)
It or her?

MARCUS

Her.

LAVETTE

She must have hurt you bad!

MARCUS let's out a smirk.

MARCUS
You could say that.

LAVETTE
I'm listening.

MARCUS sips his wine.

MARCUS
It's quite a long story...

LAVETTE
And we have no where to be.

MARCUS smiles.

MARCUS
Junior year I fell in love. It was
seriously love at first sight.

LAVETTE
That bad?

MARCUS
Exactly! We were in Pre Law 7
Professor Sumpter's class. From the
first day of class I had my eyes
set on her. As a matter of fact I
picked a seat in the class that
would put me in perfect view of
her. She was so beautiful... She
was like an angel.

LAVETTE
What was her name?

MARCUS
AJ; well Adrianna that is. She was
stunning. I knew she was way out of
my league tho. But there was
something about her- I couldn't get
her out of my head. We were three
months into a five month course and
it was time to start preparing for
mock trial. I was determined to get
to know her by any means necessary.

LAVETTE
Why didn't you just buy her a
twelve hundred dollar steak?

MARCUS starts laughing.

MARCUS

Yeah right! I wasn't there yet!

LAVETTE

So what happened?

MARCUS

I talked to Sumpter about how she was going to pair Defendants with Prosecutors and basically begged her to pair us together.

LAVETTE

You lame for that!

MARCUS

Dang! You're brutal!

LAVETTE

I'm just saying, you could have just approached the girl! But anyways she put yall together and?

MARCUS

To my surprise she did. So this was the perfect opportunity to get to know the real her. We were given our cases and trial date, so we started meeting once a week just to go over the basics of the situation and then it came time for the trial. Which for me was exactly what I was waiting for! A chance to argue with her! You know you really never know a person's limits until you argue with them...

LAVETTE

Is that a fact?

MARCUS

Oh yeah. A person loses themselves in an argument. Their only focus is to get their point across so everything goes out the window. Morals, ethics, common sense, everything- you know.

LAVETTE

Well I can only assume that worked out how you expected it to?

MARCUS

Exactly the way I expected it to. It got ugly, I mean UGLY! I won the trial and I opted to take her out for dinner to make up for the brutal show down. It was like everything came together. At the end of the year, we moved in together and things got serious. Things got good, you know?

Marcus stands up to leave.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

How about you freshen up and meet me outside?

LAVETTE

Sure, what we doing?

MARCUS

I don't know about you, but I'm hungry!

Marcus trots down the stairs.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

And Hurry up!

LaVette takes out her phone and takes a selfie.

EXT. FRONT PATIO - DAY

LaVette exits the front door onto the front patio.

She looks around but doesn't see Marcus.

LAVETTE

Marcus?

In the distance

MARCUS (O.C.)

Follow the path!

LaVette stares at path they originally came up from the dock.

LaVette griping to herself as she skeptically walk the path

LAVETTE

Okay Marcus. Here we go. You are not Tarzan and I am not Jane Porter.

Marcus is standing next to a small table set for a romantic alfresco and two chairs that look out over the ocean.

LaVette stares at him with humbleness.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)
Okay. You got me.

Marcus laughs.

MARCUS
I got you?

LAVETTE
Yeah, you got me! Cause honey! I was about say we not doing this!

FADE TO:

LaVette is sitting in one of the chairs.

Marcus serves her a dish from the basket.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)
What is this?

MARCUS
Well ma'am those potstickers with a sweet Thai sauce, with a Wagyu A5 Filet Mignon with loaded Mashed potatoes!

LAVETTE smirks.

LAVETTE
And exactly how much was this steak?

MARCUS
Eat the meat Anna Mae!

LAVETTE
Mmmhmm I told you I don't want to be impressed.

MARCUS
Get outta here! Anybody can cook a steak.

LAVETTE
I'm just saying I didn't want to be impressed. And besides, I already know you got this at some restaurant huh?

MARCUS

Actually ma'am I stayed up most of the night trying to get that sauce right! I don't fake the fonk!

LAVETTE takes a bite of a potsticker.

LAVETTE

Ooh my God! That's amazing!

MARCUS

See! Ya boy got skills!

LAVETTE knods with a smirk on her face.

LAVETTE

That's... Really good! Okay!

MARCUS

Hopefully you can enjoy a good steak.

LAVETTE

It better not be bleeding is all I can say.

MARCUS

You do know that's not blood right?

LAVETTE

If it's red, it's blood. Period.

MARCUS laughs

MARCUS

See that's not true! It's actually water and a protein called myoglobin.

LAVETTE

Blood.

MARCUS

My people! My People!

MARCUS takes out his sleek daily pill organizer and takes two pills.

(BEAT)

LAVETTE

I haven't been paying attention, but I hope that's like the same wine you've been drinking cause if not you're way over?

MARCUS

Worry none! I got this

LAVETTE

Okay... Cause you get to shaking
and quaking out here and honey!! I
can't be responsible!

They Laugh!

MARCUS

So you'd just let me flop around
like a fish huh!

LAVETTE wipes her mouth.

LAVETTE

Sir! If you sit out here and drink
enough alcohol to have an
interaction with that medicine...
Knowing what the limit is... That's
between you and whatever God you
serve!

MARCUS interrupts her.

MARCUS

Shaking my head! You not right!

LAVETTE

How? You know what to do and what
not to do! See that's the problem
with men being men!

MARCUS

Wow! I suppose you think that way
about a lot of things huh?

LAVETTE

This is not about me!

MARCUS

Interesting. Don't worry about it.
I got things under control.

LaVette finishes consuming her potsticker and wipes her
mouth.

LAVETTE

That's a problem Marcus- if you
truly had things under control,
you'd already weaned yourself off
of any type of alcohol. Period!

MARCUS sits his glass down, and begins eating his steak.
He nods his head sarcastically agreeing with her.

MARCUS
I see how this is going to go!

LAVETTE
Chile it's already gone!

MARCUS
Sounds a little bit like you care?

LAVETTE
Oh, don't think it's because you're special because it's not. Your health is important.

MARCUS pulls out a bottle of water from the basket.

MARCUS
Right!

LAVETTE stares at him for a BEAT. She cuts her steak and inspects it for blood.

MARCUS smiles

LAVETTE
Humph! It's a little pink, but I guess it'll do.

Lavette takes a bite of her steak as Marcus stares.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)
(Mouth Full)
What?

MARCUS
Fire ain't it!

LAVETTE starts laughing as she tries to swallow. She nods her head in agreement.

The Laughter comes to a slow silence.

Pregnant pause as LaVette admires the view.

LAVETTE
So exactly how far are we from Douglas?

MARCUS
About a hundred and sixty miles.

LAVETTE

Wow! I have an online lecture tonight at seven thirty. Just wanted to try and keep track of time.

MARCUS

Why are you taking summer classes?

LAVETTE

I want a lighter schedule next semester so I can do my residency at the Crowder Center for Cancer.

MARCUS

Smart!

MARCUS stands up to gather and put things back into the basket.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

We've got plenty of time! It's just twelve! Are you done with this?

LaVette takes one more bite from the steak. Then nods at him.

Marcus finishes putting everything in the basket.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Let's take a little walk!

LAVETTE

Where we going?

MARCUS

Just a little further up the trail! There's so much to explorer here! We used to play hiding seek out here every summer!

CUT TO:

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

Marcus and LaVette walk along the worn trail around the middle of the island.

LAVETTE

Let me guess you always had the best hiding spot!

MARCUS

My brother's never found me!

MARCUS points out a bird up in a tree.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
It's beautiful.

LAVETTE uses her phone to take a selfie.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
You have service?

LAVETTE
Nope. Saving them to post later.

MARCUS
I'll never understand that life.

LAVETTE
What's that?

MARCUS
People's obsession with social media.

LAVETTE
It's not an obsession really, I think it's just become so much apart of our lives.

MARCUS
No. All of these social media platforms are not real.

LAVETTE
What do you mean not real?

MARCUS
They aren't real places. I'll explain.

LAVETTE
Please Counselor.

They approach the main Board walk from the boat dock. LaVette sits down next Marcus with their legs hanging off the dock.

MARCUS
How many friends do you have on social media?

LAVETTE
About thirty two hundred or so.

MARCUS

Wow! Somebody is popular! Of the thirty two hundred how many of them do you know?

LAVETTE

Like personally know them?

MARCUS

Yea like personally know!

LAVETTE

About a good hundred.

MARCUS

And of the good hundred how many do you actually interact with on a daily basis?

LAVETTE

Maybe five or six.

MARCUS

Like people from school, or a cousin right?

LAVETTE

Yes.

MARCUS

So if you took social media away, how would that affect your life as far as your friends you actually interact with?

LAVETTE

It wouldn't.

MARCUS

So if you didn't have social media how would you share your photos?

LAVETTE

I'd more than likely text them to my friends or email them later.

MARCUS

So social media isn't a real place. It actually holds no value and only simply gives you a platform to show the "world" your private life.

LAVETTE

I guess I get what you are saying.

LaVette takes off her hat.

MARCUS

It's very debilitating. You become so attached to social media you go hour to hour checking it as if everybody else's life is actively effecting your life when in all actuality you're just cluttering your mind with the thoughts of others and comparing yourself to the latest trend.

LAVETTE

Well my God, you've put a lot of consideration into your point I see.

MARCUS

I've just realized how many people in our generation have grown so attached to social media they don't even realize how much they rely on it. I mean take this for example. When you post that picture, although you only "in real life" interact with five or six of your social media friends... If you only get five or six likes on the picture you will wonder why. Right?

LAVETTE

Uh Yeah!

MARCUS

Why tho? You only know five or six of your friends... Why do you need two hundred or twenty thousand likes?

LAVETTE

I see your point. So you've never had a social media account at all?

MARCUS

Not after college.

LAVETTE

And what? You got old?

Marcus let's out a chuckle.

MARCUS

No silly! I got free!

LAVETTE
Free from what? People?

MARCUS
Free from other people's problems.
Free from other's opinions. I got
free of people being in MY own
business!

They both laugh!

LAVETTE
Well in any case it's dead now so
there you have it! No more social
media.

BEAT

LAVETTE (CONT'D)
For the time being!

MARCUS
Knowing you, you have a charger
near by.

LAVETTE
Car charger.

Lavette starts laughing.

MARCUS
Sad!

The laughing comes to a slow stop.

EXT. WATER-VIEW - DAY (MOS)

Marcus & Lavette are sitting near the lake they are laughing.

EXT. FRONT OF CABIN - DAY

Lavette is getting into the car as Marcus is locking the door
to the cabin.

Marcus approaches the car then turns back to the cabin.

MARCUS
Oh snap! I forgot what I came up
here to get!

Marcus goes back into the cabin.

INT.CABIN - DAY

Marcus goes over to the fireplace and retrieves the picture of his grandfather. He stares at the photo for beat then exits the front door.

INT. MARCUS CAR

Marcus gets into the car he hands the photo to Lavette.

LAVETTE
This your grandfather?

MARCUS
Yup, that's the old guy! I miss him
everyday.

Marcus pushes the vehicle to start the vehicle but the ar doesn't start.

LAVETTE
I hate these new cars! They sound
like cars from the sci-fi movies.

Marcus is clicking buttons on the dashboard of the car. Marcus hits the button to open the hood.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)
What's up?

Marcus doesn't respond. He lifts up the hood of the car and stares blankly at the engine compartment.

Lavette exits the vehicle and comes around to the front of the car.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)
What's the problem Marcus?

MARCUS
I think the battery is dead.

They both stare at the high tech engine compartment.

LAVETTE
Where's it at?

MARCUS
Somewhere up here.

LAVETTE
So.... You don't know where your
car battery is?

MARCUS

I mean, It's got to be up here
somewhere.

Lavette goes and sit in the passenger seat with her feet
hanging outside of the car.

LAVETTE

Where's your phone at Marcus.

MARCUS

Armrest.

LAVETTE

Call a mechanic.

MARCUS

Sprint.

LAVETTE

What?

MARCUS

I don't have any service up here.
I'm with Sprint.

Lavette Stands up a stares at Marcus from the car door as he
closes the hood.

LAVETTE

So... Where's your charger?

MARCUS

Don't have one.

LAVETTE

So you drove two hours out of town
without a phone charger?

MARCUS

It's the fourteen. Battery last up
to twenty four hours. Don't need a
charger.

Lavette slams the door.

LAVETTE

Wait a minute... If you don't have
phone service, no radio, my phone
is dead how do you expect us to
call anyone?

MARCUS

Who takes a two hour road trip
without a charging cable and no fat
piece?

LAVETTE

No sir. You will not make this
about me.

MARCUS

And neither will you make this all
about me.

LAVETTE

Okay Marcus. I'm just saying I not
mentally prepared to be stuck out
here!

MARCUS

Neither am I. Let me figure this
out. Okay?

Marcus takes out the Owner's Manuel and begins rummaging
through it looking for answers.

Marcus goes to the rear of the car and tries to release the
trunk but the trunk doesn't open.

LAVETTE

Marcus?

MARCUS

Nope.

LAVETTE

Marcus.

MARCUS

I got this. Chill out.

LAVETTE

Clearly the battery is dead.

MARCUS

Clearly. It did this a few days
ago, but after a few minutes it
started right up.

LAVETTE

Okay, so surly you have a set of
jumper cables if this has happened
before... right?

MARCUS
Yeah. In the trunk.

LAVETTE
Okay, so let's open the trunk.

MARCUS
Can't open the trunk, it's an all
electric car. Duh.

Lavette with no hesitation climbs into the back seat and opens the middle console and slides into the trunk and uses the emergency release to release the trunk.

LAVETTE
Duh.

Marcus stares at Lavette.

MARCUS
(Sarcasm)
Hooray.

Lavette helps herself out of the trunk in frustration.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Well, you figured out how to get
the jumper cables so what do you
supposed we do now Mrs.MacGyver?

LAVETTE
You're so freaking disrespectful.

Lavette sits back in the passenger seat of the car.

Time goes by.

Marcus is standing out in the middle of the yard with his cellphone pointed up to the sky.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)
Marcus.

MARCUS
Trying to get some service woman.

LAVETTE
You are smarter than that I know.

Marcus slowly brings his phone down out of the air.

MARCUS
And there it is.

LAVETTE

What?

Marcus doesn't respond as he puts his phone into his pocket. He closes the trunk of the car.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)

Hello? Deaf now?

Marcus goes around to the front of the car and closes the hood.

MARCUS

That black woman attitude. Ready to go off. You've been waiting for a chance just to go off. So let's go! Get it over with.

LAVETTE

Let's go? This isn't a black woman attitude this is the attitude of any human being that's annoyed and frustrated with a black man's excuse for impressing a woman. A black man who Drove four freaking hours out of town to a deserted community, with a bad battery, no jump box, no cell service And now him and a certain BLACK woman are stranded in the middle of no where until God knows when because the nearest town is twenty freaking miles away.

MARCUS flips.

MARCUS

Oh it wasn't a problem as long as everything was "So Beautiful". A little hiccup in the road now it's a problem.

LAVETTE points her finger at MARCUS.

LAVETTE

A hiccup is that what you are calling this? A hiccup? We are stranded in the middle of the nowhere. Twenty freaking miles away from civilization. Meaning that unless someone decides to drive up here to get a FREAKING PICTURE OF THEIR DEAD DADDDY TOO;

(MORE)

LAVETTE (CONT'D)

we are screwed until someone comes looking for us.

MARCUS

You ruthless, Condescending, arrogant, insecure, fragile, viragonoun, harpy, Sheila wanna be independent black woman. How dare you dare you disrespect me and at the same time know nothing about me. You are by far completely out of line and I don't care who you thought you were... but in the real world you ain't nothing but a little spoiled brat.

Lavette's voice invokes anger.

LAVETTE

Screw you Marcus. Your problem is your money. Money is your confidence. Money is your only resource and I'm sorry dummy Money doesn't buy common sense. And if me a black woman calling you out on your ignorance made you feel disrespectful, it's a good chance you're less than the man you thought you were.

MARCUS

THAT DON'T EVEN MAKE SENSE!

LAVETTE

What?

MARCUS

Money has nothing to do with the battery in my car dying. Nothing.

LAVETTE

So how'd you solve this problem the other day Marcus? How?

MARCUS

I called for a tow truck to come jump me off.

LAVETTE

Exactly. You spent money to have someone come jump you off.

MARCUS

Are you even listening to yourself.

LAVETTE

Are you telling me, you have no friends, no co-workers, no nobody that you could have called to give you a jump?

Marcus stares at her blankly.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)

Are you seriously telling me there was no one around for you to ask for assistance in jumping your vehicle off?

Marcus continues to stare blankly at her.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)

Where were you Marcus?

MARCUS

Why does it matter.

MARCUS slams the driver's door and walks towards the house.

LAVETTE

Why are you walking away from me?

Marcus continues to walk to the house.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)

MARCUS! What are you doing?

MARCUS

Using my common sense.

LaVette quickly grabs her hat and bag from the front seat of the car and slams the door.

LAVETTE

You're a freaking child.

Marcus continues walking towards the house without a response.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Marcus opens the door and LaVette pushes past him. Marcus throws his backpack on the ground next to the door and slams the door.

MARCUS

Your attitude isn't helping.

LAVETTE
Your stupidity isn't helping.

MARCUS
Girl. Really?

LAVETTE
I can't. This really can't be happening. I can not be stuck out here.

MARCUS
Oh well. Figure it out.

LAVETTE rolls her eyes as MARCUS walks past the kitchen.

LAVETTE
I don't have to figure anything out. That's you alls problem. Always want to show how big your balls are.

MARCUS turns around to face her.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)
Couldn't just take a girl to the park and have a nice picnic. NO! Let's take a trip to a private cabin and get stranded. That's you all's problem "Trust Me. Trust Me! Just Trust me."

MARCUS
You All? NAH! You're the stupid one. You know nothing about me- but had no problem getting in the car driving out of town with me. Forget all that junk about "you don't impress me". You met me last night and was ready to see how much money I could spend on you. You knew I wasn't a park- picnic kind of guy when you agreed to this.

LAVETTE
Oh so now I'm a gold digger huh?

MARCUS
You said it. Not me.

LAVETTE
Screw you Marcus.

MARCUS

You would have last night if I would have paid you.

MARCUS moves closer to her.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

You're no different than any other female.

LAVETTE

Excuse me?

MARCUS

You heard me. You're just like any other female. Looking for a brother to take care of your needs and give pleasure when you want it.

LAVETTE

The last thing I am is average. I am so sorry that the only women you know are thots?

MARCUS

Thots?

LAVETTE

Thots. And the last one must have did a number on you.

MARCUS

Just like your father did a number on you.

LAVETTE slaps MARCUS in anger.

LAVETTE

You know nothing about my Dad.

LAVETTE walks up stairs and slams the door.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

LAVETTE flips a light switch & slams the door. She stares at the room for a beat. There are family pictures on the walls and on a book shelf.

Lavette takes note of a few pieces of clothing in a small closet. There's a bright yellow sundress she takes out and holds up against her body. She likes it. She hangs the dress back in the closet.

LAVETTE FALLS BACK ON THE BED. She takes out her phone and headphones from her pocket. She puts them in and plays some music.

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

MARCUS is sitting on the couch reading his iPad.

He looks up at the stairs.

MARCUS continues to read his iPad.

MARCUS cuts the iPad screen off. He stares at the stairs.

MARCUS gets up and walks up the stairs.

INT. UPSTAIRS

MARCUS
LAVETTE.

There is no response.

Marcus walks over to the only closed door. He knocks on the door.

Still no response.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
If it means anything. I'm sorry. I was wrong for what I said. I let the situation get to me.

(BEAT)
Can you open the door?

(BEAT)

No response.

MARCUS turns and walks back down stairs.

EXT. PATIO FIRE PIT- NIGHT

MARCUS uses a match to light a fire in the pit. He squirts lighter fluid on the fire. He sits down and stares at the water. He Checks his phone again for service. The phone is dead.

MARCUS

Crap.

LAVETTE comes outside.

She sits in the chair with her knees pulled up to her chest.

She stares at the fire. It's silent.

LAVETTE stares at him for a BEAT.

LAVETTE

Sorry.

MARCUS

You don't have to do that.

LAVETTE

Yes I do. I was wrong.

MARCUS

No. You were right. I was wrong. I shouldn't said those things to you.

LAVETTE

And neither should I.

MARCUS looks across the fire.

MARCUS

Common sense went out the window. Honestly nothing like this ever happens to me.

LAVETTE

Well don't feel bad this is my first time stuck with a complete stranger in the middle of the no where too!

MARCUS let's out a chuckle.

MARCUS

We're going to be alright tho.

LAVETTE

I know.

MARCUS

When Morning comes I'll go over to France's place a few miles through the woods and see if they have a land line. We have a few days before the annual suspension.

LAVETTE is confused.

LAVETTE

How are you going to do that, I thought you said no one comes up here this time of the year? And what's the annual suspension?

MARCUS

I guess I'll have to break in.

LAVETTE

You're sure that's a good idea?

MARCUS chuckles.

MARCUS

Yeah. I mean what else is there to do?

LAVETTE

Wouldn't you be able to tell if there is a land line from the outside of the house?

Beat

MARCUS

Mrs. Macgyver!

They both laugh

LAVETTE

I just use my common sense Marcus. Slow down and think about things!

MARCUS

Right... Clearly that's something I don't have huh!

Lavette takes a breath and stares into the distance.

LAVETTE

It's very peaceful out here.

MARCUS doesn't respond It's dark. The fire is going out. Only Moon light bounces off their skin.

PREGNANT PAUSE.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)

You never finished telling me about your college girlfriend.

MARCUS
So we're back to that huh?

LAVETTE
Yes sir Mr. Jo'hnauthor.

(BEAT)

MARCUS
About six months after we moved in
I had to go home to see my mom...
She had been diagnosed with stage
four Pancreatic Cancer.

LAVETTE
This was her first diagnoses?

MARCUS
Yeah. Three months to live.

LAVETTE
Gosh, I hate that disease.

MARCUS
So I went home for what was
supposed to be two weeks; but after
being there for about a week mom
insisted I go back to school and
focus on my degree. She said there
wasn't nothing anybody could do and
there was no need in sitting around
moping over a three time addict
dying of pancreatic cancer.

LAVETTE
Wait?

MARCUS
Yes. My mom was in and out of rehab
for her addiction to cocaine.

LAVETTE
And she didn't allow you to be
around black people?

MARCUS
No that was my Dad's wife who never
allowed me to interact with black
people out of a fear of me becoming
a crack head too.

LAVETTE
I'm so confused.

MARCUS

That's another story for a later time.

LAVETTE

Oh... Okay.

MARCUS

Anyway. I headed back to college thinking I would surprise AJ with an engagement ring. It was about three A.M. when I got home. I went up stairs and cracked the door to our room trying not to wake her...

LAVETTE

You're lying?

(BEAT)

She was doing a dude in your bed?

MARCUS

Had done. They were sleep, holding each other all tight and stuff.

LAVETTE

Oh No Sir. No Sir. What did you do?
(BEAT)

MARCUS

I left.

LAVETTE further confused.

LAVETTE

You left?

MARCUS

Yeah. I left.

LAVETTE

Oh no. So you mean to tell me you walked in on your girl asleep with another man in your house, in your bed and you just left?

MARCUS

Yup.

LAVETTE nods her head as if she is in agreement.

LAVETTE

Yup. Darius was right.

MARCUS starts laughing

MARCUS
About what?

LAVETTE
You're not black. Nope. Not at all.
He was right. No black. None. Zero!

MARCUS is laughing.

LAVETTE starts laughing.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)
Your black card has been revoked
bruh! Give it to me!

They laugh for a BEAT.

The laughing slowly grows quite.

(BEAT)

MARCUS
In that moment tho... I realized
she wasn't mine. I mean it was
evident they'd smashed all night to
the point they fell asleep in one
spot unable to move. You know what
I mean.

LAVETTE
That don't matter. That was your
house Bruh.

(BEAT)

MARCUS
But she wasn't mine. I recognized
the dude from some of her dance
photos.

LAVETTE
Oh so she was a stripper? You
didn't tell me that!

MARCUS lets out a laugh.

MARCUS
NO! She was in a dance group. Like
ABDC type of dancer.

LAVETTE

Oh. Okay. So it was one of the homies from the crew?

MARCUS

Yeah. I should've known it would end like that tho.

(BEAT)

She was way out of my league. Way out of my league.

LAVETTE

How so?

MARCUS

She just was. She was like a twenty on a scale of one to ten.

LAVETTE laughs.

LAVETTE

Oh so what you're saying is I'm just a ten huh?!

MARCUS

No. No. Not at all. I'm still trying to figure this out!

LAVETTE is laughing hard.

LAVETTE

You know; no one is out of your league. You can have anyone you want Marcus.

MARCUS

Is that a fact.

LAVETTE

Yeah. Think about it; most women want a man that's going to work to show his interest.

MARCUS

I guess.

LAVETTE

And not with your money. With your heart, your gestures, your accountability. Your ability to express yourself and willingness to understand her when she expresses herself.

MARCUS

So I should have just kept my mouth closed and my money in my pocket huh?

LAVETTE

Slow your role... I'm just saying spending money isn't impressive. At least not for a real woman.

MARCUS

I was about to say.

LaVette hits him

LAVETTE

Say what?

MARCUS

Roll me my coins back!

LAVETTE

Honey I do not need your money, I'm going to be a brain surgeon... I'll do fine. Just fine.

MARCUS

There it goes again.

LAVETTE

What Marcus?

MARCUS

Black girl syndrome. I'm telling you! You've got it bad!

MARCUS does his best ratchet black girl impression.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

I'on need yo money. I'on need nuffin from you. I can do bad by myself. All by myself... BOO!

LAVETTE hits Marcus again as they both explode into laughter.

The laughing slowly comes to an end.

(BEAT)

SFX: THUNDER

MARCUS (CONT'D)

We should go inside. Don't want your Brazilian to get wet!

LAVETTE laughs.

MARCUS stands up.

LAVETTE

Indeed you are right. I paid good money for this!

MARCUS

That good Brazilian!

They both laugh as they walk towards the house.

FADE TO:

INT. UPSTAIRS LOFT - NIGHT

Marcus is sitting on the edge of the bed taking his shoes off when Lavette comes into the room. She leans her back against the wall.

LAVETTE

You know- I have to be honest. Most guys I've dated over the years have always had an agenda. Made advances early in the relationship to have sex... and No I didn't have sex with multiple men!

MARCUS

I didn't say anything.

LAVETTE

I just want it to be clear.

MARCUS

Noted.

LAVETTE

I don't get that feeling from you.

(Beat)

I hope I'm not wrong.

MARCUS

Honestly- I have to be honest here!

Lavette slides down to sit on the floor.

LAVETTE

Uh oh!

MARCUS

Nah, Nah! Real talk, About three years ago, I gave my life to Christ and I vowed to be celibate and I don't planned on diverting on that!

LAVETTE

Wow, so you believe in the whole God thing?

MARCUS

The whole God thing?

LAVETTE

Don't do that. You know what I mean.

MARCUS

Nah, I really! Like... You don't believe in God?

LAVETTE

How do you believe in something or someone that you can't see... Can't talk to... Have never seen... I mean, let's look at the facts counselor. For something to be real it has to exist or have existed at some point right?

MARCUS

And he did and he does. I mean how do you think you are breathing right now?

LAVETTE

Can we cut on the heat? It's pretty cool in here.

MARCUS

No! No! How do you think you are breathing right now?

LAVETTE

Because photosynthesis uses carbon dioxide and water to feed the trees and the byproduct of that tree gives off oxygen... we breath in that oxygen and release carbon dioxide... Thus we are breathing.

MARCUS

That's nice that you know the science...

(MORE)

MARCUS (CONT'D)

But how did that process even come into existence? Who created the trees, who initiated the process of photosynthesis. Who engineered the water cycle and set into motion the ecosystem? How did all that come into existence? And do not say the Big bang! Cause my follow up will always be well who or what causes the big bang?

LAVETTE

So you truly believe that there's some higher power out there somewhere in the galaxy, beyond the clouds, where no one has ever been to or can even begin to present evidence of it's existence? Other than what has been written by men and bound in leather book that has been passed down to generation to generation controlling and manipulating the minds of people for centuries...

MARCUS

And if that is what you perceive from reading the word of God... Then we have nothing to discuss...

Beat.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

You have read the Bible at some point right? At least a once scripture... Right?

LAVETTE

On second thought leave the AC off, it's starting to warm up.

MARCUS

Shake my head! So you just gone drive right past that huh!

LAVETTE

Because there is no reason in arguing with a preacher!

MARCUS

So let me get you a towel and wash cloth, you can use the bathroom down the hall, and sleep in the room across from it.

Lavette stands up as Marcus gets up from the bed.

LAVETTE
Wow! So offended!

MARCUS
I'm not offended, I just realize
this was a waste of time.

Marcus enters the master bathroom.

LAVETTE
Because I don't believe what you
believe, this was a waste of time?

He returns with the towels & hands them to Lavette.

MARCUS
Yeah! A complete waste of time.

LAVETTE
Okay, bruh, you right. This will
never work.

Marcus ushers Lavette out the door and closes it.

MARCUS
Got to be kidding me.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. UPSTAIRS LOFT - NIGHT

MARCUS is asleep. Moon light fills the room with contrast of red light glaring from the time being displayed on an old school bedside alarm clock.

Pregnant Pause

There's knock at the door.

Marcus' eyes open.

There's a knock at the door again.

LAVETTE
Marcus...?

MARCUS
What?

Lavette cracks the door open.

LAVETTE
Can I come in?

MARCUS
For what?

LAVETTE
You're going to pick at me.

MARCUS
Are you serious right now?

Lavette enters the room wrapped in a comforter from the bed she was supposed to sleep in. She closes the door.

LAVETTE
It's just because I don't know this place, it's weird.

Marcus throws a pillow on the floor.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)
Really? On the floor?

MARCUS
Oh you thought you were getting in the bed with me?

Lavette stares at Marcus in the darkness with an attitude.

Pregnant pause.

Marcus throws a temper tantrum.

LAVETTE
Aw Thank you Marcus!

Lavette climbs into bed with Marcus.

MARCUS
If you kick me, sneeze in my face, snore, fart or take my cover... I swear I'm pushing you on the floor.

FADE TO:

INT. UPSTAIRS LOFT - MORNING

The sun is shining into the cabin, filling the entire house with bright sunlight. There's snoring.

Angle on Lavette, She's bundled up with both comforters. As the camera begins to jib up, it is revealed she is sleeping on Marcus's side of the bed and Marcus is no longer in the bed. The camera continues to dolly over the bed revealing Marcus lying on the floor with one pillow, eyes open glued to the ceiling shivering in his boxers, t-shirt and long socks. He isn't too thrilled.

Still angled on Marcus, the snoring stops, Lavette yawns.

Beat.

LAVETTE

Marcus?

Marcus rolls his eyes.

Lavette looks over the side of the bed at Marcus on the floor.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)

What are you doing down there?

MARCUS

I don't want to talk about.

Lavette proceeds to get out of bed and exits the room wrapped in Marcus's comforter.

Marks throws another temper tantrum as he gets off the floor and locks the door. He throws his body into the bed and wraps up in the comforter and lets out a scream.

CUT TO:

INT. HALL WAY

Lavette is laughing as she enters her room.

FADE TO:

EXT. CABIN - DAY

Arial view of the cabin.

Marcus is sitting in the car smashing the start button repeatedly when Lavette comes out the front door. Marcus sees her walking towards him. He closes the door with an attitude. He pushes the lock button the car but nothing happens.

MARCUS

Duh stupid the battery is dead.

Lavette opens the passenger door and sits down leaving the door open.

Beat.

LAVETTE

I'm hunger.

Marcus doesn't respond.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)

Mr. Jo'hnauthor. Are you not hungry? Have you taken your medicine today? Have at least brushed your teeth?

Marcus stares at Lavette for a beat.

MARCUS

You know, there's one thing I've never really understood about black women...

LAVETTE

What's that?

MARCUS

How at the drop of a dime they no longer need a man. It's like black women have to prove that they've earned their liberation as if it's on the auction block to be sold back to the white man.

Lavette in sure confusion, uses her hands as the scales of justice.

LAVETTE

(to herself)

I'm hungry... Let's debate...

(To Marcus)

So you woke up and chose argue today huh?

MARCUS

I'm just saying. I don't get it.

LAVETTE

First of all don't categorize all black women. Let that be A. Secondly you have to understand as black women even today we fight for everything we want.

(MORE)

LAVETTE (CONT'D)

No matter what family we are born into, how much wealth they have, how much power they have; she has to fight for her light to shine. Fight for the same opportunity as a white woman. She; a black woman has to prove her worth to every man - black or white. So do not misunderstand the grind of a black woman because trust me... You really don't understand it.

MARCUS starts clapping.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)

Exactly! Every black woman deserves a standing ovation.

MARCUS

Right. Right. Standing Ovation.

LAVETTE

See. That's really the problem with black women. It's Black Men.

MARCUS

Oh. Here we go. Black Men.

LAVETTE

No no for real. Black men who are afraid of powerful black women.

MARCUS is severely confused.

MARCUS

What?

LAVETTE

Black men think that powerful black women need to be tamed like a domesticated elephant prancing around a circus stage. Powerful Black women should be celebrated and given honor for her Omnipotence. For her boldness. For her tenacity. For her energy. For her substantiality. For the diamond in the ruff that she is; but instead- weak minded, slow footed, prideful black men keep doing all they can to suppress the strong black woman because they fear the white man will come back and take their power.

MARCUS takes a pregnant pause.

LAVETTE sasses him.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)

Boo!

MARCUS

Is this really how you think or is this how they brainwashed you at the prestigious Bennett College?

LAVETTE

Are you intimidated by my intellect?

MARCUS laughs.

LAVETTE Stares blankly at him until the laughing stops.

MARCUS

Oh Gosh! Am I intimidated by your intellect!

He Stops laughing.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Who do you think I am?

LAVETTE

It's not a matter of think. The evidence is there; and you're loosing this one.

MARCUS

Evidence?

LAVETTE

What's the definition of evidence counselor?

MARCUS

The available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid.

LAVETTE

The people rest.

MARCUS

Excuse me? On what grounds?

LAVETTE

Your Character. That's- the evidence. You believe because you have money and you come from a family of wealth that you are superior to me and that is a lie. I am sorry you can't handle the truth Marcus.

MARCUS

Truth? It's a matter of... Just forget it.

MARCUS prepares to leave and go inside.

LAVETTE

See. That is exactly what I'm talking about. Leola Johnson said a weak man would rather turn his back and walk away than stand and face the truth. You know I'm right; but instead of admitting it you'd rather just walk away. You'd rather turn your back on a strong black woman rather than celebrate her for knowing her worth.

MARCUS

It's not even that. It's that worth that tells the black woman that she does not need a man when it's clear that she does. You all think that you are supposed to shove your worth onto a man and without question or hesitation he's supposed to just eat it up and give you the world. Needless to say the minute he stands tall with his back straight and his foot down and all God given power and tries to be the head of his house you silly women want to buck. Want to give him grief. Want to act like he's degrading you- when in all actuality he's building you. He's polishing you. He's strengthening you. He's the reason you have the drive and the fight. But in your mind he's down playing your worth. That's where the problem lies.

(MORE)

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Liberation gave you rights, but it didn't give you the right to be independent, to desire to do it all by yourself, to desire to prove to a man you do not need him. That's not what liberation was. Liberation was your public freedom; not your relief of responsibility at home... With her HUSBAND. Weak minded, slew footed, prideful HUSBAND. Liberation was not your invitation to take on the world alone. That. Was not at all. What liberation was.

LAVETTE is frustrated.

LAVETTE

You are by far the biggest fool I've ever had the PLEASURE of meeting. You're a freaking jerk.

MARCUS smacks his teeth

MARCUS

Oh jerk this, jerk that. You know I've about had it with you and your limited vocabulary.

LAVETTE

Wow.

MARCUS

For real. Think about it, it's freaking this, freaking that, jerk this, jerk that. You use the same two words to describe everything. Half of the time you might as well go ahead a curse.

(BEAT)

Don't be bashful now.

LAVETTE

Oh I'm not. I'm just trying to convince myself that your not worth going to jail over. Cause truly, one mind is telling me to end it all. I can't believe I'm stranded in the middle of freaking no where with an God fearing, obnoxious, preaching half cocked wanna be Johnnie Cochran.

Pregnant pause.

They both explode into laughter.

MARCUS

Not a wanna be Johnnie Cochran!

The laughing continues.

LAVETTE

Ugh you're so aggy!

Marcus still laughing exits the car and closes the door.

Lavette gets out the car and closes the door. The laughing slowly comes to an end as Marcus enters the house.

FADE TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Marcus opens the door of the freezer, there are a few blocks of meat wrapped in butchers tape. Marcus takes out a few of them and holds one up to Lavette.

MARCUS

Got a few bags of frozen veggies
and I hope you eat venison. We've
got plenty of it.

Lavette stares blankly at Marcus.

LAVETTE

Venison? As in lil Bambi?

Marcus Chuckles.

MARCUS

Yes Ma'am as in little Bambi!

Lavette shrugs her shoulders and walks towards the stairs.

Theres a loud thud... She looks towards where Marcus was in concern.

LAVETTE

Marcus?

Marcus has fallen to the ground. He's having a seizure.

Lavette runs over to Marcus she tries to support him as much as possible.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)

You're okay... Come on Marcus...
Come on. Marcus? Come on Baby, Come
on.

After about a minute the seizure passes. Marcus has tears in his eyes. He stares at Lavette. She's crying but still holding him.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)

You're okay Marcus. I've got you.

The camera dollies back.

Marcus stares at LaVette with tears in his eyes.

BEAT

Marcus starts to get up.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)

Take your time. You're okay.

LaVette helps Marcus off the floor and then helps him onto the sofa.

MARCUS

I'm sorry LaVette.

LaVette sits on the sofa next to him with her knees pulled to her chest.

She stares at him for a beat.

LAVETTE

You're out of medicine huh?

Marcus Hesitates

MARCUS

Yeah. I only keep a days supply on me.

LaVette exhales in frustration.

LAVETTE

You don't keep an emergency pack on you? In your bag? The car? No where?

Marcus looks to her with surprise.

MARCUS

It's possible there's two pills in
the front pouch of my bag!

LaVette gets up and goes over to his bag by the door.

She unzips the front pouch and pulls everything out. But
there's no pills.

LAVETTE

There's nothing here.

MARCUS

It was a chance.

LaVette returns to the sofa. We've got to get home and I mean
now Marcus.

Marcus's eyes are closed.

LAVETTE shakes him.

LAVETTE

Marcus I need you to wake up.

MARCUS

I'm awake.

LAVETTE

No. Open your eyes. I need to know
you are with me. We've got to get a
way home. You need your medicine.
We need to devise a plan and fast.

MARCUS

I need to take a nap.

LAVETTE

Okay. You do that.

LaVette leaves the sofa as Marcus lays down to sleep.

LaVette goes up the stairs and enters the bathroom.

INT. MASTER BATHROOM

LaVette closes the door. She sits on the top of the toilet
seat and burst into tears. She gets tissue from the roll and
dries her tears.

She looks up at the wall, there's word graphics hanging on
the wall that reads "Dear God, Forgive me for not trusting
you with my life. Today I choose you.

Please help me this day. Give me strength when I am weak,
lend me a shoulder when I need to cry and help me up when I
fall."

LaVette weeps

LAVETTE

God please help us. I'm so sorry I
never trusted you. I don't know if
I'm doing this right or not. But I
need your help. Please help us.
Please! I'll trust you my life God.
Just get us home...

Arial shot of the cabin at golden hour.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

The moon provides light to the interior of the room. LaVette
is asleep in the bed when Marcus gets into the bed. They face
away from each other staring into the distance.

LAVETTE

Are you okay?

MARCUS

Yes.

LAVETTE

I'm scared Marcus.

MARCUS

Don't be. We have each other.

LAVETTE

I prayed today.

Pregnant Beat

Marcus sits up in the bed.

MARCUS

You prayed to who?

LaVette let's out a chuckle.

LAVETTE

To God Marcus. I prayed to God.

MARCUS

Oh wow!

LaVette sits up in the bed.

LAVETTE

I was so scared.

Marcus stares into the distance.

MARCUS

That's amazing... Why did you pray to God tho... I don't mean to sound exasperated but... How did you arrive at asking God for anything?

LAVETTE

You know Marcus, you really insensitive. But that's okay. You be you.

LaVette slides back down into the bed and turns away from Marcus.

MARCUS

I'm just saying, I'm curious, I'm intrigued, I want to know; what made you go to God for anything, and just four days ago you said you didn't believe he even existed.

It's silent.

The camera pulls back revealing the entire room as Marcus remains sitting up in the bed.

A night arial shot.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

LAVETTE is cooking when MARCUS comes down the stairs.

MARCUS

Something is burning.

LAVETTE puts a piece deer sausage on a plate she has next to her and spoons some corn and a few pieces of broccoli on to the plate.

She hands him the plate as he enters the kitchen area.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

So you can cook?

LAVETTE

I didn't say I couldn't cook. I said I don't cook!

MARCUS

Yeah. Yeah. Didn't realize there was Sausage.

LAVETTE

I shot & butchered a deer early this morning ground those when I got back.

MARCUS burst into laughter.

Lavette laughs a little.

MARCUS

My God! You do have a sense of humor in there!

LAVETTE

It takes a minute to loosen up.

LAVETTE finishes putting things away in the kitchen and coverts.

MARCUS eats his food at the bar. LaVette sits a bottle of water next to his plate.

MARCUS

Not bad.

LAVETTE returns with a bottle of wine and one wine glasses.

She pours herself a glass of wine.

MARCUS looks at her.

LAVETTE

What?

MARCUS

You're really making me drink water?

LAVETTE looks at him with the side eye.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

I can have a glass of wine.

LAVETTE

No you can't.

MARCUS

Any other time I would have a glass with my meal.

LAVETTE

This isn't any other time Sir. You had a seizure yesterday and you are out of medication. No Sir.

MARCUS reaches for the bottle of wine anyways.

LAVETTE snatches the bottle before he get's it.

MARCUS

For real??

LAVETTE

No wine for you buddy. I swear I chunk every single one of there bottles into the lake if I have to.

MARCUS

Oh no you won't. That's a full case of Grand vin's 1931 Chateau Latour. You chunk them off you better be behind them!

LAVETTE starts laughing.

LAVETTE

I see you feeling much better! But don't push me!

MARCUS smiles at her.

MARCUS

Try me!

It's silent for a pregnant pause as they both eat their meal.

The lights flicker and then cuts off.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

What the heck is going on.

LAVETTE

Y'all paid you all's light bill?

MARCUS

Crap!

LAVETTE

What?

MARCUS

It's the annual suspension.

LAVETTE

You keep saying that. What is the annual suspension?

MARCUS

Every year the last week of March, the energy company suspense our usage out here since we don't come up here until the summer & Christmas.

LAVETTE

Wait. So you mean, the power is off for good until the summer?

MARCUS

Yes. There's no electricity coming back on. Period.

LAVETTE

Oh naw, this for the birds bro. What are we going to do?

MARCUS gets up and picks up his water bottle and plate.

MARCUS

Join me?

LAVETTE takes a sip of her wine and picks up her plate and follows MARCUS outside on the porch.

EXT. PORCH- DAY

They sit on the porch in two chairs. It's quiet.

Pregnant pause.

MARCUS

Talk to me.
(BEAT)

LAVETTE

We have three bags of frozen veggies. Three cans of beans. A large bag of rice six bottles of water and three diet sodas. That ain't a lot of food bruh.

MARCUS

No it's not. I honestly think I'm going to tough it out and make twenty mile that trek.

LAVETTE

You're not serious.

MARCUS

Yeah I am. I mean really, we can't just sit here waiting for somebody to show up.

LAVETTE

And you can't take the risk of having a seizure in the woods alone.

Marcus stares at Lavette for a Beat.

MARCUS

You care huh...

LAVETTE finishes her beans and corn. Then drinks the remnant of her wine.

LAVETTE

Anybody with a heart would care.

LAVETTE sits her plate on the chair's arm rest. She walks over to the stairs that lead up to the porch. She sits down and pull her knees up to her chest.

Marcus stares at her.

MARCUS

You scared?

LAVETTE looks at him then back at the moon.

LAVETTE

Yeah

MARCUS

Being out here?

LAVETTE keeps looking out at the water.

LAVETTE

I'm more afraid of no one coming.

MARCUS

Someone will come.

LAVETTE

What makes you think that?

MARCUS

You Told Kenya was with me and I told Q you was with me.

LAVETTE

Yeah but Kenya went to Miami for fashion week.

MARCUS

Most people know my family has this place. Q used to come up here when we were younger, I know he would know where to look.

LAVETTE

And if we run out of food before then?

MARCUS

We don't have to eat everyday.

LAVETTE

Yes we do.

MARCUS

Well I'll just catch a fish every day. Leaving you with a few days of food.

LAVETTE

So You're just going to eat protein.

Pregnant BEAT.

MARCUS

That's what the ancestors did.

LaVette looks at him.

LAVETTE

You're crazy.

Marcus walks over to her and sits next to her facing the opposite direction.

MARCUS

So what about your mother?

LAVETTE

What about her?

MARCUS

You've told me about your dad but not your mother.

LAVETTE continues to look across the water.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

You don't want to talk about her?

LAVETTE looks back at him.

LAVETTE

Not much to talk about.

MARCUS

Okay. No siblings?

LAVETTE

No siblings.

MARCUS

So you were an only child?

LAVETTE continues to stare. With no response.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

What aren't you telling me?

LAVETTE keeps looking at the water.

LAVETTE

I want to take a shower...

MARCUS

You can use the upstairs bathroom.

LAVETTE gets up and walks towards the entrance. She stops at door and turns back to him.

LAVETTE

There's a lot that happened in my life as a child that I've never told anyone. As a matter of fact I buried those memories with my dad. So it's not that I don't want to open up to you; I'm just not ready... not for that... Not right now.

MARCUS

I understand.

(BEAT)

There's flash light up there on my side of the bed if you need it.

LAVETTE

Thanks.

INT. UPSTAIRS

LAVETTE opens the closet where the sundress was hanging. She removes the dress and holds it up to her body again.

CUT TO:

EXT. PATIO - NIGHT

The fire pit is lit and provides some light.

MARCUS is laying down on the patio floor looking at the stars.

LAVETTE comes from inside the house she is wearing the sundress dress.

Marcus doesn't notice her.

LAVETTE

You mind if I join you?

MARCUS looks at her and then sits up to see her.

MARCUS

Yes ma'am!

MARCUS slides over a little to make room for them both.

LAVETTE

It's beautiful out here.

MARCUS

Yeah. It amazes me how brilliant God is. How crazy dope he was when he created all of this.

(PREGNANT PAUSE)

LAVETTE

You really think He hears us?

MARCUS

Humph!

LAVETTE

Answer the question counselor.

MARCUS chuckles.

MARCUS

I don't think it; I know He does.

LAVETTE

Even with all the bad things that happened to you and your family how do you still believe that?

MARCUS

I have no other choice.

LAVETTE

I just don't understand how you could serve a God that takes things from you. Destroys entire cities. Kills millions of people. You know?

MARCUS

Yeah. I know exactly what you are saying. Which is why I asked you the other night why did you pray to God...

LAVETTE

Because in that moment... I didn't know what else to do.

MARCUS

So for a moment you believed God was going to do whatever you asked him to?

LAVETTE

Yeah.

MARCUS

Whatever you felt that made you believe in that moment... Has to be what you feel every single day.

LAVETTE

I felt powerless. Is that what God wants us to feel? Powerless?

MARCUS

It's not powerless that you felt, it was the feeling of losing control.

LAVETTE

Powerless.

MARCUS

No. Empowered. Because when we loose control to Him... We then gain power through him.

LAVETTE

So deep.

MARCUS

Not it's... I mean not for me. Don't get me wrong there are plenty of things I feel I could have done on my own, but because I trust him... It not getting done, means it wasn't meant to be.

LAVETTE

So in all that you still trust him?

MARCUS

Yes. I still believe and trust in him. Job tell us that God gives and taketh away; it's easy to serve one when you understand them.

(PREGNANT BEAT)

LAVETTE

If you say so.

MARCUS

Well think about it this way. Your mother gave birth to you right?

LAVETTE

Yes.

MARCUS

And she bought you things right?

LAVETTE

Right.

MARCUS

At any moment for whatever reason she could easily take them away-right?

LAVETTE

Sure.

MARCUS

Why do you expect God to be any different?

Silence for a Pregnant BEAT.

LAVETTE

I've never quite heard it that way before.

MARCUS

And that's why I win cases. I can even convince an atheist of logic of God!

LAVETTE punches Marcus in the side.

LAVETTE

I am not an atheist you prick!

MARCUS laughs

MARCUS

You shall do act like one!

LAVETTE

I can't help that I was seriously never taught anything about God.

MARCUS

That's so hard to believe!

LAVETTE

Why?

MARCUS

For one, you're black. I mean I don't know a single black person to say they were never taught ANYTHING about God...

LAVETTE

My entire family is... just... I don't know.

Pregnant Pause.

Marcus rolls over on his side to face LaVette

MARCUS

You know you can trust me right?

LAVETTE

Can I?

MARCUS

Honestly out here who else can you trust?

Marcus holds his head back screams to the top of his lungs.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

HELLO!

(BEAT)

Not even an echo.

Pregnant Pause

LAVETTE

I've honestly never shared this with anyone. I mean really No one.

MARCUS

I appreciate you trusting me...

LAVETTE

I was five. My dad worked two-three jobs and was hardly ever home. One day this guy approaches my dad and offers him a quick way to make a lot of money. It was coming up to Christmas and there were five of us. Three boys and two girls.

MARCUS

Thought you said you had no siblings.

LAVETTE

Give me minute, you'll understand.

MARCUS

What was the offer?

LAVETTE

Daddy drove a delivery truck at night for a vending company and these drug dealers needed to move a lot of drugs from one warehouse to another. So they offered my dad fifty thousand dollars to move a shipment after his last drop for the night. He agreed to do it.

MARCUS

I probably would have too. Fifty thousand dollars.

LAVETTE

Right. Who wouldn't. Anyway...
Daddy was on his way to the
warehouse with the drugs when he
got pulled over for a broken tail
light. Come to find out daddy's
license were suspended and he
didn't know it.

MARCUS

Wow.

LAVETTE

So of course they took the truck;
found the drugs and the only way
daddy didn't face any jail time was
to work with the cops as a CI.

MARCUS

Not good.

LAVETTE

Not good at all. You feel okay?

MARCUS

Yeah.

LAVETTE

You sure?

MARCUS

I'm good. I promise. Carry on.

LAVETTE

The guy found out my dad was a CI.
He sent some thugs to my house one
afternoon... My best friend Morgan
from across the grass was there.

(PREGNANT BEAT)

They shot my mom first. My
brothers. My sister and Morgan.

Lavette wipes a tear from her eye.

MARCUS

Why not you?

LAVETTE

I was hiding inside my brother's
toy chest in his closet.

MARCUS

Wow. So you really didn't have much family growing up?

LAVETTE

No. Daddy and I moved to the Atlanta area shortly after the trial.

MARCUS

You said your mom opted out of surgery so I assume he remarried?

LAVETTE

Yes.

MARCUS

Wow. Explains a lot.

LAVETTE

We agreed to never tell anyone not even Loretta.

MARCUS

Loretta?

LAVETTE

My step mom.

MARCUS

Whoa! Wait a minute? You mean your dad never told his new wife what happened?

LAVETTE

Nope. And if he did he never told me that he did.

MARCUS

That's a lot to keep bottled up inside as a child.

LAVETTE

I got in a lot fights. I mean a lot of fights. Especially in high school.

MARCUS starts laughing.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)

What?

MARCUS

I just don't see you fighting anyone!

LAVETTE

You want to try me?

MARCUS takes a deep breath.

MARCUS

No. I'm good.

It starts to rain. MARCUS and LAVETTE quickly gets up.

They run back into the house.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

The house is completely dark. MARCUS rummages to find the battery Powered light.

The light is upstairs in the bathroom.

LAVETTE

What are you looking for?

MARCUS

The light? Did you bring it down.

LaVette lets out a laugh.

LAVETTE

No! It's in the bathroom.

MARCUS

Why is that so funny?

LAVETTE

You rambling around! You sound like an old man looking for his cigarettes!

They both chuckle.

MARCUS approaches LaVette. They are standing face to face in the dark.

MARCUS

Maybe we were wrong about this whole thing.

LAVETTE pauses for a moment.

LAVETTE
And what thing is that?

MARCUS
You and I.

LAVETTE
The right amount of time spent with
a person could easily tear down the
walls of insecurities.

(BEAT)
Marcus grabs her hand. He leads her to the steps.
LaVette walks up the stairs using the guide rail.

Once he hears her at the top.

MARCUS
I'll be up in a bit.

LAVETTE
Good Night.

(Beat)
Marcus?

MARCUS
Yeah?

LAVETTE
You better not be drinking any wine
down there.

Marcus laughs.

MARCUS
I'm not lady! I'm just gonna make
sure windows are closed and the
patio door is locked.

LAVETTE
Okay.

(Beat)
Marcus?

MARCUS
Yeah?

LAVETTE
I appreciate you.

MARCUS

Same.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM- DAWN

It's still pitch black outside when LAVETTE is awakened by a loud thud. She feels the side of the bed where Marcus should be. He isn't there.

LAVETTE

MARCUS?

LaVette quickly emerges from the bed. She finds Marcus on the floor next to the bed having a Seizure.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)

MARCUS!

LaVette takes a pillow from the bed and places it under his head and rolls him onto his side.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)

Dear God... Please help us. Please help Marcus. God Please help him. God. Please. I'm so scared... But I trust you God.

The camera pulls back from the patio door and all the way out into an arial shot. Of the entire property.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. UPSTAIRS OVERLOOK - DAY

MARCUS and LAVETTE are sitting on the floor playing the board game Trouble.

FADE TO:

INT. UPSTAIRS OVERLOOK - DAY

MARCUS and LAVETTE are sitting on the floor playing a game of Uno.

FADE TO:

INT. UPSTAIRS OVERLOOK - DUST

MARCUS and LAVETTE are sitting on the floor playing a game of Spades and drinking wine and water.

FADE TO:

INT. UPSTAIRS OVERLOOK - NIGHT

MARCUS and LAVETTE are sitting on the floor playing a game of monopoly. Empty wine glasses and empty plates.

FADE TO:

INT. UPSTAIRS OVERLOOK - NIGHT

MARCUS is asleep on the cushioned bench. LaVette comes up the stairs and puts a blanket on him.

LAVETTE lays down on the cushioned bench underneath another blanket.

FADE TO:

EXT. BOAT DOCK - DAY

LAVETTE walks down the board walk to the dock still dressed in the SUNDRESS. MARCUS is sitting on the bench staring at the water.

LAVETTE watches him from the entrance.

LAVETTE

Why are you stressing.

MARCUS

I can't just sit here and do nothing to help get us back home.

LAVETTE

Then what do you think we should do?

MARCUS stands up and walks over to her.

MARCUS

I don't know. But we got to do something.

LAVETTE

Sounds like there are no options.

MARCUS
Can you swim?

LAVETTE stares at him.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
I'm so serious. We might can make
it!

LAVETTE
Stop it!

They both laugh.

Marcus walks over the edge of the shelter and leans against
the frame.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)
How are you feeling?

MARCUS
A little fatigue... But I'm okay.

LAVETTE goes over to him she wraps her arms around him and
hugs him from behind.

LAVETTE
Your resilience amazes me- that's
how I know It's going to be okay.

MARCUS
I don't know anymore.

LAVETTE
It's only been eight days.

MARCUS
Eight days and no one has even come
in this direction. No boats, no
helicopters, no planes, no cars.
Nothing. It's like we're in the
Bermuda triangle.

LAVETTE
We have each other.

MARCUS
I guess that's the whole world huh?

LAVETTE
We have God.

Marcus lets out a chuckle.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)
Tell me something Marcus...

MARCUS
Yeah?

LAVETTE
Would you catch me?

MARCUS
What do you mean?

LAVETTE
If I fell... Would you catch me?

MARCUS turns around and faces LAVETTE. They are eye to eye.

MARCUS
Are you saying...

LAVETTE
(INTERRUPTING)
Hard.

MARCUS
Yeah. I'll catch you...

LAVETTE kisses MARCUS. MARCUS pulls away.

LAVETTE
What?

MARCUS pulls her closer to him.

MARCUS
I worried I wasn't good enough for
you.

LAVETTE
And I felt the same way.

MARCUS
You are beyond good enough. You are
extraordinary

LAVETTE interrupts him with a kiss. They continue to kiss as
the camera pulls back into a wide shot.

LaVette pulls away from him. They run up the board walk
towards the house in a birds-eye view.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

They continue kissing into the house.
Marcus presses Lavette against the wall as they continue to kiss.

Lavette pushes back as she moves to the sofa still kissing.

LAVETTE
I Love you Marcus.

MARCUS
I Love you too.

Marcus sits on the sofa, Lavette pulls the dress up and straddles him and continues kissing her.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. HOUSE - DUST

Lavette is asleep on the sofa.

Marcus is standing on a chair stretching to get a picture from the wall of his Dad.

The chair shifts and Marcus falls waking Lavette up in a panic.

LAVETTE
MARCUS!

MARCUS
I'm okay.

Marcus notices that the glass in the picture frame is cracked now. He sits on the floor in silence.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
I'm over it at this point.

LAVETTE
That's not an option.

Lavette helps Marcus up and helps him hop over to the sofa.

MARCUS
You know I did a good job right!

LAVETTE
With what Marcus?

Marcus lets out a lazy chuckle.

MARCUS

I chose the right person to be
stuck in the middle of no where
with.

LaVette stares up at him as she rest her head just under his
arm.

LAVETTE

Just shut up...

INT. HOUSE

LAVETTE is asleep on the sofa.

MARCUS is standing at a window. He stares into the distance.
(BEAT)

A tear roles down Marcus's face.

LAVETTE wakes up. She looks around the room and finds him
standing at the window.

LaVette walks over to the window where he is.

LAVETTE

How do you feel.

MARCUS doesn't respond.

LAVETTE puts her back against the wall.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)

Why are you crying?

MARCUS

Fear.

LAVETTE

Of what?

MARCUS

You can't keep saving me every time
something stupid happens. It's hot.
We have no power. It's one thing
after the other.

LAVETTE opens the door and walks out to the porch.

EXT. PATIO- DAY

MARCUS comes out to the patio.

LAVETTE

I wanna go home.

MARCUS sits down in one of the chairs.

MARCUS

I know. Me too.

LAVETTE

No. No Marcus. You were the strong one. Not me.

MARCUS

And what's wrong with you having to be strong for once.

LAVETTE

What isn't wrong? We're out here stranded in the middle of no where. Dehydrated. Frustrated. Lonely.

MARCUS

You're lonely?

LaVette stares at MARCUS.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

I've never felt more embraced; even in a group of friends what I feel here... I've never felt before.

LaVette starts crying.

LAVETTE

No. You don't get to be all mushy and luby duby. No. No. I trusted you Marcus. I came out here with you and now you're giving up. No. You Don't get to give up Marcus.

Marcus stands up and stares at LaVette.

MARCUS

You call this giving up? I'm not giving up Baby. I'm falling apart out here Vette.

LAVETTE

You don't get to fall apart Marcus. You don't get to do that.

MARCUS

And you do? No. Neither of us get to give up. But it's okay to admit you're getting weak. It's okay.

MARCUS tries to embraces LAVETTE. She pushes him away.

LAVETTE

You're supposed to catch me. You're supposed to hold me down Marcus. How can you do that if you're falling apart? Huh?

(Beat)

Answer me Marcus?

MARCUS

Talk to me LaVette.

LAVETTE

I am talking to you.

MARCUS

No. Real talk. What's the problem here? Why are you acting like this.

LAVETTE

I just wanna go home MARCUS. I can't take it no more. I wanna go home.

MARCUS

Soon. But in the mean time- you've got to talk to me.

LaVette turns around and faces away from Marcus. She's crying with her arms folded.

Marcus walks up behind her and wraps his arm around her.

Marcus whispers in a very soft voice

MARCUS (CONT'D)

I don't know where this is going, or what may come from being on this out here with you... But LaVette I'm falling in love with you every minute of everyday.

LaVette takes a pregnant pause.

LAVETTE

I'm afraid Marcus.

MARCUS

Of what?

LAVETTE

Falling completely in love with you. I don't want to hurt you and I don't want you to hurt me.

Marcus turns LaVette around to face him.

MARCUS

Then don't hurt me.

Marcus kisses her on the forehead. They embrace each other.
BIRDS-EYE VIEW.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

MARCUS is laying in the bed when LaVette enters the room wearing her panties and t-shirt carrying the battery flashlight.

MARCUS is staring at the ceiling when LaVette gets into bed. She sits the flashlight on the dresser pointed at the ceiling.

LAVETTE

What are you wearing?

MARCUS

The only thing I've got clean!

LAVETTE

Which is what?

Marcus lifts the cover and looks down at himself

MARCUS

Me!

LaVette let's out a chuckle. He Puts the covers back down.

LAVETTE

You're so stupid! I told you to hand wash your briefs!

MARCUS

Right Miss Pearl!

LAVETTE

I'm just saying we've walked around in the same clothes all day at least we can sleep on clean sheets!

MARCUS
I guess! You do smell good tho.

LAVETTE
I took a shower stupid.

MARCUS
I did too!

LAVETTE
Yea but you used that thousand year
old all natural soap!

MARCUS
Shut up!

Pregnant Pause. LaVette continues to stare at the ceiling.

LAVETTE
Can I ask you a question?

(BEAT)

MARCUS
Sure?

LAVETTE
Why Were you afraid... Of having
sex. With me.

Pregnant Pause

MARCUS
What do you mean?

LAVETTE
I feel like things were getting
pretty hot and you pushed away...

MARCUS
I realized what was happening.

LAVETTE
Make that makes sense?

MARCUS
I was going back on my commitment.

LAVETTE
Commitment? To who?

MARCUS
God.

LAVETTE

Well I'm sorry Marcus.

(BEAT)

MARCUS

No. It's not your fault.

LAVETTE

Somewhat.

MARCUS

For a while I felt like the reason things didn't work out for me and AJ was because I went against God's order. We were having Sex and living together before marriage... Which we all know is not God's order.

(BEAT)

Marriage before all of that.

LAVETTE

So you're telling me that in the middle of kissing me you were thinking about another woman?

MARCUS

NO!

They both Laugh.

LAVETTE

I get it. But do you really believe God would turn your world upside down because of premarital sex?

MARCUS

It's not because of the sex... It's because it's sin. We choose to turn our own world upside down when we sin. We send ourselves to hell when we choose to sin. We are in total control of our choices... WE! Have to choose to yield to God's plan or choose to go to a burning Hell.

LAVETTE

A burning hell tho? Really Rev?

Marcus chuckles.

MARCUS

I'm no reverend. I just understand we as humans generally operate in our flesh 90% of the time. We choose to ask God for forgiveness rather than doing what we know he approves of. We know it's sin but we choose to do it anyways; then we want God to bail us out of trouble.

LAVETTE

So that's the only reason why you pushed away?

Pregnant Pause. Marcus lets out a sigh.

MARCUS

I have strong feelings for you...

LAVETTE

But?

MARCUS

What's more important our flesh or our soul?

LAVETTE

Okay. Whatever.

MARCUS

Atheist!

LAVETTE hits Marcus.

LAVETTE

Hypocrite.

MARCUS

Wow look at the pot calling the kettle black.

MARCUS throws LaVette's pillow on the floor on her side of the bed.

LAVETTE

Why would you put my pillow on the floor.

MARCUS attempts to push LaVette Off her side of the bed.

They tussle.

MARCUS

You gotta go Jezebel. You can't sleep in the same bed with me!

LAVETTE

No Sir. You can get on the floor.

She pulls him with her. They both land on the floor in laughter.

The laughter slowly comes to an end.

It's Silent for a BEAT.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)

Your father?

MARCUS chuckles.

MARCUS

Good segue. What about him?

LaVette turns her body and faces Marcus.

LAVETTE

How'd he meet your mother.

MARCUS turns his head towards her.

MARCUS

That's a sad story.

LAVETTE

Well?

MARCUS

My mom was a crackhead and a prostitute. My dad was a regular.

LAVETTE

So he was one of her customers.

Marcus turns his body to face LaVette.

MARCUS

Eventually her only customer. Dad took care of her as much as he could once he found out she was pregnant. House, car, job whatever it took.

LAVETTE

So why didn't he marry her.

MARCUS

He was already married. With three other kids.

LAVETTE

Oh.

MARCUS

When I was three she went back to drugs. She wouldn't stay in the house. She dropped me off at his job and left.

LAVETTE

I wonder how that went.

MARCUS

What?

LAVETTE

Your dad bringing a black three year old home.

MARCUS

Right.

LAVETTE

Hey baby I'm home. Here's our son.

MARCUS

I don't think it went quiet like that. My brother Evan told me dad slept on the sofa with me for months. Said Nancy wouldn't have anything to do with me.

LAVETTE

That's not right.

MARCUS

No. It wasn't. BUT she eventually came around.

LAVETTE

How was it going to school with your brothers.

MARCUS

I didn't. At least not until I was in high school.

LAVETTE

What do you mean? You were home schooled.

MARCUS

Nope. My brothers were in private school. I went to public school. P.S. 118 with all the other neighborhood kids. So while they were at school living a glorious life; I had to deal with all the picking about being a black kid living with white people.

LAVETTE

Wow. So how did you become partner and not any of them?

MARCUS

After middle school dad insisted that I get the same treatment the others did. So they moved me to Private school. It was after graduation my brothers left home and basically had nothing to do with us. I was just so thankful to be out of public school.

LAVETTE

That's crazy. So you went from being the black sheep to being the heir of the family?

MARCUS

I guess one could say that.

LAVETTE

I'm very happy your life turned out the way it did. You may not know it but it's the reason you are so resilient.

MARCUS

Nancy once told me that I would be prepared for the world when I left her house.

(Pregnant Pause)

LAVETTE

She was right.

The flash light powers off.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)

Hope that doesn't mean what I think.

MARCUS
Indeed it does. Good night LaVette.

LAVETTE
Night Marcus.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. BEDROOM- DAY

Marcus and LaVette are asleep still.

There's loud knocking at the front door.

LAVETTE wakes up. She stares at the ceiling.

There's loud knocking at the front door again.

LAVETTE hits Marcus in excitement as she's getting off of the floor.

LAVETTE
Marcus. Wake Up. Somebody's here.

Marcus wakes up.

MARCUS
What are you talking about?

LAVETTE
Shhh. Listen.

BEAT

There's loud knocking at the front door again.

LAVETTE is putting on her clothes and walks towards the door.

STEPHEN TAYLOR
(From the outside)
Hello anybody home?

LAVETTE
Who is that?

MARCUS Starts getting dressed.

MARCUS
Sounds like Stephen Taylor!

LAVETTE
Who the heck is that?

MARCUS

One of the property owners from up
the way.

MARCUS walks towards the door.

LAVETTE

I thought you said no one ever
comes up here?

MARCUS

Does any of that matter?!

LAVETTE

You're sure that's who it is?

Marcus exits the room still getting dressed.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

MARCUS Opens the front door. Stephen is standing there.

Lavette is standing behind Marcus holding a frying pan as
Stephen enters the house and Marcus turns around

STEPHEN TAYLOR

Whoa! What are you going to do with
that?

Marcus snatches the pan from Lavette

MARCUS

What's wrong with you!

LAVETTE shrugs a little bit

LAVETTE

You never know what may happen
thats all!

STEPHEN TAYLOR

Somebody's been watching too much
TV!

Lavette sticks her hand out to shake Stephen's hand.

LAVETTE

Lavette, Nice to meet you!

STEPHEN TAYLOR

And how'd you end up stuck up here
with this guy!

LAVETTE

No service and no charger, dead car!

Stephen looks at LaVette with discoverable eyes!

STEPHEN TAYLOR

She's gorgeous Marcus.

MARCUS

Stephen can you give us a ride into town?

Stephen stares at Marcus for a beat.

STEPHEN TAYLOR

How long y'all been up here?

MARCUS

Eleven days.

STEPHEN TAYLOR

What? The powers been off at least for the last seven days. The heck y'all doing? Playing survivor or something?

MARCUS

Oh my freaking God! STEPHEN! Can you take us into town?

Stephen looks to LaVette.

STEPHEN TAYLOR

I mean, Sure, but I'm just trying to figure out why yall been up here like this for eleven days?

MARCUS clears his throat.

MARCUS

Well it's twenty miles back into town. How were we supposed to get there?

Stephen looks to Marcus.

STEPHEN TAYLOR

So you're telling me it's been that long since you've been up here?

MARCUS

What are you talking about?

STEPHEN TAYLOR

Henry Adams opened up a Hunting supply shop about 8 miles down the hill near Dock River's old place.

MARCUS

What?

STEPHEN TAYLOR

Yeah; Dock died at the start of the global panorama and his boys sold the whole property to Henry and he turned into a tackle, bait & hunting supply shot.

LAVETTE

So what you are saying is there's people up here?

STEPHEN TAYLOR

Yeah! That hunting shop stays busy. I'm usually there every morning running my mouth with the locals.

LAVETTE

Locals?

MARCUS

Can we go?

LAVETTE

Locals?

STEPHEN TAYLOR

Yeah.

MARCUS

Stephen, explain locals.

STEPHEN TAYLOR

Debbie Ann and Fred they live in their cabin about 5 miles from Daddy's place. And then there's Henry and his wife. They all live up here now.

LaVette is staring at Marcus as Marcus stares back.

STEPHEN TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Oh, and chad and Charlene live up at their little spot about 3 miles from here. Of Course they are on vacation this week.

(MORE)

STEPHEN TAYLOR (CONT'D)
Rommel and Pam live at John Boy's
cabin about three days out of the
week.

MARCUS
Baby, all of these people still
live at least 3-10 miles away. So
It makes no difference.

STEPHEN TAYLOR
Oh, you can walk two miles bro!

Stephen walks back to the door and opens it.

STEPHEN TAYLOR (CONT'D)
If yall are ready tho I can
LaVette is already opening the door.

LAVETTE
We're ready.

EXT. FRONT DOOR - DAY

STEPHEN, LAVETTE and MARCUS walk out the house and pass
Marcus' car. They get Stephen's truck.

BIRDS EYE VIEW of the truck driving through the country side.

EXT. PARK - DAY

TITLE CARD: TWO WEEKS LATER.

LAVETTE is sitting on the ground in the park on a blanket
with a picnic basket. MARCUS approaches her.

MARCUS
Well Well Well. A Date in the park
huh?!

LAVETTE laughs as MARCUS sits down next to her.

LAVETTE
Mama always said you have to teach
a man!

MARCUS searches the basket.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)
What are you looking for?

MARCUS

Hot sauce!

They both laugh.

LaVette reaches into her bag and pulls out nothing.

LAVETTE

You better be happy I'm trying to do better! Cause I almost shot you a bird!

MARCUS erupts in laughter

MARCUS

You have to be that person huh!

It's silent for a pregnant pause.

LAVETTE

How have you been?

MARCUS

Good. I'm back on track with my meds and No seizures.

LAVETTE

That's good!

MARCUS

(BEAT)

I have to admit tho, I really didn't expect to hear from you.

Pregnant pause.

LAVETTE

Why not?

MARCUS

Well I understood you returned to college; and I texted you a few times. Even called you... Nothing

LAVETTE

Well, I didn't go back to college. Summer isn't over yet! And... I only went back to clear things up with my professor for my online class.

MARCUS

Okay. So... We're here now...

LAVETTE

Talk to me.

LAVETTE bites her sandwich.

MARCUS

About?

LAVETTE

What do you want? You texted... I'm listening.

MARCUS lays down on his side and looks at her.

MARCUS

Come home with me.

LAVETTE stares at him for a BEAT.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Seriously. I realized need you.

LAVETTE

Why?

MARCUS

Because I can't help but think there is something here. Something real.

LAVETTE stares at him.

LAVETTE

I don't know Marcus... I'm not a thot.

MARCUS

No you're not. You're not a gold digger either.

LAVETTE

I don't want to break your heart...

BEAT

MARCUS

Then come home with me.

BEAT

LAVETTE

The Sun is setting.

BEAT

MARCUS
You scared?

LAVETTE
No.

MARCUS
So...

LAVETTE
I'm not looking for temporary
pleasures...

MARCUS
Neither am I.

LAVETTE
I need to know that there's
longevity here.

MARCUS
I've waited nine years for you...

LAVETTE
Promise me

MARCUS
(Interrupting)
I will catch you. Every. Single.
Time!

LAVETTE smiles at him.

LAVETTE
What are you expecting?

MARCUS
I don't know.

LAVETTE
What do you mean?

MARCUS
I don't know what I expect. But
after all we have been through... I
don't want to go through life
wondering why it was you and not
someone else.

LAVETTE stares at him.

LAVETTE
And what if it was for nothing more
than what it was...

MARCUS
That can't be it.

LAVETTE
It vary well could be... I mean
what makes you think anything
different...

MARCUS
Because we have a chance here... an
opportunity to love each other...
We've accomplished in eleven days
what takes most the first five
years of marriage.

LAVETTE laughs.

LAVETTE
Very true.

MARCUS stares at her for a beat.

MARCUS
Come home with me... Forever.

LAVETTE
Love me...

MARCUS
Forever Baby...

LAVETTE and MARCUS share a kiss as the camera pulls back.

LAVETTE
I want a ring Marcus. And the
commitment. Not just a good time.

MARCUS
I'd expect nothing less!

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. POCKET PARK - EVENING

There are several family and friends seated around tables, there's an arch and a white runner the stretches down the middle of the park. LaVette enters the park as the Pastor motions for everyone to stand up, LaVette walks down the isle to meet Marcus at the arch.

[The wedding commences]

The film closes with several shots of family and friends enjoying the reception & dancing under the night sky.

SIDNEY BRYANT