

Game Night
by
Craig Williams

5th Revision
October 2010

Red Wall Productions
400 W. 43rd St.
#17S
New York, NY 10036
917-579-5227
Gamenightmovie@gmail.com

Copyright 2008

FADE IN:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - EARLY MORNING

The sights and sounds at sunrise in the big city.

VIVIAN BRAITHWAITE, pragmatic and cool, steps out of a taxi. She's a grown ass-woman, with a little girl's heart.

Vivian walks up to a Starbucks, pulls at the door, it's closed. She checks her watch, too early.

Vivian walks down the block and enters 1475 Broadway.

INT. CECE'S LIVING ROOM

ANGELO LEBLANC, smooth talking powder keg has his arm around the neck of CECE BRAITHWAITE, Vivian's sister and the baby of the family in every sense.

CeCe is choking. She digs her nails into Angelo's arm and pushes his arm up close enough to bite him. Angelo enjoys the pain a little too much. He releases her.

CeCe jets to another room, slamming the door behind her.

INT. VIVIAN BRAITHWAITE'S OFFICE

Vivian enters her office and opens the blinds.

DESTINY BENNETT, entitled but loving, walks right in.

DESTINY

I win.

Vivian is startled.

VIVIAN

What is wrong with you?

DESTINY

I got in first.

VIVIAN

That dried up spit on yesterday's blouse says otherwise. You worked all night?

DESTINY

It's on your desk. I'm so good, I'm gonna have to give myself another raise.

VIVIAN
We'll see how good you are.

DESTINY
This deal is gonna be big. Holler
when you finish.

Destiny exits. Vivian leafs through the presentation.

INT. CECE'S KITCHEN

Angelo rinses off his wound in a sink full of dirty dishes.

INT. BRENDA AND LYMON LEBLANC'S KITCHEN

BRENDA LEBLANC competent and impatient, dressed in a flight attendant's uniform, takes vitamins. LYMON LEBLANC aimless and pensive, still in his pajamas, passes toast to Brenda.

BRENDA
I can't.

LYMON
Look at the color, that's just a
perfect piece of toast.

BRENDA
Your masters in English is coming
in handy.

Brenda exits the kitchen.

INT. CECE'S LIVING ROOM

Methodically, Angelo throws plates against the bedroom door.

INT. BRENDA AND LYMON LEBLANC'S LIVING ROOM

Brenda finishes her coffee. Lymon helps her on with her coat.

BRENDA
Doesn't even have caffeine, so why
do I bother?

She hands him the coffee cup.

LYMON
Wait. Stop.

BRENDA
The rent check is on my desk.

Lymon bends over and kisses Brenda's stomach.

LYMON

Hello in there. Take care of Mommy.

He listens to her belly.

LYMON

I heard a fart, must be a boy. Or was that you?

BRENDA

What are you gonna do today?

LYMON

Write, write and write.

BRENDA

I'll be back on Saturday, will the house be clean by then?

LYMON

Love you.

She exits. He boots up laptop. Removes vacuum cleaner from closet and pushes it to the middle of the room as he turns on the TV with remote.

Abandons the vacuum cleaner and makes himself comfortable on the couch, remote in hand.

Brenda comes back in, grabs the remote control out of his hand and throws it across the room, smashing it to pieces.

She exits.

Lymon moves closer to the TV, flips the channels manually.

INT. DR D'S LIVING ROOM

DR. DEVON DEVRY, sly and sociable, bursts through his front door. Everyone calls him D. He's the host with the most, loved by all, especially the ladies. D runs through the living room into his bedroom.

INT. CECE'S LIVING ROOM

Angelo walks through the living room crunching broken dishes and glass beneath his feet, randomly knocking things over.

INT. DR D'S BEDROOM

D changes, old clothes left in a pile on the floor as he leaves the bedroom.

INT. DR D'S KITCHEN

D drops fruit and yogurt into a blender. Pours the concoction into a travel mug and exits, leaving behind another mess.

INT. VIVIAN'S OFFICE

Vivian is flipping through the last page of the presentation. She's not happy with it.

VIVIAN

Destiny, could you come in for a sec?

DESTINY

Do I get employee of the month?

VIVIAN

This is not much different from what I handed you yesterday.

DESTINY

I'll fill in the other stuff verbally. You know I'm better on my feet. You cross the I's and dot the T's.

VIVIAN

You know what? Um - I'll have Noah take a look at it, maybe kick up the graphics.

DESTINY

Thank you partner.

VIVIAN

It's just I don't really have time - leaving early today,

DESTINY

What other job you running to today? Your mother, your boyfriend or your sister?

VIVIAN

It's my mother's birthday. I'm taking her to lunch and D is having his little Game Night get together.

DESTINY

Of course you said you would cook.

VIVIAN

He asked me.

DESTINY
Before or after you volunteered?

VIVIAN
Man advice. The nerve. You spent
the night here on the couch.

DESTINY
With Carlton sleeping next to me.
He brought me dinner and massaged
my feet while I worked.

VIVIAN
Shut up!

Vivian's cell phone rings. Destiny checks the clock.

DESTINY
It's 6:15 AM. That cannot be good.

Vivian checks the caller ID on her cell phone, she answers.

VIVIAN
(On phone)
CeCe!

CECE (V.O.)
Help me!

VIVIAN
What's the matter?

CECE (V.O.)
Please come over right now.

VIVIAN
I'm on my way.

Vivian hangs up the phone and grabs her stuff. As she's
running out the door, she yells back at Destiny.

VIVIAN
I'll call you later.

DESTINY
And so it begins.

INT. CECE'S LIVING ROOM

Angelo leans against the door, screwdriver in hand.

CECE
I just called the cops.

Angelo is amused, not at all panicked.

ANGELO
Tell them I said hey.

Angelo knocks over a few more things on his way out.

EXT. CECE'S BUILDING

Vivian exits a cab, runs up the stairs in front of the 5 story walk-up, keys in hand. Fumbles with the lock as she rings the intercom buzzer. Finally, the door clicks. Vivian rushes in.

INT. CECE'S LIVING ROOM

Vivian enters cautiously.

VIVIAN
CeCe. CeCe, where are you?

Vivian tip toes through broken glass, and finds CeCe on the floor behind a chair.

Vivian sits next to CeCe, checks her face and looks her over.

CECE
Please don't say anything right now.

CeCe lays her head on Vivian's lap, closes her eyes. Vivian looks around taking in the wreckage.

INT. CECE'S LIVING ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Order somewhat restored, CeCe sleeps on the couch. Vivian serves expertly prepared omelets on paper plates.

VIVIAN
Breakfast is ready.

CeCe wakes up.

CECE
Damn that looks good. I don't like mushrooms.

VIVIAN
The mushroom one is mine.

CECE
I had mushrooms?

VIVIAN
You didn't even have eggs.

CECE
All of my dishes are broken?

VIVIAN
As long as he has a keys to your
place, you're not safe. You're
staying with me.

CECE
I thought I wasn't allowed in your
apartment without supervision.

VIVIAN
That's because all of my stuff ends
up here. But since you won't be
here anymore, I'll know where all
my stuff is.

CECE
I feel so stupid.

VIVIAN
I'm always gonna take care of you.

CECE
Bloomingdales is having a sale.

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - LATE MORNING

Vivian and CeCe browse in Housewares.

CECE
I really wish I could find those
same dishes.

VIVIAN
Do you know how much work I have to
do today?

CECE
You're the boss, you need to play
hooky every once in a while.

VIVIAN
I never play hooky, that's why I'm
the boss.

CECE
These are nice. They're good for
everyday and dress up.

Vivian looks at the price.

VIVIAN
Not for a hundred and twenty
dollars a setting they're not. You
have a hundred dollars total.

CECE
When did you get so cheap?

CeCe's cell phone rings. She checks the caller ID.

CECE
Guess who?

VIVIAN
Hit ignore.

CeCe ignores Vivian and answers the phone.

CECE
(on phone)
I don't know why I'm answering.

VIVIAN
Unbelievable.

CECE
(on phone)
I'm getting new dishes. No - No -
You had no right -

CeCe listens for a long time. Vivian watches. CeCe hangs up.

CECE
Can I get these? I promise I'll pay
you back.

VIVIAN
Let's go get Mommy's birthday
present and I'll think about it.

CECE
I gotta go.

CeCe gestures to HOLLY, overworked sales person rushes over.

VIVIAN
Go where?

CECE
I have a meeting with a client.

VIVIAN
Do I look like a fool?

HOLLY
Have you settled on something?

VIVIAN
Obviously not.

CECE
We'd like eight, no better make it
twelve sets of this one.

VIVIAN
Four.

CECE
Ten.

VIVIAN
You don't have ten friends.

CECE
Okay, eight. Quick Holly, run.

Holly runs.

VIVIAN
We still have to get mommy's gift.
You didn't like the hats.

CECE
You get whatever you want. I really
need to get home.

VIVIAN
For what?

CECE
Leave it alone.

VIVIAN
You called me for help. Again.

CECE
We all know I'm pathetic.

VIVIAN
I didn't say that.

CECE
You try and control me. You're not
much different from him.

VIVIAN

I do not - I am not him.

CECE

I just want you to be my sister,
the one who makes me eggs, lets me
borrow clothes and buys me
expensive dishes I don't need.

Holly returns with dishes.

CECE

I can handle him.

VIVIAN

No you can't.

CeCe hands Holly a card.

CECE

Deliver them to this address.

HOLLY

There's an extra charge.

CECE

That's not a problem.

VIVIAN

Especially if it's not your money.

CECE

You'll get your money.

VIVIAN

I have a friend who's a therapist -

CECE

Control, control, control!

CeCe exits.

HOLLY

How will you be taking care of this
today?

Vivian hands Holly a credit card.

INT. VIVIAN'S OFFICE - A LITTLE LATER

Vivian reads reports. Shopping bags cover her couch. NOAH SAMUELS, smart, eager and at times lovably clueless, knocks and enters.

NOAH
The site's up.

VIVIAN
Look at you Speedy Gonzalez.

NOAH
That's me, quick on the draw - well
you know, never mind.

Vivian pulls up their website.

NOAH
I finished it last night.

VIVIAN
I'm so proud of my people, working
all through the night. Well most of
my people.

Vivian looks over the site.

VIVIAN
This looks so good.

Vivian navigates the site.

VIVIAN
This form is too much.

NOAH
What I do wrong?

Noah looks over her shoulder.

VIVIAN
Personally, I hate filling out
forms on websites, so if I have to
fill in too much, I don't. So can
we make this simpler?

NOAH
I'm sure you told me that, I musta -
I'll fix it.

VIVIAN
It really looks great.

NOAH
I'll go change it right now.

VIVIAN
It's minor.

NOAH

I was trying to get it up -

VIVIAN

It's fine, I am not mad at you -
You've done an awesome, awesome
job. I love it.

NOAH

I missed some stuff -

VIVIAN

Noah, breathe.

Noah takes in a big breath.

VIVIAN

Exhale.

Noah exhales.

VIVIAN

This is the best site we've ever
had.

NOAH

By lunch time, I swear -

VIVIAN

I wasn't sure it was a good idea to
hire one of D's friends, but it was
the best decision I ever made.

NOAH

I appreciate, you know -

VIVIAN

You're welcome.

NOAH

If you're in a hiring mood, Lymon
needs a job.

VIVIAN

Lymon can kiss my ass.

NOAH

Did he do something to you?

VIVIAN

Never mind him. You coming tonight?

NOAH

Yeah, I should get back to work.

VIVIAN
Thank you Noah.

NOAH
No, thank you

Noah stumbles out.

INT. DR D'S LIVING ROOM - LATE MORNING

The room boasts a spectacular view of the New York City Skyline. Family photos decorate the mantle including a picture of four young men at a graduation.

Vivian enters, arms full of stuff. YEGOR, the doorman, follows, hands also full.

VIVIAN
Just drop them in the kitchen.

Yegor heads to the kitchen.

YEGOR (O.S.)
You need me to help you put these
away Miss Vivian?

VIVIAN
No, I got it and it's just Vivian.

Yegor returns.

YEGOR
My tips are better when I keep
things on a more respectful level.

VIVIAN
Truth from a man, how novel.

Vivian opens her wallet, she has only a single and a twenty, she hands Yegor the twenty.

YEGOR
Anything else I can do for you Miss
Vivian?

VIVIAN
Don't push it Yegor.

YEGOR
No ma'am. Have a good day.

He exits.

Vivian picks up clothes as she makes her way to the bedroom.

INT. DR D'S BEDROOM

Vivian opens the bedroom door, takes in the mess.

VIVIAN
You gotta be kidding me.

The phone RINGS, Vivian lets the machine answer. The voice of D is heard, it's a smooth nighttime radio DJ kind of voice. Vivian mouths along.

D (V.O.)
It's D, I'm unavailable, leave a message. One love.

A BEEP. Then a hang up. Vivian checks the caller ID.

She makes a call.

INT. DR D'S OFFICE

PIA, harried receptionist answers the phone.

PIA
Dr. DeVry's office.

VIVIAN
(on phone)
Hi Pia, is he close by?

PIA
(on phone)
We're very busy today Vivian.

D standing right behind takes the phone from Pia.

D
(on phone)
Hey gorgeous.

VIVIAN
(on phone)
Hey stranger, do you ever pick up anything?

D
(on phone)
I been missing you.

VIVIAN
(on phone)
Of course you do, who else would clean up after your nasty behind.
(MORE)

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

All the stuff I have to do in here,
now I have to clean too?

D

Slow it, back it up. You know I'm a
slob.

VIVIAN

Just don't be late tonight, you're
the host.

D

I'll be on time, on my best
behavior.

VIVIAN

Okay, bye. Love you.

D

What?

She hangs up quickly.

PIA

Can we get back to work now? I'm
not staying here all night.

INT. DR D'S BEDROOM

Vivian paces, the phone rings again, she waits.

D (V.O.)

It's D, I'm unavailable, leave a
message. One love.

Caller hangs up.

VIVIAN

Stupid. Stupid. Stupid.

Vivian continues cleaning up the bedroom.

INT. CECE'S KITCHEN

CeCe and Angelo unwrap her new dishes.

ANGELO

Hundred and twenty dollars a plate!

CECE

A setting.

ANGELO

A thousand dollars for some dishes.

CECE

You have to pay my sister back.

Angelo puts away the last dish.

ANGELO

Whatever you want baby.

CECE

Whatever I want?

Angelo grabs CeCe, kisses her all over. He notices a bracelet on her wrist.

ANGELO

Where'd you get this?

CECE

Vivian. She hasn't missed it yet.
Isn't it pretty?

ANGELO

Looks expensive. Where was I?

Angelo resumes kissing, it gets hot and heavy.

CECE

You have to take me to see a play.

ANGELO

Whatever you want baby.

Angelo stops kissing her.

ANGELO

Wait, what play?

CECE

You know what I want to see.

ANGELO

No, No. No. Not one of them evil
black men, triflin' black women
plays?

CECE

Yes, there's a really good one
coming through, it's called "My
Warden, My Boo, Love Got Me on Lock-
Down."

ANGELO

Anything else, please, please. I'll
even go see Cats.

CECE

Cats closed. You said whatever I want baby.

ANGELO

You're right, I said whatever.

Back to making out.

CECE

I want you to start treating me better.

ANGELO

Whatever!

CECE

I want you take things easy.

ANGELO

Whatever!

CECE

I want you to see somebody about your temper.

Angelo stops.

ANGELO

I can handle it.

CECE

The way you handle it just cost you a thousand dollars. Plus the play. Did I forget to mention dinner? And you will not be able to get away with Taco Bell.

ANGELO

I don't need to see somebody. I keep my word.

CECE

You really scared me this morning. You have all this unresolved anger -

ANGELO

Don't Dr. Phil me. I just need to settle my life a little bit. Things are spinning a little out of control, but I got a handle on it.

Angelo resumes kissing her, he works his way down her neck to her breasts. CeCe pushes his head down further and further.

ANGELO

Don't move, stay right there.

He runs out of kitchen leaving CeCe hanging.

INT. CECE'S LIVING ROOM

Angelo locates his coat.

The phone rings.

CeCe enters looking for the phone.

ANGELO

Don't answer, this is important.

CECE

Let me just see who it is, I'll be quick.

She answers.

CECE

(on phone)

CeCe Design Innovations. Yes. Hi Mrs. Endicott, so nice to hear from you. Really, that's great. Wait hold on, let me get into my office.

ANGELO

Call her back.

CECE

I think it's a job.

CeCe goes into the bedroom. Angelo takes a ring box out of his pocket.

INT. DR D'S BEDROOM

Vivian cleans, phone rings again.

VIVIAN

Enough with the phone calls!

The machine answers again.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)

It's me. I was hoping we could have a repeat of last weekend? Did you get your strength back? Give a sista a holler. Peace.

Vivian checks the caller ID, same number from before. She puts her finger on the delete button of the answering machine, she doesn't. She makes a call on her cell.

INT. CECE'S LIVING ROOM

Angelo mindlessly flips channels. CeCe's cell rings, he opens her purse, and answers.

ANGELO
(on phone)
Hello.

VIVIAN
(on phone)
Who's this?

ANGELO
Hey Viv, It's Angelo.

VIVIAN
Where is CeCe?

ANGELO
Talking to a client.

VIVIAN
What are you doing there?

ANGELO
Livin and lovin, baby girl!

VIVIAN
I'm not a baby and I'm not your
girl.

ANGELO
You gonna have to start being nice
to me.

VIVIAN
What would posses me do that?

ANGELO
We gonna be family some day. I'm
guessing you already heard about
our little tiff this morning.

VIVIAN
Why are you answering my sister's
phone? Where is she?

Angelo gets up from the couch.

INT. CECE'S BEDROOM

Angelo enters. It's littered with design books and fabric swatches. CeCe talks on the land line and makes notes in her day planner. Angelo plops onto the bed.

ANGELO

It's your mother.

Angelo hands CeCe her cell phone.

CECE

(On the phone)

I'll drop those swatches by your husband's office and we'll plan to meet on Tuesday - great - I look forward to this as well. Bye, bye Mrs. Endicott - okay, Sylvia, bye.

CeCe yelps for joy - does a little happy dance as she picks up her cell.

CECE

Happy, happy birthday mommy. I've been swamped with work all morning. I was just getting ready to call you.

VIVIAN

No you weren't.

CECE

Vivian? Angelo, I thought you said it was my mother.

ANGELO

You mean she's not?

CECE

Viv don't trip, I'll call Mom. I just hooked a big fish, I'm only decorating her husband's office right now, but she's got a brownstone here in the city and a house in Nantucket. I'm on my way big sis. Hold on.

CeCe grabs Angelo and kisses him hard.

CECE

We're gonna pick up where we left off in the kitchen.

Angelo unbuttons his shirt.

CECE

Keep your clothes on. Just take out what I need. Be right back.

CeCe exits the bedroom back on the phone with Vivian.

INT. CECE'S LIVING ROOM

CeCe enters, closing bedroom door behind her.

VIVIAN

Why is he there?

CECE

He's just chillin.

VIVIAN

What is wrong with you? How many times is he going to have to beat your ass before you get -

CECE

Did you see any marks on me? We fight, we have bowel moving make up sex, that's the pattern -

VIVIAN

That's disgusting.

CECE

How come everybody knows that but you? Why you have to be so damn dramatic?

VIVIAN

Next time you call me at six AM crying, begging me to run over there to help you, I won't bother seeing as how I'm so damn dramatic. Do you know how many things I had to do today? I have a company to run.

CECE

You have a partner, you do too much work. You shouldn't let people take advantage of you.

VIVIAN

He better not be eating off the new dishes I bought.

CECE

You'll get your money, since that's all you think about.

VIVIAN

You need to get some help. You both need to get some help.

CECE

He said he was going to do it. He said that we should do couples counseling together.

INT. CECE'S BEDROOM

Angelo lies on the bed looking at the engagement ring. He sits up and pantomimes different scenarios for presenting it. He puts the ring under the pillow, but doesn't like that.

Pulls pants down, lies back down on the bed and sticks the ring box in the front of his underwear, creating a boxy bulge. He is impressed with his genius.

INT. CECE'S LIVING ROOM

The sisters continue on the phone.

VIVIAN

I feel a little better, but still -

CECE

You making macaroni and cheese?

VIVIAN

Using Martha Stewart's recipe.

CECE

Make sure you save me some.

VIVIAN

Get your ass here on time.

CECE

What else you gonna make?

INT. CECE'S BEDROOM

Angelo is up from the bed, pants still down, still searching for a place to hide the ring.

He sits at CeCe's desk, clearing stuff away. He lifts a big design book, finds a small flower colored book underneath.

INT. CECE'S LIVING ROOM

CECE

Oh my God that sounds so good.
I'll come over early to help you
cook.

VIVIAN

No you won't.

CECE

You're right I won't. I'm telling
you girl, we should open up like a
design catering studio or
something.

VIVIAN

Some hoochie just called and left D
a message. Should I erase it?

CECE

You haven't already? What's wrong
with you?

VIVIAN

I'm just tired of playing those
silly games.

CECE

No, you're just tired of losing.

VIVIAN

What should I do? I can't believe
I'm asking you.

CECE

Erase the damn message. You need to
get some nicer panties. You won't
keep that man in them drugstore
drawers you be rockin.

VIVIAN

Stop talking, I'll figure it out.

CECE

If you want the man, claim him.
Stop being his doormat. Mommy
taught us better than that.

VIVIAN

Mommy taught us a lot of things,
that's why I'm in this mess.

INT. CECE'S BEDROOM

Angelo reads the small flowered book. He's calm but intense.

INT. CECE'S LIVING ROOM

CECE

What did we get her for her
birthday?

VIVIAN

I got her that hat.

CECE

You did not get her that sombrero.

VIVIAN

It's for church.

CECE

It's for picking up cable stations.

VIVIAN

I found matching shoes.

CECE

(laughing hysterically)
You did not.

VIVIAN

I'm meeting her at 12:30 for lunch,
promise you'll be there.

CECE

Don't forget to put my name on the
card?

VIVIAN

Don't forget to put my name on a
check?

The bedroom door slams open. Angelo is standing there with
his pants still down around his ankles.

CECE

I gotta go, it looks like I'm about
to have my bowels moved.

VIVIAN

That's vile!

CECE

Don't hate! Love you!

CeCe hangs up. Angelo waddles over to her.

INT. DR D'S BEDROOM

Vivian still on the phone.

VIVIAN
CeCe? You there?

Loud dial tone, she hangs up.

INT. CECE'S LIVING ROOM

Angelo stands over CeCe.

CECE
What you got for me lover daddy?

ANGELO
Do you love me?

CECE
Let me show you how much.

ANGELO
I got you something.

He hands her the ring box.

CECE
What is this?

She opens it and sees a beautiful engagement ring.

CECE
Oh my God!! Oh my God!!

ANGELO
It's for you baby.

Angelo drops to his knees, takes the ring box from her, removes the ring from box and tosses box away. He cups the ring in his hand and puts his hands behind his back.

CECE
Oh my God!!

ANGELO
Let me ask you a question?

From behind his back, he pulls the small flower colored book out of his underwear and places it on her lap.

ANGELO
What's this?

CECE
Where did you get this?

ANGELO
Who you been fucking besides me?

CECE
I'm not having this conversation
again.

ANGELO
We can squash it forever, right
now.

CECE
This diary is private.

ANGELO
I'm your man, you shouldn't have no
secrets from me.

CECE
One thing has nothing to do with
the other.

ANGELO
I just need you to explain some
things.

CeCe gets up from the couch. Angelo pushes her back down.

INT. LA CHANCE RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

Vivian picks at the bread in the upscale bistro. LEOLA
BRAITHWAITE, Vivian's no nonsense, take no prisoners Mom
sashays to her seat.

VIVIAN
Happy birthday Mama.

LEOLA
Thank you baby. This place is nice.

VIVIAN
I take clients here all the time.

LEOLA
What's the matter? You look tired.

VIVIAN
Mama, don't start.

LEOLA

I am not picking on you. I know when you look good and when you don't. And when you don't, I'm gonna ask why. That's my job. Of course you would know that if you had children - Okay, that was picking. I take it back. Erase, erase. You look beat down.

VIVIAN

It's just work.

LEOLA

How is the Dr.?

Vivian doesn't answer, the non response says it all.

LEOLA

Vivian, look at me. Fuck him! That's all I'm saying.

VIVIAN

Why is that your answer to everything?

LEOLA

Get scissors, grab his big black stethoscope and snip -

ZOE, efficient waitress enters, she hands the ladies menus.

ZOE

Hi, I'm Zoe, I'll be your server. Drinks to start?

VIVIAN

Appletini quick.

LEOLA

Do you know any good straight men?

ZOE

No.

LEOLA

Appletini.

ZOE

Coming right up.

Zoe leaves. Leola rummages through her purse.

LEOLA

I ran into Clifford Greer's mom at Wednesday's bingo, or maybe it was Friday's bingo, anyhow, she tells me he's newly single. Where are my glasses?

VIVIAN

They're on your head.

LEOLA

No my reading glasses. Here they are. You can get back in there.

VIVIAN

Get back in where?

Without taking off the glasses she's wearing, Leola peers through the reading glasses to read the menu.

LEOLA

Don't miss out, Clifford reminds me a lot of your father. He ain't the sharpest tool in the shed, but he's a good man. Corny pays the bills.

VIVIAN

Mama do you want me to make an appointment with the eye doctor for you?

LEOLA

What for?

VIVIAN

Never mind.

LEOLA

You can have a bill payer or a pipe layer. To have both is rare. I hope your sister learns that before it's too late. Is that my birthday present?

VIVIAN

You can take it with you.

LEOLA

I want to open it now.

VIVIAN

Mama not here -

LEOLA

Stop worrying so damn much about
what everybody thinks of you. I
don't know where you got that from.

Vivian hands her the boxes.

LEOLA

I think I know what it is.

Leola opens the box, puts on the spectacularly huge church
hat and models it proudly.

LEOLA

Oh my, it's a five pewer. You gonna
have to sit at least five pews
behind me if you want to see the
Reverend.

VIVIAN

Open the other box.

It's the matching shoes and purse.

LEOLA

This must have cost a fortune.

VIVIAN

It wasn't that much.

LEOLA

Price tag is still on it.

VIVIAN

I'm sorry Mama.

LEOLA

How tacky am I? Didn't even open
the card.

Leola finds the birthday card and opens it.

VIVIAN

It's from CeCe too.

LEOLA

You signed her name. Just make sure
you get your half of the money.

VIVIAN

She'll be here any minute.

LEOLA

Hush. You have such a beautiful soul. Start taking care of yourself.

VIVIAN

I do. I'm fine -

LEOLA

Is this a business lunch? Are you writing this off? I want to know how much I can order.

Leola resumes reading the menu through her double set of glasses.

INT. NOAH'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Noah is working on the website. Lymon knocks and enters, eating popcorn.

LYMON

What you up to?

NOAH

It's the middle of a work day.

Lymon wanders aimlessly around the office.

LYMON

Did you have a chance to talk to Vivian?

NOAH

Did you do or say something to her?

Lymon offers Noah some popcorn, Noah eats some.

LYMON

No. Why?

NOAH

She's not really feeling the idea of hiring you.

LYMON

Did she say why?

NOAH

I figured you would know. This is good. Where'd you get it?

LYMON

The zoo.

NOAH
What about your book?

LYMON
I can't concentrate at home. I got
more writing done when I had a job.

NOAH
So you want a job here so you can
finish your book?

LYMON
Just a little copy writing gig,
freelance? Anything. What about
Destiny?

NOAH
She's a partner, but Vivian makes
all the decisions.

LYMON
Damn.

NOAH
I'll keep a look out.

LYMON
I appreciate it. Wanna go to the
movies?

NOAH
Get out.

Lymon leaves.

EXT. LA CHANCE RESTAURANT

Vivian puts Leola into a taxi, and makes a call on her cell
phone.

VIVIAN
I know you're pissed at me, but you
shoulda come to lunch. She was so
disappointed. Don't forget to call
her. Then call me. Love you.

INT. DR D'S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Vivian cooks, she's at home and at peace.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - AFTERNOON

TREVOR, age 7, pushes TASHA, age 8, into the sandbox. He kicks sand on her, she gets up and charges him, tackling him to the ground. They tumble before a BABY-SITTER breaks it up.

Two GIRLS, age 6, take turns playing hopscotch. One of the little girls readies to jump, Angelo steps in front of her.

GIRL #1
Hey, wait your turn.

Angelo jumps through the boxes, leaving a tiny spot of blood in the last box.

INT. DR D'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

There is a mountain of food. Everything has been expertly prepared. Vivian stirs and tastes. All good.

INT. DR D'S LIVING ROOM

The intercom phone rings.

Vivian answers.

VIVIAN
(on phone)
Yes, okay send them up.

Vivian hurriedly organizes the coffee table. It's littered with different board games. There's Pictionary, Gestures, Jenga, a chessboard and a couple of decks of playing cards.

The doorbell rings.

Vivian opens the door to SIERRA, crazy sexy and dressed to kill. They are not happy to see each other.

SIERRA
Where's D?

VIVIAN
Hello to you to.

Sierra struts in. Vivian is suddenly conscious of how disheveled she must look.

VIVIAN
You're early.

The oven timer goes off, just as the intercom phone rings. Vivian doesn't know which one she should answer.

SIERRA

I'll greet. We don't want you to burn anything.

Vivian returns to the kitchen.

INT. DR D'S KITCHEN

Vivian takes a turkey out of the oven. She puts in a pan of macaroni and cheese. She exits the kitchen as Noah enters. They bump into each other.

NOAH

I'm sorry.

VIVIAN

No, me I'm in a fog. Hey Noah.

Noah looks at all the food.

NOAH

Wow, this is - wow.

VIVIAN

Got a little carried away.

NOAH

You should get carried away at my house. I mean -

VIVIAN

I smell like onions.

NOAH

I like onions.

VIVIAN

Yeah. Could you watch the food? I need to change.

Vivian exits. Noah is alone in the kitchen.

NOAH

I can't cook.

INT. DR D'S BEDROOM

Vivian sits on the bed exhausted. Suddenly she gets a searing pain in her stomach. She tries to get up. The pain is so intense it knocks her to her knees. Sharp pain in her head. Then just as suddenly the pain goes away. She gets up, she makes a phone call.

VIVIAN

(on phone)

Cecelia Vonetta Braithwaite where are you? Call me or I'm going to make sure everybody eats all your macaroni and cheese.

Vivian hangs up. D comes in, he puts his stuff in his closet. They greet each other, him warmly, her not so warm.

D

You did some serious damage in that kitchen. Bad day?

VIVIAN

Did I leave a pair of jeans here?

D

I made a special drawer for you.

VIVIAN

The key and my own drawer. Don't hurt yourself. I need to talk to you about something.

D

Sure baby, what's up?

VIVIAN

Can you talk to Angelo?

D

Viv, I can't -

VIVIAN

He trashed my sister's place this morning.

D

I'm not getting involved. Tell her to stay away from him.

VIVIAN

If it were only that easy -

She changes into her jeans.

VIVIAN

If she came into the emergency room, all beat up, what would you do? You wouldn't try and help?

D

I would refer her to social services and move on. The good samaritan thing always backfires.

VIVIAN

I'm talking about my sister.

D

Your sister gives as good as she gets. I'm sure she can take care of herself.

VIVIAN

That's not an answer.

D

If it was your sister, yes I would do all that I could.

VIVIAN

Then have a talk with Angelo.

D

Alright.

VIVIAN

Could you make a salad? Since Angelo is a vegetarian, I kind of went hog wild and put meat in everything.

D

Funny -

VIVIAN

Yeah, I'm a queen of comedy.

D

You okay?

VIVIAN

Migraine.

D

You need me to give you something for it?

VIVIAN

No. I'll be right out.

D checks the caller ID and erases some numbers. Vivian pretends not to notice. D leaves.

INT. DR D'S LIVING ROOM

The party has picked up steam. Food and drinks litter the room. Vivian meets and greets.

Games all around. MEN against WOMEN play Gestures.

Two WOMEN in a corner hover intensely over a chess board.

INT. DR D'S KITCHEN

D cuts up French bread. Lymon nurses a beer. Noah searches the cupboards.

NOAH

I want something to snack on.

D

Here, snack on some collard greens.

D Hands him a heaping plate of collard greens.

NOAH

Is there pork in this?

D covers the pot, hiding the big ham bone.

D

No.

D and Noah watch Lymon who is lost in thought.

LYMON

Do my feet look like they're in stirrups? Stop examining me.

D returns to cooking.

LYMON

I'm gonna be a daddy.

NOAH

(mouth full of food)
This is great!!

Noah grabs and hugs Lymon.

LYMON

Back up you're getting collard juice all over me.

D

So soon?

LYMON

She's fine.

D

Some people need more time, you know, emotionally.

LYMON

We're ready.

D

Of course you are, I'm trippin'. This is beautiful, first baby of the group. I'm gonna be a Godfather.

NOAH

How come you get to be Godfather?

D

I make more money than you. How's she feeling?

D returns to the pan. The french bread has become croutons.

LYMON

Great, she's great. I got a really good feeling this time.

D

Me too.

NOAH

Yeah, me too.

LYMON

I gotta find a job, soon.

D

A baby, things gonna change.

NOAH

I've never seen anyone make croutons before.

LYMON

I thought they just came in a bag.

D

Peasants.

NOAH

Brenda can't go skiing with us now. Or can she?

LYMON

She'll be able to go, she just
won't be doing any skiing.

NOAH

I'm gonna ask Sierra to go.

D

I'm trying to see who I can line
up, I was with this honey last -

NOAH

What about Vivian?

D

Vivian don't ski.

NOAH

She can learn.

D

You wanna teach her?

NOAH

I'm just saying she's around, she
might hear about it. If she hasn't
already.

D

Well I know for a fact she hasn't
heard, and as long as you don't say
anything, she won't.

NOAH

You are one cold brother.

LYMON

Can we keep the baby news on the
DL?

NOAH

That's no way to treat a lady.

D

How would you know?

Vivian enters.

LYMON

What's up girl?

NOAH

You ready for some Spades tonight partner? We gotta keep our undefeated streak going.

VIVIAN

I'm ready partner.

D

You won last week for the first time.

NOAH

A streak starts with one win.

D

I might just have to get me a partner and challenge you, I'll see if Sierra wants to play.

VIVIAN

(To Lymon)

Where's Angelo?

LYMON

Haven't talked to him.

VIVIAN

Brenda back from London yet?

LYMON

Back and gone. Chicago, then Phoenix, she'll be home Saturday.

VIVIAN

Don't she know how dangerous it is to leave a player like you alone?

LYMON

I ain't the player around here.

Uncomfortable silence.

VIVIAN

Could you all get out of my kitchen? I need to finish.

D

Your kitchen?

Noah and Lymon exit.

VIVIAN

Especially you.

D
What did I do?

VIVIAN
I'm too tired to answer. You should
tend to your guests. Oh and here.

Vivian gives D a key.

VIVIAN
You should take this back.

D
What I do?

VIVIAN
Why don't I just toss this key in
the living room and watch them
chicks scramble for it.

D
What happened to "love you?" That
was just this morning.

D walks over and tries to hug her.

VIVIAN
I'm getting too old for your
nonsense. Keep your hands off of
me. I can't play like this anymore.

D
Don't talk crazy. I need you.

VIVIAN
What you need -

D holds Vivian, she gives in, she always does. D puts the key
back in Vivian's pocket.

INT. DR D'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Noah, D, Vivian and Sierra play cards.

NOAH
Viv this mac and cheese is gonna
make me hurt somebody.

VIVIAN
Thank you partner.

SIERRA
I got 3 and a possible.

D
Who dealt this? It's not a hand,
it's a foot.

Lymon joins them, he's looking over people's shoulders at their cards.

NOAH
I think I got 3, should we take an
8 or a 9 -

D
That sounds more like 10 to me,
don't underbid.

NOAH
We don't need you to tell us how to
play. What do you say partner?

VIVIAN
Go for a 9.

D
Let's set these fools.

SIERRA
I'm ready for action.

VIVIAN
I gotta check the food. Lymon take
this, try not to mess it up.

Lymon takes Vivian's cards.

Vivian exits to the kitchen.

D
Sierra, do you ski?

D winks at Noah.

INT. DR D'S KITCHEN

Vivian takes rolls out of the oven. Angelo enters.

ANGELO
Where's the vegan food?

VIVIAN
There's a ficus plant in the
bathroom - need some bbq sauce?

Angelo hands Vivian an envelope full of cash.

VIVIAN
What's this for?

ANGELO
I told CeCe I would pay you back
for the dishes. A whole G, count it
if you want to.

VIVIAN
That was a gift from me to my
sister. Why are you walking around
with all this cash? You know what
never mind.

Vivian tosses it back to Angelo.

ANGELO
I promised.

VIVIAN
Don't want it. Don't need it.

ANGELO
I know you paid. You don't have to
keep rubbin' it in my face.

VIVIAN
This ain't about you. This is about
CeCe. I'm always gonna take care of
my baby sister.

A drop of blood falls from under Angelo's coat to the floor.

ANGELO
That's my job.

VIVIAN
You ain't foolin me. You are up to
some foul shit and the only reason
you are still walking and breathing
is because I don't have concrete
proof.

ANGELO
That don't even sound right comin
out of your mouth.

VIVIAN
I'm gonna protect my sister with
everything I have.

Vivian leaves the kitchen. Angelo grimaces a little and limps
out of the kitchen.

INT. DR D'S LIVING ROOM

Vivian runs through the living room into the bedroom slamming the door behind her.

Angelo walks to the card table where D, Noah, Lymon are seated.

NOAH
There's the man.

ANGELO
What's up brothers?

D
Sup' Jello.

LYMON
Is that my coat?

ANGELO
What are we playing?

NOAH
Spades, we're waiting for Sierra to come back from the bathroom.

ANGELO
I'll sit in a hand.

Angelo sits. D deals.

INT. DR D'S BEDROOM

Vivian paces with the phone in her hand.

VIVIAN
(on phone)
CeCe, if you don't do something about Angelo, I will. You better be on your way over.

Vivian hangs up. Sierra comes out of the bathroom.

SIERRA
Everything okay?

VIVIAN
Everything is fine.

Sierra sits on the bed and adjusts her shoes.

SIERRA

You must be tired from all that cooking.

VIVIAN

Wasn't that much.

SIERRA

This bed is comfortable, I could get used to sleeping on something like this.

VIVIAN

It's very comfortable. You have a little spot on your blouse.

SIERRA

It must be the macaroni and cheese, good and greasy like my grandmother's.

VIVIAN

Would you like to borrow a blouse?

Vivian goes to a drawer and takes out a couple of blouses.

VIVIAN

One of these or perhaps I could find you something in the closet.

SIERRA

It's only a little spot, I'll live.

Sierra gets up from the bed.

VIVIAN

Let me know if I can get anything for you.

SIERRA

If I want anything, I'll help myself.

Sierra leaves. Vivian throws the blouses at the door after.

INT. DR D'S LIVING ROOM

Noah, Lymon, D and Angelo study their cards. Sierra stands over Angelo.

SIERRA

Can you excuse yourself? I was sitting there.

ANGELO
You want to sit on my lap?

SIERRA
Ain't no pushover here.

ANGELO
You gettin loud?

SIERRA
I ain't the one son.

D
Sierra, baby could you get me a
beer?

SIERRA
Sure D.

ANGELO
Bring me one.

Sierra leaves.

ANGELO
Sometimes I wish it was like it
used to be.

D
Blunts and forties.

ANGELO
Playing cards.

D
All night.

ANGELO
And then go straight to class.

D
Some of us anyway.

LYMON
I saw Freaky Francine homecoming
queen.

ANGELO
Where?

LYMON
I had to go to my bullshit, I been
looking for a job, unemployment
class.

(MORE)

LYMON (CONT'D)

And there she was sittin in the back tryin to hide. She said to say what's up.

ANGELO

I ain't seen her in forever.

LYMON

She said to say what's up to D, not to you.

NOAH

To D?

LYMON

Did I stutter? Yes D!

ANGELO

What's with that?

LYMON

Sounds like somebody broke one of the commandments.

All the guys stare at D.

D

I didn't. It happened a while ago, but it was still past the five year coochie cool-off period. I made sure. It wasn't much past, but it was past.

LYMON

Before you hit it.

D

Yes, before I hit it.

NOAH

Actually, the coochie cool-off period is six years, five months and three days.

They all look at Noah.

NOAH

I have a copy of the bylaws in my brief case. For emergencies - like this.

ANGELO

Drop it, it's not important.

NOAH

I think it is, you look really
pissed, or in pain.

ANGELO

Your mama wore me out last night.

(To D)

What you been up to man? I called
you on Sunday night to hang out.

D

I worked late.

ANGELO

Need to give a lot of pap smears on
a Sunday night?

D

Why you taking such an interest in
my work?

ANGELO

I'm just trying to catch up.

LYMON

He misses you.

ANGELO

Shut up!

Sierra returns with one beer and hands it to D.

D

You're an angel.

ANGELO

Where's mine?

SIERRA

In the kitchen.

ANGELO

Here take your damn seat back. D I
need to holler at you in the back
for a minute.

Angelo and D get up. Sierra sits back in her seat.

NOAH

Everybody keeps getting up and
switching places and going to the
bathroom. How are we ever gonna
finish a game?

LYMON
What's the hush hush?

NOAH
(To Angelo)
Yeah. What you got? What's wrong?

ANGELO
Your mama gave me another rash.

D and Angelo head toward the bedroom.

NOAH
Why is he always talking about my
mama?

LYMON
I know, it's wrong. I love your
mama - her rates are so reasonable.

Noah leaves the table.

LYMON
She does tend to nickel and dime
you on the extras -

Beat.

LYMON
(to Sierra)
Hey sweetness how you feel?

SIERRA
Fine, how's your wife?

Sierra gets up from the table, leaving Lymon all alone.

INT. DR D'S BEDROOM

D and Angelo enter the bedroom. Vivian is lying on the bed.

D
Hey baby, you okay?

VIVIAN
Fine.

ANGELO
This is a private conversation.

VIVIAN
About time you got some referrals.

Vivian gets up and leaves.

ANGELO

She reminds me of Samantha, you love them bossy chicks. You gonna marry this one too?

D

I ain't going back down that road for a long time. What's up with you man?

ANGELO

Just out here doin' my thing.

D

Vivian is always squawkin' about you and CeCe.

ANGELO

CeCe was always squawkin' about you and Vivian. We should both run.

D

To the hills.

ANGELO

You and me don't get to hang.

D

You do miss me.

ANGELO

Shut up.

D

Man, I'm sorry about Freaky Francine.

ANGELO

I'm surprised you waited that long.

Another drop of blood falls. D notices.

D

What's wrong with you?

Angelo opens his coat. Blood is seeping through his pants around his thigh.

ANGELO

Need a little help with this. I got shot.

D takes a look, he removes the blood-soaked towel wrapped around Angelo's leg.

D
You haven't brought some dumb shit
into my house?

ANGELO
I need to lay low for a while.
Ow!!! Fuck that hurts!!

D
Let me look.

D examines the wound.

D
What am I doing? You need to get to
a hospital.

ANGELO
Can't you just wrap it for now?

D
Wrap it - this ain't a fajita. Sit.

D goes into the bathroom.

D (O.S.)
What happened?

ANGELO
Well -

D (O.S.)
I'm sorry I forgot, I'm not
supposed to ask about such things.

D returns with a first aid kit.

ANGELO
You gotta report this right?

D
You know I do.

ANGELO
We can't go to the hospital right
now.

D
You're gonna be in a lot of pain.

Noah enters, hand on zipper headed for the bathroom. He stops
cold at the sight of Angelo's blood.

D
Call 911.

Noah picks up the phone. Angelo leaps across at Noah and grabs the phone out of his hand.

ANGELO
CeCe's dead.

INT. DR D'S LIVING ROOM

Jenga blocks crumble onto the table, the culprits takes a shot of tequila.

Chess PLAYER lays her King piece down in defeat.

INT. DR D'S BEDROOM

Angelo's bandage is loose, he's trying to fix it himself.

ANGELO
We were arguing and she ran into the bedroom. She came out shooting.

D
CeCe shot you?

ANGELO
I had to protect myself. I shot back. It was a mess, I came here.

D
You just left her there.

NOAH
Are you sure she's dead? Oh God, Viv.

D
What do mean, she came out shooting? Where did she get a gun?

ANGELO
I gave her one for protection.

NOAH
Against you?

Noah picks up the phone again.

ANGELO
Put the phone down man.

Angelo pulls out his gun.

NOAH

What if she's not really dead, and she's just lying there bleeding.

ANGELO

Put the phone down.

Noah does.

ANGELO

We gotta come up with a solution. I can't go to jail, you know what'll happen to me. I swear it was self-defense. You know she was my heart.

NOAH

Yeah right.

ANGELO

You got something to say fool?

D

Noah is not the problem.

ANGELO

Then tell him to shut up.

NOAH

We can't bail you out of this.

ANGELO

You not gonna have to bail me out of nothing.

NOAH

What are you gonna do?

ANGELO

I have some other shit, I have to deal with.

Noah picks up the phone again. Angelo charges Noah and hits him over the head with the gun. Noah falls, bleeding.

ANGELO

Now look what you made me do.

D rushes to Noah's side.

D

Angelo, shit, there ain't enough blood in this room.

NOAH
What'd you hit me for?

ANGELO
Cause you get on my damn nerves.
Fix him up.

D lifts Noah up and they move into the bathroom.

Angelo shoves the bloody things under the bed. Pulls himself together, covering his wound. He exits.

INT. DR D'S LIVING ROOM

Angelo finds Vivian, walks over and whispers to her quietly.

VIVIAN
What's going on? Where's D?

ANGELO
Stupid ass Noah cut his hand, D's
in the bathroom putting a bandage
on it.

Vivian looks at him somewhat suspiciously as Angelo turns down the music on the cd player.

ANGELO
I'm sorry to interrupt your games,
but me and the fellas need a little
help pulling off a prank. If
everybody could just come into the
bedroom for a quick minute this
would really help us out.

SIERRA
Come on Angelo, we're right in the
middle of a hand.

ANGELO
The quicker you get your ass up,
the quicker you can get back to
losing. By the way I got next.
Marlene, Felicia come on ladies
that chessboard ain't goin no
where.

Everyone walks out of the living room, some grab drinks and food.

INT. DR D'S BEDROOM

People file into the bedroom, finding various places to sit or lean.

Noah and D come out of the bathroom. Noah's head has been bandaged. Vivian rushes over to Noah.

VIVIAN
(To Angelo)
I thought you said he cut his hand.

ANGELO
Hand head tomato tomahto.

VIVIAN
Are you okay? We should get you to a doctor.

D
What am I?

NOAH
I'm fine. I'm just a little light-headed.

VIVIAN
Does he need stitches?

NOAH
Do I need stitches?

ANGELO
Stop fussing over that fool, he's fine.

Angelo produces his gun.

VIVIAN
Why do you need to take that out?

ANGELO
It's part of the prank.

LYMON
Angelo.

ANGELO
Patience all will be revealed. I would appreciate it if everyone would donate all cell phones to the cause.

People look around at each other unsure of what to do. A couple of people take out their phones.

SIERRA
How long is this gonna take?

ANGELO

Not long.

VIVIAN

This is stupid. I'm not going along
with this nonsense.

Angelo crosses his arms with the gun in his hand, with his
arms folded, the gun is pointed right at Vivian's head.

ANGELO

D tell Vivian it's cool.

D

Vivian it's cool.

ANGELO

Vivian it would be great if you
grabbed that basket and put all the
phones in it. And get the phone by
the bed. You have my word as a
gentleman that they will be safely
returned.

VIVIAN

Why am I doing this?

D

Vivian please, just go with it.

Vivian collects all the phones and gives Angelo the basket.

ANGELO

Thank you Vanna. Where's yours?

She puts her phone in the basket.

ANGELO

Everybody sit tight.

Angelo motions for Lymon, D and Noah to go into the living
room. As Angelo closes the bedroom door, he gives a smile
and a wink to the crowd.

INT. DR D'S LIVING ROOM

D, Noah, Lymon and Angelo all file into the living room.
Angelo puts the basket with the phones down on the coffee
table.

ANGELO

Everybody on the couch.

NOAH

This is the worst party I've been
to in a long time.

Angelo pulls a small book out of his pocket.

ANGELO

This is CeCe's diary. It's in code
but from what I could gather one of
you was fucking my woman.

D

Have you just completely lost it?

ANGELO

Not yet.

D

You killed somebody we cared about.

LYMON

Wait, hold. He killed somebody?

INT. DR D'S BEDROOM

Sierra and Vivian listen at the bedroom door.

VIVIAN

I can't hear anything.

LYMON (O.S.)

Are you fucking crazy?

SIERRA

I heard that.

INT. DR D'S LIVING ROOM

Lymon gets up, D restrains him.

LYMON

If this is supposed to be a prank,
it ain't funny.

ANGELO

Neither is this.

Angelo opens his coat showing his bloody pants.

LYMON

Give me one of those phones.

Lymon goes for the wastebasket with the phones in them. Angelo grabs Lymon by the throat and sticks the barrel of the gun in his mouth. Nobody moves, nobody breathes.

D

Angelo. What are you doing? He's your brother?

ANGELO

Only half of him is my brother. The other half is gonna get his face blown off.

The bedroom door opens, Vivian sticks her head out.

VIVIAN

Guys what's going on?

Angelo pushes Lymon down onto the couch and charges the door brandishing the gun.

ANGELO

Close that door.

Vivian slams the door shut.

ANGELO

Anyone else who opens this door gets shot in the face.

D

All this because you think somebody slept with CeCe.

ANGELO

Not "somebody", one of you. You guys are my partners. It's killing me to think one of you was creeping on me.

LYMON

What makes you think it was one of us?

Angelo flips to an entry in the diary.

INT. CECE'S BEDROOM - (FLASHBACK)

The lights in the bedroom are dim. CeCe is wearing sexy lingerie. She crawls onto the bed we see a man's foot. She crawls up his body.

INT. DR D'S BEDROOM - PRESENT

People search through dresser drawers. Sierra looks under the bed finds the bloody towel and shows it to Vivian.

VIVIAN
Oh God!! We gotta get help.

SIERRA
What are we supposed to do?

VIVIAN
Keep looking.

Vivian is finds D's laptop in the closet.

VIVIAN
Listen at the door.

Sierra listens at the door. Vivian plugs the computer into an empty jack.

SIERRA
He still has dial up?

VIVIAN
He's really cheap.

Vivian sets the laptop on the bed as people gather around. She turns the computer on and it begins making all those start up noises.

VIVIAN
Shit.

She grabs blankets and pillows to muffle the sound.

INT. DR D'S LIVING ROOM

Angelo reads from the diary.

ANGELO
She wrote this Sunday, 11 p.m.
"Hey girl Do Right just left, my legs are still shaking, damn that brother knows how to bump. I gotta end this thing. I have no illusions about a future with Do Right, Tyson would never let it happen. He's ready to throw down when a stranger looks at me. If I hooked up with one of his best friends, Tyson would loose his mind."

Angelo looks up from the book and studies their faces.

ANGELO

The way I figure, Do Right is one of you and I guess that makes me Tyson, although I'm not sure why she gave me that name.

D

Maybe cause you used her face as a punching bag.

ANGELO

So which one of you backstabbing Muthafuckers is Do Right?

No one responds.

INT. DR D'S BEDROOM

Vivian types at the keyboard. People whisper suggestions.

SIERRA

Go to Ask Jeeves.

VIVIAN

And ask him what?

SIERRA

What about 911.com?

VIVIAN

There's no such thing as 911.com.

SIERRA

There's a website for everything.

She types in 911.com and a website appears.

VIVIAN

Oh my God, it's a real website.

SIERRA

It's a form.

VIVIAN

(reading from the site)
Would you like to subscribe to
911.com's free newsletter?

SIERRA

We're going to die.

Nothing is working. They get an instant message. It reads 'Hey lover, I can be there in 10 minutes.' It's from one of D's "friends".

SIERRA

Who's that?

VIVIAN

I don't know.

SIERRA

They can call the police.

Vivian takes a deep breath and begins her response.

INT. DR D'S LIVING ROOM

Angelo is sweating, he's losing strength.

ANGELO

She wouldn't tell me who it was,
but one of you will.

LYMON

This is insane. What did you do to
CeCe? Where is she?

NOAH

What did you do with her body?

ANGELO

I didn't do anything with it.

LYMON

You just left her there.

NOAH

I'm getting dizzy.

ANGELO

That makes two of us.

D

Did she die over this bullshit?

ANGELO

She died because she betrayed me.

Angelo checks the clip in his gun, he's having trouble focusing.

INT. CECE'S LIVING ROOM - (FLASHBACK)

Angelo stands over the frightened CeCe.

ANGELO
What is this?

CECE
You have no right.

ANGELO
Just tell me who it is? I just want
a name.

CECE
You promised.

ANGELO
Baby just tell me. Who?

Angelo paces the room.

INT. DR D'S LIVING ROOM - PRESENT

Angelo paces the room trying to keep himself alert.

NOAH
And you think one of us has
betrayed you?

ANGELO
One of you broke the commandments.

LYMON
You have got to be kidding?

D
Don't be talking to us about no
goddamn commandments. You still
living by some silly ass bylaws
that we made up when we were drunk
and high.

NOAH
I have a copy in my briefcase.

LYMON
(To Noah)
Shut up!

D
Alright look, you and CeCe - You
hit her. I know, we all knew. You
been beatin on that girl.

ANGELO
We had a fight and it happened
once.

D

It don't matter. You took her life,
for what? You ain't the first man
to be stepped out on.

ANGELO

I was gonna ask her to marry me.

LYMON

You think that makes it okay?

D

Somebody cheats on you, call her a
bitch and then you leave.

LYMON

You find us, you tell us what
happened and then we call her a
bitch. End of story.

D

You don't do this. I know you think
you're invincible and that you can
get away with anything. But you're
not gonna be able to get away with
this.

ANGELO

Was it you?

D

Get a grip. She's Vivian sister.

ANGELO

Yeah, so.

NOAH

Like that would make a difference
to you.

D

Boy please.

LYMON

This is some foul shit. Whatchu
gonna do now? Interrogate us?
Pistol whip us? Spank us?

ANGELO

Stop pushing me.

LYMON

As usual you rush in here ass
backwards, without thinking.

ANGELO

Shut up.

LYMON

What if it's me? Do I get shot?

ANGELO

Is it?

LYMON

If you kill me, you realize you're not gonna be mom's favorite anymore.

ANGELO

I never was.

LYMON

What else you wanna whine about? I got more allowance than you.

D

Angelo, listen, nobody here was messing with CeCe.

ANGELO

That's not what was in her diary.

D

This situation is not going to get any better this way.

ANGELO

This is about honor. I want one of you to be a man. Just come clean and we can settle this.

NOAH

Like a duel?

ANGELO

There's a part of me that thinks it's you. But since I know you're in love with Vivian.

NOAH

You need to -

ANGELO

What! It's so obvious it's sad.

LYMON

Give me the gun before you do something stupid.

ANGELO
What about you brother?

LYMON
What about me?

ANGELO
Wouldn't that be some tragic shit
if it was you?

NOAH
How do you know it isn't one of
your other friends?

LYMON
Cause he doesn't have any other
friends.

Angelo opens the diary again.

INT. CECE'S BEDROOM - (FLASHBACK)

CeCe has her head on her lover's chest. She unwraps a Tiffany
box, pulls out a silver link bracelet.

CECE
This is beautiful. You are so
sweet.

CeCe puts the bracelet on.

INT. DR D'S LIVING ROOM - PRESENT

The phone rings and continues to ring until answered.

ANGELO
You know D, I think if we were to
take a vote right now, you would
come out the front runner.

D
I wouldn't do that to you.

ANGELO
When did you get so honorable?

D
I'm just saying I wouldn't do that
to you.

ANGELO
Cause we partners?

D
Because you're crazy.

ANGELO
Point taken. Could it be my
brother? My married brother? Noah,
stupid, useless Noah? Or is it D?
Since we were kids, I can't even
remember what my life was without
you in it.

D
So we just gonna sit here until you
figure it out?

ANGELO
What's wrong with your answering
machine?

D
It's the intercom phone. Someone's
on the way up, more hostages for
you.

Angelo answers the phone.

ANGELO
(on phone)
Too many people up here, Dr. DeVry
says -

Angelo listens, he chuckles.

Angelo hangs up phone, heads to the bedroom.

ANGELO
Remind me to give your doorman a
big tip. Get up.

Lymon, D and Noah get up from the couch and walk towards the
bedroom.

NOAH
Can I get some aspirin or
something?

Angelo opens the bedroom door.

INT. DR D'S BEDROOM

People still huddled around the laptop are startled. Angelo
orders the guys inside the bedroom.

ANGELO

All you stupid asses, get into the bathroom. Not my guys.

INT. DR D'S BATHROOM

Angelo shows everyone in the bathroom his gun. He then reaches into his pocket and pulls out two clips. He shows everyone they are full of bullets.

ANGELO

Silent prayers people, and I mean silent.

Angelo closes the bathroom door.

INT. DR D'S BEDROOM

Angelo motions for D, Noah and Lymon to move back into the living room.

INT. DR D'S LIVING ROOM

The guys file back into the living room.

NOAH

All this back and forth, up and down is making me dizzy.

ANGELO

Cops are on the way up. Take all purses, jackets and put them in the closet.

In a daze they all follow directions.

Angelo puts "Black Cesar" into the DVD player, he turns on the TV.

Angelo picks up half-empty beer bottles and hands them out.

NOAH

This one's got lipstick on it.

LYMON

Man give it up.

ANGELO

Not till I get what I came for. If you let me do things my way, we'll all get out of this alive, well most of us anyway.

(MORE)

ANGELO (CONT'D)

We all know that somehow, I'll get away with this shit. It's just the nature of the beast.

The doorbell RINGS.

ANGELO

Look like you're having fun. I know I sure as fuck am.

Angelo opens the door. There are 2 UNIFORMED OFFICERS.

COP #1

Good evening, sir.

ANGELO

You guys are a little late for the party.

COP #2

We got a call about some trouble. May we come in?

ANGELO

Absolutely. Everybody's gone it's just us.

Angelo produces his badge, a gold shield. Angelo is a cop.

COP #2

I'm sorry detective. Some woman called, says she got an e-mail from somebody who was being held hostage.

ANGELO

That's new! At least your 5 will be easy for this call.

COP #1

Yeah! At least!!

Cop #1 looks around, he can see into the bedroom. Cop #2 stares at the TV.

COP #2

Is that the "Hammer"? What movie is this?

ANGELO

"Black Cesar." What you know about Fred Williamson?

COP #2

My uncle Rocco turned me on to him
when I was a kid.

COP #1

Sir what happened to your head?
Your bandage is kinda bloody,
there's blood over here on the
floor.

NOAH

I fell off my bike on the way over
here.

COP #1

You should have that looked at.

NOAH

He's a doctor.

D

He's fine.

Angelo walks the officers to he door.

ANGELO

You out of the 2-3, I know Capt.
Salinsky from my academy days, he's
a ball buster.

COP #2

Never have truer words been spoken.
Enjoy the movie Detective.

The officers exit.

ANGELO

It's my world boys. Somebody better
come clean.

D

It wasn't self-defense was it?

Angelo gets in D's face. D doesn't back down.

ANGELO

You the one?

D

I worked Sunday night.

ANGELO

No you didn't, I called.

D

Look it's no big deal, I was out with this honey. But it definitely wasn't CeCe. I can get her number and call her right now.

ANGELO

Steppin' out on Vivian again? Bad things happen when we stray.

Angelo goes to the bedroom door.

INT. DR D'S BATHROOM

Everyone is cramped in the bathroom and holding hands in prayer.

ANGELO (O.S.)

Let Vivian out.

Vivian exits the bathroom.

INT. DR D'S LIVING ROOM

Vivian walks into the living room. Angelo makes her sit down next to D.

ANGELO

Tell her.

LYMON

This is not necessary.

ANGELO

You've either been lying to Vivian or to me. Probably both of us. Confession is good for the soul.

D

There's nothing to confess.

VIVIAN

What is this?

ANGELO

Your man has been unfaithful to you. Your sister has been unfaithful to you.

VIVIAN

Is this what this is about? Oh my God! You are out of your tree. D and CeCe. No! No! No!

D

Told you.

VIVIAN

My sister obviously has low standards, but they're not this low. Where is she? Let's clear this up right now. Is this what today's drama has been about? You thought D and CeCe?

ANGELO

I can prove it.

VIVIAN

No you can't, cause it's not true, there is no D and CeCe. Let's just call her over? We can hash this out.

ANGELO

D hold on to her.

D puts his arms around Vivian.

ANGELO

D and CeCe betrayed our love and our trust. I confronted her with it, things got out of control.

Gunshot. Vivian feels the same stomach pain as she did earlier, it's sharp and debilitating.

INT. CECE'S LIVING ROOM - (FLASHBACK)

CeCe is shot in the stomach, she slams up against the wall holding her wound.

A shot to the head. CeCe slides down the wall, eyes open.

INT. DR D'S LIVING ROOM - PRESENT

Vivian's eyes fix on Angelo, D holds onto her tight.

INT. CECE'S BEDROOM - (FLASHBACK)

In a controlled panic Angelo opens the closet, pulls down a box from the top shelf. He takes out a gun, checks it, it's loaded.

INT. CECE'S LIVING ROOM - (FLASHBACK)

Angelo goes back to CeCe's body, he puts the gun in her limp hand.

Hand over hers, Angelo fires into the wall.

Angelo takes a pillow from the couch, he props the pillow against his leg. With his hand over CeCe's, he fires a shot through the pillow into his leg.

It hurts more than he thought it would.

INT. DR D'S LIVING ROOM - PRESENT

Vivian is trying to break free of D's grasp.

VIVIAN
What have you done?

ANGELO
D don't let go, it's for her own good.

VIVIAN
What did he do?

Angelo pulls the diary out of his pocket and tosses it at Vivian.

ANGELO
What you know about this?

Vivian looks at the book.

VIVIAN
What are you doing with my diary?

D releases Vivian, she picks up the diary.

INT. LOBBY OF DR D'S BUILDING

The two Cops are passing Yegor.

YEGOR
The party too loud in 46C?

COP #1
The party's over.

YEGOR
None of those people have left. I ain't moved all night.

COP #1
I can believe that.

YEGOR

Every time 46C has a party, the complexion of the building changes, if you know what I mean. I notice when they come so I would definitely notice when they leave, if you know what I mean.

Yegor regards a passing tenant.

YEGOR

How are you this evening Mrs. Lapicki?

(back to the Cops)

You gotta go past me to get out of this building and none of those people have gotten past me, if you know what I mean.

The Cops head back to the elevator. When they get on the elevator, MRS. LAPICKI an elderly semi-blind woman, trying to press her floor and in the process has lit up many buttons.

INT. DR D'S LIVING ROOM

Angelo is unfocused and manic.

ANGELO

Why didn't she tell me? What did I do?

The guys are trying to calm Angelo and get the gun out of his hand. Angelo puts the barrel of the gun in his mouth.

D

We'll get you help.

LYMON

Don't do this.

D and Lymon move closer to Angelo.

ANGELO

I'm sorry, I'm sorry man.

LYMON

Give us the gun.

D walks over to Angelo with his hand out. Angelo takes the gun out of his mouth and hands it to D. Angelo crumbles.

D

Noah take this.

As he's passing the gun back to Noah, Vivian pushes past Noah and grabs the gun out of D's hand. She points the gun at Angelo. He stands and backs into a wall.

D

Vivian give me the gun.

VIVIAN

You need to get away from me.

NOAH

This is not the way Viv, you'll be no better than him.

VIVIAN

He can't get away with this.

NOAH

He won't, I promise.

Noah moves closer to Vivian.

NOAH

(To Lymon)

Call the police.

Lymon finds the basket with the phones.

NOAH

Vivian come on, he's not going to get away with it. He confessed to us. That's probably the gun he used.

Vivian hands Noah the gun.

VIVIAN

He killed CeCe.

NOAH

I know.

Noah holds Vivian.

D

Give me the gun.

Noah hands D the gun. Noah is pulling Vivian away from Angelo.

VIVIAN

I'm gonna pay other prisoners just to fuck with you, everyday for the rest of your natural life.

Angelo has another gun, he pulls it out of the holster around his ankle.

LYMON

They're on the way. This is awful.

ANGELO

I can't go to jail, I'm sorry.

Angelo gets up. D is still holding the gun. Angelo points his gun at D.

ANGELO

Just let me leave, you'll never hear from me again. But I'm gonna need to take the gun.

VIVIAN

You can't let him get away.

Angelo approaches D slowly.

D

This is what it's come to.

ANGELO

Just hand it over partner and I'll be on my way.

D

You can't keep pointing that thing at people, there are consequences.

Angelo is on D and has the gun in his face, he pulls the gun out of D's hand.

ANGELO

I gotta go.

Angelo pockets the gun and heads for the door, just as he opens the door, the other cops are there.

INT. HALLWAY

Angelo points his gun at the officers.

ANGELO

Hey fellas. I'm really sorry about this, drop your pieces on the floor. Easy.

The officers drop their guns to the floor.

ANGELO

Come on in.

INT. DR D'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The officers enter the apartment.

COP #1

We called for backup.

ANGELO

Of course you did, you're good
cops.

Angelo closes the door and exits.

The Cops run to the front door, listen for a few seconds and then slowly open the door. Their guns are gone and so is Angelo.

COP #1

Shit, shit.

COP #2

Where's the phone?

D, Noah, Lymon are all standing around stunned. Vivian walks over to Lymon and slaps him in the face.

VIVIAN

I know.

LYMON

Stop.

D

She knows what?

VIVIAN

I should have let him shoot your
ass.

NOAH

What's she talking about?

D pulls Vivian away from Lymon.

INT. CECE'S BEDROOM - (FLASHBACK)

CeCe's head is still on her lover's chest. She is admiring the bracelet. She touches his face. We finally get to see him. It's Lymon. CeCe bites him on his neck.

LYMON
Easy girl, no biting.

CECE
A little pain never hurt nobody.

LYMON
Can't be leaving no marks on me.

CECE
Stay with me tonight?

LYMON
Soon. Real soon baby.

They make love.

INT. DR D'S LIVING ROOM - PRESENT

D and Noah are both staring at Lymon.

D
This is unbelievable.

NOAH
I can't take anymore of this -

D
But you said it was your diary.

VIVIAN
I lied.

There is a noise from the back. D heads for the bedroom.

COP #1
Where are you going?

D
To let people out of the bathroom.

Cop #1 accompanies D to the bedroom. Vivian backs up towards the front door, she slips out.

INT. HALLWAY

Vivian waits for the elevator. Noah comes out.

NOAH
Where you going?

VIVIAN
I gotta get over to CeCe's.

NOAH
I'll go with you.

VIVIAN
No, I gotta see for myself.

NOAH
Anything you need, just ask.

Cop #2 comes outside of the apartment.

COP #2
You two have to come back inside.

VIVIAN
Please, I need to go.

COP #2
Sorry ma'am. Everybody has to stay.

Noah hyperventilates.

NOAH
I can't breathe.

Noah grabs onto the Cop, turns him away from Vivian.

NOAH
Help me please. I can't breathe.

COP #2
Sir calm down.

NOAH
Don't tell me to be calm, you be
calm. You can breathe, I can't. I
need my medicine.

The elevator door opens, Vivian gets in.

NOAH
I think it's passing.

The Cop turns around.

COP #2
Where did she go?

NOAH
Who?

INT. LOBBY OF DR D'S BUILDING

Vivian exits the elevator and walks through the lobby.

EXT. FRONT OF DR D'S BUILDING

Vivian steps into a cab as police cars arrive.

EXT. CECE'S BUILDING

Vivian exits cab and runs up the front of the stairs, she doesn't have her keys. Just then, someone exits the building and she slips in.

INT. HALLWAY OF CECE'S APARTMENT

Vivian is at the front door of CeCe's apartment. She listens at the door for a minute and then tries the knob. The door is open, Vivian enters.

INT. CECE'S LIVING ROOM

The apartment is in more of a disarray than it was this morning. She steps softly through the apartment.

A puddle of blood, she follows the trail.

INT. CECE'S BEDROOM

Vivian enters the bedroom cautiously, the room is dark, she can hear humming.

Light on. Vivian's mother Leola is holding CeCe's body.

LEOLA

She didn't call to wish me a happy birthday.

Still unseen by Vivian is Angelo, sitting in a chair in a corner of the room. He's weak from loss of blood, holding only one gun.

ANGELO

It's not supposed to be like this.

LEOLA

I knew something was wrong, I felt it.

VIVIAN

(to Angelo)
What are you gonna do?

ANGELO

I don't know.

VIVIAN
Just gonna sit there and bleed to
death.

ANGELO
I loved her.

LEOLA
Don't you dare.

ANGELO
I did, I'm not gonna let anybody
take that away from me. I loved
her.

LEOLA
What did I do to my baby girl?

VIVIAN
Mama it's not your fault.

LEOLA
With all she had, all she had to
offer the world, she thought she
couldn't do no better than him.

VIVIAN
Mama - Don't.

LEOLA
Come here, hold your baby sister.

Vivian replaces Leola on the bed, she cradles CeCe in her
arms. Leola walks over and sits in front of Angelo.

LEOLA
What are we gonna do now Mr. Man?

ANGELO
I'm so sorry.

LEOLA
Don't whine. I can't stand a man
that whines.

ANGELO
I'm so sorry.

LEOLA
How is this gonna end?

ANGELO
I don't know.

LEOLA

You gonna walk out of here
peacefully? You going out shootin'?
You gonna take us with you? What?

ANGELO

I ain't thought that far ahead.

LEOLA

Have you thought about your Mama
today?

ANGELO

What about her?

LEOLA

Nothing worse than having to bury
your child. Nothing. Don't put her
through what I'm going through.
Gimme that.

Angelo hands Leola the gun. Leola gets up and walks to the
other side of the bed. She stands next to Vivian who is still
cradling CeCe.

ANGELO

Why didn't she tell me it wasn't
her diary?

VIVIAN

Because that would have been a lie.
It was her diary.

ANGELO

You said it was yours.

VIVIAN

I lied.

LEOLA

Nothing worse than having to bury
your child.

Leola raises the gun at Angelo.

LEOLA

It's gonna be a bad day for Mamas.

Leola shoots him exactly the way he shot CeCe.

Angelo is dead.

VIVIAN

Mama.

LEOLA

Vivian. Look at me. Fuck him!

Leola drops the gun on the bed.

INT. LA CHANCE RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON - 6 WEEKS LATER

D is sitting at a table picking at the bread basket. Vivian enters seats herself at the table.

D

I'm hungry.

VIVIAN

I can't stay.

D

I thought we were going to have lunch, talk.

VIVIAN

I got things to do.

D

I've left you a thousand messages.

VIVIAN

I got 'em.

Zoe the waitress comes over with menus.

ZOE

Good afternoon, I'm Zoe. I'll be your server.

VIVIAN

I won't be eating.

ZOE

Oh hi, good to see you again.

D

Could you give us a minute please?

ZOE

Certainly.

(to Vivian)

I see you found one.

Zoe leaves.

D

Found one what?

VIVIAN

She's under the impression, you're a good straight man.

D

What's that supposed to mean?

VIVIAN

You wouldn't know.

D

How's your Mom?

VIVIAN

Mom is mom.

D

She's gotta be relieved there's not going to be any charges.

VIVIAN

Actually I think she was looking forward to going to trial, she watches too much Law And Order.

D

It was self-defense. Right?

Vivian reaches into her purse and pulls out D's house key.

D

I miss you Vivian.

VIVIAN

Yeah. You need to take this.

D

Come on Vivian, don't do this. I've lost so much. Angelo. Noah's not speaking to me, nobody's speaking to Lymon. I can't lose you too. I got nobody.

VIVIAN

I doubt you are sitting home all alone.

D

I'm through with that.

VIVIAN

Me too.

D
I want you in my life, I need you
in my life.

VIVIAN
About that.

D
I know you gotta get back to work.

VIVIAN
I'm playing hooky today.

D
I want to see you, tonight,
tomorrow, just tell me when and
I'll be there.

VIVIAN
Taking a long weekend.

D
Can I call you when you get back?

VIVIAN
Take care of yourself.

Vivian leaves the table, leaving D all alone.

EXT. LA CHANCE RESTAURANT

Vivian gets into the passenger seat of a waiting car. Noah is
at the wheel.

NOAH
Ready.

VIVIAN
Ready.

NOAH
Ready for me.

They drive off down the street.

The End