

# UNTITLED SCREENPLAY

by

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SCARLET

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SCARLET

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FADE IN

EVENING:INT

Scarlet and her mother, Ava sit in the living room of their house at Bexley area of London and discuss when the door burst open and Leo, Scarlet only brother and sibling walks in and closes the door gently behind him and walks to a single burgundy sofa and slumps himself tiredly into it. Scarlet is twenty-seven and Leo is twenty-five. His mother smiles at him and says'.

AVA

"Welcome home, son"

(Leo nods without responding)

Scarlet looks at him and says,

SCARLET

"You looks so tired as if all of us was not at the supermarket together".

LEO

"I missed lunch and now I am very farmished that I can eat food your size".

SCARLET

"You would eat food your size, not my own size. Silly boy".

LEO

"Mum, you hears her call me boy?".

(Shakes his head)

AVA

Scarlet, don't start now, let your brother rest after a busy day"

SCARLET

"Mum, is he not a man, I was there running things too. Look at me looking as strong as fiddle".

(Stands up and shows off her bicep)

LEO

"We can see how strong you looks, please kindly go to the kitchen and prepare a meal for your feeble brother and mother, Ms body builder".

(Their mother smirks)

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SCARLET

"I am not going again,since you two are laughing at me".

SCARLET

"Did you hear me laugh?.Please go before I faint of hunger".

SCARLET

"You were busy with that beautiful girl shopper that you forgot to lunch".

AVA

"Scarlet, will you go get us dinner or you want to continue with your silly talk while your mother is hungry".

SCARLET

"Mum,I didn't say anything silly,he was so engrossed with the beautiful girl,that made him forgot to lunch".

(Leo springs up from his sofa and goes after Scarlet who is already scurrying towards a door to the kitchen,laughing)

LEO

"Lier,radio without battery"  
(Smiling)

Scarlet dashes through the door and quickly closes it.

AVA LAUGHS HAPPILY AND RISES FROM THE SOFA AND SAYS,

AVA

"I need to go shower before the dinner is ready".

LEO

"I think I should do same too. I am very tired".

(He stands and walks to another door that opens to his room)The lights are on in the room,windows are open and fresh air blows in,the ceiling fan spins from the ceiling.

DISSOLVE TO:

NEXT DAY MORNING:EXT

Ava drives her white Toyota Camry into the parking lot of Swanley square shopping center with Scarlet in the front seat.Scarlet's mother,Ava eases to a stop in a free parking space and kills the engine.She picks her purse and throws the car door open. Suddenly Scarlet's phone starts to

ring, she brings out her phone from her purse and picks call. She signals her mum that she is going to join soon. Ava alights and closes the door gently. Scarlet says into mouth piece,

SCARLET

"Hello, Jeffry, how are you doing?".

Jeffry responds from the other end,

JEFFRY

"Darling I am fine, just missing you. When are you coming to see me?".

SCARLET

"I am very busy honey, I can't promise. Why not come see me at work".

JEFFRY

"I might turn up at the supermarket by the weekend but just know I need to see you at my place. Have something important to discuss with you".

SCARLET

"Okay, lets see how it goes. I am running off to work. I am late already".

JEFFRY

"Okay, talk to you later. Kisses".

SCARLET

"Kisses too. take care sweet".

She cuts call and opens the car door and steps out and closes it gently.

As Ava walks towards the entrance door of her supermarket, a red blond woman of about late forties opens the entrance glass door and steps out from the supermarket. On sighting Ava approaching, the red blond woman whose name is Elsie stops to greet Ava, smile plays on her lips.

ELSIE

"Good morning ma'am".

Ava smiles and replies,

AVA

"Oh, my valuable customer, I can see you are already done shopping from my supermarket".

ELSIE

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"Yes, I have important place to go later, so I decided to shop early".

AVA

"Thanks for your patronage".

ELSIE

"Welcome, I like to buy from your store".

Ava smiles beautifully and nods

ELSIE

"Where is your beautiful daughter, I didn't meet her in today. Is she not working today?".

Ava turns towards her car and sees Scarlet walking towards them. She says,

AVA

"She's coming right behind me. She stopped to speak with someone on phone".

ELSIE

"She's very beautiful. How I wish she would be my daughter in-law".

(Smiling)

Ava laughs softly and says to Elsie,

AVA

"May tomorrow take care of itself".

ELSIE

"Yea, I got to run, I must get home in about ten minutes".

(The cool morning breeze blows on Elsie's yellow gown and caresses the hem. Ava replies to her,

AVA

"Thank you, I appreciate your regular patronage. Have a wonderful day".

(THEY SMILES AT EACH OTHER AND AVA WALKS OFF TOWARDS THE ENTRANCE DOOR OF HER SUPERMARKET AND Elsie walks to meet Scarlet as she approaches. Scarlet stops and smiles at her and greets Elsie humbly.

SCARLET

"Good morning, ma'am. You already done shopping and going home?".

ELSIE

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"Yes, my daughter, how are you this morning?".

SCARLET

"I am fine and good. Thanks for asking".

ELSIE

"Welcome, I will see you again. I am rushing off to home".

SCARLET

"Okay ma'am. Take care of yourself".

ELSIE

"Thanks, and you too".

(She hurries off to her car while Scarlet heads to the entrance door) She is tall and she is twenty-five years of age. Elder to her brother Leo. As she walks towards the door, Elsie quickly turns to catch her back view. Scarlet's red gown is slightly above knee length and her white blond hair drops to her back. She is trim and looks athletic. Elsie smiles to herself and grabs her car door handle and yanks it open.

CUT TO:

SUPERMARKET:INT

Leo glances up from his computer as the entrance door slides open and his sister Scarlet walks in. Many assistants are busy attending to customers, Scarlet smiles at her brother and heads to his table. Leo says to her,

LEO

"Late comer. When I complain of tiredness now, you will claim to work same hour as me".

Scarlet looks at him jokinly and says to him,

SCARLET

"You are a man and don't count the hours you work for yourself. I am merely helping you".

LEO

"I hear you, miss helper".

SCARLET

"Please don't let any beautiful girl arrest you today. Remember to lunch. Your life is important to me".

Leo smirks and says to her

LEO

"Silly girl, you know you were lying against me last night"

SCARLET

"God knows I do not lie, I say what I see"

(She walks off to her office)

DISSOLVE TO:

EVENING:EXT

Scarlet and Jeffry stand near Jeffry's car discussing while Ava and Leo sit in her Toyota Camry to wait. He is 168cm tall, white and has honey blond hair, trim and looks sportive. He has a beautiful smile.

JEFFRY

"I can't really tell you all now, but you need to see me in the house tonight. I don't want to keep your mum and brother waiting in the car".

SCARLET

"Okay, I will come to the house, say by seven this evening".

(The kiss and Jeffry opens his BMW car door and slides in and Scarlet hastens to her mother's car)

She opens the back door and slides in and her mother roars the car engine to life and starts to reverse. Leo throws a joke at Scarlet.

LEO

"That guy is driving you crazy. I think it's right time he come and ask for your hand in marriage".

SCARLET

"Somebody is jealous of his only sister finding happiness".

LEO

"Mum, do I sound jealous. I only said he should come see our family for her hand".

AVA

"Man of the house, hold it till it's the right time".

LEO

Mum, hope you are not supporting her".



SCARLET

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"How did she support me now?".

LEO

"All I am saying is, let him not prolong things, I want my sister married".

SCARLET

"Oh, your plan is to chase me out of the house so you can disturb mum with your silly behaviour".

(Ava smiles to herself and concentrates on the road)

LEO

"Someone is beginning to castigate her only brother. The world is watching".

SCARLET

"Don't worry, I will marry and leave the house for you. I will sever ties with you".

LEO

"I hear you, someone is boasting about something she won't be able to do".

SCARLET

"Watch me do it in no time".

LEO

"I don't know you are this inconsiderate. You plan to sever ties with your only brother".

(They joke and laugh as their mum drives the car towards home)

CUT TO:

SAME EVENING:INT

A taxi pulls at a stop off Liverpool road in Islington Town and Scarlet throws the back door open and paid the cab driver and heads to Jeffrey's apartment which is at back of the front street houses. The time is 7.30pm. She ambles her way to Jeffrey's door and presses the buzzer. Instantly the door opens and Jeffrey smiles at her. Scarlet steps in and they kiss. Jeffrey closes the door behind her and they walk and sit on a double flowered pattern sofa. Jeffrey smiles at her once more and rises to fetch a glass of wine for her. He gets back and hands a glass of wine to her. Scarlet collects it and sips a little. The window is open and curtain parted, the ceiling fan spins furiously from the ceiling. Jeffrey says to her,

JEFFRY

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"I am happy you are able to come".

(Scarlet sips her wine again and smiles a little and says,)

SCARLET

"I wouldn't want to dissappoint you.I almost slept off when I got home. I am tired and needs to get back home as soon as I can".

JEFFRY

"Why not sleep over,you can call your mum to inform her that you won't be coming home tonight".

SCARLET

"No,mum won't like that.We have things to discuss when I get home, and you know,early morning everyone is up for work".

(She sips her wine again and relaxes)

JEFFRY

"I was hoping you's spend the night with me".

SCARLET

"Maybe next time,I must get back home soon".

(She drains her glass and hands over the empty wine glass to him)

JEFFRY

"I prepared dinner,hoping to eat and relax with you,then talk".

SCARLET

"I am not hungry,and I have no plenty time to relax,the only thing we can do now is talk.Next time, we can eat,relax and even go out on a date".

(Jeffry grabs her and starts to kiss her passionately,and she kisses him back hungrily)Jeffry removes his right hand from her neck and slides it into his trouser pocket.He suddenly stops kissing her and she gasps for air,he opens an engagement ring before her and instantly kneels down.Her face lightens up with excitement. He asks her,

JEFFRY

"Will you marry me?".

(Smaile playing on his lips)She exclaimed softly,

SCARLET  
"Oh my God"

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(She nods and he kisses her hard and removes the engagement ring and slides it onto her finger)

JEFFRY  
"I love you very much"

(Looking lovingly into her eyes)

SCARLET  
"I love you too,Jeffry".

(They kiss passionately and he continues to kiss her and she kisses him too until suddenly Jeffry stops and helps her up from the sofa and she obliges and Jeffry lifts her from the floor and heads into the bedroom)

In the bedroom,they kiss more and begin to remove their clothes.Jeffry kisses her passionately and lifts her onto the bed and both consume their passion in a beautiful love making. When the steam of their passionate love making cools off,they lie on the bed and both cling to each other kissing slowly until Scarlet disengages herself and sits up on the large bed. She says to him,

SCARLET  
"Thank you for a wonderful evening".

JEFFRY  
"You are worth every of my love".

SCARLET  
"You are worth every of my love too".

(She steps down to the floor and starts to dress up,Jeffry watches her)She looks at him as he watches her with a happy smile on his face. She asks him,

SCARLET  
"Won't you dress up to see me off?".

JEFFRY  
"I am still admiring the beautiful body of my wife".

(Smiling more happily)

SCARLET  
"Hope you won't get tired of admiring it someday?".

JEFFRY  
"Nah,not me,you are my jewel of inestimable value".

SCARLET

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"I love you,my king"

JEFFRRY

"I love you my queen"

(He steps down from the bed and starts to wear his clothes back) After dressing up,they kiss again and Jeffry sees her off to the street where she takes another taxi back to Bexley.The time is 8:30pm,Wednesday.Immediately Scarlet enters through the entrance door of her house,into the living room,she sees her mother sipping an orange juice from a glass cup.Scarlet smiles at her mother and walks to her and sink into the sofa besides her mum.Ava looks at her and says,

AVA

"You looks happy,what happened?".

(Scarlet gently puts her ringed hand on her mother's lap and watches her reaction)

AVA

"Wow,an engagement ring,he proposed to you?".

(Scarlet smiles and nods)

SCARLET

"I am very happy mum,I love Jeff and he loves me too".

AVA

"I am happy for you my daughter".

(They hug and Ava pecks her on the cheek)

SCARLET

"Mum,let me go shower,I am very tired".

(Standing from the sofa)Instantly Leo walks in from his room)He says to Scarlet,

LEO

"Welcome back, my loving sister.I thought you won't be coming home tonight".

SCARLET

"Oh,you've been praying to have the house to yourself so that you can trouble mum.Sorry I am home,your plan faild".

LEO

"Don't know why I have unappreciative sister,I even called  
(MORE)

LEO (cont'd)  
 her my loving sister, but still she  
 choose to accuse me".

(Scarlet turns to her mum who sit and pretends not to hear  
 them) Scarlet asks her mum,

SCARLET  
 "Mum, did you hear him call me  
 loving sister?".

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(Their mum turns to them and says,

AVA  
 "I think I heard something like  
 that".

(Leo interjects)

LEO  
 "Yes, my honest mother, I know you  
 won't abandon your only son before  
 his accusers".

SCARLET  
 "I forgive you, since mother attests  
 to your claim".

LEO  
 "Because you accused me of lying, I  
 won't eat dinner tonight".

(Ava asks Leo from where she sits)

AVA  
 "Who ate the dinner I kept on the  
 dinning table?".

SCARLET  
 "Please, mr honesty, mum is asking  
 someone".

LEO  
 "Mum, asked someone not me".

AVA  
 "Okay, Leo, who ate the dinner I kept  
 on the dinning table".

SCARLET  
 "Yes, someone's name is mentioned  
 now. Please can you answer the  
 question now".

LEO  
 "Why are you so interested in my  
 answer, please go shower, I have  
 something important to discuss with  
 (MORE)

LEO (cont'd)

mum".

(feigns seriousness)

Suddenly Scarlet face turns hard.  
She says,

SCARLET

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"Answer the simple question, who ate  
the meal mum put on the dinning  
table?".

LEO

"I sees a ring on someone's  
finger. Please let me see".

(Tries to grab Scarlet left hand. She quickly puts her left  
hand behind her back and glares at him) she says to him,

SCARLET

"When will you learn not to look at  
someone you are not invited to  
look"

LEO

"Please, sis, let me see"

SCARLET

"Okay, if you want to see it, call  
me, your majesty".

LEO

"Mum, you are witness to all this, I  
don't deserve the kind of treatment  
I am getting from my only sister".

(Ava replies to him)

AVA

"Is your sister not beautiful or  
gaulified to be called her  
majesty?. If she demands you address  
her as such before she can let you  
into her kingdom, I am sorry you  
have no choice".

LEO

"Oh, I understand now that I am  
alone in this house, oh dad, where  
are you?, that you left your son  
alone with two women".

(He feigns to cry)

Ava anxiously stands and walks to them, she holds her son by  
the shoulder and says to him.

AVA

"Don''t cry son, your mother is  
here. Please Scarlet show him the

(MORE)

AVA (cont'd)  
ring".  
(Scarlet looks at Leo and  
says,

SCARLET  
"This is emotional blackmail"

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AVA  
"I say, show him the ring, after  
all, he is the man in the house".

(Scarlet trust her left hand forward to Leo and says,

SCARLET  
"Look at my engagement ring, crying  
man in the house".

(Leo looks at it and smiles and asks his mum)

LEO  
"Mum, you heard her call me crying  
man in the house, should I  
congratulate her?".

AVA  
"Yes, unless you wants to loose your  
right to marry her off".

Leo gently says to Scarlet

LEO  
"Congratulations, sis. I am happy for  
you".

AVA  
"Better"

(Starts to walk back to the sofa)

(Scarlet looks at him and says,

SCARLET  
"Mum has saved you"

(Leo sticks out his tongue and says to Scarlet in a low tone  
in such a way their mum may not hear him)

LEO  
"Please, go shower, I can perssive  
the ordour of lovemaking".

(Instantly Scarlet dashes for him and Leo quickly runs off  
into his room, laughing happily) Scarlet heads to her room.

CUT TO:

2 MONTHS LATER: EVENING: EXT

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On the evening of Sunday, the month of June, time is 7 o'clock in the evening, Jeffry steps out of the entrance door of Scarlet's home. He waves goodbye to Ava and Leo and Scarlet follows him to his car parked few yards away from the patio. He opens the car door and stands, holds Scarlet by her arms and pulls her close, he kisses her and she kisses him too. Scarlet frees herself and looks at him for a brief moment and says to him,

SCARLET

"Jeff, I think I missed my period".

(Jeffry smiles at her and says)

JEFFRY

"Meaning, you might be pregnant?".

SCARLET

"I am suspecting so".

JEFFRY

"That will be great news. We are going to be parents".

(He smiles at her and hugs her happily)

SCARLET

"So, what happens if I go for a test and it comes out positive that I am pregnant?".

JEFFRY

"We fix our wedding date immediately. My child won't be born out of wedlock".

(Scarlet smiles beautifully at him)

SCARLET

"I will go to the hospital tomorrow, to see a doctor. Maybe run a test".

JEFFRY

"Good, call my office tomorrow, immediately you are done from the hospital".

SCARLET

"Okay, I will"

(Jeffry draws her close and kisses her again and says,

JEFFRY

"I love you so much, my queen".

(Scarlet smiles and responds)



SCARLET

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"I love you too,my king"

(They hug and Jeffry runs back her hair from her forehead)

JEFFRY

"I will be waiting for your call at  
the office,twomorrow".

(Scarlet nods and steps back for him to enter his car)

SCARLET

"Good night darling"

JEFFRY

"Good night too,my sweet love".

(He slides into his car and Scarlet helps him close the door,she bends into the car and they kiss again,and Jeffry roars the engine to life and starts to reverse) Scarlet turns and walks back to the house.

DISSOLVE TO:

NEXT DAY:MORNING:EXT

A black Toyota car slowly pulls out out of a large compound at Enfield and drives onto Enfield highway and heads to Farringdon. Three men in suits sit in the car, without any dialogue as the driver concentrates on the wheel.

CUT TO:

Jeffry in the Farringdon branch of Lloyd Bank, attending to a female customer at his counter where he works as a chasheir.The black lady customer at his counter says to him,

LADY CUSTOMER

"Please,I prefer it in fifties and  
twenties.I don't want lower  
denominations".

(Jeffry smiles at her and responds,

JEFFRY

"Let me see what I can find,we are  
low in high denominations.The bank  
just opened not long ago".

(He adjusts his red tie and bends to check the monies to see if he can raise enough high denominations for her.

ACTIVITIES IN THE BANK CONTINUES AS MORE CUSTOMERS ENTER TO TRANSACT BUSINESS.Two security men stand at various locations.OTHER CHASHIERS ARE BUSY ATTENDING TO CUSTOMERS AND THE SUPERVISOR,Mrs.Goodman emerges from her office and walks to a lady cashier and talks to her briefly and walks back to her office.

Few seconds later, the black Toyota car drives slowly down the street, suddenly the men at the front and back seat of the car bring out black masks and wear it over their faces and put on hand gloves, the one in front lifts a mask and puts it over the driver's head, which covers his face. He helps him slide black hand gloves to his right hand and does same for the left while the car slowly roll along the street. Few seconds, the car rolls to a stop by the front of Lloyd Bank near the Bank entrance. The driver kills the engine and at that moment, the security guard inside the bank turns to talk to a customer, the masked men pick up long Automatic guns from the floor of the car and doors flow open and they quickly walks to the entrance glass door and the first man enters and instantly shoots two security gaurds down in quick succession, the security men crash to the tiled-floor. People panic, he yells order for everyone to lie flat on the floor or die. The other two robbers slide in and heads to the counters. Instantly customers lie flat to the floor, hands in front. One of the bank robbers heads to the supervisor and shouts at her,

1ST BANK ROBBER

"The vault". Where are the monies?. Lie on the floor or I blast your brain off".

(The supervisor raises her head a little and points towards a room) The other two robbers busy packing monies into a bag at the counters. Jeffry bends low, under the counter, his heart pounding with fear. One of the robbers yells at him,

2ND ROBBER

"Bring out all the money!."

(Jeffry quickly brings all the money under his counter and places them on top of the counter before him. He raises his eyes slightly into the face of the robber. The second Robber at his couunter yells at him again,

2ND ROBBER

"You looking at my face, huh, you want to see my face, should I lift the fucking mask off my face so you can see me well?".

(Jeffry shakes his head vigourously in refutal but too late, the Robber opens fire on him. Shoots Jeffry on his chest and he crashes backward and smashes to a floor through a small door that connects into his booth. The robbers yells again,

2ND ROBBER

"If anyone look up, I blast the fucking life off that idiot!. Now all your faces to the floor!".

(Every staff and customers comply except jeffry who lay face up, his eyes pop up in terror even in death. The third Bank Robber enters the strong room with the first Robber including the manager who is on gun point. One of the robber drops a big sack bag to the floor. He touches the tip of the barrel of the automatic to the back of the manager's head. He waves the manager to the bank safe. The manager brings out a long key from his inner suit pocket and inserts it in the key hole and turns it twice. The third Bank robber points gun at the supervisor's head and yells at her,

3RD ROBBER

"Insert your danmm key!".

(The supervisor quickly brings out another long key from the inside pocket of her jacket and inserts her own key into the Bank safe's key hole, and twists it trice and pulls it open. Bundles of pounds sterlings lay cooling off in the space. The first Bank Robber sees the monies and exclames,

1ST BANK ROBBER

"Danmm, cool cash".

(He waves the two Bank officers to lie flat on the floor and instantly they flattens themselves to the floor and closes their eyes. The third Bank Robber begins to pack monies into a big sack bag he dropped on the floor ealier. Suddenly another gunshot rents out from the banking hall. From the cashier section, a female cashier got hit and she crashes to the floor, blood flows on the floor under her, she twichs few times and lies still, dead.

CUT TO:

OUTSIDE:EXT

Fraction of a second, siren blaes loud in the street toward the Bank, and a second on, three police cars pull to a stop and doors thrown open and police men jumps down, guns drawn, ready in hand. The supretendent of police who is the leader of the team, signals his men to secure different areas of the bank building. The leader of the police team, Lieutenant Davison collects a megaphone from one of his subordinates and puts it to his mouth and yells across to the Robbers inside.

LIEUTENANT DAVISON

"The bank building is surrounded by police, put down your weapons and surrender!".

(He waits few seconds and yells again into the megaphone)

LIEUTENANT DAVISON

"You have three minutes to come out, the clock starts to tik now".

BACK TO:

INSIDE:INT

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The first robber grabs the suit of the manager from the back, touches the muzzle of the gun to the manager's head and asks him up. Immediately the manager rises from the floor, the first robber grabs him from the back and jabs the barrel to his neck and signals his colleague to do same. The third robber asks the supervisor to rise and she complies. He grabs her neck and points the barrel of the long automatic to the back of her neck, his left arm across her neck. The first robber who is the leader yells to them to gently walk out to the banking hall. Immediately they enter the banking hall, the second robber looks up at circuit camera and shoots at two of it which are at different positions. The splinters drop to the floor and all hostages bury themselves lower to the floor. The third robber yells,

3RD ROBBER

"Any move, you die!. Don't try anything silly!!".

The leader of the robbers and the second robber slowly walks to the entrance glass door and, guns still pointing to the necks of the manager and supervisor, He yells across to the police. Suddenly a sound of a helicopter approaches the bank building above from the back.

1ST ROBBER

"Let us go, or they die!".

SUPERINTENDENT DAVISON

"Let them free and you walk free!"

(He yells across to the robbers)

1ST ROBBER

"No, we are no fools!, we won't harm them if you let us go free".

LIEUTENANT DAVISON

"You have no chance, the bank building is surrounded by my men!".

1ST ROBBER

"Fuck you!, you let us go or we all die here".

LIEUTENANT DAVISON

"That won't be good for your reputation. Staying alive should be your priority!".

1ST ROBBER

"We don't fucking give a damn if we die. But if you insist in barring us from going, we go down with everyone in here, including some of your men.

LIEUTENANT DAVISON

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"Oh I think you should re-think about it. Staying alive is better!".

CUT TO:

SAME MOMENT:INT

From the helicopter, a rope descends and an armed policeman cling to it as it descends slowly down to a window at the upper part, a few feet before the ceiling. He brings something out from a small bag and carves the glass window open, which is barely three feet square, an iron protector covers the inner space. He brings out a red can from his bag, while managing to hold the rope tight with his left hand, his feet on a flat board not wide enough for his black boot. He starts to stream the wetty stuff to the iron protector. Few seconds, he brings out a tiny battery operated saw and begin to cut the iron bars. Few seconds later, he puts the can back and start to push the iron protector inward with his right hand, His gun hangs by his side. He continues to push the metal protector until it yields in. From his bag, he brings out a rope and ties it to the iron protector and allows it drop some feet below onto the ceiling. He grabs sides of the inner wall and hoists himself up and scales inside, unhooks the rope. He gently draws a ceiling away from it's fitting and drops like a cat into the bank house. His black boot barely kiss the tiled-floor. The helicopter flies away and descends some distance from the robbery scene. He sneaks foward towards a connecting door. At the right side of the wall, a metal cabinet stands tall, and another opens into a room. He sneaks close to the metal file cabinet and waits to listen. His body gently bruises the file cabinet. Something rattles on top of the file cabinet and suddenly crashes to the floor tiles. It is a big round metal changed from a device. The sound echoes into the other side of the building and the first Bank robber hears it. He turns to his man, the second robber, and with his head he signals him to check where the sound came from. The second robber moves quickly to check. Supretendent Davison yells again to them,

LIEUTENANT DAVISON

"Your count starts now!".

1ST ROBBER

"Let us go, or we blow their brains off!".

CUT TO:

The second robber sneaks forward, his gun ready in hand to shoot. He tip-toes to a door and waits. The police man tip-toes and waits, he picked a sound ealier. He hides beside another big file cabinet and waits. Few seconds of wait, the second robber enters through the open door and heads to the other end of the room. The policeman picks him approaching and he aims with his swess and wesson. 38. Suddenly a gunshot, and the policeman shoots the second robber to the

chest and he crashes backwards to the tiled-floor. His long automatic falls oof his hand and clatter to the floor.

BACK TO:

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The first bank robber hears the gunshot,his colleague hears it too and all staff and customers lying on the floor hear it too.Lieutenant Davison hears it too.He yells across to the robbers.

LIEUTENANT DAVISON

"At the count of ten,you leave us no option than to wedge in!".

1ST ROBBER

"You can count all you want.You let us walk free or they all die!".

LIEUTENANT DAVISON

"It will be unwise to kill any of them!.Just let them go and everyone will not get hurt!".

1ST ROBBER

"Nah,you fucking son of a bitch!.It dosn't work that way".

(Suddenly he pulls the trigger and the manager of the bank falls forward and crashes to the glass door,dead,blood flows out instantly)The robber shoots sporadically at the policemen and car,the bullets hit the police car fuel tank an it explodes catch fire and and another hits Davison on his shoulder,he crashes back and quickly craws away from line of fire.Other policemen scurries away from the ignited fuel tank,they lie low on the ground and at a safer distance.Suddenly the police car explodes and ball of flame rises to the air.The police car burns rapidly. The leader of the robbers,the first robber, grabs the supervisor who trembles and suddenly pees drips from between her legs. She cries out deprately for her life,more siren wails towards the robbery scene. In seconds,two ambulances pull to a stop some distance from the scene and another police car rolls to a stop too.Blue and red lights flicker above the police car and the ambulances. Doors thrown open and policemen and paramedics jump down from their different vehicles The police car continues to burn furiously.

SUPERVISOR

"Please don't shoot me!,please".

1ST ROBBER

"Sharrap woman!"

(He yells at her in rage(She trembles the more)

The third robber turns and faces his back to make sure every of the hostage is still lying low. Suddenly the policeman sneaks close and a female staff sees him. He touches his lips as signal to her to remain silent. He

tip-toes, crouching low. The second robber, hears a shoe crunch on something and points his gun in readiness. The policeman appears from the corner of cashier counter and instantly the second robber squeezes the trigger and shoots him to his leg. The policeman makes a short dieing sound and crashes backward to the floor and lay dead in pool of his own blood. The third robber grabs an elderly woman customer and proples her to the where his colleagues stand. The second robber steps back and grabs a young female saff and the first robber puts the manager supervisor in front, very close to his body, gun points ahead, the other of his men put their hostages in front too and guns ready for battle.

CUT TO: 22

ACROSS THE STREET: INT

A police man aims with a long range gun from a small window from a commercial building across the street. The police with the long range gun, kneels on one knee and peers into the optic and it picks no clear target. He waits patiently.

BACK TO:

FROM THE BANK: INT

The first robber proples the supervisor to the door and makes her push it open. The second robber, puts his hostage faces into the banking hall, he puts his back to the back of the first robber and the third robber puts the elderly woman facing inside in the banking hall too. He puts his back to connect with his colleagues, using the hostages as shields. They slowly step out through the entrance glass door of the bank, and the first robber faces the front while his colleague walks backward with their hostages in front of them. The first robber opens fire on another police car packed few distance. No response from the policemen, they lay in wait. The first robber and the supervisor are of same hight. The police in the commercial building across the street, peers into the optic again but no clear chance to take any of the bank robbers down. He waits. Lieutenant Davison yells into the megaphone once again,

LIEUTENANT DAVISON

"Let them go!, you have no way to escape. The area is sealed up by the police".

(No response, the robbers keep advancing to a police car with their hostages) Suddenly the supppervisor hits leg on something and starggers, struggles to balance herself. That moment the long range gun cries out from the third floor of the commercial building across. Bullet hits the first robber on the head and he crashes to the ground. That exposed the second robber as the supervisor scurries away and another shot hits the second robber at his back. He falls and his gun falls off to the ground few feet to the supervisor. The third robber panics and swiftly turns the elderly lady to face the direction the shots came from. The Lieutenant yells across in

the megaphone.

LIEUTENANT DAVISON  
"Drop your weapon,now!."

23

(As the second bank robber fell,the young woman bank staff falls to the floor and lies on her belly,hands in her front)

THIRD BANK ROBBER  
"Come right here or I shoot you."

(He waves his gun at the elderly lady)

(The elderly lady scurries close to him in panic)

THIRD BANK ROBBER  
"Stay here and face front,we slowly get to that police car and no one gets hurt,huh."

(The elderly lady nods frantically.A policeman who crouches low behind a parked car aims with his gun from a distance.

Suddnly a gunshot rents the air and the bullet hits him on the side shoulder,he makes a desperate painful cry and falls to the ground,his gun falls a few feet away off from his hand.Instantly about four armed policemen run towards him,guns ready to fire.The hostages already run to a safe distance.One police grabs his hands and handcuffs him behind his back,guns of other policemen pointing to his head and they grabs him and hoists him to his feet.Some other policemen enters into the bank,guns ready.Paramedics pulls out stretchers and heads to do their job.Lieutenant Davison walks into the bank to assess things and intruct his men.The parqamedics lifted the bodies of the dead robbers and put them in one ambulance and instantly the siren starts to wail as one ambulance drives off the crime scene with the dead. Another set of paramedic are already inside the bank lifting dead bodies onto th stretcher.Some media people can be seeing reporting from the scene,come clicks away at dead bodies,some trying to ernter the bank building,while some push the microphone to Lieutenant Davison for comments. In all, paramedics remove six dead bodies and one injured from the crime scene. The police cordon off the crime scene as people gather some distance across the street,watching all the going ons.Gradually the media people start to disperse.

DISSOLVE TO:

MID MORNING:INT

Scarlet sit in the doctors office,waiting as the black female doctor silently reads her pregnancy test result.The young female doctor looks up from the paper and smiles at Scarlet.Her name is doctor sarah,She says to Scarlet,

DOCTOR SARAH  
"Congratulations,you are pregnant."



(Scarlet smiles and thanks Doctor sarah)

(Doctor sarah puts back the test resuly into an envelope and hands it to Scarlet.

DOCTOR SARAH

24

"I would want you register for antinetal and you must come for antinetal every Wednesday of the week."

SCARLET

"Okay doctor,thanks. I should be going to the office."

(Rising from the seat,opens her handbag and puts the test result into it) She thanks the doctor and heads to the door.outside the hospital she walks to the parking lot and stops,brings out her mobile phone and punches Jeffry's number. It starts to ring at the other end. After several rings,no response.She repeats and it rings for five times and stops. She re-dials, he might busy. After several rings still no response.She puts her mobile into her bag and walks to the sidewalk and flags down a cab. The cab eases to a stop before her and she tell the driver her destination and enters into the back seat. She starts to think as the driver drives on towards her destination.

CUT TO:

AFTERNOON:INT

At her office in the supermarket,she waits for return call from Jeffry but still no call from him. She starts to feel unhappy he is yet to call her since morning.Through out the day till she closes from work,Jeffry didn't call.She checks her watch aand time says five pm. She puts her stuffs into her hand bag and walks out her office,closes the door behind her.Leo sees her and surprise she is rady to go home. Scarlet walks over to him where he stand instructing a sales assistant. Leo stops talking to the sales assistant and turns to Scarlet. He says to her,

LEO

"Sis,you ready to go home".

(Scarlet nods,looks unhappy)

SCARLET

"Yea,I am tired,I want to go rest in the house.Tell mum,I could't till closing time."

LEO

"Sis,what's up,you looks unhappy."

SCARLET

"I am just tired,no problem.I need to go home.Please tell mum."

(She says as she heads to the door)

(Leo watches her as she leaves,he knows something is bothering his sister but she is not telling)

A female sales assistant waves at Scarlet from the other side of the shelves as she passes,she waves back to the assistant and forces a smile on her lips.She gets to the door and opens it and the security gaurd waves at her.Scarlet says to him,

SCARLET

"Don't go fall asleep now you know I left."

(He beams with smile and she manages to smile back at him and steps out and heads to the street to board a cab back home.

DISSOLVE TO:

SAME EVENING:INT

Scarlet and her mum and brother sit in the living room,Leo plays a game on his phone while the women watch television.Ava steals a glance at her daughter and asks,

AVA

"Scarlet why did you left early from work,is there anything troubling you I should know?."

(Scarlet looks away from the television and looks at her mother) Scarlet sighs and answers her mum,

SCARLET

"Mum,I went to the hospital this morning to run a pregnancy test and"

(she stop)

AVA

"And what?.what happend?."

SCARLET

"It came out positive."

(Her mother watches her,a few second and she asks)

AVA

"Is jeffry aware of it,why are you worried?."

SCARLET

"Mum,he seem so elated when I hinted to him that I might be pregnant.He told me to call him  
(MORE)

CN'TD

25

SCARLET CN'TD 25 (cont'd)  
 when I get the result from the hospital,I called his cellphone number several times and no response."

AVA 26  
 "That should not make you feel bad,he not may be with his phone when you called."

SCARLET  
 "Mum,since morning?.It's unlike him."

AVA  
 "I beleive he would call you later,you know how busy they are with the Bank job.Don't feel bad my daughter."

(Smiles reassuringly at Scarlet and she nods. Leo busy playing game on his phone)They returns their eyes to the television and suddenly a news of the bank robbery comes on on the led televison on the wall.Scarlet listens intently fear written all over her face.Ava concentrates on the news flash and suddenly turns to Scarlet and says,

AVA  
 "There has been a big bank robbery and we didn't know."

(Scarlet bends her head and when she lifts it up,tears runs down her cheek)Her mother quickly comes closer and throws her hand over her shoulder.

AVA  
 "What is it Scarlet?."

(Scarlet begins to sob,Leo has been litstening to the news from his seat. He noticed Scarlet sobbing and their mother's hand on Scarlet's shoulder. He quickly gets up and walks to where they sit and sits gently beside Scarlet and holds her left arm) Leo says to her,

LEO  
 "Why are you crying sis?."

(Scarlet sobs even more)

AVA  
 "Scarlet please talk to us,I feel so sad myself watching this news. So many deaths."

(Scarlet looks at her mum and more tears flows down her cheeks) Leo brushes back her hair gently and says,

SCARLET

27

"You know I hate to see you sad, but now you sobs. Please talk to us."

(Scarlet puts her hand to her face, shakes her head and says,)

SCARLET

"Jerry works at Lloyd Bank, Farringdon branch".

AVA

"What!? Oh my God, I pray he is not one of the casualties."

LEO

"Have you called his number sis?."

(Scarlet nods gently and more tears runs down her cheeks)

SCARLET

"I've called his number since morning but no response, until I called this evening and it was switched off."

LEO

"My God, this is terrible news. Sis, I suggest we go check him at his apartment."

(Ava nods, consoles her the more)

LEO

"Sis, get up, let me drive you to his house."

(Trying to make her stand)

Suddenly Scarlet's mobile starts to ring. Leo quickly goes to the table and lifts it and brings it to Scarlet who has suddenly stops sobbing as the call enters. She grabs the phone from Leo and picks the call. Ava watches with great hope and anticipation.

SCARLET

"Hello! Hello!."

A female voice comes on from the other side.

FEMALE CALLER

"Hello!, emmm, my name is Emily Townsend. I am Jeffry's cousin."

(Mother and son listening, the news on the television continues to show disturbing footages from the robbery incident) Then Scarlet says to the caller,

CUT TO:

SCARLET

28

"Oh, I am Scarlet. How may I help you."

EMILY

"I know, he told me about you, and that you are his girlfriend."

SCARLET

"Yes"

(Brief silence, and her mother and brother listening intently, watching her) Emily says from the other end,

EMILY

"When did you speak with him last?."

SCARLET

"Yesterday. I have been trying to reach him since morning today, but his phone rang unanswered and some minutes back this evening, it was switched off."

(Silence from the other end)

AVA

"Are you there?."

EMILY

"Yes, did you hear about the bank robbery at his bank?."

SCARLET

"Was just watching it on telly few minutes ago before you called. I am even about to go to his house to check on him.".

EMILY

"Something terrible happened to Jeff. We received call few hours ago that, he was one of the staffs the robbers killed in the bank robbery at his bank."

SCARLET

"Oh my God, oh my God."

(Scarlet drops the phone on her mother's lap and begins to cry)

Ava picks the phone and says into the receiver, while Leo throws his hand across her shoulder to support and comfort)

AVA

"Hello, hello!."

EMILY  
"Hello"

29

(Softly says from the other end)

AVA  
"Please this is her mother on the line.where can we see you and the family?."

EMILY  
"Right now,some of us are at the mogue,his funeral will be in two days time. I know they love each other and when I didn't see your daughter here,I suspected she might not be aware,that's why I called."

AVA  
"Very kind of you.His funeral will be at?."

EMILY  
"Islington cemetery,ma'am."

AVA  
"Okay,thank you for your care.I appreciate."

EMILY  
"You are welcome ma'am.Please help her calm down. I know this won't be easy on her."

AVA  
"A very big blow to everyone.They love each other so much.Thank you and bye."

(She cuts call and holds Scarlet,who continues to cry painfully and mournfully)

AVA  
"Please don't cry again Scarlet.He is gone, and there is nothing we can do about it.Don't weigh yourself down with sorrow."

(She urges her daughter,her voice quivers as she struggles to hold herself from crying too)

LEO  
"Stop crying, big sis,I know how you feel.Your health is important."

SCARLET  
"I want to go.. Go to my room."

(Rising up from the sofa) Leo tries to hold her from going but their mother stops him, and says,

AVA

30

"Let her go to her room and pour it out. It will be more good for her."

(Leo looking very unhappy as he stands and watch Scarlet heads to her room)

She enters her room, closes the door and bolts it, throws herself across her bed and begins to cry sorrowfully.

CUT TO:

TWO DAYS LATER:EXT

Scarlet and her mother walk among the protege behind a heares that conveys the body of Paul to the Islington cemetery for internment. Scarlet wears a black gown and black hat, her eyes covered with a dark sunglass. Her mother, Ava wears black jacket over a black skirt, her white blond hair drops to her shoulder. Her avarage body hides comfortably in her jacket. Occasionally she parts Scarlet's hand as they walk. The family members of the decease walk right behind the heares. The vehicle gets to the gate and stops. The pall bearers opens the back door and lift the casket and heads to the prepared resting place. The people follow the officiating minister to the grave side and soft crying can be heard in the small crowd. The officiating minister, Rev Andrew steps forward and says,

REV ANDREW

"We are gathered here to pay our last respect to Paul, whose promising life was uprooted by Marauders."

Crying and sniffs in the crowd, Scarlet battles to hold herself from crying. She lifts her dark eye glass and dabs her eyes gently. Her mother squeezes Scarlet's left hand to support. Andrew says a short prayer and says to the small crowd.

REV ANDREW

"The only thing we can do now is pray for the soul of Paul. May God accept his soul and we pray right now he is at the right hand of God."

THE PEOPLE

"Amen!"

Rev Andrew sprinkles some holy water and prays once more over the casket and he motions the undertakers to lower the casket into the empty grave, steps aside for immediate family member to throw some sand into the grave before the grave diggers shovel sand into it. A beautiful middle age woman

steps forward and scoop some sand and drops them into the grave and steps back. From the crowd a beautiful young lady with auburn hair which hides under a black hat steps forward and performs dust to dust. She walks back and Scarlet watches, as no one steps forward again, she slowly steps forward and scoops some sand and drops it into the grave and walks back to be beside her mother. Rev Andrew says a short prayer and signals the grave diggers to shovel sand to fill the grave. As the grave diggers start to shovel sand into the grave, Scarlet steps away from the crowd, followed by her mother walking behind her. The young lady with the Auburn hair cuts her look at Scarlet and steps away from the crowd and walks to meet her. A few feet away Scarlet stops and starts to cry. Her mum throws her hand across her shoulder and tries to console her. The young lady approaches and Scarlet struggles to stop crying. The young lady stops before her and says,

YOUNG LADY

"My name is Emily, you must be Scarlet and she your mum."

Scarlet instantly looks at Emily and forces a smile.

SCARLET

"Yes, happy to meet you."

Trusts her hand forward for a hand shake. Emily grabs Scarlet's hand and shakes it warmly, smiles in spite of the mourning mood.

EMILY

"It's a pity we have to meet this way. Paul told me so much about you, how kind and lovely you are."

Scarlet only stares and tears continue to run down her cheeks. She dabs her eyes dry and smiles a little. Vivian says to Emily,

AVA

"This is a very trying period for all of us. They loved each other very much."

EMILY

"Yes, Paul told me that they were so much in love. This is tragic."

SCARLET

"Please, can I meet his parents, siblings.?"

31

Emily sighs and begins to shake her head and fixes her look at Scarlet and says,



EMILY

32

"His parents died in a plane crash,he was their only child.His father was my mother's sister,so paul was my first cousin."

Scarlet fixes her gaze to the ground and Ava says,

AVA

"Oh,what a sad end.Very tragic."

EMILY

"Please I would want you meet with my mother,she's there in the crowd."

AVA

"Okay,that will be good."

Suddenly the small crowd start to walk back towards the exit.Emily points to a tree by the corner and says,

EMILY

"Let's walk to that tree and wait for my mum while she approach."

The step to under the tree and wait as middle aged woman walks towards them.She stops before the small group and looks at her daughter who picks her hand and smiles into her face.Her name is Charlotte.Emily say,

EMILY

"Mum,this is Scarlet and her mum.She is the beautiful girl Jeffry told us about.They were engaged to marry."

CHARLOTTE

"Oh o,what a beautiful girl you are".

She hugs Scarlet and holds her for some seconds and disengages and embraces Scarlet mother.

AVA

"My name is Vivian,I am happy to meet you."

CHARLOTTE

"I am Charlotte,it's a pleasure seeing mother and daughter today,though not under a pleasant circumstance."

AVA

"We can't question God.It's devastating his life was cut short at a very young age."

EMILY

33

"I couldn't believe he was dead until now his body is lowered into the grave."

CHARLOTTE

"So sad, do you know, he was my brother's only child."

AVA

"Emily just told us few minutes ago."

Charlotte nods and gently holds Scarlet's hand, she stares into her eyes and says,

CHARLOTTE

"Jeffrey was so crazy about you. He was so happy when you said yes to him. He called us immediately to announce the good news to us."

SCARLET

"I love him so much. He was a blessing to my soul."

CHARLOTTE

"Oh, what a sweet word. May God give us all the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss."

Vivian and Emily chorus an Amen.

AVA

"What part of UK are you staying."

CHARLOTTE

"We live south of Stockport, and you?."

AVA

"Bexley."

CHARLOTTE

"Oh okay, one of these days we have to visit each other. We can sit and discuss over dinner someday."

AVA

"That'll be good. Let me have your phone number."

Opening her black bag which hangs on her left shoulder to bring out her mobile phone. Charlotte brings out a black mobile phone from her purse and Ava calls out her digits, and Charlotte dials it to beep Ava's mobile.

Emily and Scarlet hugs each other and Ava checks her watch and says,

AVA

34

"We should be going,I need to go see my doctor."

CHARLOTTE

"Are you ill?."

AVA

"Not really,I do go for general check up, once every two months."

Charlotte nods and smiles at her,trust her hand forward and Ava grabs it and shakes it warmly.

EMILY

"I will visit you at home soon.Don't mourn too much and always remeber he died loving you.His life was not a loveless one."

SCARLET

"Thank you,I will be strong.Though it won't be easy."

Emily hugs her again and looks at Vivian and says,

EMILY

"Thank you for coming,I hope to see you again soon."

AVA

"You're welcome.Can't wait to see you visit us."

They all say byes and walk to their manifold cars parked some distance of the cemetery.

DISSOLVE TO:

FOUR MONTHS LATER:EXT

Four moths after Jeffry's funeral,Scarlet steps out of a shopping mall at Lancashire where she went to buy baby stuffs for her unborn child.She stands outside fa few distance from the entrance glass door to wait for her mother who stops to pick something from the shelf.Few seconds later,her mother walks through the entrance door with their purchase and they head to the car.Reaching the car,her mother opens the puts down two heavy shopping bags on both sides of her legs and brings out the car key from her red bag and opens the car boot and lifts up the nylon shopping bags and put them into the booth and closes it gently.Scarlet's hands on her waist and her belly struggles with her pink flowered marternity gown.She lazily walks to the front door and opens it and gentlyy and slowly lowers herself onto the front seat.She leaves the door open as her mother walks to the drivers door and opens it,enters and Scarlet draws her door shut. Her mother looks at her and

smiles and says,

AVA

35

"This reminds me when I was pregnant with you. It's not easy the first time."

SCARLET

"It's another phase in a woman's life, but there is this joy that comes from within. The expectation of a new life."

AVA

"Yes, that's true. I can't wait to hold my first grandchild."

She closes the car door and roars the toyota to life, levels the gear to drive and slowly rolls out of the parking lot of the shopping mall.

CUT TO:

NEXT EVENING:EXT

Scarlet and her mum sit outside in the patio of their home relaxing with orange drinks. The evening is cool, and far in the horizon, darkness shouts and call the twilight a thief. The front door opens and Leo walks out onto the patio to join them. He sips a cold coca-cola with a straw. He lowers himself to an empty black chair between Scarlet and their mother. Ava looks at him and asks,

AVA

"Son, how has things been going in the supermarket. Hope business is flourishing?."

LEO

"Not bad, mum, only we are low in stock, we need to restock. The sales reps are up and going, very competent staff."

AVA

"Good to hear things are going real good. I will have to call our suppliers to supply us with the needed stuffs."

SCARLET

"King of the house, I am proud of you, running things alone and without me and mum to assist."

LEO

"Thanks sis, I am happy you finally acknowledge my important position as the king of the house."

SCARLET

36

"Don't run your mouth now and make me change my mind."

LEO

'Mum, someone just threatens me. Did you hear that?.'

AVA

"I didn't hear, I was deep in thought."

SCARLET

"Mum, I only thanked him for his effort. Who threaten him, is there any other person here with us?."

Cuts her eyes left to right, smile on her lips.

AVA

Leo, I will be staying back home with Scarlet, for sometime until she delivers, I will be popping in to the supermarket once in a while to see how things goes. Hold the place well until we returns to work fully."

LEO

"No prob mum, I am capable."

Puts the straw between his lips and draws a long drink. Few minutes later, darkness sets in and the neighborhood begins to prepare for the night.

DISSOLVE TO:

TWO MONTHS LATER: INT

Scarlet sits in the doctor's office, waiting for her to finish writing on a paper. Few seconds, Doctor Sarah lifts her head and smiles at Scarlet and says,

DOCTOR SARAH

"Your baby is healthy and in few weeks time you may go into labour. Continue to eat enough fruits and veggies, no alcohol and it'll do you good if you walk often as an exercise."

SCARLET

Okay, doctor, I do walk some distance but don't know if I walk enough."

DOCTOR SARAH

"Just don't over stretch it. Walk as much as you can and relax too. Drink enough water."

Scarlet nods and listens attentively.

DOCTOR SARAH

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"You have good signs, you will deliver safely."

SCARLET

"Thanks doc, I can't wait to feel the joy of motherhood."

DOCTOR SARAH

"Sure, you will. Now go, so many people are waiting to see me."

Scarlet rises from her seat and smiles at doctor Sarah and says her goodbye and walks to the door, opens it and steps out, closes it gently behind her. At the reception, she smiles at a brunette nurse and waves at a blond who just emerges from a corner and walks to the entrance door. Opens it and steps out into the bright sunshine. She slowly descends the few steps to the ground and heads to the street for a taxi.

CUT TO:

EVENING:EXT

Scarlet and her mother sit in the living room watching television which is on with musicals when Ava's phone starts to ring. She lifts her mobile from beside her on the double sofa and peers into the screen. She picks call and says with a smile,

AVA

"Hello, Charlotte, how are you doing? Happy to hear from you."

Charlotte says from the other end,

CHARLOTTE

"We are doing just great and you. How is the family doing?."

AVA

"We are good. God is faithful."

CHARLOTTE

"I am thinking of visiting you this weekend, Sunday to be precise."

AVA

"Oh, that'd be good. We'd expecting you. It'll be an honor."

CHARLOTTE

"Okay, say my greetings to the family. See you on Sunday, bye."

AVA

"Bye!."

CHARLOTTE CUTS CALL FROM THE OTHER END,

38

Scarlet's mum looks at her and says,

AVA

"Emily's mum says she will visit on Sunday."

SCARLET

"Mum, she'll want to see me, and definitely she would suspect I am pregnant with Jeffry's child."

AVA

"Do you plan to hide the truth from them?."

Scarlet remains quiet for a few seconds and thinks briefly and answers,

SCARLET

"No mum, no need. I think it is pertinent she knows."

AVA

"Yes, I agree with you. That won't change anything. He is gone and dead, it's our duty to raise the child."

Scarlet nods and starts to think.

CUT TO:

SAME EVENING:EXT

LEO emerges from the entrance door of the supermarket as he is closed from work. He locks the door and the security guard waves him bye, he waves back and heads to the street to take a taxi home. Time is seven pm. As he stand by the street waiting for a taxi, a red car eases to a stop close by him, off the sidewalk. The passenger window rolls down and Elsie waves from behind the steeringwheel. Leo bends low slightly to wave back to her. She smiles and says,

ELSIE

"How are you doing?."

LEO

"I am fine, ma'am, and you?."

ELSIE

"I am good, haven't seeing your mother and sister for sometime now, hope they're fine?."

LEO

39

"They're doing just great, mum's been busy with something. She do come around once in a while."

ELSIE

"Okay, I am happy they are good. Please say my greetings to them."

LEO

"I will ma'am. Thanks for your care."

Elsie smiles warmly and asks,

ELSIE

"Which way are you going?. I am going towards Stockport."

LEO

"Oh no, I am not going your way. Thanks, I will take a taxi."

ELSIE

"Okay, bye!"

The window rolls back and she drives off.

BACK TO:

SAME EVENING:INT

Scarlet stretches full on a long sofa, pressing her phone while her mother prepares meal in the kitchen. The television is on and the ceiling fan roll slowly from the ceiling, the curtains are drawn. Suddenly breeze very cool breeze blows throw the open window and lifts the curtain, makes it dance in the air momentarily. Thunder rumbles in the sky and darkness suddenly descends as the sky darkens more. More rumbling sound up in the sky and Ava walks out from the kitchen, she ambles to where Scarlet lie prssing her phone and says,

AVA

"Leo is yet to get back home, and it's about to rain."

Scarlet stops pressing her phone and looks up, she says,

SCARLET

"I beleive he must be on his way now. I pray he gets back before it starts to rain."

AVA

"I pray so too. Dinner is ready, I hope he is here on time."



Suddenly the front door opens and Leo enters through the door. Already wet as it already start to drizzle. Their mother smiles and embraces him, Scarlet smiles and welcomes him. Ava says to Leo,

AVA

40

"Welcome back, son. We were worried for you, this rain might be heavy. Go change, let's eat dinner and everyone can relax."

LEO

"Okay, mum, I will be back in a jiffy."

Walking off to the door of his room.

CROSS DISSOLVE TO:

MORNING: INT

Scarlet in labour pain, she holds her waist, moaning painfully while her mum scurries about to pick stuffs they need for the hospital. Ava quickly snatches her car key from the table and holds Scarlet by the waist and one hand under her armpit to help her up from the sofa. Her mother urges her,

AVA

"Common, scarlet, be strong. We'll soon be at the hospital."

SCARLET

"Mum, I am trying. Oh ooo please lets go!. The pain is terrible."

She continues to moan in pain as her mother helps her to the car. Outside, Ava quickly opens the back car door and helps Scarlet in and quickly closes the door, She open the driver's door and slides in, roars the Toyota to life and drives towards the street. Before the connecting street, she waits and a car drives pass, she enters onto the street and heads to the hospital.

At the back seat of the car, Scarlet continues to moan in labour pain. She yells painfully and says,

SCARLET

"Mum, I think the baby is coming, ooh my God please help me, this pain is too much on me."

Her mother turns slightly from the driver's seat and says to her,

AVA

"Hold on baby, we'll soon get to the hospital."

She presses the accelerator and the Toyota surges forward cruising at a moderate speed.

Few minutes later, Ava slowly rolls the Toyota to a stop near the hospital entrance door. Nurses scurry to the door with a stretcher and immediately throw open the back door and help Scarlet lie on the stretcher and they quickly head into the hospital and hastily carry her to the labour room, her mother follows behind. Ava sits on a leather seat in the waiting area, says a silent prayer for her daughter and waits. Nurses quickly walk to and from the Nurses station and the Labour room. An elderly woman sits alone on a double seat at the left side of Scarlet's mother and a young mother holds her young baby, waiting to see the doctor who is busy in the labour room with Scarlet.

CUT TO:

41

IN THE LABOUR ROOM:INT

Doctor Sarah and midwife urges Scarlet to push, beads of sweat form on their forehead. Scarlet moans in pain and another nurse urges her to try again. Scarlet musters some more strength and begins to push and doctor Sarah and the midwife, eggs her to continue. After a few minutes of try Scarlet stops pushing and continues to yell in pain. Doctor Sarah says to her,

DOCTOR SARAH

"Let's do this again. Push harder, we are losing time."

SCARLET

"Doctor, I am trying."

The Midwife whose name is Lilian says to her,

LILIAN

"Your best is not enough until your baby is born. Now push once more, open your legs and do it real nice".

Scarlet pants and gathers more strength and starts to push.

BACK TO:

THIRTY MINUTES LATER:INT

Scarlet's mother, paces in the waiting room, mumbling prayers, her eyes half closed. She continues to pace and watch the nurses come and go quickly.

After another fifteen minutes, the door to the labour room opens and Doctor Sarah and the nurses pour out, all with sad faces. Another door opens and they enter into the waiting room and immediately Ava sees them, she shot up from the seat and hastens to the Doctor and says,

AVA

42

"How is my daughter, Doctor."

Doctor Sarah shakes her head and says to her

DOCTOR SARAH

"Come to my office."

AVA

"Why your office, can't you answer my question here?."

Doctor Sarah silently heads to her office, opens the door and walks in, followed by Scarlet's mother. Doctor Sarah waves her to a seat before her office table and walks to the other side of the table and slowly lowers herself to her own seat.

Ava slides onto the seat before the table and anxiously stares at the doctor for answer who sighs sadly and says,

DOCTOR SARAH

"We lost her, but her baby is fine."

Ava shoots up from her seat and yells in agony. Doctor Sarah stands and walks to her and tries to calm her down and says to her,

DOCTOR SARAH

"We did our best, before our eyes she drifted away to death after managing to deliver her baby. It was a very complicated case."

VIVIAN

"What do you mean you did your best? Your best wasn't enough to save my daughter."

DOCTOR SARAH

"Sorry ma'am, I must confess, we tried our best to save mother and baby, but she bled to death. I haven't seen such a case before."

Ava cries out the more and runs to the door and opens it and dashes out to the waiting area, crying.

The elderly woman glances at her and slowly gets up and walks to Ava and throws her hand across Ava's shoulder and starts to console her. Two nurses step close to her and begin to console her. She cries out the more and they console her the more.

Minutes later, a nurse emerges from another door after cleaning the baby boy and walks to Ava with the baby wrapped in a soft baby shawl. The nurse takes the baby boy to Ava who now sobs softly. The nurse stretches her hand to hand the baby to Scarlet's mother. Ava quickly cleans her eyes with a handkerchief and stretches her two hands forward to

collect the baby. The nurse gently puts the baby on Ava's outstretched hands and says,

NURSE

43

"Your handsome grandson".

AVA

"Oh, my grandson."

Forces a smile on to her lips, she sits on the seat and smiles to the baby boy who's eyes is closed. She brings out her phone and dials Leo's number. On third ring Leo picks from the other end and Ava says,

AVA

"Come quickly to Citra hospital."

She listens briefly and says,

AVA

"Tell Ava to take care of things, you won't be going back to the office today."

She listens and shakes her head and says,

AVA

"Just quickly come to the hospital, I am there waiting."

She cuts call and tears flows down her cheeks.

DISSOLVE TO:

EVENING:EXT

SIX DAYS LATER, LATE EVENING AFTER THE FUNERAL OF Scarlet, Leo and his mother sits out in the patio with Scarlets orphan, Greg on his grandmother's laps as the mother and son gaze at the bright stars in the sky, each thinking his own thought. Leo suddenly says sorrowfully,

LEO

"Why did she leave us this way, I miss her so much."

He cleans the tears building up in his eyes with the back of his eyes. His mother ays to him,

AVA

"Please, my son, you got to be strong for me. I don't want to cry, it won't be good for this baby."

LEO

"Sorry, mum, I was overwhelmed by emotions. I am yet to come to terms with her death."

AVA

44

"It's tragic,devastating to me.She was a sweet girl.There's nothing we can do to bring her back to life.She's gone and gone where only the Lord can help her."

Little Greg at that moment starts to cry softly as if he hears and understands their conversation.His grand mother starts to rock him to sleep and in a few seconds,he begins to drift off to sleep,leaving the elders to their talk and worry.

CROSS DISSOLVE TO:

AFTERNOON:EXT

Three months later, bright Wednesday afternoon,on close, a red blond lady's back walks through an entrance door to a designers shop in Marketgate shopping Center, Lancashire.She clutches a pink nylon bag in the right hand and immediately she enters,all eyes on her.About six Young women who were curtain and designing on a large table strenghten up and stares at the approching beauty.Smiles and pleasantries exchanged and the beautiful lady puts down the pink nylon bag on the table.From the inner room the directress emerges from her office and walks towards them.The girl apprentices scartter to allow their directress space to talk to the beautiful woman.The owner of the designer shop smiles to her new customer who also smiles at her.The beautiful customer's hair is covered with a blue headtie and she wears a white long gown.Only few of her red blond hairs peep from under the headtie.The owner of the place whose name is Benita says,

BENITA

"Welcome,what can we do for you?."

THE BEAUTIFUL BLOND

"Let me see your Cartlog.I want a dress made."

BENITA

"Okay"

Benita withdraws a cartlog from under a red cloth and places it before her.The red blond flips through pages and they watch her as she picks her choice of design.Seconds later,she points at a beautiful dress and Benita looks at it and nods in agreement.She says,

BENITA

"This is beautiful."

Quickly Benita removes a flowered pattern cloth from the nylon bag and checks it.Satisfied,she starts to meseasure her new customer and puts every detail on paper. Benita promises that the new dress will be ready in two weeks time. Suddenly five ladies pour into the large shop through the entrance

doorchatting, and the beautiful blond turns and begin to leave. As she walks towards the door, Scarlet's face become visible as she hastily heads to the door. Two of the apprentices watch her back as she steps out through the door and turns left and joins large group of shoppers in the busy shopping district.

DISSOLVE TO:

MORNING:EXT

Two weeks later, time is ten in the mornning on a friday. The same white long gown and blue scarf enters through the entrance door of the designer's shop. The girls are busy workking on different dresses, when she approaches. Some of them looks up from their works and smile at her. She stands and asks,

BLOND LADY

"Is my dress ready?."

The girls begin to shake their heads, and she says,

BLOND LADY

"I can't wait another time. I am traveling from here. Please can you take it back to my address?."

Points to a beautiful girl of about twenty-two amongst the girl apprentices. The girls slowly nods. The lady in white gown collects a pen and quickly scribbles her address on a piece of paper on the table and hands it to the girl, whose name is Cindy. The Blond in white gown nods to all of them as they watch her, she turns and walks out the entrance door and the girls returns back to what they were doing.

DISSOLVE TO:

EVENING:INT

THREE DAYS LATER, Tuesday, nine in the morning. Leo steps out of his room and closes the door, he picks his mobile and turns, suddenly the buzzer sounds, he stops on his track and stares at the entrance door. He is already late for work and he is dressed to leave. He waits and listens and the buzzer sounds again. He quickly walks to the door and grabs the door handle and yanks it open. Cindy is at the door. She smiles and greets,

CINDY

"Good morning, my name is Cindy."

LEO

"Good morning, how may I help you?."

45

Leo stares at her beautiful face and she responds,

CINDY

46

"Actually, a beautiful red blond lady sent me to this address to return this."

Lifts the pink nylon containing the flowered cloth before her. Leo watches her by the door and asks,

LEO

"You said a beautiful blond lady?."

Cindy nods and says

CINDY

"She brought it to our shop two weeks ago, for us to make a dress for her, but we were so busy and couldn't deliver at agreed date. She said she is traveling and request I send it to this address."

LEO

"Let me see the address on the paper."

Cindy stretches her hand forward and hands the piece of paper where the address is written to Leo who collects it quickly and reads it. It's actually their home address on the paper. His face registers surprise but he quickly tries to conceal it. He smiles at Cindy and asks,

LEO

"Can I go with you to your workplace. I want to make sure you are not delivering to a wrong address."

Cindy shrugs and says,

CINDY

"If you want, yes we can go."

Leo smiles generously at her and says,

LEO

"Give me few seconds to pick something from inside. I will be back in a jiffy."

Closes the door and quickly walks into his room, as he dials his mother's number. Explaining to her that he will be late, that he is attending to something important which he would explain to her later. He flips through a photo album as he speaks to his mother, and removes a picture and puts it into his trouser pocket. He cuts call and quickly walks to the door and opens it and smiles at Cindy who stand waiting patiently. He apologises,

LEO

47

"Sorry for keeping you waiting."

CINDY

"No problem."

Leo locks the door and two of them heads to the connecting street to take a taxi.

CUT TO:

MORNING:EXT

Few minutes later,the taxi pulls to a stop off the sidewalk at Marketgate shopping center,Lancashire.Leo pays the fare and Cindy preceeds him towards the entrance glass door of her workplace.She opens the glass door and steps in,follows by Leo,who holds the pink nylon bag in hs right hand.Immediatly they step in all eyes of the apprentices stare at them.Cindy smiles at her colleague and says,

CINDY

"Sorry,I am late.I went to return the cloth to the address that lady asked me to. Is the directress in?."

Some eyes looks away while some faces smile.Cindy's look relaxes and she points to Leo,

CINDY

"He followed me to find out if the cloth is really meant to be brought to the address."

Leo steps forward and says,

LEO

"Greetings all,sorry to bother you.Please I needed to be sure."

Puts hand into the inner pocket of his wine red suit and brings out a photo and trusts it forward to the starring eyes. He asks,

LEO

"The lady you said sent you to that address,is she the one in this photo?."

Cindy collects it and looks at it and nods,and pass it over to another girl who looks at it and nods too,and the the photo got pass around to other girls and all nods too.One of the girls says,

GIRL

"That's the Lady in that picture."



LEO

48

"Thank you all, and sorry for taking your time."

He puts the photo back to his pocket and thanks Cindy and says,

LEO

"Hope to see you again, soon."

Cindy waves at him and he turns and heads out the door. As he walks towards the sidewalk for a taxi, his phone starts to ring. He stops and brings out his mobile from his trouser pocket. Picks call and steps a bit back to speak with his mother who is at the other end.

LEO

"Hello mum."

AVA

"Leo, where are you. I need you in the office right now, I am up to my nose with work."

LEO

"Mum, I am on my way. I attended to something important."

AVA

"What is that. Hope it's not something bad?."

LEO

"I will tell you later. I will be in the office soon."

AVA

"Okay, son, please get here quick. There's so much to be done."

LEO

'Okay, mum. I am coming."

He cuts call and walks to the sidewalk and flags down an approaching taxi.

DISSOLVE TO:

EVENING: INT

Leo and his mother sit in their living room and discuss. The television is on and the volume is mute, the ceiling fan spins on low from the ceiling. Ava relaxes back on the sofa and says,

AVA

"This is very strange. Mrs Elsie told me she saw Scarlet in London a week ago."

LEO

49

"I wonder this sightings, maybe her soul is not at peace, she died unhappy, maybe that's why she's not resting yet."

AVA

"I think I need to go see our reverend, maybe he can proffer solution."

LEO

"Yea, maybe. Mum, I want to go rest my head. It's been a long daay for me."  
(Rising from the sofa)

AVA

"Okay, son. I will go shower and try and sleep. I need time to think."

Standing up from her seat

Leo says good night and heads to his room. He opens his room door and walks in and closes it behind, lies across the bed in deep silent thought. The time is about eight-twenty in the evening. His window is open and the blind is parted, cool breeze blows in through the window and caresses him. The light from the side wall is on and the ceiling fan spins from the ceiling. He sits up and unbuttons his shirt and pull it off and throws it on a single sofa in the room, pulls his white singlet over him and throws it on the sofa too and lies back. His feet dangles from the bed. He lies there thinking until sleep overtakes him. He continues to sleep and suddenly Scarlet opens his room door and walks in. Leo sees her and smiles at her, she smiles at him too and says to him,

SCARLET

"Good, the girl brought my cloth as I requested."

Leo looks at the pink nylon containing the flowered cloth on the table and answers,

LEO

"Yes, she did."

Scarlet picks the pink nylon containing the cloth and starts to walk to the door. Leo insurprise ask her,

LEO

"Are you going with the cloth?."

She continues walking and suddenly stops and looks at Leo and says,

SCARLET

"That girl that brought my cloth here is the girl you should marry. She is your wife."

LEO

50

"Scarlet,I don't understand.Why did you say that?."

Scarlet turns and continues to the door,the pink nylon in hand.She walks out the door and Leo wakes up instantly and realise he's been dreaming.He quickly looks at the table he kept the pink nylon containing the cloth but it is not there anymore.He springs to his feet and quickly checks under the table to see,maybe it fell down. He quickly cuts his eyes in all direction in the room but the pink nylon is nowhere to be seeing.He grabs his door handle and yanks it open and heads to the living room.The television has been turned off by his mother and the only light in the living room come from a dim light from a corner of the large room.The breeze twirls the curtain and lets it rest,his heart pounding in his chest.He walks to the light switch and snaps the light on and looks at the clock on the wall,the time says nine-fifty-nine.The shadow at far corner of the room disappears,he stands still,his eyes close.Confused,he walks to the sofa and sits at the edge,in deep thinking.Few seconds later,he lies to the long sofa and continues to think until he falls asleep.

DISSOLVE TO:

MORNING:INT

Ava enters the living room from kitchen and sees the light in the living room on.She stands and looks and sees Leo sleeping on the sofa.She walks to him and taps him to wake.He continues to sleep,she taps him again on his leg and stops snoring lightly and lazily opens his eyes.His mother stands watching him.She says,

AVA

"Why did you slept in the living room.You couldn't sleep in your room?."

He gently sits up and rubs his eyes,bends low and puts his elbows to his knees.

AVA

"Are you okay,son?."

He nods slowly and greets her,

LEO

"Good morning,mum."

AVA

"Good,morning son.wake up,we have a lot to do today at the office.It'll be along day."

LEO  
"Okay, mum."

51

LEO YARNS AND STRAIGHTENS UP ON THE SOFA. He parts sofa by his side and says to his mother,

LEO  
"Sit down, mother, I have something to discuss with you."

He watches her as she slowly lowers herself to the sofa besides him, her wine red flowered night gown covers her feet as she sits. Leo covers his face with his palms and remains like that for a few seconds. His mother watches him patiently until he looks up and relaxes back to the sofa and says,

LEO  
"Mum, what I am about to say may shock you."

She watches him intently

He puts his two palm on the sofa and says,

LEO  
"Mum, something strange happened last night when I was sleeping in my room."

AVA  
"What was that son."

Anxiousness on her face

LEO  
"Mum, Scarlet visited me in my dream. When I was talking with her she picks the cloth she took to the dress maker and starts to the door. Suddenly she stopped and turned to me and said, that that girl who brought her cloth to our house is my wife. That I should marry her."

AVA  
"You don't mean this?."

Surprise look n her face,

LEO  
"The real surprising part is immediately I woke and looked at the table I kept the pink nylon containing the cloth but it was not there. I checked everywhere in my room but it was gone. She went with it."

AVA

52

"This's real strange,son.I am worried and confused."

LEO

"I rushed out to the living room but everywhere were quiet.I sat on the sofa to think and fell asleep on it later."

AVA

"The soul of my daughter is still within us,she watches us."

LEO

"Mum,what do you think about my dead sister choosen a wife for me?."

AVA

"It cannot be disobeyed.There must be serious reason all these are happening."

LEO

"Like what,mum?."

AVA

"I don't know,but I think for your dead sister to choose that girl as your wife,the girl must be real good."

LEO

"Mum,even immediately i opened our door and saw that girl,I liked her instantly and there's this humility ozzing out from her."

AVA

"You see,Scarlet must have seeing same think spiritually."

LEO

"This is getting more complicated mum."

AVA

"Go prepare,let me get breakfast ready,I have so much to do today.We'll talk about this again."

As if he hears her,Scarlet's child,Greg cries out from his baby cot in Ava's room. His grandmum rises and quickly heads to attend to him.She says,

AVA

Let me attend to Greg."

## AFTERNOON:EXT

One week later, Ava and Leo and Cindy stand outside in the parking lot of Marketgate shopping center, Lancashire, near Ava's car and discuss. Ava smiles warmly at Cindy and says,

AVA

"Cindy, I know what we told you surprised you. We need your understanding and co-operation on this."

Cindy eyes hit the ground and she says without looking up.

CINDY

"Honestly, ma'am, I must confess, this is strange to me"

LEO

"Yea, strange to all of us. I've never hear such before."

AVA

"I know my son adores you and I like you too. If my dead daughter chooses you for his brother, then all of us cannot be wrong about you."

Cindy looks up and smiles softly and says,

CINDY

"Ma'am I will need some time to think about it. I barely met your son, we must get to study each other to see if we are compatible."

LEO

"I would want us date atleast to know each other. I got interested in you right from the day you knocked on our door and I opened and saw you."

CINDY

"I am listening to this because of the source of the message."

AVA

"The spirit of my daughter cannot make mistake. Please my daughter, think about it."

CINDY

"Okay, ma'am, let the will of God be done. Give me time."

AVA

54

"Okay, let me give two of you chance to talk, I am going to make some phone calls in my car."

She opens her car door and slides into the drivers seat and jams it, brings out her phone and dials a number.

LEO holds Cindy's hand and steps aside from the car and smiles into her face. He says,

LEO

"You are very beautiful, I would be the happiest man to have you as a wife."

Cindy smiles and looks away in embarrassment.

LEO

"Look at me, are you ashamed."

CINDY

"NO,

Shakes her head and still looks away,

LEO

"The spirit of my dead sister confirms my it for me. I adore you."

She looks at the ground, smile plays on her lips. He watches her, her curl blond hair adorns her head, she wears a red gown which drops below her knee length, her big strong breast struggles for fresh air from top of her v neck cut of her blouse. She is average built, five-seven tall, with beautiful clean clear skin. Cindy looks up to his face and says,

CINDY

"I hope you are who you says you are. I don't want you play with my heart."

LEO

"Please trust me, I know it won't be easy but believe I truly adore you."

CINDY

"Okay, let's see how it goes, I must know you well before anything."

LEO

"Let's date to get to know each other well."

CINDY

"Good."

## INSIDE THE CAR:INT

Ava finishes her call and turns to see if Leo and Cindy are still talking. They are still busy talking, she checks her watch and time says three-fifteen. She glances at the rearview mirror and slides lower in the car seat. Her hair is oiled and she wears an orange blouse over a black skirt.

CUT TO:

## AFTERNOON:EXT

Leo hugs Cindy and kisses her, she allows him kiss her. He says to her,

LEO

"I got to be going, we have many things to attend to in the office. See you this weekend."

CINDY

"Okay, I need to go back to work. Let me say goodbye to your mum."

Hand in hand, they walk to the car and immediately Ava notices their presence, she smiles at her.

CINDY

"I will be going back to work ma'am. Thank you for coming around to see me."

AVA

"The pleasure is mine. Please take care of yourself. See you soon, my daughter."

CINDY

"I will ma'am, and take care of yourself too."

Ava nods and smiles the more. Cindy turns to Leo, says her goodbye and heads off towards the glass entrance door of the taylor shop. Two of her colleagues watches her from inside, through the glass door as she approaches.

BACK TO:

## FROM THE PARKING LOT:

LEO WATCHES HER BACK AS SHE WALKS, HE SMILES HAPPILY AND OPENS THE CAR DOOR AND slides in. Ava behind the steering wheel roars the car engine to life and levels the gear to drive and slowly rolls the car out the parking lot of Marketgate shopping center, Lancashire and enters onto the street and drives towards Bexley. Ava looks at Leo and asks,



AVA

56

"How did it go?."

Leo glances at her and says,

LEO

"Mum, she likes me too and from what I feel she's going to be mine."

AVA

"I pray so, I really like her and she'll make a good wife."

LEO

"Scarlet made a good choice, mum. Cindy is very beautiful."

AVA

"I know, for Scarlet to visit you in your dream and instruct you to get married to Cindy, one thing is sure, she Cindy has the quality. She's beautiful and humble."

LEO

"Mum, I am already dreaming the day she would become my wife."

Ava smiles and concentrates on the road.

DISSOLVE TO:

EVENING:EXT

Three months later, Ava drives her Toyota car with Leo in the front seat and eases to a stop a few distance from a modern large house at Kenyon Lane, Dinckley. It is a large house overlooking River Ribble. She kills the engine and the front door of the house opens and cindy steps out, beaming with smile. Ava opens her door and Leo opens his side of door too and steps down. He scans the environment as his mother closes the drivers door and walks to where Leo stands. Cindy descends the steps and approaches to welcomes them. Leo smiles at her as she stops befor them. He holds her hand and pecks her cheek. Cindy embraces Ava, all smiles. Cindy says,

CINDY

"Welcome to our house."

Throws her hand towards the beautiful house. Cool breeze from the river blows across and caresses them. From inside of the house, a middle aged heavysset brunnet watches them from a slight opening of window. As Cindy and the visitor get to close, the heavysset woman leaves the window and walks into a room. Cindy grabs the door handle and opens it and stteps aside to allow mother and son into the house. As Leo walks pass, Cindy gently closes the door behind her and waves them

to sit on the sofa. Ava and Leo lowers themselves to a double sofa and Cindy walks off and enters a room.

Few seconds later, the heavyset brunnet precedes a tall large man whose jaw is covered with white beards. His head has started to recede at the back and he stands straight and fit. The heavyset woman is about five-seven and she has a large breast. Cindy walks behind them as they walk into the living room without any hurry. The man wears a red checkered shirt over a blue jean trouser and the woman wears a brown gown with some flowery designs. Her name is Alice while her husband's name is Ryan. She smiles at their visitors and says,

ALICE

"Welcome to our humble home."

Ava smiles and responds,

AVA

"Thank you."

Leo nods with a smile on his lips,

Ryan smiles at them too and says his welcome and both of them pick their seats. Cindy withdraws to a corner by the wall away from sight. Ryan says,

RYAN

"What do we offer you. We have wine, coffee..?."

Ava shakes her head and replies,

AVA

"Thank you, we don't need anything, we're okay."

Alice watches them, Leo watches Ryan and Cindy listens from her corner. Ava adjusts on the sofa and speaks,

AVA

"We come to see you and discuss something important with you."

Ryan and Alice listen and watch her intently.

AVA

"This is my only son, Leo. He is so in love and interested in Cindy. In fact we are here to ask for her hand in marriage."

Ryan clears his throat and says,

RYAN

"Well, I must say, Cindy told us about the two of them and she intimidated us you'd be coming."

Ava nods, Leo watches and listens,

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ALICE

"Cindy has live with us right from when she was ten, she's my niece and she was brought up in a good way."

AVA

"Cindy is a good girl and it's very obvious she was raised well by a good family."

Alice smiles softly, happy because of the praise. She nods in affirmative. Ryan relaxes back to the sofa and says,

RYAN

"She told us everything about how they started and how much they love each other. Well we can't stop her from getting married, but we decided, if she must get married, we can only allow her marry to a royal family or to a very rich home."

CUT TO:

INSIDE:

Cindy shakes her head sadly and leans to the wall with her two arms, her palms covers her face.

BACK TO:

THE LIVING ROOM:

Leo, looks at Ryan, his eyes red with anger and disappointment. He looks up to the ceiling and looks down to the floor and stares at Ryan and Alice. Ava glances at him and returns her eyes to Ryan and Alice, she says,

AVA

"They love each other and that is very important, and my son can comfortably take care of a wife."

ALICE

"We're not saying your son cannot take care of Cindy, we are only saying we want a more better suitor for her."

RYAN

"Sorry, I will not allow Cindy to marry a low class. She's beautiful and she's made for a prince."

LEO

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"Sir, please don't deny i and Cindy the chance to enjoy our love. I love her so much and she loves me too, I am from a decent home. I promise to take care of her and make her happy forever."

Ryan slowly rises from his seat and his wife does same and Ryan says,

RYAN

"No, is our final answer, goodbye. Please close the door as you go out."

Ava rises from the sofa and glares at them, she angrily stares at them and urges Leo who still sit to rise, Leo gently stands and shakes his head in dissatisfaction.

CUT TO:

INSIDE:

Cindy rubs off the tears in her eyes and sadly runs through a door into her room and locks the door and throws herself on the bed and cries out sadly.

BACK TO:

THE LIVING ROOM:

Ryan and his heavyset wife stand and watch as Ava and Leo heads to the door. Alice smiles wryly and watches until Ava grabs the door handle and steps out, Leo stands and looks back and fixes his eyes at the couple briefly and Ryan waves bye to him, his face expressionless. Leo turns and walks through the door and closes it behind him. Alice turns to her husband and says,

ALICE

"We handled it well."

She plants a warm kiss on her husband's lips and they hold hands and enter through an open door.

CUT TO:

OUTSIDE

Ava opens the drivers door and slides in and Leo with a long face opens his side of door and sits in the car seat, closes the door and looks straight. Ava looks at him and shakes her head. She starts the car and puts the gear to reverse and starts to reverse the Toyota, no words passed between mother and son.

BACK TO:

## INSIDE THE HOUSE:

60

Ryan and Alice stops at a door and listen,soft sob from Cindy can be hear filtering through to them.Alice attempts to knock but her husband hold her hand and shakes his head and says to her,

RYAN

"Not a good idea,allow her,she will come to terms with the truth."

They walks away from the door,allowing Cindy to exhaust her sadness.

DISSOLVE TO:

EVEVING:INT

One week later,Cindy sit in the living room of Ava's house and discuss with Leo and his mother.The evening is young and it is on a Saturday.Cindy looks at the wall clock ticking away by the wall and time says six-thirty. She wears a black gown design with gold partens which is just below her knee lenght,Her blond her drops to her shoulder and her lips are painted red.She looks very beautiful.Ava wears a wine red gown and her hair is combed back and tied in a knot.Leo wears a blue trouser and a shirt unbuttoned to second,his white singlet hugs tight to his body.There are orange juice cups in their hands.Ava says,

AVA

"Cindy,what do you plan to do?."

CINDY

"Ma'am,I will have to call my brother who lives in another city.He will then contact our uncle who lives in Liverpool.They will marry me off to whosover I love."

AVA

"Good,and how long will this take?."

CINDY

"I will call him immediately I leaves here.It will depend on their time.As for me, I am ready to marry Leo as quickly as we can."

LEO

"Your aunt and her husband are mean.Why didn't she marry a king?."

CINDY

"She likes to be seen with the rich and opulent."

AVA

61

"Do they have a daughter?."

CINDY

"Yes, she's living with her average husband in Yorkshire."

LEO

"Why didn't they married her off to Prince of Wales or Duke of Edinburg. Or even a member of house of Lords."

Cindy chuckles and says,

CINDY

"My, cousin, their daughter refused her parents to decide who she married. She is the stubborn type."

AVA

"Well, I am happy you have your immediate family who'll decide."

CINDY

"They even warned me to stop seeing Leo, she threatens to lock me inside if I flaunt her orders."

AVA

"She's crazy. what an arrant nonsense."

LEO

"I am baffled by them."

Cindy looks at the wall clock again and says,

CINDY

"I should be going. I want to call my brother and explain things to him."

AVA

"Okay, let us know his decision."

CINDY

"Okay, ma'am. I will."

She rises from the sofa and Leo stands to see her off. Just that instant, Greg playfully starts to play in his cot, by the corner of the living room. His voice high as he continues in his baby play. Cindy stops and walks to his cot and holds his hand and plays with him. Ava watches from where she sit. Greg stops his baby play and fixes his gaze on Cindy. He smiles at her and Cindy carries him up from the cot, smiling, and she pecks Greg's cheeks and holds him for a few seconds. Greg keeps smiling happily. Cindy smiles at him and says,

CINDY

62

"He's very handsome."

Leo who stands besides her says,

LEO

"His parents were very beautiful people."

AVA

"Bring him here."

Cindy takes the baby to his grandmother and puts him in her hands and turns to go. The baby cries out, kicks his leg in protest. Cindy stops and says to him.

CINDY

"Don't cry, I will be back. I will carry you as long as you want."

She waves bye to him and Ava smiles and starts to play with the baby to distract him. Cindy and Leo heads to the door and step out. Leo closes the door behind him and suddenly grabs Cindy by the hand. She stops and turns to face him, and he attacks her, kisses her on the lips and she kisses him too. They kiss long and stops and disengage. He walks hand in hand with her to the sidewalk and heads to the nearest bus station.

DISSOLVE TO:

AFTERNOON:EXT

Two weeks later, Cindy stands outside of a fashion shop in the busy shopping district of Lancashire talking on phone with Leo. She laughs happily and says,

CINDY

"I am happy we are finally getting married in few days time. Aunt Alice and her husband said they will not come to my wedding."

LEO

'Oh, that'll be their loss. It is a pity they are not ready to face the reality."

CINDY

"Ashley, my brother talked to them to understand and accept you as family but they refused to listen to him."

LEO

"Awww, I understand their pains. I pray they change their mind."

CINDY

63

"I will go and talk to them to reason with me."

LEO

"Okay,do that.So what and what have you bought?."

CINDY

"I am standing outside a fashion shop,I want to pick few things until when we come for the main shopping."

LEO

"I will close late from work,maybe we do that morrow."

CINDY

"Okay,talk to you later,I have a lot to do today."

LEO

"Okay,babe,take care of yourself."

CINDY

"I will, and you too."

LEO

"Kisses my love.I love you so much."

CINDY

"Kisses to you too, my king.I love you too.Bye!."

She cuts call and enters through the glass door of the fashion shop.

DISSOLVES TO:

MORNING:EXT

ONE WEEK LATER,the morning of a Saturday,time is eleven thirty.Leo and Cindy in their wedding wears emerge from the huge entrance door of St.Peter's church,preced by the page boy and girl,the bestman and the maid of honour following behind with their bridal train.Family members of both couple file along,only Mr.Ryan and his wife Alice are conspicuously absent from the mini crowd of family and friends of the celebrants.Leo wears a wine red blazer over a black inner jacket and black trouser,and Cindy wears a beautiful pink wedding dress.Ava wears royal blue gown with gold partterns and her hair drops to her shoulder.Cindy's brother Peter in black suit and white shirt with red bow tie,walks along with their maternal Uncle, Williams,who is in red suit over a white trouser and red shoes.He is in his later fifties,average built and his hair is silver blond.Peter is about thirty years and he is tall and looks athletic.His



honey blond hair is combed back and oiled. He is handsome and his jaw is clean shaving.

The wedding train descends from the steps and pours out onto the church compound, photographer quickly snaps pictures of the couple and guest. More pictures and smiles, laughter and joy, the guests begin to drive out to the venue of the reception.

DISSOLVE TO:

AFTERNOON: EXT

The reception is at an open field of Royal Palm Hotel at Bexley. Tables and chairs are set in a way to seat about thirty guest and all tables and chairs are covered with blue linings. In seconds, the guest starts to arrive and as cars drive to a stop in the small parking lot. Music plays from a speaker by the corner. Within minutes the place filled up with guests and caterers in white over black, scurries about to make sure everything is in order. Ava and her customer and friend Mrs. Elsie walk to a table and sit, watching the happenings. Other guest pick their seats and wait.

CUT TO:

SAME MOMENT: INT

Inside a room at Royal palm Hotel, Leo and Cindy sit at the edge of a bed, smiling, laughing and waiting when they would be needed at the reception. Their shoes are kicked off from their legs, curtains parted but the glass window is closed as the airconditioner hums by the corner of the wall of the room. No lights are on, the bedsheets is ruffled and one side of it is almost fall off the large bed. Cindy lies down with her back to the bed, her legs dangles from the edge. Leo takes cue and does the same. They hold hands and suddenly Leo rolls close and kisses her on the lips and she kisses him back and pull away and says, smile plays on her lips.

CINDY

"Please don't rub off my lipstick. Hold yourself, we have so much kissing to do during our honeymoon."

LEO

"Our honeymoon is already begin."

CINDY

"Not yet, we have guests waiting for us."

LEO

"My love, you looks so beautiful in this pink wedding dress. You looks royal and I am proud to have you as my wife."

CINDY

65

"Thanks my love,you looks handsome  
in your suit too.I am very happy  
you are my husband."

He kisses her and they hold each other close after the kiss and chatter from the adjacent room where their bridal train are fills the air.Suddenly some people roars into laughter from the room.

BACK TO:

RECEPTION VENUE:EXT

FEW MINUTES LATER,The celebrants and their bridal train file to the reception venue from their hotel rooms and all pick their seats and the Master of ceremony calls them out to dance.Leo and Cindy stand and walks to the center and begin to dance to a love song.Few minutes of dancing,they sit people pours wine into their wine glass for the toast. As the master of ceremony calls for a toast,Ava happily walks to where Leo and Cindy stand and raises her wine glass to his and suddenly her eyes looks to a far corner of the reception and her eyes picks Scarlet sitting alone on seat at an empty table.She wears a white long gown designed with blue from the neck to the breast level.Ava stops and holds her cup midair,shock on her face.Her eyes almost pops out.Leo follows her gaze and Cindy too joins but none of them see what she is staring at.Suddenly Scarlet rises from the seat and turns and starts to walk away.The wine glass in Ava's hand falls off her hand and as she continues to look,Scarlet disappears into tin air.Suddenly Ava starts to slump and Leo quickly holds her and in panic asks her in a low voice to avoid attracting attention.

LEO

"Mum,what's it.Are you ill?."

AVA

"I saw her,I saw her."

Trying to get grip of herself,

LEO

"You saw who,mum?."

CINDY

"Mum,who did you saw?."

AVA

"Scarlet was sitting right over  
there,On that empty seat at the  
only empty table over there."

Pointing forward,towards the empty table.

They help her stand straight as some people notice and are walking towards them to know what's going on.

Mrs.Elsie is the first to come and her face looks worried and anxious,she asks,

ELSIE

66

"What's the matter,my friend?."

Ava shakes her head,not willing to respond.

Leo helps his mother towards her seat and Elsie asks again as she walks beside Ava.

ELSIE

"You looks terrified,my friend.What happened?."

LEO

"Ma'am,she felt dizzy and spilled her drink."

AVA

"I am okay,now,let's sit back to our chair."

Leo stand and watches them gently lower themselves to the seat and he turns and walks back to Cindy,who stands watching, looking worried.

The caterer and her team begin to serve food and more drinks and the music plays louder.

The wedding reception continues till about four-thirty in the afternoon and everyone starts to head to their different homes.

DISSOLVES TO:

EVENING:INT

Later in the evening,Leo and his wife stays back in the hotel for their honeymoon while Ava sits on the sofa in the living room.The help who babysat Greg while Ava went to the wedding has closed for the day and went home.Ava's only companion is Greg who is sleeping in his cot beside the sofa Ava sits.The time is eight in the evening.The window is open and cool breeze blows in from the window.The television is on but the volume is turned very low,its light is the only light on and it cast a low glow in the living room.Gradually,Ava starts to drift to sleep.She struggles to stay awake but sleep overpowers her.Soft breeze blows through the open window and lifts the curtain and allows it drops back.Ava starts to snore and suddenly she sees herself watching television and suddenly the front door opens and Scarlet walks in through the open door.Ava smiles at her and waves her to sit,but Scarlet stands and looks at her mother for a few seconds and says to her.

SCARLET

"Goodbye,mother.Please take care of my baby."

AVA

67

"You are here to take care of him too. Come and sit beside me. I miss you, my daughter."

Parts the sofa beside her,

SCARLET

"No, mum, I have only a little time."

AVA

"Sit for awhile with me, Scarlet."

SCARLET

"Goodbye, mother."

She turns and walks towards the open door. Her mother calls after her but she continues to walk until she walks out through the door and the door instantly closes by itself. Just that instant, Greg chooses that time to cry and his cry wakes wailing rises in the room and Ava wakes instantly, sweating profusely. She waits for a split second, her thought on the dream and Greg's wailing continues to call for her attention. She bends and puts her elbows to her knees, her head thrust forward as she her mind races through the dream she just had. Greg wails and kicks his legs in the air and reluctantly Ava rises and walks to his cot and picks him up and puts him close to her body and the baby quiets down. Silence returns to the room and Ava walks to the sofa and lowers herself onto it. She shakes her head and tears flow down her cheek. She looks at her grandson who's attention is on the musical on the television on the wall. Suddenly her phone starts to ring, she stares at it on the next sofa beside her. She tries to pick it and it stops ringing. She sits back and begins to rock Greg back to sleep. The phone starts to ring again and she reluctantly rises and picks it. Leo on the line.

AVA

"Hello, Leo."

LEO

"Mum, how are you coping without me in the house?"

He asks from the other end.

AVA

"I am managing. How are you and my daughter in-law doing?"

LEO

"Mum, she's doing fine. I call to know how you are doing. Bye, mum."

He cuts call.

## MORNING:INT

Cindy slowly wakes from sleep and her eyes fixed to the ceiling. Leo is already awake and out of the bed. He is not in the room. The day is Saturday. Cindy looks at the wall clock ticking away by the wall, time says six-thirty. She yawns and sits up on the bed. Gently she kicks off the bed cover from her feet and swings her feet down to the tiled-floor. The ceiling fan spins on low from the ceiling. She stands and walks to the mirror to check herself. Her blond hair tied in a knot at the back of her neck. Her reflection Stares at her from the mirror. Gently she runs her hand over her hair and turns away from the mirror. She wears lemon color night gown. Cindy walks to the door and heads out to the kitchen and begins to prepare breakfast. Suddenly the Leo walks into the kitchen through the door. She looks up and smiles at him and he smiles back too. He walks behind to her and kisses her on the lips.

CINDY

"Good, morning, my king."

She greets with smile still playing on her lips.

LEO

"Good, morning, my queen. Hope you had a beautiful dream?."

CINDY

"I slept soundly like a baby after your loving touches last night."

Leo beams with a smile and says,

LEO

"Will there be a repeat this morning, before I go out?."

Cindy smiles happily and shakes her head. She brakes egg into a small blue plate and looks up at him and says,

CINDY

"I think what you need is a good breakfast."

Leo runs his hand on her hair to smooth it more and kisses her on the right cheek.

LEO

"I think I need both, I can't get enough of you or I might not concentrate on the road when I go out."

CINDY

69

"I will consider your request. Lets see how it goes. Right now I want to prepare a good breakfast for the family."

Leo nods and kisses her on her lips and that instant, his mother walks in through the kitchen door. She cuts her eyes at them and smiles. Leo's hand is still on Cindy's shoulder, he smiles and winks at Cindy who smiles and brakes another egg into the blue plate.

Pleasantries exchanged and Ava says,

AVA

"Hope you'll allow her prepare breakfast. Please allow women space in the kitchen."

Leo smirks and says,

LEO

"Mum, I came in to get infected by her smile this morning."

AVA

"Okay, good. Are you now very infected?."

LEO

"Yes, mum, but I think I needs more."

Cindy laughs and says,

CINDY

"After eating breakfast I will then assess how much more you need."

AVA

"You hears your wife, now go. Leave me and my daughter in-law to talk to the kitchen utensils."

Leo and Cindy roars into laughter and Leo heads out the door. At the door, he stops and turns to wink at his wife. She waves him on, smile plays on her lips. As Leo's mother turns to look, she asks,

AVA

"I am still perceiving the smell of a man here."

Leo quickly walks out through the door and the women laughs out softly.

He walks to his room and enters the bathroom to shower. Few minutes later, all sit at the dinning table to eat their breakfast.

CUT TO:

SAME MORNING:INT

Leo crams the last of the egg in his plate and puts it between three slices of bread and take a big bite,his mouth full.Ava who sits at the head of the table occasionally cuts her eyes to his son and his wife as they are busy eating. Leo lifts his tea mug and sips and puts the cup down. Cindy looks at her mother in-law take a slow bite of her bread and egg.She chews gently and lifts her tea cup and takes and sips.She holds the tea cup midair and asks,

CINDY

"Mother,you are not enjoying this meal."

AVA

"I am,my daughter.Hope my son is not planning to fly to the moon from her?."

Leo stops chewing and looks at his mother,

CINDY

"Why do you ask mum?."

AVA

"I think he is in a hurry to leave the dinning table.My son, do you have an appointment?."

Leo cuts his eyes to Cindy and they smile to each other,he says,

LEO

"Mum,I am only showing how much I enjoy the breakfast my wife prepared for us.That's why I eat as if I am planning to rush off."

Cindy looks away and suppresses a smile.

AVA

"Okay,let me accept.It won't be long the result will be out."

LEO

"Mum,is it wrong to masticate a good meal vigorously?."

AVA

"Cindy,did you hear me say so,all I know is soon the result of your vigorous mastication and extra bedroom potion will manifest."

LEO

71

"Mum,I don't understand what you're talking about."

Little smile on his lips,Cindy looks down to the floor,fights hard to suppress a laugh.

AVA

"I know you may not understand,my son.My joy and prayer is, soon, Greg will have a playmate."

CINDY

"Mama!,ah,

She covers her mouth with her hand,shaking her head as she laughs out a little.

Leo laugh and says,

LEO

"Mum,mum!,please allow your young kid to grow naturally."

He laughs happily.

AVA

"All I am saying is,Greg is no longer comfortable alone."

LEO

"Mum,so you are now his mouthpiece?."

AVA

"Yes,he complained to me about it last night."

They all burst out laughing happily.

BACK TO:

SAME MOMENT:INT

In their bedroom,Cindy's phone starts to ring on a bedside drawer.After six rings it stops and resumes ringing again.After four rings it stops and that moment Cindy and Leo walks into the bedroom and Leo attacks her. He grabs her by the waist and draws her close to him and begins to kiss her passionately.

CUT TO:

MORNING:INT

Alice and her husband sit in their living room talking.

ALICE

"I am troubled in my spirit."



RYAN

72

"Why are you troubled, my wife?."

ALICE

"Now that Cindy finally married that man, I don't think I will have the courage to face her again. I felt I wronged her."

RYAN

"We did not wrong her, all we wanted was the best for her."

Alice shakes her head and bends low, puts her right palm to her jaw, her elbow on her knee. Her husband tries to comfort her, puts his hand to her shoulder.

RYAN

"Cheer up, my love. She will realize sometime in the future."

ALICE

"I failed my sister, she must be angry with me in her grave. I didn't attend the wedding of her only daughter."

RYAN

"Please stop blaming yourself. We did what we believed was best for Cindy."

ALICE

"Our daughter, Christiana got married and we did not attend her wedding and we refused to attend Cindy's wedding. I think we were very wrong, wanting only the noble or rich to marry our daughters."

RYAN

"Please stop this blaming and regret. You makes us look wicked."

ALICE

"I am sorry, I just feel so troubled in my soul."

RYAN

"Look at me, look."

TRIES TO MAKE HER STRAIGHTEN UP AND LOOK AT HIM.

SHE CLEANS THE TEARS FROM HER EYES WITH THE BACK OF HER FAT HAND AND SLOWLY STRAIGHTENS UP AND LOOKS AT HIS FACE. He pulls her close to her and says,

RYAN

73

"I know how you feel.I feel terrible too.I think we should fix it."

ALICE

"How?"

Looks into his eyes for answers.

RYAN

"We must visit Cindy and Christiana in their homes to apologise."

ALICE

"Yes,I agree with you."

BACK TO:

SAME TIME:INT

Leo and Cindy kiss each other and Cindy hides her blond hair under a shower cap and walks into the bathroom to shower.

Leo sit on the double sofa in his room and exhales happily.He punches some digits on his phone and puts it to his ear to wait it to wring.He cuts his eyes to the mirror in the room and watches his reflexion in the mirror.The phone rings at the other end and he waits.After five rings,no response,he redials and waits.

DISSOLVES TO:

AFTERNOON: TWO WEEKS LATER:EXT

On a Sunday afternoon,Cindy and her mother in-law,Ava,sit and watch televison in the living room.Mr. Bean movie is showing on the screen.The women laugh happily as Mr.Bean displays his funny character in the movie.Ava looks at the clock on the wall and time is one-thirty.

AVA

"Your husband is yet back,I wonder what's kepping him.."

Cindy looks away from the television and turns to her mother in-law.

CINDY

"He told me he might branch off to see a friend."

AVA

"Okay,I am planning to.."

Cindy's phone starts to ring and she grabs it from beside her.Checks the caller id and her brother Peter is on the line.

CINDY  
"Hello,peter"

PETER  
"Hey Cindy,how are you all doing?."

CINDY  
"We are doing just great,and you?."

PETER  
"I am okay,listen, Cindy."

Ava concentrates on the movie showing on the television.

PETER  
"Right now I am in our house, and we have imortant guests who wants to see you."

CINDY  
"Guests,who are they?."

PETER  
"I can't explain much on phone,but they request to come see you."

CINDY  
"To come see me here in Bexley or they want me come over?."

PETER  
"Your place."

CINDY  
"When?,and I'd like to know who they are."

Ava cuts her eys at Cindy and returns to the television.

PETER  
"I will explain when we come over to your place."

CINDY  
"Okay,so when are you coming?."

PETER  
"What of right now?."

CINDY  
"Right now?"

PETER  
"Will it disrupt your programm?."

CINDY  
"No,I will be waiting."

PETER

75

"Okay, see you later."

He cuts call from the other end.

Cindy looks at her mother in-law who already waiting to hear her.

CINDY

"That, was my brother. He said some people wants to see me, and he wants to bring them over here."

AVA

"Who are they?."

CINDY

"He wouldn't say, said he will explain when they get here."

AVA

"Okay, let them come, I guess you need to start preparing some food for them. How many people are coming?."

CINDY

"I dunno."

AVA

"Just prepare enough for everybody."

CINDY

"Okay, ma'am."

Rising from the sofa. That moment, Greg who lies in his cot a foot away, starts to call for her attention by throwing his legs up playfully in the air, hands too. Cindy walks to the cot and plays with him a little and carries him up from the cot and kisses his cheek. He rewards her with a wide smile and his right hand grabs some of her blond hair.

CINDY

"Come and play with grandma, while I go prepare food."

She walks to the sofa and lowers him to Ava's hands, on the lap.

AVA

"Hey, son, go crawl and play, allow grandma to rest."

CINDY

"You hear her, Greg, you may start school soon."

AVA

76

"That will be nice. Some of your mates are already kicking football."

Cindy laughs and starts to walk to the kitchen, Ava laughs too and plays with Greg.

DISSOLVES TO:

AFTERNOON: INT

Later in the afternoon, Leo appears from a door that connects to Scarlet's room. He enters through another open door and walks into the Living room. The buzzer sounds and he stops on his track. It sounds again, he walks to the door and cracks the chain open slightly, peers through the open space and Peter stands at the door. Leo quickly unchains the door and throws it open. Two men and a woman stand near Peter who smiles at Leo and starts to walk inside. Leo looks at the people and smiles to no one in particular. He steps aside to allow them in. The men look about early sixty and the woman looks mid-fifty. The first man who walks behind Peter has full hair with some good grays in the jaw, his head is adorned with silver blond. He is average built and the second man is thick and stout, his hair has started to recede to the back and he has a thick beard, all gray. He is shorter of the two. They are all in black suits and white shirt, red ties with blue strip, their shoes are shining black. The woman is tall and beautiful, her honey blond hair struggles with grays for dominance. She wears a bright red skirt suit with white inner, she wears a black shoe and a black hand bag hangs on her shoulder, her hair drops to her shoulder. Peter wears a yellow blazer over a black jeans and a black Reebok covers his feet. Leo welcomes them and smiles slightly bows as the visitors file into the living room. He closes the door and waves them to seat. The visitors pick their seats and relax. Leo excuses himself and hastens into the other part of the house.

Few seconds later, Ava walks into the living room wearing a black gown adorned with gold at the neck and front. She smiles and shares pleasantries with the visitors and excuses herself and walks to meet with Cindy. At the door to Leo's bedroom, Ava meets Cindy already dressed and coming out to meet the visitors. Leo follows behind. Cindy opens the door to the living room and enters, all eyes on her, Leo Peter smiles and rises immediately as she nears. They hug and Peter steps back and sits back on the sofa. The elderly visitors watch her as she greets them. She smiles and curtseys and welcomes them once again. Ava slides to a single sofa and Leo excuses himself and enters a room.

CINDY

"What can we offer you?.  
Wine, food, orange juice."

She asks to her brother, and raises her brow questionly at the elderly people.

PETER

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"What do you think?."

Peter asks looking at the taller of the men, whose name is Tom. Tom clears his throat and smiles.

TOM

"I think it's best we discuss the reason we are here first."

His colleagues nod in support.

PETER

"Okay, good. This is my sister, Cindy, and her husband, Leo, just welcomed us earlier. Here is her mother in-law, Ava."

He relaxes back to the sofa.

AVA

"Once again, you are welcome."

Beautiful smile plays on her lips.

TOM

"Thank you. My name is Tom and my colleagues here are Emile and Franny."

He waits for that to simmer down. Emile and Franny smile and wait.

TOM

"We are from Muxemburg and, we are personal assistants to His Royal Highness, grand Duke, Patrick Steffen."

Ava listens intently and Cindy concentrates and listens.

Tom turns and signals Emile to speak.

EMILE

"We know you'd be wondering, what brought us here."

Ava nods and Cindy glances at her brother Peter and returns her eyes and concentrates on Emile.

EMILE

"Well, it's been a long mission, and finally we are here today. The duke, sent us to you, after a very long search and."

AVA

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"Please, I am not following, sir."

EMILE

"It's a long story. You see, The only son of our Duke, who is the crown prince, Had a misunderstanding with his father and angrily left home and since then, no one knew his where about. All effort to locate him failed, for many years different investigators had been hired to find him."

TOM

"None of them were successful to trace him. Not until a month ago when one of them had a lucky break and he found out that our duke's son settled in various countries until he finally settles here, in United Kingdom."

FRANNY

"He changed his name from Prince Roland Steffen to, David Goodman. Sine then, his parents has been living in misery."

Cindy strethens up in surprise, he looks at peter and he shrugs and rubs his face.

TOM

"The duke is senile and gradually nearing his grave. After many consultations with man and God, it is demanded that the crown prince or someone who is his blood must ascend the throne."

Leo walks into the living room from where he has been listening behind a door. He walks and perches on the arm chair beside his wife. Cindy looks up to his face and he smiles a little at her.

EMILE

"When it was found out the Country the crown prince migrated to, the Duke and concil of king makers sent us to fetch him."

TOM

"We found out that the crown prince and his wife are dead, and two of you are the only children they left behind."

AVA

"This is amazing to hear."

EMILE

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"Yes, amazing indeed."

Leo drapes his hand over Cindy's shoulder and she relaxes her arm on his right lap. She cuts her eyes to Peter, expects him to show surprise and eager to hear more but Peter relaxes with careless abandon, his eyes half closed. Some silence, the only sound in the room is the ticking of the wall clock on the wall. Suddenly Franny breaks the brief silence.

FRANNY

"We are here for two things. One to find the right heir and two to bring him or her home."

AVA

"How do you do that. I mean, be able to identify the right person?."

TOM

"In our country, we have way a duke or duchess is selected. One, God picks and two there will be another confirmation. That way, to erase doubts."

EMILE

"Please let his two children step forward."

Leo lifts his hand from Cindy's shoulder to allow her stand. She sits back and waits till her brother stands. Peter slowly rises and steps forward few feet before Emile and Tom. Cindy steps forward and stands beside Peter. Tom rises from the sofa and stands before them. He stretches his hand to Franny and she opens the blue hand bag and brings out a gold rings and places it on Peter's head and steps a little bit back and everyone watch. He again stretches his hand to Franny and she puts her hand into the blue hand bag and hands him a purple garment which opens in front till down. Tom steps forward and Emile hands him over the purple garment. Tom drapes it over Leo and steps back. Franny dips her hand into the blue bag again and brings out a ruby ring. She steps forward and wears it on Leo's left finger and steps back. Three of them stretches their hands forward toward Leo and says in Unison.

TOM, EMILE, FRANNY

"Let the choice of our God emerge."

They chant and repeat it trice.

Ava and Leo watch nervously, their eyes wide in apprehension.

Suddenly the purple garment drops from Leo's body and the gold ring falls off from his head, the ruby ring slowly slides out from his finger and drops to the tiled-floor. Tom waves him back to his seat and Leo walks to the sofa. Tom picks the large gold ring and places it on Cindy's head. She



places her hand to her chest as it beats.

80

TOM  
"Step closer"

She obeys and half close her eyes,

Tom and Emile repeats the circle and Franny wears her the ruby ring on her left finger.They steps a bit back and chants.

TOM,EMILE,FRANNY  
"Let the choice of our God emerge."

THEY WAIT AND WATCH AND SUDDENLY THE GOLD RING STARTS TO SHINE WITH LIGHTS AROUND IT.A gentle whirlwind swirls around her,and a dim light sparkles from the ruby ring.

Tom and Emily and Franny slighly bows and smiles at her.

TOM  
"All hail our duchess."

EMILE  
"God bless the chosen queen."

FRANNY  
"May you live long,your majesty."

CINDY STANDS FIXED TO A SPOT,THE SWIRLING WHIRLWIND STOPS AND THE LIGHT FROM THE LARGE RING ON HER HEAD GOES OFF. FRANNY HOLD HER AND LEADS HER BACK TO THE SOFA WHERE ONLY HER NOW SITS. Leo rises and walk to her and smiles and hugs her.They hold each other for a while and a few seconds later,they disengage and peter pecks her on the forehead.

PETER  
Congratulations,my sister."

CINDY  
"Thank you."

Leo kisses her on the lips and beams with smile. Ava steps forward and Cindy quickly rises to her feet and they hug.

TOM  
"You'll have to travel down to our country for proper coronation,and your husband must accompany you,beacuse,he will perform the royal duties with you."

Leo eyes widens,and he throws his hands forward,unable to speak at that time.

EMILE  
"Yes,even though she married out of our country,it's imperative."

CINDY

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"I am not understanding."

FRANNY

"A duchess or duke cannot be separated from his or her spouse, even if the spouse is from another country. Two of them must discharge the royal duties."

Cindy smiles and hugs Leo tight and Ava lowers herself to the sofa and tries to clear her eyes from an unseen cobweb.

Cindy disengages from Leo and walks to Peter.

CINDY

"Wherever I live, you shall live. Your love for me will help perform my royal duties."

Peter smiles and hugs her.

PETER

"No matter who we are, we are still going to be loving siblings. May God give you the wisdom to discharge your royal duties and may it please God to protect you."

CINDY

"Amen, thank you, my ever loving brother."

Ava clasps her hands and smiles,

AVA

"Gentle men, you've told us why you came. I think it's now time to dine and wine. Let's sit over there at the dining table for refreshment."

Waves towards the dining table.

Cindy turns towards the connecting door to the kitchen and Ava reads her right,

AVA

"You are not entering that kitchen your highness, make yourself comfortable on the seat while I serve everyone. Go, go sit down."

CINDY

"Mum!, I must still do what I have to do. Please let me help."

She shakes her head and hastens into the kitchen.

FADE OUT