

SCRIPT TITLE

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FADE IN.

EXT. OUTSIDE A SHOP - AFTERNOON

Downtown Chicago, in the 2000s. ROMEO GRENDEGO, tall, dark and handsome, wearing street attire; mid 20's, lady's man, cocky and ambitious. He is leaning forward, flirting with a pretty woman.

ROMEO

C'mon now, I know you are too fine  
to not want to give me your number  
baby.

Romeo slowly reaches for the pretty lady's hand and starts caressing it.

DAVID GRENDEGO, appealing appearance, mid 20's, slick-back hair, also ambitious, crosses the street in a hurry, heading the direction towards Romeo.

While walking David shouting out to Romeo.

DAVID

Romeo! Aye yo Romeo!

Romeo still using his eyes to flirt with the lady.

David moves in closer towards Romeo's direction.

DAVID'S P.O.V. - ROMEO TALKING

DAVID (CONT'D)

Aye cuz!

Romeo sees his cousin David walking towards him from across the street, but ignores him and continues talking to the lady.

David walks by and grabs Romeo's arm and pulls him in the same direction where he is walking.

ROMEO

Aye yo cuz, what the...?

The lady gives a pissed off and irritated expression, shrugs her shoulders then walks away, in the opposite direction.

David pulling on Romeo's arm.

DAVID

He'll call you!

ROMEO  
(confused)  
Call her? With what? She  
was about to give me her  
digits before...

DAVID  
(interrupting)  
Never mind that man. Like  
getting hoes is a problem  
for us.

Romeo makes a face.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Man I have been looking all over to  
tell you the good news man.

David and Romeo continue walking along the sidewalk.

ROMEO  
To tell me what cuz, why the fuck  
are you so excited for?

David smiling excitedly at Romeo.

DAVID  
That's what I'm trying to show you  
man. C'mon.

David and Romeo continue walking at a quicken pace.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
You're gonna be so freaking excited  
, you're going to fucking thank me.

They keep walking then come to a halt.

Romeo looking around.

ROMEO  
Okay, why did we stop?

David still smiling is facing Romeo and turns to look at the  
building next to them .

DAVID  
Because cuz this it.

ROMEO  
This is what? What are you talking  
about?

David points inside towards the building.

ROMEO (CONT'D)  
Wait? What?

DAVID  
Yeah man we finally did it!

ROMEO  
(excited)  
Our own studio? You shittin me  
right now?

David opens the door.

DAVID  
C'mon this is what I wanted to show  
you.

Romeo follows behind.

David turns on the lights. Romeo's eyes widen with excitement. They're in a fully equipped music studio that has a booth, a couch, a piano, and drums.

Romeo runs over to the piano.

ROMEO  
Holy shit, look at all this cuz.

Romeo runs his fingers along the piano keys. Then he goes over to beat some notes on the drum set.

David smiles. He walks over and turns on the light for the recording booth.

DAVID  
Check out the booth.

Romeo walks inside the recording booth, picks up the headphones and begins to rap a few verses.

ROMEO  
(rapping)  
These bitches and hoes, don't know  
where to go, they know to fuck with  
me cuz I gots that Grendego, watch  
ya'll cuz we comin to the top see,  
make a couple mill, not 1 , 2 but  
3.

David goes in the booth, clapping his hands in approval.

DAVID  
You see, and it's lyrics like that,  
that will take us to the top.

Romeo laughs, walks over and gives David a playful punch.  
Romeo looks around with a smug look. Pleased with himself.

ROMEO  
We got our own studio.

Romeo and David laugh, congratulating each other.

DAVID  
Man, with your talented ass, and my  
love for buisness...

ROMEO  
(interrupting)  
We going to make that bread.

DAVID  
Get that bread.

ROMEO & DAVID  
(laughing)  
And get all the hoes!

They both give each other a dap with their fists.

ROMEO & DAVID (CONT'D)  
(laughing)  
Grendego blood .

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. STUDIO - DAY

SUPER IN/OUT - "FEW WEEKS LATER"

David and Romeo are in the studio making beats.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDIO - NIGHT

David is counting money with Romeo. They split it with two  
other men who are wearing well tailored suits.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

EXT. OUTSIDE POOL PARTY - NIGHT

There is a crowd of people engaged in different activities. There are elegantly lit lanterns. People are in the pool; small groups engaged in conversation. Romeo is wearing an opened Hawaiian shirt and swim trunks. He is talking to a group of pretty women. They all have champagne glasses in their hands.

Romeo is distracted, and looks straight ahead, across the pool at David

ROMEO'S P.O.V. - DAVID TALKING TO A MAN FACING HIS BACK.

David looks over to Romeo and SCAR, a tall heavier set man wearing a gangster hat and a holding a Cuban cigar in his hand and SHANA a beautiful dark skin women standing next to Scar.

David walks Scar over towards Romeo.

DAVID  
Hey Romeo!

Romeo takes a sip of his champagne.

DAVID (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Romeo .

Romeo turns towards David.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Excuse me ladies, can we have a moment with the man of the hour here?

The women walk away.

ROMEO  
Hey David.

Romeo pats his cousin on the back.

DAVID  
Romeo I'd like you to meet a very important clientele of mine.

Romeo nods his head towards Scar, and reaches out for his hand.

Scar extends his hand to Romeo and they shake hands.

ROMEO  
Hey man what's up.

Scar reaches out for his lighter and lights his Cuban cigar.

DAVID

And our next business partner.

Romeo glances over to David with a weird look.

ROMEO

So Scar is it? Isn't that name  
taken already?

Scar takes out his cigar.

SCAR

Hmp..the reason they call me Scar,  
has nothing to do with my face. You  
ask any motherfucker on the block  
and they'll tell ya. Old Scar here  
will leave a motherfucker Scarred  
for life.

Romeo smiles. They all laugh.

ROMEO

Is that right.

DAVID

Scar here knows alot about the  
business and beats.

ROMEO

Aight we gonna see.

SCAR

Excuse me gentlemen, I'm going to  
have to excuse myself, I have some  
other clients I need to attend to.  
But please get some more  
champaigne, have fun.

Scar walks off to greet some guests.

ROMEO'S P.O.V. - LADY IN RED

ROMEO

Don't mind if I do.

ROMEO'S P.O.V. - LADY IN RED SMILING

Romeo's chin drops and his mouth opens.

David looks toward the door and then up at Romeo.

DAVID  
Her name is Francine.

ROMEO  
Huh? What?

DAVID  
Francine. Well known video vixen.  
Been in a few top notch stuff.

ROMEO  
Yea?

DAVID  
Yea man, and she seems to be  
looking right at you.

ROMEO  
Can you blame her?

David smirks and pats Romeo on the back.

FRANCINE, beautiful voluptuous woman in her mid 20's, sassy,  
and wearing a tight red dress walks seductively over to Romeo  
and David.

FRANCINE  
Hello boys.

DAVID  
Francine , Romeo, Romeo Francine.

Francine has his eyes locked on Romeo.

Romeo has his eyes on Francine .

Francine extends her hand and Romeo leans in and kisses it.

FRANCINE  
Oh Mr. Shakesphere definetly knows  
what he was talking about.

Romeo smiles at Francine.

David looks at them both.

DAVID  
Uh yea, so you kids get better  
aquanted.

David leaves.

Romeo and Francine start walking and talking.



FRANCINE  
So you're the famous Romeo.

Romeo smiles.

CROMEEO  
The one and only of course.

Francine laughs.

ROMEO  
No I'm just glad people are slowly  
starting to notice my talent you  
know. Took a little while but my  
cousin and I , we're coming up.

Francine strokes her hand on his shoulder.

FRANCINE  
Oh believe me Romeo, People  
definetly notice. Especially me.

Romeo bits his lip.

ROMEO  
Hey, why don't we go somewhere more  
a little more private?

CUT TO:

INT. SCAR'S HOUSE INDOOR JACUZZI - NIGHT

Francine takes off her dress. She is wearing a perfectly fitted lingerie that hugs the curves on her body. She seductively walks over into the jacuzzi.

FRANCINE  
I forgot my bathing suit, hope you  
don't mind.

Romeo's eyes are focused on her.

ROMEO  
Not at all.

Francine smirks at him seductively.

FRANCINE  
You coming in?

Romeo smiles and takes off his shirt and walks towards the jacuzzi and slowly tip toe's in the water.

ROMEO'S P.O.V. - FRANCINE BITING HER LIP

ROMEO  
Damn, this is hot.

They both move closer towards each other.

FRANCINE  
Oh sometimes a little heat is a good thing don't you think?

ROMEO  
Of course. You're a little freak aren't you?

Francine laughs and moves closer.

FRANCINE  
I wouldn't say that. Maybe I just know what I want.

ROMEO  
And what is it that you want?

Francine wraps her arms around Romeo's neck.

FRANCINE  
You know. I always go for the man on top.

ROMEO  
On top?

FRANCINE  
You know, the next big thing.

ROMEO  
Oh, I think I can help you with that.

Romeo leans in closer and presses his lips against hers.

He unbuckles her bra and leans her up against the edge of the jacuzzi.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. STUDIO - DAY

Romeo, David and Scar are going over some contracts.

Romeo's pager starts vibrating.

ROMEO'S P.O.V. - FRANCINE'S NUMBER

Romeo rolls his eyes. David turns towards Romeo.

DAVID  
Francine again huh?

ROMEO  
Yea, bitch keeps blowing up my  
pager man.

Scar takes out his cigar out his mouth.

SCAR  
Aye don't let these broads walk all  
over you man. Especially no video  
hoe.

Scar turns towards David.

SCAR (CONT'D)  
So we all ready for tonight right?

DAVID  
Of corse, Everything's all set.

Romeo looking puzzled.

ROMEO  
Is what set for tonight?

David smirks and pats Romeo on the back.

DAVID  
Aye don't worry bout it Romeo,  
leave the business part up to me.  
You just keep making those lyrics.

Scar puts his cigar back back in his mouth.

SCAR  
Don't worry bout things lil Romeo.

Romeo glances at Scar.

SCAR (CONT'D)  
It's just business.

Scar and David walk together heading out the studio.

DAVID  
Hey, what time should I expect you  
later?

Romeo looking down at the paperwork on the table as he's writing down lyrics.

ROMEO

I don't know, still working on some songs. I'll see you at the meeting tonight though.

INT. STUDIO - NIGHT

Romeo is in the studio alone working on some songs. Piles of paperwork neatly stacked all over the desk.

He hears a loud KNOCK at the door.

Romeo gets up and walks over to the door. He opens the door and Francine storms in.

ROMEO

Francine what are you doing here?

FRANCINE

(angry)

You won't answer my phone calls.  
You ignore my pages.

Romeo lets out a deep sigh.

FRANCINE (CONT'D)

I even went over to your place, and kept knocking and knocking but you never answered.

Romeo walks away from Francine and heads back into the studio room.

Francine follows.

ROMEO

Look maybe I was busy or something, you know, not home, I mean you know I'm always in the studio.

FRANCINE

No, no, I see you at parties, I been hearing other girls on my video shoots talking bout you.

ROMEO

Oh yea?

He laughs.

ROMEO (CONT'D)  
All good things I hope.

Francine squints her eyes and makes a face at Romeo.

FRANCINE  
No asshole, the fact is I shouldn't  
be hearing your name come out of  
other girls'mouths.

Romeo crosses his arms and rolls his eyes and sits back down  
in his chair at the table.

FRANCINE (CONT'D)  
Especially these video hoes!

Romeo gives Francine a look.

ROMEO  
Videos hoes? And what do you think  
you are Francine?

Francine gives Romeo a dirty look.

FRANCINE  
Excuse you ?

Romeo gets up from the table and walks over and faces her.

ROMEO  
C'mon Fran, it's not like you're  
known for being little Ms. Susie  
Homemaker now. I thought you knew  
the deal in this industry.

Francine smiles and grits her teeth.

FRANCINE  
You know what, David was right.

ROMEO  
(confused)  
David? What does David have to do  
with anything?

FRANCINE  
(smirking)  
Oh, you didn't know? Yea, we  
fuck... you know the deal in this  
industry right.

INT. SCAR'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Scar is standing around at his conference table along with David and six other men dressed in suits.

There are contracts and paperwork on the table. Scar is pointing down, giving his opinion.

DAVID

So just like Scar said earlier, if we can get these other recording studios to sign these contracts and ship out, then we...

SUDDENLY

The doors burst open and enraged Romeo dashes towards David.

ROMEO

You lying son of a bitch !

Romeo lunges at David and grabs him by the throat and starts squeezing.

David has his hands on Romeo trying to loosen up his grip.

Scar and the other guys rush to David's side trying to pull Romeo off him.

ROMEO (CONT'D)

You introduced me to her ! What the fuck !

They pull Romeo off of David. David gasps for air and rubs his neck.

David facing Romeo.

DAVID

What the fuck is your problem? It's not like she was your girl or something.

Romeo grits his teeth.

ROMEO

You know what. I don't need this shit. We're done!

DAVID

What do you mean your done? Romeo?

Romeo turns around and walks out the door.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Romeo?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ROMEO'S APARTMENT - DAY

Romeo is sitting on his bed in his tank top and shorts with his head hunched over.

He stares at his side table by his bed and looks at the phone.

His phone RINGS. He lets it ring. Romeo presses the button to hear the answering machine.

DAVID (O.S.)

Hey man. Pick up. It's been three already. Pick up.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. STUDIO - DAY

Romeo is inside the booth with his headphones on vibing to the music. He looks up and sees David inside. Romeo takes off his headphones and stares at David.

ROMEO

What the fuck you want?

DAVID

Look man, I didn't come here to fight with you. I was still hoping you would come to Cali with me. See Scar has...

Romeo's shoulder bumps David while he walks out the booth.

ROMEO

Look I don't give a fuck about no Scar, no you, no Francine, nobody! Fuck all ya'll motherfuckers. I don't need you rats in my life. My talent is gonna get me there.

David's lips tighten.

DAVID

Well if you change your mind man. You know where to find me.

David walks out the door, and closes the door behind him.

AT THAT MOMENT

A KNOCK on the door. Romeo, pouting walks towards the door and opens it. Francine is standing outside.

Romeo flings his arms in the air.

ROMEO

Oh now what?

Francine quiet and looking down looks up at Romeo.

ROMEO (CONT'D)

Well?

FRANCINE

I'm pregnant.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

EXT. AUNT MILLY'S HOUSE - DAY

Romeo is standing in front of a porch. He KNOCKS on the door. AUNT MILLY, middle aged, strongly opinionated with everyone else except with her nephew Romeo. Romeo opens the door.

AUNT MILLY

Romeo, Romeo , oh come here and  
give me a hug.

Romeo wraps his arms around his Aunt Milly and they go inside.

She walks him to the couch, he sits down and she heads to the kitchen.

ROMEO

I see you bought yourself a new  
couch.

AUNT MILLY (O.S.)

(laughing)

Oh honey you know that couch was  
murder on my back.

Romeo laughs to himself.



ROMEO

It sure was. I like this one  
though. Cozy.

She walks out the kitchen holding two glasses of lemonade and  
sits herself next to Romeo. She hands him a glass.

Romeo takes a sip.

AUNT MILLY

Good isn't it. I always know just  
how you like it.

ROMEO

You sure do.

AUNT MILLY

It's been a few months since your  
last visit here. How's your music  
thing going? You been quite busy  
these past few months.

She takes a sip.

AUNT MILLY (CONT'D)

How you holding up with everything?

Romeo takes a sip of his lemonade.

ROMEO

Well uh, me and David aren't  
talking. And uh...remember that  
girl Francine I told you about?

Aunt Milly takes another sip of lemonade.

AUNT MILLY

Uh huh, that lil hussy with the  
super tight clothes.

ROMEO

Yea well, she's pregnant. And she's  
saying it's mine.

She looks at him.

AUNT MILLY

And is it?

ROMEO

I don't even know Aunt Mill. It  
could be. It could be anybody's  
really.

She leans in and places her hand gently on his shoulder.

AUNT MILLY

Well sometimes life just throws us  
curve balls we don't see coming.  
But you're not going to know what  
to do until you know for sure.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ROMEO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Romeo is sitting on the bed. He picks up the phone.

ROMEO

Hey Francine it's Romeo. Give me a  
call back when you get this. I  
wanna talk.

He hangs up the phone. He gets up and goes into his closet  
and takes out another shirt and lays it on the bed. The phone  
RINGS. He goes over and picks up the phone.

ROMEO (CONT'D)

Francine?

DAVID (V.O)

Romeo...

ROMEO

David I don't wanna ...

DAVID (V.O.)

(interrupting)

It's Francine! She's in the  
hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Romeo is standing in the hallway. He keeps looking through  
the glass door where he can see the doctors hovering over  
Francine. One female nurse is at the edge of the bed hovering  
over her.

NURSE

Push ! C'mon you're almost there,  
and push !

Francine tossing and turning.

FRANCINE  
(screaming)  
Aaaagghhhhhh!

While Francine is pushing, and she peeks and sees a glimpse of Romeo through the glass door.

NURSE  
C'mon keep pushing! I can see the  
head and push harder!

FRANCINE  
Aaaagghhhhhh!

Romeo is looking anxiously through the glass door. He tries to look for Francine but the doctors are blocking his view.

SUDDENLY

A baby CRIES. He places his hand on the glass door. He smiles and begins to push open the door then he pauses.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. POOL PARTY - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Francine is in the jacuzzi and smiling seductively at Romeo.

EXT. STUDIO - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

FRANCINE  
Oh you didn't know? Yea, we fuck ,  
but you know the deal in this  
industry right?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT (BACK TO PRESENT)

Romeo grits his teeth, shakes his head, places his hand on the glass door for the final time then walks away.

Francine tired and exhausted is laying down. The nurse enters holding a baby wrapped in fresh linen.

NURSE  
Francine? You have a beautiful  
healthy baby girl.

The nurse places the baby in Francine's arms. The doctors move away. Francine keeps looking towards the door.

FRANCINE

Nurse can you tell the man in the hallway he can come in now please.

The nurse walks to the door, opens it, and steps outside and then comes back in.

NURSE

I'm sorry, but I see no man at here

.

FRANCINE

No one?

NURSE

Only doctors and nurses...So what are you going to name her? She's beautiful, she'll need a special name.

Francine looks down at her baby and smiles. She then looks back towards the glass door and down at her baby. A tear runs down her cheek.

CUT TO:

INT. AIRPORT - NIGHT

Romeo is walking through the airport very quickly paced stride with his suitcase in one hand and airline ticket in the other.

He walks over to the concourse Gate 5. A FLIGHT ATTENDANT checking everyone's boarding pass is in the front of the hallway.

Romeo walks up to the flight attendant.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Can I see your boarding pass to California please?

Romeo hands his boarding pass .

FLIGHT ATTENDANT (CONT'D)

Thank you sir, right this way.

Romeo grabs his suitcase and walks down the aircraft's hallway, boards the plane, and takes his assigned seat.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

NURSE

Well? What's her name?

Francine smiles down and looks at her baby.

FRANCINE

Her name is If...Ifforver.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN.

EXT. AT THE PLAYGROUND - DAY (FOURTEEN YEARS LATER)

IFFOREVER, beautiful, smart, talented, can come across abit manipulative at times. Drops down to tie her shoelaces and looks up. She starts staring a little girl on the swings.

IFFOREVER'S P.O.V. - FATHER PUSHING THE LITTLE GIRL

Ifforever smiles.

TIA, If's best friend, pretty, down to earth, fourteen, is holding her backpack walking over towards Tia.

TIA

If! If! Ifforever!

Ifforever looks up over at Tia, looks back down, finishes tying her shoe, grabs her backpack and rushes over to Tia.

IFFOREVER

Hey T, I was ...

Tia laughs.

TIA

Uh huh, girl you were just daydreaming again huh.

They both laugh. They are both walking by the playground headed toward the traffic light.

IFFOREVER

Uh huh, maybe a little.

TIA

And who were you this time? Brandy?  
Diana Ross? Elvis?

Ifforever playfully pushes Tia in the arm.

IFFOREVER

Haha, I wish.

TIA

Girl you don't need to wish. I'm telling you, that voice of yours is gonna take you places. Just wait.

If smiling and rolling her eyes.

IFFOREVER

Yea sure.

They both cross the street and continue walking on the side walk where there are houses. An older Francine is on the front porch with a broom in her hand sweeping the rug outside.

Francine pauses as Ifforever and Tia are slowly walking by towards the house.

FRANCINE

If! Ifforever, get your butt in here now please and help me with those dishes.

Ifforever rolls her eyes and heads up the stairs.

IFFOREVER

Only places I'm going is to do dishes.

Tia gives her a smirk.

TIA

Okay, see you later.

Ifforever goes inside the house and throws her backpack on the couch, takes out her headphones, and goes into the kitchen.

She places the headphones on her ears, begins to wash the dishes. She starts singing to herself.

As she is singing she is gyrating slowly, moving her hips from side to side. She takes up the dishwashing liquid and starts singing into it.

FRANCINE (O.S.)

Chile, if you don't stop with all that racket in there.

Francine continues to keep sweeping.

CUT TO:

Ifforever continues moving her hips from side to side while singing into the dishwashing liquid.

Francine stops sweeping and heads inside the house into the kitchen.

FRANCINE'S P.O.V. - IFFOREVER SINGING INTO THE DISHWASHING LIQUID BOTTLE

Francine comes up behind her and pulls off her head phones off her ears.

IFFOREVER  
(startled)  
Hey!

Ifforever turns around and sees that it's her mother.

IFFOREVER (CONT'D)  
Mama? I just...

Francine pointing her finger at her.

FRANCINE  
You're supposed to be doing your chores and helping me with the dishes. And you're here singing like you at a concert or something.

IFFOREVER  
But mama it's just...

FRANCINE  
(interrupting)  
But mama nothing, now just stop and when you're done go start your homework.

Ifforever takes in a big sigh.

IFFOREVER  
Yes ma'am.

FRANCINE  
I'm sure our neighbors all covering their ears by now.

Francine walks out the kitchen, and UNCLE MIKE, Francine's older brother, sleezy, slightly overweight man, walks into the kitchen.

UNCLE MIKE

Oh I don't know , she sounded kinda good to me.

Francine ignores him and heads back outside.

Uncle Mike walks over to Ifforever.

IFFOREVER

Uncle Mike, why does she hate me singing so much?

UNCLE MIKE

Oh it's not you peaches. She's just scared.

Ifforever looking puzzled.

IFFOREVER

Scared?

She laughs.

IFFOREVER (CONT'D)

No, It's not that. I don't know what it could be.

Uncle Mike moves in closer to Ifforever and starts twirling his finger on her shirt near her chest.

UNCLE MIKE

Never mind about her. You're a very pretty young lady If. Pretty will always get you places.

His fingers move closer towards her breast, and starts rubbing his fingers on her breast in a circular motion.

IFFOREVER

(giggling)

Uncle Mike, cut it out, you're always tickling me.

Ifforever playfully pushes away his hand and heads out the kitchen.

IFFOREVER (CONT'D)

Thanks Uncle Mike...anyways gotta start my homework.



Ifforever heads up the stairway and into her room. She closes the door behind her.

LATER

Ifforever is laying on her bed doing her homework.

Francine walks in with a bowl of popcorn.

FRANCINE

Hey hun, see you working hard on your homework.

IFFOREVER

Yes, but this geometry is a killer.

FRANCINE

Better than me. Anyways made some popcorn, thought you might want some.

Francine places the bowl of popcorn on the side of her bed.

Ifforever reaches over and grabs a handful of popcorn.

IFFOREVER

Thanks mama.

Francine slowly starts getting ready to exit her room.

IFFOREVER (CONT'D)

Mama?

Francine looks over to her.

FRANCINE

Yes?

IFFOREVER

Are you scared? About going to the hospital tomorrow?

Francine comes back in and sits on the edge of her bed.

FRANCINE

A little. But I'm sure it's nothing. We're just going to see why I been having all these bad headaches.

Ifforever nods.

Francine gets up and heads out the door.

FRANCINE (CONT'D)  
Don't stay up too late.

She closes the door behind her.

INT. - INSIDE THE LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Ifforever is sitting at the table with her notepad, writing down some song lyrics.

She starts humming to herself while she's writing. She looks around to make sure she is alone. She begins to sing.

The front door SLAMS shut and Francine walks in the living room looking quite distraught.

IFFOREVER  
How'd it go mama?

Francine ignores her.

FRANCINE  
Whatchu working on? Homework?

Francine looks at her in a nonchalant fashion, walks closer and looks down at her notepad on the table.

FRANCINE (CONT'D)  
What's this?

Ifforever attempts to cover her notepad with her hands.

IFFOREVER  
Nothing just stuff.

Francine moves away her hands and looks down at the lyrics on the notepad.

FRANCINE  
This! These lyrics...music and such.

Francine takes up the notepad and throws it in the garbage.

IFFOREVER  
Mama but why ? What do you have against music?

Francine shakes her head.

Ifforever gets up from the table and walks to her mother. Francine is doing her best to walk away.

FRANCINE  
 (upset)  
 If not right now!

Ifforever walking in front of her mother creating an obstacle to her path.

IFFOREVER  
 (upset)  
 No mama, why? What is it about music? About me, that bothers you?

FRANCINE  
 (angry)  
 I said not NOW!

Ifforever moves so her and her mother's face, are in close proximity to each other. She gesticulates in a bewildered way.

IFFOREVER  
 Not this time mama! What is it?  
 What is the reason?

FRANCINE  
 Chile if you don't...

IFFOREVER  
 (interrupting)  
 Tell me!

Francine grabs Ifforever on either side of her shoulders.

FRANCINE  
 (angry)  
 Because of your father!

Ifforever shrugs off her mother's hands on her shoulders.

IFFOREVER  
 My...my father?

Francine takes a deep sigh.

FRANCINE  
 Yes your father!

Ifforever confused, looks away then back towards her mother.

IFFOREVER  
 But...but you said he was dead.

FRANCINE  
 And he is.

IFFOREVER

But I...I don't understand.

FRANCINE

He was in the music industry when we met. Talented with all instruments, and a voice...like yours. He was on his way to becoming a great star.

Francine looks away and closes her eyes.

IFFOREVER

What happened mama? What happened to him?

Francine looks back at Ifforever and grits her teeth.

FRANCINE

He left us in the dust that's what! What? You think he gave a damn you were born? No! You think he ever gave us any money?

Ifforever's eyes begin to water.

FRANCINE (CONT'D)

Don't you understand! We could've all been rich... famous. One big happy family. Instead of us living in this dump. If it wasn't for your uncle...oh the things I had to do just to put a roof over your head!

Francine looks at Ifforever's face full of tears. Francine turns towards the stairs and begins to ascend.

Ifforever follows her and stops midway on the staircase.

IFFOREVER

And my father?

Francine pauses and looks back down at Ifforever.

FRANCINE

Died in a plane crash !Serves Him right too, for not giving a two shits about his family.

Ifforever lowers her head, descends the stairs, collapses into the couch. She starts to cry.

INT. IFFOREVER'S ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Ifforever is laying on her stomach. Her hair is styled into a ponytail. Headphones covers her ears. She is doing her homework.

She hears a KNOCK on the door.

IFFOREVER

Come in.

The door opens. Her mother is standing in the hallway with a plate of chocolate cookies and a glass of milk in her hands.

Ifforever quickly removes her headphones off her head.

Her mother enters her room.

IFFOREVER (CONT'D)

I was just doing my homework mama.

FRANCINE

It's alright. I just came up to see if you wanted some cookies and milk...your favorite.

IFFOREVER

Thanks mama, but I'm not really that hungry.

Francine places the milk and cookies on the side table next to her lamp.

FRANCINE

All right, no problem. Anyways If , I also wanted to have a talk with you.

Francine sits on the edge of the bed. Ifforever rolls off her stomach and sits upright. She faces her mother.

FRANCINE (CONT'D)

Now If, I don't know quite how I'm going to tell you this...

Ifforever looking concerned.

IFFOREVER

Tell me what mama?

Francine grits her teeth and looks downward. She looks at Ifforever and places her hand on her shoulders.

FRANCINE

If, as you know I went to the hospital, and they did some tests and I ...

Francine hesitates

IFFOREVER

Go on mama.

FRANCINE

They uh, they found a tumor in my brain...cancer.

Ifforever's face turns to fear.

FRANCINE (CONT'D)

And they said I don't have much time and...

IFFOREVER

(interrupting)

Are you going to die mama?

Tears starts rolling down Ifforever's cheeks.

FRANCINE

The doctors say I might have a few months...maybe weeks. But yes If, I'm going to die.

Ifforever grabs hold of her mother and starts bawling.

IFFOREVER

(crying)

There must be medicines, something mama, I'm sorry, I don't want you to go!

Francine hugs her tightly, then quickly pulls herself off of her. With both hands on her daughter's shoulders, she leans in and wipes away Ifforever's tears.

FRANCINE

Now, now try not to cry. We don't have any medical insurance, so I'm going to reach out to which ever friends or family I think can help us with some money.

Ifforever continues staring at her mother.

IFFOREVER

But who mama?

FRANCINE

If, I don't know, I don't know, but I just got to try okay. That's why I tell you to stop with the music, and the singing, and all these fantasies of becoming a star! Look where it got your father! Look where it got me!

Ifforever looks away, then looks down.

FRANCINE (CONT'D)

That's why I need you strong. None of this music rubbish. No, no you're going to finish your schooling and become a doctor or a nurse. You hear me?

Ifforever meets her mother's gaze.

IFFOREVER

(crying)

I...I don't want you to go...

She falls back in her mother's lap and continues to cry. Francine places her hand on her head, and starts stroking her daughter's hair.

IFFOREVER (CONT'D)

I love you mama.

FRANCINE

Now everyone has to die sometime  
If. My time is just sooner.

EXT. CEMETARY - DAY

Ifforever is standing in the front row. She is Completely dressed in black. Her eyes are fixated at the grave. Her uncle is standing directly behind her. There are a several people in the back row. They are dressed in black.

PASTOR O.S.

Ashes to ashes. Dust to dust.

Ifforever closes her eyes as the coffin is lowered into the ground. Her uncle places his hand on her shoulder. She opens her eyes and bites her lip while a tears run down her face.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

FADE IN:

EXT. THE PLAYGROUND - DAY

Ifforever is sitting on the swing looking down at her shoes. She moves her feet to make shapes in the dirt. Her friend Tia is sitting on the next swing beside her, licking on a popsickle.

TIA

You know they say that we never went to the moon, that it was just hoax?

IFFOREVER

Yea, I heard that too. I think it's just a bunch of B.S. People are always trying to start stuff.

Tia pauses then continues licking her popsickle.

TIA

True. So how you been doing?

IFFOREVER

I'm alright I guess. It's been only two months since my mom's passing and yet I feel so much is changing and at times it's not. You know?

TIA

Kinda. Like what?

Tia takes another lick of her popsicle. Ifforever turns her head to the side and stares at her house.

IFFOREVER

Well for one thing, my uncle Mike has been extra over protective of me and just extra extra overly affectionate you know what I mean?

Ifforever turns towards Tia looks at her.

TIA

Uh, im sorry If, I'm not sure if I'm following...I mean you always said he's a very touchy kind of guy. So what do you...

IFFOREVER

C'mon Tia, you know how uncles can be. Extra touchy...you know.



Tia continues staring at Ifforever with a concerned look.

Ifforever takes a big huff and rolls her eyes.

IFFOREVER (CONT'D)

Like before he had this thing where he would like to tickle me on my chest. Or tickle me between my thighs, but now he's always trying to kiss me on the mouth and asking me to sleep in his same bed.

Ifforever giggles to herself.

IFFOREVER (CONT'D)

It's like I know he misses my mom and is lonely but hello uncle mike I'm not a kid anymore. You know?

Tia drops her popsickle on the ground. Ifforever looks down at the ground then back at Tia.

IFFOREVER (CONT'D)

What?

Tia looks at Ifforever and shakes her head.

TIA

No, If. Your uncle should not be touching you like that. That's...that's incest honey, it's wrong.

If looking puzzled.

IFFOREVER

No, he's just being nice...he's just...

TIA

(interrupting)

Being a creep and taking total advantage.

Ifforever starts looking around. She bites her lip and starts rubbing her arm in an uncomfortable manner. She looks back at her house and watches her uncle exit out to the front porch. His hands are akimbo on his hips. He starts calling out.

UNCLE MIKE

If? If?

Ifforever grabs her backpack and gets off the swing.

IFFOREVER  
Hey Tia, I gotta go!

Ifforever leaves Tia alone by the swings.

TIA  
If wait, let's talk about this.

Ifforever walks out the playground and crosses the street. Her uncle is looking at her as she approaches closer to the house.

UNCLE MIKE  
How many times do I have to tell  
you girl, come straight home when  
you're done with school.

IFFOREVER  
Sorry uncle Mike.

She goes inside and he closes the door behind him.

UNCLE MIKE  
I'm just trying to protect you  
against them wild teenage boys.

IFFOREVER  
Which wild teenage boys uncle Mike?

UNCLE MIKE  
Them boys at school. On the courts.  
Don't think they don't notice you  
girl.

Ifforever rolls her eyes and walks into the kitchen and opens the fridge.

UNCLE MIKE (CONT'D)  
If, grab me a beer.

Ifforever reaches in the back of the fridge and picks up a beer.

Uncle Mike is in the next room, with the tv on sitting in the couch. Ifforever walks in and places the beer next to him. She turns towards the stairs, her uncle Mike grabs her and pulls her in to sit on his lap. Ifforever tries moving and squirming. She tries to get off.

IFFOREVER  
Uncle Mike, stop I...

Uncle Mike holding her in his lap with a tight grip.

UNCLE MIKE

Girl, why you squirming for? I just wanted some love that's all. Don't you love your uncle?

IFFOREVER

I...I...do...I just have alot of homework.

Ifforever staring at him a with an uncomfortable look. Her uncle lets her go.

UNCLE MIKE

Okay then, go do your homework. Get to it.

She quickly gets off from his lap and heads upstairs to her room. She looks down and sees her uncle watching tv while sipping on his beer. She closes her door behind her.

INT. IFFOREVER'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ifforever is sleeping in her bed.

SUDDENLY

Her door opens. A man's silhouette is seen in the doorway. He is holding a beer can. The silhouette comes closer into the room and slowly pulls the covers off of Ifforever. She wakes up to see her uncle Mike hovering on top of her.

IFFOREVER

Uncle Mike NO!

He is holding both her hands with one hand, and the other hand he is trying to pull off her panties.

UNCLE MIKE

You gonna keep teasing me girl?

Ifforever is moving around trying to break free. He starts licking her neck and her chest.

IFFOREVER

Uncle Mike stop! Please! Get Off me!No!

He moves his hand between her legs.

Ifforever screams.

IFFOREVER (CONT'D)

Aaagghh! Noooooo! Stoooooop!

UNCLE MIKE

You remind me of your mama. Haha.

He starts kissing on her chest and licking her neck and cheeks.

UNCLE MIKE (CONT'D)

Let's see if you're tight like her too. Hahaha. You sluts!

Ifforever moving trying to break free of his grasp. He moves his other hand down between her legs.

IFFOREVER

Nooooo!

She manoeuvres her hands free, leans in closer and bites his ear.

UNCLE MIKE

Agggghhhhhh!

IFFOREVER

Get off of me!

She kicks him in the chest and he falls backwards off her bed. She darts out the room.

UNCLE MIKE

If!If! You come back here !

Ifforever opens her front door, she looks behind and sees her uncle at the top of the stairs coming after her.

UNCLE MIKE (CONT'D)

If! If!

If runs outside down behind the alley. She squats down and ducks behind the dumpster. Her uncle runs past her and stops.

UNCLE MIKE (CONT'D)

If! If you don't get back here girl! If!

She peeks through behind the dumpster and sees her uncle turn back and leave.

It's a dark night. Ifforever is curled in a corner and hugging tightly to herself. She closes her eyes and falls asleep.

She is awoken by a THUD sound. She looks down toward the ground and sees a candle light coming through the window. She peeks through to see if anyone is inside.

There is a fire pit burning. She takes a piece of brick and breaks the glass window. She crawls inside and heads over to warm herself by the firepit.

She looks around and sees a drum set and touches the drums. She sees that there is an old bedsheet and removes the sheets and sees an old piano . She dusts the piano keys with her fingers and slowly starts pressing on each key.

She smiles.

SUDDENLY

Footsteps sounds are coming through the door. The door swings open and there standing in the doorway is MRS.JACOBS, a little old woman holding a shotgun pointing directly at Ifforever.

MRS.JACOBS

C'mon out you hooligans', I have enough bullets in here to blast each and every one of ya. C'mon out!

Ifforever has her hands raised in the air with the gun still pointing at her.

MRS.JACOBS (CONT'D)

Well? You thugs gonna come out or do I have to start shooting up in here?

IFFOREVER

No..no ma'am please don't shoot. There are no thugs, only me. I just needed somewhere warm to stay.

Mrs. Jacobs places her hand in her pocket, reaches for her glasses and puts them.

MRS.JACOBS

Oh, my dearie what on earth happened to you?

She lowers her gun and places it down on the table.

IFFOREVER

I had a rough night ma'am.

Mrs. Jacobs walks over to the broken glass by the window, and picks up the pieces.

MRS.JACOBS

That caused you to break in and enter an old lady's basement?

Ifforever looked down at the floor.

MRS.JACOBS (CONT'D)

Mmmhmp. I see.

Mrs. Jacobs walks out the room leaving Ifforever in the basement. She walks back in holding some clothes in her hand and hands it over to Ifforever.

IFFOREVER

What's this?

MRS.JACOBS

Clothes chile. Put them on. You're about the same size my daughters were at your age.

IFFOREVER

Thank you ma'am.

MRS.JACOBS

Well, you broke in to my basement, the least you can do is spend the night. Besides it's cold out.

Ifforever walks over by the fire .

MRS.JACOBS (CONT'D)

Oh chile not having you stay down here in the basement. There's a guest room upstairs you can stay the night. Come along now.

They both head upstairs.

INT. MRS. JACOBS'S FRONT PORCH - DAY

Mrs. Jacobs is sitting in her rocking chair, rocking back and forth drinking tea while Ifforever is sitting next to her in the other chair.

MRS.JACOBS

So he tried to rape you huh?

Ifforever turns towards Mrs. Jacobs.

IFFOREVER

After I kicked him , I just kept on running until I could find a good place to hide. And that's when I found your place.

Mrs. Jacobs takes another sip of her tea and shakes her head.

MRS.JACOBS

Mmmm...mmm...mmm. I wasn't that much younger than you when my papi forced himself on top of me and my sisters.

She takes another sip of tea.

MRS.JACOBS (CONT'D)

It's a damn shame a girl can't even feel safe in her own home.

IFFOREVER

I don't know what to do Mrs. Jacobs. I don't want to go back.

MRS.JACOBS

You can't chile. It'll be the death of you.

Ifforever starts to get teary eyed and places her hands on her head.

IFFOREVER

What if he tries to find me? This is all my fault...How am I going to pay you back for the broken window?

Mrs. Jacobs places her hand on Ifforever's hand and squeezes it tightly and smiles.

MRS.JACOBS

Don't you worry about all that. We're a few allies down, he won't. And you'll just have to stay with me a do music lessons.

Ifforever's face lights up with a smile .

IFFOREVER

Music lessons?

Mrs. Jacobs laughs.

MRS.JACOBS

I saw the way you were looking at those instruments last night. And besides, those instruments didn't take those sheets off themselves now.

Ifforever smiled.

MRS.JACOBS (CONT'D)

You can stay with me as long as you like til you're done with your schoolin. I use to love teaching music to my children before they grew old and started their own families.

IFFOREVER

Wow thank you.

MRS.JACOBS

I think it's a fare trade. Keeping my company for music lessons. Everything will be alright.

Ifforever takes in a deep breath, lets out a deep sigh, smiles, and sits back. She starts rocking in her chair.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

SUPER IN/OUT - "TEN YEARS BEFORE"

David is in the closet looking for a suit to wear.

DAVID

C'mon man, hurry up. We're going to be late to the premiere.

Two tailors are fitting Romeo into suits. Romeo stares and smiles at himself in the mirror.

ROMEO

I like them both.

David is putting on his tie and looks over to Romeo.



DAVID  
Seriously did you really need two  
tailors?

Romeo smirks.

ROMEO  
I can't help it if I look good in  
everything.

DAVID  
Come on man, a lot of important  
people will be at this premiere  
that I want you to meet.

ROMEO  
You can't rush a god.

David rolls his eyes.

EXT. CHINESE THEATRE - NIGHT

There are a lot of paparazzies taking pictures on the side of  
the red carpet. There are celebrities and movie stars walking  
the red carpet entering the movie theatre.

Romeo and David are inside the theatre. Romeo has a glass of  
champagne and is looking at the pictures on the wall. He  
looks outside and sees NINA CEFELLI, a beautiful actress  
getting interviewed by some reporters. Romeo walks closer  
towards the front door. Nina glances over and notices Romeo.  
He smiles. She walks inside and David is already approaching  
her.

DAVID  
Ms. Nina Hi.

He pulls her hand and kisses it.

NINA  
Evening David.

David calling Romeo over with his hands.

DAVID  
Oh Romeo, come come, this is who I  
wanted you to meet. The lovely and  
talented Ms. Nina Cefelli.

Nina extends out her hand. Romeo takes her hand and gently  
kisses it.

ROMEO

Ms. Cefelli it's an honor to meet you. My cousin has mentioned there would be a lot of pretty women, but failed to deliver how beautiful you are Ms. Cefelli.

Nina smiles.

NINA

Oh please, call me Nina. Everyone calls me Cefelli and I think it's my mother.

They all laugh. Romeo Extends his arm and she wraps her arm around his and escorts her upstairs.

ROMEO

I can't believe you made all those movies, and European ones as well.

NINA

Well, movies has been in my family for years. My great grandfather was even one of the original screenwriters when Hollywood was just booming.

ROMEO

So it's in your blood you would say.

Romeo staring into her eyes licks his lips and smiles at her.

NINA

Yea, it's a lifestyle.

Nina looks into Romeo's eyes and smiles.

NINA (CONT'D)

So, Romeo what are your plans after the party?

INT. NINA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Romeo and Nina are in a tight embrace, kissing passionately while walking closer towards the bed. Romeo slowly unzips her gown. She lays down on the bed, Romeo takes off his shirt and gets on top of her and they continue kissing heavily.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

INT. MECCA RECORDS STUDIO - DAY

Scar is sitting in his big leather chair , smoking his Cuban cigar, looking over some paperwork and contracts.

David is showing Romeo around the studio.

DAVID

And here is where all the good recording takes place.

Romeo is looking around and is getting excited.

ROMEO

Yea yea, nice very nice.

David directs him through the hallway and up to the second floor. David opens the first door. There in the room is Shana wearing a pencil thin skirt, standing next to the filing cabinet.

DAVID

And here is where we stalk all our important documents and contracts.

Romeo looks at Shana. She looks back at Romeo and smiles. Romeo walks in and moves closer to Shana.

ROMEO

Oh, uh, Ms. Shana right?

She smiles and pulls back her hair.

SHANA

Yes...Romeo from the party right?

ROMEO

That's right.

David looks at both Shana and Romeo and makes a face. David pulls aside Romeo .

DAVID

Not a good idea Romeo. Business and pleasure never mix, remember that.

Romeo rolls his eyes.

ROMEO

Aye chill out man. I'm just being friendly. Nothing wrong with saying hi to a pair of sexy legs.

David gives Romeo a look and then rolls his eyes.

DAVID

Anyways.

David heads out the room. Romeo follows behind and looks back at Shana.

ROMEO

Guess I'll be seeing you around.

SHANA

Looks like it. Welcome to Mecca Records.

They smile at each other, and Romeo heads out -

SCAR'S OFFICE ROOM -

And enters into the office. He sees Scar sitting down and David sitting at the desk as well. Scars takes a huff on his cigar and blows out smoke.

SCAR

Romeo. Pull up a chair. Let's talk business.

DAVID

I was telling Romeo earlier, how you first got started and what a good idea it was to partner up.

Romeo pulls up a seat.

SCAR

Your cousin of here, smart man.

ROMEO

So you think you got what it takes to bring us number one hits?

Romeo sits back in his chair and puts his legs up and crosses them on top of the table. David looks at Romeo.

DAVID

Romeo?

David knocks his Romeo's feet off from the table.

Scar laughs and huffs on his cigar.

SCAR

Listen kid, ain't no other  
motherfucker been in this game  
longer than me. See those plaques,  
nothing but hits.

Romeo nodding is head.

ROMEO

That's right. That's what I'm  
talking about.

Scar calls in Shana. She walks in the office and places a packet of contracts in front of Romeo and David. She then walks over to David and offers him a cigar. David shakes his head and declines. She walks over to David and offers him a cigar. He takes one and lights it and smiles at Shana. She looks back at him and smiles.

ROMEO (CONT'D)

Cuz that's what I'm about as  
well...making hits.

Scars nods.

SCAR

Good.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Romeo wearing a nice dress shirt is sitting at a table. He looks up and sees Shana coming closer. She pulls out a chair and sits.

ROMEO

Thanks for joining me for dinner. I  
wasn't sure if you were going to  
make it. Scar seems to keep you on  
a close watch.

Shana smiles and picks up her drink.

SHANA

Yes, that he does.

They both begin eating their dinner.

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Shana is sitting on the couch in the living room. She glances over by the fireplace and is seduced by the fire. Romeo taps her on her shoulder and sits down besides her and gives her a glass of wine.

ROMEO  
Hope you like Merlot.

SHANA  
Usually with my steak, or my men.

Shana smiles and bites her lip and gazes into Romeo's eyes. He leans in forward and kisses her. He moves in closer invading her space and lays her up gently against the couch, gets on top of her and continues passionately kissing her.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. MECCA RECORDS STUDIO - DAY

David and Scar are in the recording studio making the beats. A young hip hop artist is in the booth, with headphones on, rapping into the mic. Scar presses into the speaker.

SCAR  
Again.

At that moment Romeo barges in through the doors. Scar and David startled by the doors turn their heads towards Romeo.

SCAR (CONT'D)  
What the?

Romeo with a stack of contracts in his hands charges towards Scar. David gets up and holds him back.

ROMEO  
Did he tell you about this? Did you know about this?

DAVID  
Know about what?

Romeo shoves the contract in David's face.

ROMEO  
This, this bullshit man! Scar is getting sixty percent of everything that we're doing.

David glances at the papers and looks back at Romeo.

DAVID  
Romeo, c'mon man.

Scar sits up out of his seat with his cigar.

SCAR  
Yo, Romeo my man what's the  
problem? You have an issue with how  
I'm running things?

Romeo faces towards Scar.

ROMEO  
Damn right I have a problem. This  
is not what we agreed to.

Romeo turns back to David.

ROMEO (CONT'D)  
This was supposed to be our  
business, our studio, our hits. We  
don't need this asshole here.

DAVID  
Yea he's making a little more, but  
business wise he's been in the  
industry longer than most people,  
we're lucky to even be partners up  
with him man.

ROMEO  
Are you crazy man? My lyrics can  
outshine this cat anytime.

SCAR  
Aye yo bitch! I told you I was  
gonna make us money. Don't like how  
the game is played, go cry about it  
to yo mama huh.

Romeo grits his teeth and charges at Scar. David grabs on to  
him and holds him back. Scar pushes a button.

SCAR (CONT'D)  
Get security in here now.

ROMEO  
Rrrraagghh. Let me at him.

Two guys quickly come in and escort Romeo out of the  
building.

ROMEO (CONT'D)  
This is bullshit! We don't need  
him. I'm Romeo you here me! Romeo!

EXT. OUTSIDE MECCA RECORDS - NIGHT

Romeo is standing in a park across from the studio. He looks over his shoulder and sees Shana quickly tiptoeing past the bushes towards him.

ROMEO  
Psst.

Shana sees him and walks over to him.

SHANA  
Hey.

ROMEO  
It's nice seeing you.

Shana smiles.

SHANA  
Did you have me sneak over here  
just for you to tell me that?

Romeo smiles.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
You said on the phone you had to  
talk to me in private.

ROMEO  
Yea, did you take a look at those  
contracts? Yea we're making money,  
but off of my talent!

SHANA  
Well yea, Scar is known in the  
industry for doing that. He is a  
business man first. That in self is  
a talent.

Romeo gives her a dry look.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
Did you call me over here to meet  
with you, just so you can say how  
unfair the contracts were? Because  
I do have other things I can be  
doing you know.



Romeo leans in closer to her .

ROMEO

Shana you're not fooling anyone.  
You know you came out here to be  
with me.

Shana rolls her eyes and squints her eyes.

SHANA

Are you that conceited?

ROMEO

You know you like it. Anyways, I  
need you to do something for me.

SHANA

What?

Romeo places his hands on her shoulders and looks into her  
eyes.

ROMEO

I'm going to make my own studio. I  
can't be partners with anyone in  
this industry. Scar thinks he's the  
talent behind everything. We'll see  
about that.

SHANA

So why do you need me for?

ROMEO

I want you to be, I mean, I need  
you...I need you to be apart of my  
company.

SHANA

But I work for Scar. He will be  
furious.

ROMEO

He's not god! Just some fat King  
Kong that smokes on a cigar all  
day.

Shana shakes her head.

SHANA

No Romeo, the confidence its cute,  
but no! Scar is really not someone  
you want to double cross. There's a  
reason he's called Scar.

ROMEO

Yea, so they keep tellin me.

SHANA

He'll take it very personal. Me leaving. You going against him with another record label. He's dangerous.

ROMEO

I need you on my team Shana. You deal with all of his legal work. There must be something we can find on him.

SHANA

You mean get rid of him?

ROMEO

Yea, together you and I will take over the industry. I'm Romeo. I don't want to have to worry bout Mecca Records and shit.

Shana looks away and pauses for a moment and looks back at Romeo.

SHANA

Okay.

Romeo leans in closer and kisses her.

ROMEO

Just get rid of him.

Romeo walks away leaving Shana in the park. She looks around and over her shoulder and walks out the park towards a van. She looks around and then slides the door open. LARRY, a middle aged man wearing glasses and headphones on his ears hands over some paperwork to Shana. Inside the van has a recording tapes and a tv surveillance of Mecca Studios.

LARRY

You're late.

Shana looks over her shoulder and climbs inside the van, and closes the door.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Here, take a look at this. Another twenty thousand has just magically been transferred into Mecca Records without a trace.

Shana looks down at the paper.

SHANA

We're getting closer. If we can get hold of all those receipts then we can move in.

LARRY

Well where do you think he keeps them?

SHANA

They'll turn up.

She pauses and bits her lip to stop and think.

SHANA (CONT'D)

I also believe I found some cannabis and some powder.

INT. NINA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Romeo is sleeping and his phone starts to vibrate. He opens one eye , rolls over to the next side to look at his phone. He picks up the phone.

ROMEO

Hello?

SHANA

(on the phone)

Come to the studio..now.

He hangs up. Nina still sleeping, rolls over and hugs Romeo on his cheek.

NINA

Baby who was that?

ROMEO

Uh, no one baby, just some stuff going in the studio. Gotta go check it out.

He rolls out of bed and throws on a shirt and hops into his pants.

EXT. MECCA RECORDS STUDIO - DAY

Romeo is walking towards the studio , as he's coming closer, he sees a bunch of police cars blocking the entrance. He gets closer and a cop stops him.

ROMEO  
Hey woah, woah, what's going on  
here?

He sees five men escorting Scar in handcuffs. Scar is moving, and kicking as he is being escorted into the police van.

David comes out from the crowd and pushes his way towards Romeo.

DAVID  
Romeo! Romeo!

ROMEO  
David, what the hell is going on?

David with a confused look.

DAVID  
I don't know man. They're saying  
Scar had bags of cocaine found in  
the studio.

ROMEO  
Cocaine?

DAVID  
I know right. Doesn't make any  
sense.

Romeo looks up to think and then smiles and starts laughing. He then points to Scar and starts laughing hysterically.

ROMEO  
Hahahahahahahahaha!

Scar looks over to Romeo and gives him a dirty look and starts cursing at him.

SCAR  
You did this motherfucker? You did  
this? You're a deadman!

Romeo laughing and pointing at Scar.

ROMEO  
Yea bitch! And what! Who gets the  
big pants now baby! Hahaha.

SCAR  
You fucking motherfucker! You're a  
fucking dead man rat! A dead man!

The police close the van door on Scar, and drive away.

Romeo waves goodbye to the van and makes a gesture with his hands.

ROMEO  
Deuces bitch!

David turns to look at Romeo.

DAVID  
Wow. Didn't see that coming at all.  
What's going to happen to Mecca  
Records?

Romeo throws his arm around David.

ROMEO  
Forget Mecca Records. This town  
needs a new record label. A better  
record label.

DAVID  
Oh? And I take it that when you  
mean better you mean us right?

Romeo smirks.

ROMEO  
Of course. Just picture it. Us  
taking over this city...then the  
world.

DAVID  
Ok genius, I see you've already  
given this some thought. I like it,  
I like it. But what we gonna call  
it?

Romeo moves closer to his cousin and points to the sky.

ROMEO  
ELO-HIM...ELO HIM RECORDS.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

INT. ELO - HIM RECORDS - DAY

SUPER IN/OUT - "SIXTEEN YEARS LATER"

Close up shot on the Elo - Him Records logo of an archangel  
image, with large wings holding a sword.

Romeo wearing a suit and tie is in his office looking out the window at the city. He pulls out his chain from under his shirt and opens it. There inside is a picture of a younger Francine holding a baby. He places his hand on the glass window and closes his eyes.

A baby crying noise O.S.

He then hears a KNOCK at the door. The door swings open. ROSLYN GRADENIGO, sixteen, beautiful, spunky with blonde hair enters into his office.

ROSLYN  
Hey dad...dad you okay ?

Romeo shakes his head and turns around to look at Roslyn.

ROMEO  
Oh hey baby. Yea, I'm okay.

Roslyn walks closer to him. Romeo quickly tucks back in his locket.

ROSLYN  
What were you doing?

ROMEO  
Oh I was just looking out at our city. Admiring the view.

Roslyn rolls her eyes and smiles.

ROSLYN  
Uh huh, sure dad. Whatever you say.

ROMEO  
Anyways what's up?

ROSLYN  
Well...

SUDDENLY

AIMEE GRADENIGO, sixteen, beautiful, olive skin, light hair comes strolling in.

AIMEE  
Dad?

Roslyn rolls her eyes. And looks over at Aimee

ROSLYN  
Uh not now, I was just about to tell him.

AIMEE

Why can't we both tell him?

Roslyn rolls her eyes.

ROSLYN

Because I know how to make things sound better. And besides, I'm older.

Roslyn sticks out her tongue at her Aimee.

Aimee rolls her eyes and turns back around and heads out the door.

AIMEE

Only by four minutes.

She closes the door behind her.

Romeo smiles at Roslyn and gives her a look.

ROMEO

(joking)

Must be tough being a twin huh.

ROSLYN

Identical. Sure. Fraternal, most definitely.

Roslyn hopes in her dad's chair.

ROSLYN (CONT'D)

Okay dad. Me and the girl's were thinking and...

There's a KNOCK at the door. It swings open. David peeps through halfway.

DAVID

Romeo you ready? We have to go like now.

Romeo turns to David.

ROMEO

Yea, yea, I'm coming.

Romeo faces Roslyn .

ROMEO (CONT'D)

Let's talk about this later okay sweetheart? I have to go to a meeting.

He kisses her forehead. Roslyn gives him a dry look. He picks up a packet of papers from his desk and heads out the door with David.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Romeo, and other men and women are sitting at a round table. David is standing showing slides on the screen.

DAVID

Thanks to Romeo, Elo-Him Records now has sealed a deal with HBO Entertainment, and American Cruise Lines, making this company more than just a record label.

Everyone in the room begin to clap. Romeo smiles and nods his head.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Everyone is leaving the office. David is shaking hands with everyone as they leave.

David looks in the corner and sees Romeo sitting in the corner with his hand on his chin. David walks over to Romeo.

DAVID

Romeo? You okay man?

Romeo shakes his head.

ROMEO

I...I keep thinking. What if Francine was telling the truth. What if that baby was mine?

David squats down and leans closer to Romeo.

DAVID

Man that's what you're over here thinking about? Bro it's been like what almost twenty years?

Romeo turns away looks out the window.

ROMEO

There's actually not a day that goes by, that I don't stop to think about it.



DAVID

Romeo you already have two, no three beautiful daughters who freakin' love and worship the ground you walk on. I mean I get it...

Romeo shakes his head.

ROMEO

No, no David. You don't get it!

DAVID

Ok, I don't. But beating yourself up about this isn't going to solve anything. I mean, we all knew how Francine was mine. It could've been anybody's.

Romeo looks up at David.

DAVID (CONT'D)

So what, what you gonna do? Book a plane ticket back to Chicago and knock on every door and say, "Hey I'm looking for someone that could be my daughter?"

David chuckles.

Romeo stands up and pats David on the back.

ROMEO

You know what. That's exactly what I'm doing.

Romeo darts out the door takes out his cell phone and makes a call.

ROMEO (CONT'D)

Hello Shana, hey book me a ticket to the next flight to Chicago. Yes, I'll be there in a few.

David shaking his head.

DAVID

This guy is nuts.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Romeo has his suitcase in his hand and is handing over his plane ticket to the flight attendant. She accepts it and he continue to walk down the hallway boarding the plane.

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