

Get On The Bus !

Written by
Reggie Rock Bythewood

Third Draft
03/18/96

SHACKLES... That's all we hear. Shackles and then footsteps.

FADE IN:

1 EXT. FIRST A.M.E. PARKING LOT - DAY 1

Ghettos have at least three things. Poverty, alcohol and Jesus. First A.M.E. is the Jesus part -- the most renowned church in the hoody hood of South Central.

The cross on the top of the church looms from up high. Staring at it from down below is fifteen year-old EVAN THOMAS JUNIOR. He's the type of young brother old folks describe as Black and evil.

Around Junior's wrist is a handcuff attached to a shackle. The Shackle is connected to a thick brown belt worn by his thirty-five year old father, EVAN SENIOR.

Evan leads the way, walking away from his Jeep Wrangler and heading to the front of the church. Junior stops dead in his tracks which pulls on the shackle.

EVAN

What?

Junior drops the small duffel bag he's carrying.

JUNIOR

I ain't going.

EVAN

I'm getting on that bus. Which means you're getting on that bus.

JUNIOR

You see how stupid we look?

EVAN

Now you want to be embarrassed? Should have thought of that before.

JUNIOR

I ain't going, man.

Evan slowly walks to his son, gets in his mug.

EVAN

Call me "man" again and see if I don't knock you on your ass. Regardless of what you may or may not think of me, I'm your father. Now walk.

Junior picks up the duffel bag and grudgingly walks with his Pop.

CAMERA FINDS a BMW in the parking lot. Behind the wheel is an attractive, corporate looking sister, thirty-two years of age. Her name is SHELLEY MAXWELL. Shelley's passenger is her twenty-nine year old boyfriend, half Black, half White. His name is GARY.

Shelley frowns as she turns off the ignition.

GARY

So...we cool?

She rolls her eyes thinking that's the dumbest thing he's ever asked.

SHELLEY

(dryly)

Mhm.

GARY

(handing her a key)

And you're gonna feed Max for me, right?

SHELLEY

Feed him. Watch him crap. I'm really looking forward to it.

GARY

You make it like I'm about to run off with some other woman.

SHELLEY

Well what, you expect me to get moist between the legs, Gary? Like you're doing something incredible? This whole thing is sexist. But I guess how I feel doesn't matter.

GARY

It does matter. But I also told you how I feel.

They exchange looks.

SHELLEY

Fine.

Gary leans over to the back seat, grabs a knapsack.

GARY

You gonna walk me to the bus?

SHELLEY

I'm late for work.

GARY

Okay Shelley. Well...I love you anyway.

SHELLEY
 (still pissed)
 'Love you anyway too.

Gary opens the car door and breaks out. Shelley wastes no time. Before Gary even takes a step, she speeds off.

2 EXT. CORNER OF WESTERN AND ADAMS - DAY 2

The local RTD bus pulls up and sixty-five year old JEREMIAH WASHINGTON steps off, carrying clothes and stuff in a pillowcase. Jeremiah is an old brother with a welcoming face. On his wrist is a hospital I.D. bracelet. He rips it off then spots the cross from First A.M.E. towering over the tenements. It's all the inspiration Jeremiah needs to trudge up the hill.

3 EXT. FIRST A.M.E. - DAY 3

A bus sits in the front. The emblem on the side of it reads, "Spotted Owl Chartered Buses." And below the words is a picture of the endangered species -- the Spotted Owl.

Several Black men are lined up along the side of the bus. GEORGE, the forty year old, Black bus driver, checks tickets as the brothers board.

Then Evan and Junior step up.

EVAN
 (showing George the
 tickets)

For me and my son.

But George can't ignore the shackle.

GEORGE
 You want to tell me what this is
 about, brother?

EVAN
 Court order says I have to keep my son
 tethered for seventy-two hours.

Evan allows George a glance at the court order.

GEORGE
 Okay, go ahead.

Evan and Junior board. Then Gary boards.

A few feet away, JAMAL, twenty-five years old, sporting a kufi, dialogues with his twenty-five year old girlfriend, JINDAI. She is a beautiful Black sister who wears a gold stud in her ear and is dressed in colorful Muslim garb.

THROUGH A HIGH 8 CAMCORDER, we watch them talk.

JINDAI
Proud of you.

JAMAL
What for?

JINDAI
For going to the March. For being a strong Black man.

JAMAL
Proud of you too.

JINDAI
For?

JAMAL
Being a strong Black woman.
Supporting your man.

She takes in the implication, giving him loving eyes.

JINDAI
So you're calling yourself, my man?

JAMAL
Does that bother you?

Blushing, she ignores the question.

JINDAI
White people are still mad about Orenthal. If any trouble breaks out, try not to be in the middle of it.

JAMAL
I'll do my best. (And instead of I love you) As-Salaam-Alaikum.

JINDAI
Wa-Alaikum-Salaam.

Then Jamal joins the line of brothers boarding the bus.

CAMERA REVEALS, the person holding the camcorder is nineteen year old XAVIER MOORE. He's suited down in U.C.L.A. Bruins gear, sports number 31 -- Ed O'Bannon's digits.

Xavier turns his camera to catch someone else.

THROUGH THE CAMCORDER we see Jeremiah approaching. Jeremiah is now sweating, breathing hard, but a look of joy is on his face. He lines up to board the bus.

GEORGE
For anybody else going to The Million Man March, it's time to get on the bus! This is the final call! I did say, final call!

A few more brothers kiss their wives, girlfriends, mothers and daughters goodbye.

Xavier TURNS OFF HIS CAMCORDER, gets his ass on line.

GEORGE
(checking tickets)
Okay, go right ahead.

A Black man boards. Then Jeremiah steps up.

JEREMIAH
How you doing young man?

GEORGE
Doing fine sir. Doing fine. You?

JEREMIAH
Ain't felt this good in years.

GEORGE
(checks the ticket
and nods)
Heard that.

Jeremiah makes his way on.

4 INT. SPOTTED OWL - CONTINUOUS 4

Jeremiah steps on the bus, nodding to all the brothers as he makes his way down the aisle.

JEREMIAH
(to Evan)
Black power.

EVAN
Black power.

Two other brothers, KYLE, thirty years old, muscular and clean shaven, sits next to his friend, RANDALL. Randall is also thirty, very good-looking. As Jeremiah passes --

JEREMIAH
Black power.

KYLE
Black power.

Randall offers up a nod. Jeremiah walks on. Then Randall turns to Kyle whispering with a snicker.

RANDALL
Old Feet must think this is the
sixties.

Jeremiah stands next to the empty seat by Jamal, lifts the pillowcase to put in the overhead.

JAMAL
Got it?

JEREMIAH
Got it.

Jeremiah gets the pillowcase up there then slides into the empty seat.

JEREMIAH
I'm Jeremiah.

JAMAL
Jamal.

They shake hands the way brothers young and old shake. Then Jeremiah settles uncomfortably in the chair.

JAMAL
Not much leg room, is there?

JEREMIAH
Noooo sir. I'm gonna definitely be stretching these crackerjack bones in between stops.

JAMAL
That's the truth.

JEREMIAH
You know these fools at the barbershop had the nerve to ask me what I expect to accomplish by going to the March. I mean, these were Black men nagging at me.

JAMAL
What'd you tell them?

JEREMIAH
Told them that I'd be on the front lines of the revolution. And that by the time I return, my rusty behind will be twenty years younger.

Jamal and Jeremiah laugh at the last part of the answer.

JAMAL
The fountain of youth, huh?

JEREMIAH
Ohhh buddy, if I'm lying I'm dying. It's right there on The Mall.

JAMAL
(still amused)
I don't doubt you, sir. I don't doubt you.

George gets on the bus that now has about twenty Black men on board.

GEORGE

Brothers, can I have your ears please! If you want to go to the Slauson Swap Meet, the Brentwood Mansion or the L.A. Zoo, then your Black ass is on the wrong bus!

The Black men laugh.

GEORGE

This bad boy is going to Washington D.C. for The Million Man March! My name is George. This is my partner, Craig.

In the driver's seat is another Black man, forty years old, named CRAIG. Craig throws up a peace sign.

CRAIG

Yo!

GEORGE

We'll get you to and from the March safely within six days. But there are a few rules we must observe. One, no drinking alcohol while on board. Two, no smoking. Three, no using illegal substances.

RANDALL

Damn. We are on the wrong bus.

More laughter. George takes it in stride.

GEORGE

If you need to use the bathroom, there's one in the back. I trust that none of you are on the rag, so we don't have to worry about that. But please flush the toilet after you use it. And try not to piss on the seat.

GARY

(all in fun)

You sound like my mother.

GEORGE

Good. 'Cause for the next six days I am your mother. -- Don't make me use my belt.

The brothers crack up. It's as if it's a party. Jeremiah stands up.

JEREMIAH

Excuse me. We should pray that the
Creator travels with us.

George takes it in with a nod.

GEORGE

I don't have a problem with that. Any
objections?

No one objects.

GEORGE

The floor is yours, Pop.

JEREMIAH

Let's pray brothers.

The men on the bus stand. Some are in front of their seats,
others are in the aisle. They close their eyes.

JEREMIAH

Father God, you were with Moses when
he parted the Red Sea and freed the
slaves from bondage. You were with
Noah when he was on his Ark while it
rained forty days and forty nights.
You were with Brother Malcolm when he
journeyed to Mecca. Now we ask, oh
Mighty One, that you stand with us on
our journey to fellowship with a
million Black men. We know that we
are not perfect, but we seek
perfection. We know that we are not
guilt free, but we ask for your
forgiveness. And if nothing else oh
Lord, we pray that --

Just then, FLIP CARTER, twenty-seven, Mr. Black Hollywood,
jumps on.

FLIP

(out of breath)

Hot damn!

All the brothers look up.

FLIP

(showing the ticket
to George)

Thought ya'll was gonna jet without a
brother but hot damn! My horoscope
said the moon was aligned for me.

GEORGE

Listen up, C.P. time. We're in the
middle of a prayer here.

FLIP

Oh, my bad...go right ahead.

The brothers close their eyes again.

JEREMIAH

If nothing else oh Lord, we pray that after this trip, each and every one of us become more of a man than we were before. Amen.

ALL THE BROTHERS

Amen!

GEORGE

Alright ladies, hold on to your panties. Do it Craig.

Craig turns the key, presses a starter button and THE ENGINE FIRES UP.

5 EXT. FIRST A.M.E. - DAY 5

Sisters wave goodbye to the brothers as the bus pulls off.

6 INT. SPOTTED OWL - DAY 6

George stands at the front.

GEORGE

So let me ask ya'll a question. What would a bus trip be without James Brown?

(no response)

No, I'm asking. What would a bus trip be without James Brown?

FLIP

It'd be hell!

KYLE

Would be one sorry ass trip!

GEORGE

That's all I needed to hear.

George presses play on the tape recorder and James Brown's, "Papa Don't Take No Mess" BLARES. The brothers begin jamming to the song, singing along. They sound nothing like James but they're having fun.

7 EXT. WESTERN BOULEVARD - DAY 7

The Spotted Owl roars through the South Central streets and turns onto the 10 freeway.

THE BROTHERS
 (singing)
 Papa don't take no mess!

8 INT. SPOTTED OWL - DAY

8

THE JAMES BROWN SONG SUBSIDES.

Junior sits at a window seat watching the hood go by. Headphones from a Walkman cover his ears but the HIP-HOP he's consumed by BLARES anyway. It completely annoys Evan.

EVAN

Hey...

Junior bobs his head, not hearing his father or at least ignoring him. Evan elbows him. Junior takes off the headset.

JUNIOR

Yeah?

EVAN

It's too loud, Junior.

Junior frowns, TURNS IT DOWN.

JUNIOR

Let me ask you something. You don't want me to call you, "man." Right?

EVAN

Dad, Daddy, Sir. Take your pick.

JUNIOR

Then I should have the right to say I don't want to be called Junior.

EVAN

Then what? Evan?

JUNIOR

Hell no.

EVAN

Well...

JUNIOR

Smooth.

EVAN

Excuse me?

JUNIOR

My friends call me Smooth.

Evan cracks up.

JUNIOR

What?

EVAN

Ain't no kind of way I'm calling my son, Smooth. Must be out of your damn mind.

JUNIOR

All of a sudden, I'm your son again. But I'm the one out of his damn mind.

Junior puts the earphones back on. Evan has no comeback as his son turns his head to the window.

Xavier sits in a window seat. Right next to him is Flip.

FLIP

Bruins fan, huh?

XAVIER

(nods)

N.C. double A champs.

FLIP

Can't argue with that.

XAVIER

You a Bruins fan?

FLIP

I went to S.C.

Almost as bad as a Blood meeting a Crip.

XAVIER

Oh.

FLIP

Flip Carter.

XAVIER

X.

FLIP

What, you mean like X marks the spot?

XAVIER

(not amused)

Just X.

FLIP

Nah, nah, nah. Now see I done heard some trippy names in my life. Ezekiel, Cadillac. Even know a brother named Porcupine. But I don't care if your mother was in labor with a bottle of O.E.

(MORE)

FLIP (Cont'd)
 in one hand and a big fat blunt in the
 other. Ain't no way a mother's gonna
 name her son a damn letter of the
 alphabet.

XAVIER

You saying your mama named you Flip?

It gives Flip pause. He confides.

FLIP

Phillip. Flip is my stage name. I'm
 what you call a thespian.

XAVIER

(unimpressed)

My real name is Xavier.

FLIP

Xavier. That I can get with.

He slaps Xavier a pound. Then Flip turns to his left.
 Across the aisle, Gary sits alone reading a book.

FLIP

What up, Black?

GARY

How you doing man?

FLIP

Made this damn bus. It's all good
 now.

GARY

Had trouble waking up, huh?

FLIP

Shoot. I wake up with the roosters,
 baby. But I had an early audition
 today.

We begin to see this conversation THROUGH XAVIER'S
 CAMCORDER.

GARY

You a singer or something?

FLIP

Actor.

GARY

Been in any movies?

FLIP

'Seen Boyz 'N The Hood?

GARY
You were in that?

FLIP
Almost. But at the last minute they
gave the joint to Ice Cube.

GARY
Damn.

FLIP
That's alright though. Just went up
for this role opposite Denzel.
(flashes his cell-
phone)
'Should hear something by the end of
the day.

Gary notices Xavier pointing the camcorder.

GARY
So what is this, CNN?

XAVIER
Film school. I'm making a documentary
for my class project. My name is X.

GARY
Gary.

Xavier keeps recording.

XAVIER
So how come you're going to the March?

GARY
Huh?

XAVIER
The March. How come you're going?

GARY
I guess...if the brothers are meeting,
talking about how to change things,
then I want to be there.

FLIP
Where are you from?

GARY
I live in Pasadena.

FLIP
No, not where do you live. Where are
you from?

GARY
Monterey.

FLIP
 Monterey? Damn. Didn't know they had
 Black folks up there.

GARY
 There's a handful.

FLIP
 If you don't mind me asking, you
 Mulatto or just light-skinned?

GARY
 You mean, bi-racial.

FLIP
 Bi-racial. So that's a yes.

GARY
 I consider myself Black.

FLIP
 Well as long as you were raised by at
 least one Black parent, I guess you're
 down. Half the brothers I know were
 raised by only one Black parent
 anyway.

GARY
 (insulted)
 I was raised by a White mother.

FLIP
 Oh. Well...No disrespect, man.

XAVIER
 What's the deal with your Pop?

GARY
 (hesitates)
 He was a cop. Got killed.

XAVIER
 Damn.

FLIP
 That must have tripped you out.

GARY
 I don't really remember. I was young.

XAVIER
 You mind if I ask you something?

GARY
 Why stop now?

XAVIER
 Did a brother kill your father?

GARY
(taking offense)
What kind of question is that?

XAVIER
Sorry man. I...I was just wondering.

A beat.

GARY
Yeah. My father was killed by a Black man.

Flip and Xavier take this in.

9 EXT. 10 FREEWAY - DAY 9

The bus speeds down the freeway making it's way out of L.A.

10 INT. SPOTTED OWL - DAY 10

Randall looks at Kyle who has his eyes closed.

RANDALL
So you think I'm stupid, huh? I know you can hear me, Kyle.

Kyle opens his eyes.

KYLE
What are you beefing about?

RANDALL
You think 'cause you pretend to be asleep, I'm gonna forget what we were talking about?

KYLE
Why do you always think I'm trying to play you?

RANDALL
'Cause you're always trying to play me.

KYLE
I said what I had to say. Case closed.

RANDALL
You can't wake up one morning and say you need space then expect that to be case closed. Not after two years.

KYLE
Keep your voice down.

RANDALL
I forgot. We can't let your macho ass out of the closet.

KYLE
What do you want me to say?

RANDALL
That it's another man. That it's a woman. That you're confused about your sexuality. Anything other than, "I need space."

KYLE
Look Randall, I need space. That's it.

RANDALL
That's not good enough.

KYLE
If I'd have known you came to trip on me, I would have told you to keep your ass at home.

RANDALL
Don't even flatter yourself. You're not the reason I'm going to the March.

KYLE
Then you won't mind if I change my seat.

Kyle gets up and takes an empty seat.

RANDALL
(yelling across the bus)
I do mind. I mind that you're not man enough to admit you love me!

The whole bus turns silent as this bomb is dropped. Brothers on the bus stare in shock. Some crack the hell up. Out of embarrassment, Kyle lowers his head, resting his face in his hand. Randall realizes he just let the cat out of the bag but couldn't care less. He sits back down.

Junior turns to his father. Sarcastically --

JUNIOR
Cool "Dad." We're going to the Million Man March with a bunch of homos.

Evan looks over at the gay dudes and frowns.

Flip turns to Xavier.

FLIP
You believe this?

XAVIER
It's no biggie.

FLIP
No biggie? Wait, you mean you bend
down and grab your ankles too?

XAVIER
I ain't gay. I'm saying, what's the
big deal?

FLIP
Ask them why they're going to the
March, you know what they'll say?
(like a queen)
'The thought of seeing one million
strong Black men gives me little goose
bumps.'

GARY
(laughs, slaps Flip
a pound)
You know that's real.

From his seat, Kyle hears the joke but he's more humiliated
than pissed off.

Jeremiah turns to Jamal.

JEREMIAH
Guess they got a right.

JAMAL
Excuse me?

JEREMIAH
Homosexuals. I never thought about
it, but I guess they got a right to be
going.

JAMAL
What right is that?

JEREMIAH
They're oppressed. Getting screwed
like the rest of us.

JAMAL
They're getting screwed alright.

JEREMIAH
C'mon young blood. You know what I'm
saying.

JAMAL
 Sorry but I don't agree. We got too many drug dealers, too many sell outs and too many gays.

JEREMIAH
 Seem to have your mind made up about it.

JAMAL
 (nods)
 With all the confusion in the Black community, it makes me think twice about getting married.

JEREMIAH
 You're engaged?

JAMAL
 Not...not exactly.

JEREMIAH
 Oh. You mean you bought the ring.

JAMAL
 I'm...I'm in the process of thinking about buying the ring.

JEREMIAH
 The process of thinking about it.
 (half-laugh)
 Sounds like there is confusion in the Black community.

Jamal cracks a smile admitting his guilt.

JAMAL
 The Holy Quran teaches, "As we conceive happiness in this life, it is not complete if it is only solitary."

JEREMIAH
 But?

JAMAL
 But say I do get married. I don't know if I would want to have kids. I mean, I want to have kids, but not on this mixed-up planet.

JEREMIAH
 So you're scared if you had a son, he'd turn out gay?

JAMAL
 What? Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh? Could never happen. No, no no.

JEREMIAH

Then the kid thing is just an excuse.
What's your lady's name?

JAMAL

Jindai.

Jamal pulls out a picture, shows it to Jeremiah.

JEREMIAH

Pretty. How long you two been
together?

JAMAL

We've been talking for two years.

JEREMIAH

Two long years? Or two short years.

JAMAL

Short. Met her one day when I was
crossing the street.

JEREMIAH

(chuckles)

What are you telling me, that you did
the 'Daddy Cool' thing?

JAMAL

Guess I used to think I was 'Daddy
Cool.' See in my unenlightened days,
a big booty would catch my eye. It
was like, I had a big booty radar.

Jeremiah laughs.

JEREMIAH

Boy, you ain't in love, you're in
lust.

JAMAL

Far beyond that now. Since we've been
together...we have never been
together.

JEREMIAH

You're kidding me.

JAMAL

She's a muslim. So am I.

JEREMIAH

Nation of Islam?

JAMAL

Orthodox. Living clean, you know?

JEREMIAH

No loving in two years. That's pretty damn clean alright.

Jamal nods, amused by Jeremiah's response --

George and Craig are in the front of the bus having a private conversation.

CRAIG

Just doesn't make sense. Sent the girl to private school her whole life, church every Sunday, Sunday school. How the hell is she going to come home with a bun in the oven?
(shakes his head)
Sixteen friggin' years old.

GEORGE

How 'bout the little bastard that got her pregnant?

CRAIG

He's sixteen also. Says he's going to quit school, get a job and rent an apartment for the two of them. Tell you, if Farrakhan has a way to handle this, I'll be all ears. 'Cause right now I'm about to kill that boy.

Suddenly --

GEORGE

Craig!

11 EXT. THE 10 FREEWAY - DAY

11

A car cuts off the Spotted Owl. Craig has to quickly swerve out of the way. The bus cuts across two lanes and lands in a ditch on the side of the freeway.

12 INT. SPOTTED OWL - DAY

12

The brothers on the bus fall back in their seats.

GEORGE

Everybody alright?

The brothers respond with nods and shouts of "Yeah." Craig steps on the gas and nothing happens.

13 EXT. THE 10 FREEWAY - DAY

13

The back tire is stuck in a ditch. George and Craig get off the bus to assess the damage.

CRAIG
Damn.

GEORGE
What do you think?

CRAIG
We're screwed. No way are we getting out of this ditch.

GEORGE
Don't be so negative.

CRAIG
Alright little Orphan Annie. The sun will come out tomorrow. But what the hell does that have to do with us?

GEORGE
Haven't you heard the expression, there's strength in numbers?

George looks through the window of the bus checking out the twenty Black men.

14 EXT. THE 10 FREEWAY - DAY

14

A FEW MINUTES LATER.

The brothers are off the bus, sleeves rolled up, some crack their knuckles. Craig is still on the bus in the driver's seat.

GEORGE
Alright fellas on three.

The brothers position themselves and take hold of the Spotted Owl.

GEORGE
One, two, three.

As Craig steps on the gas, the brothers try to lift the bus out of the ditch. No progress.

JAMAL
We can't do it.

GEORGE
Can't? What do you mean, "we can't do it?" There's no such word as can't.

FLIP
Then I'll give you three other words.
Too damn heavy.

The Black men laugh as they lean against the bus catching their breath.

GEORGE

I can't believe ya'll are so shiftless and lazy that you're gonna just give up.

EVAN

Oh, now you got to get all plantation on us.

Jamal, checking out the shackles --

JAMAL

The way you look I can't blame him. I thought slavery was over.

EVAN

It doesn't concern you.

GARY

Maybe it does.

(to Junior)

You want to tell us what's going on?

EVAN

Brother, I'm telling you to back off.

GEORGE

The man's got a court order. I've seen it.

GARY

I'd like to take a look at it.

Evan shows it to Gary.

EVAN

Does it meet your approval?

GARY

I guess.

EVAN

Then I'm going to say this just once. The boy has one father. That's me. Rest of ya'll want to stick your damn noses somewhere, make sure it's not in my business.

GEORGE

See brothers. You see? The devil does not want the Black man to have atonement. Am I right, Pops?

JEREMIAH

You're right.

GEORGE

But God wants us at that March. It's our mission. So on three, you strong, Black, African Mandika warriors will lift this damn bus out of this stupid ass ditch so we can be on our way! Now, one! Two! Three!

The brothers dig deep and strain. It seems even heavier than before. But with their new found inspiration, they lift the bus out of the ditch.

GEORGE

That's what I'm talking about!

The brothers cheer and slap each other five.

THE BROTHERS

Mandika! Mandika!

15 INT. SPOTTED OWL - DAY 15

Craig steps on the gas. The bus still doesn't move.

16 EXT. THE 10 FREEWAY - DAY 16

The laughter and smiles subside as the brothers hear THE ENGINE REVVING but see that the damn bus won't move an inch.

GARY

Now what?

RANDALL

If you ask me, right about now the devil's kicking our Mandikan asses.

Craig gets off the bus to talk to George.

GEORGE

What's going on?

CRAIG

I'm flooring the bitch and nothing's happening. Must be the axle or something.

GEORGE

Alright, I'll call the base.

17 INT. SPOTTED OWL - CONTINUOUS 17

George jumps on the bus, picks up the transmitter on the radio.

GEORGE

731 to base. 731 to base.

THE BASE
(through radio)
This is base, 731.

GEORGE
Our bus is out of commission. Looks like the axle or something.

THE BASE
(through radio)
Who was driving?

GEORGE
Walker.

THE BASE
(through radio)
Where are you?

George looks out the window, notices Xavier is video taping him.

GEORGE
On the Ten, right where it meets the Fifteen.

THE BASE
(through radio)
Tell Walker to remain with the vehicle. We'll send you a replacement and new driving partner.

GEORGE
I think he would prefer to continue this assignment.

THE BASE
(through radio)
The driver of a broken down bus remains with the vehicle to fill out a report. You know the policy.

GEORGE
Stupid rule.

THE BASE
(through radio)
So whine to our insurance company.

The voice leaves the radio and the line goes dead.

18 EXT. THE 10 FREEWAY - CONTINUOUS

18

George gets off the bus, steps to Craig.

CRAIG
They want me to stay, don't they?

GEORGE
You know those idiots.

CRAIG
Ain't that a bitch. So who's
replacing me?

GEORGE
Didn't say.

19 EXT. THE 10 FREEWAY - DAY

19

THIRTY MINUTES LATER

Twenty pissed off brothers wait at the side of the road for
rescue.

XAVIER
Here it comes!

The new improved Spotted Owl comes into view. Xavier TURNS
ON THE CAMCORDER and we see the bus approaching. Then the
bus pulls up and the door flings open.

The driver is RICK MOSKOWITZ, a forty year old, Jewish dude.

The brothers stand stunned. Xavier is so shocked he almost
drops his camcorder. Rick isn't anymore thrilled to see the
twenty Black men.

20 INT. SPOTTED OWL - CONTINUOUS

20

George pokes his head in.

GEORGE
What's up Rick.

RICK
What's all this?

GEORGE
They're going to The Million Man
March.

RICK
The Faraçan thing? You're kidding me.

GEORGE
Yeah, I'm kidding you. They're the
Harlem Globetrotters.

Rick ignores the sarcasm.

RICK
They just said it was a trip to the
Capitol.
(shakes his head)
Should have known.

GEORGE
Guess so.

George steps away from the bus.

21 EXT. THE 10 FREEWAY - CONTINUOUS

21

George turns to the brothers.

GEORGE
Alright brothers. This is our ride.

RANDALL
You're joking, right?

FLIP
We can't roll to no Million Man March
with a White boy behind the wheel.

JAMAL
Yeah. What about all that Mandika
warrior stuff?

GEORGE
Look, used to be we always had to
chauffeur the White man. This time
the White man is chauffeuring us,
right? Now c'mon.

The Black men line up with duffel bags and knapsacks to get
on the new and improved Spotted Owl.

22 INT. SPOTTED OWL - DAY

22

The brothers pile on. Rick puts on a friendly smile masking
his fear and mistrust. Basically, none of the brothers
throw him any love.

Then George steps on smiling.

GEORGE
You're not scared or anything, are
you?

RICK
Of course not.
(then)
Why, should I be?

GEORGE

Of course not. -- At least, I don't think so.

George's uncertainty doesn't sit too well with Rick.

23 EXT. THE 10 FREEWAY - DAY

23

The bus pulls off leaving behind the raggedy bus and Craig. Craig throws them the clenched fist. The bus drives on to the Fifteen freeway.

CUT TO:

A MAP OVERTAKES THE SCREEN.

A dot moves across it showing us that the Spotted Owl has gone through Arizona and Albuquerque.

24 INT. SPOTTED OWL - NIGHT

24

It's quiet. Not like before. The brothers are sullen, almost angry. Rick looks through the rear-view mirror, can't believe he's in this minority situation. Jamal looks at Jeremiah who jots something down on paper.

JAMAL

Writing a letter?

JEREMIAH

It's a prayer. I plan on saying it once we arrive.

JAMAL

If we arrive. I mean a White boy driving us to the Million Man March, that's gotta be a bad omen. And what's the deal with Kunta Kinte?

JEREMIAH

Brother said for us to stay out of his business.

JAMAL

Well I wouldn't care what some judge said. No way would I handcuff my son like that. You?

JEREMIAH

Couldn't tell you.

JAMAL

No kids?

JEREMIAH

Nope. No kids. Never been married.

JAMAL
No family at all?

JEREMIAH
No family at all.

JAMAL
How does that happen?

JEREMIAH
(shrugs)
You work. Work some more. And before you know it, the woman you love moves on.

JAMAL
Must have been some serious work.

JEREMIAH
Done just about everything you can think of. Real Estate. Owned a cosmetic company. Even sold 'Teas from around the world.' Think I arrived a little before my time.

JAMAL
Why's that?

JEREMIAH
Back in the day, people weren't to keen on buying real estate from me. White people wouldn't give me the time of day. And Black folks figured I was some kind of hustler. I'll tell you, there's some people in this world that always make the wrong choices. I'll be damned if I'm not one of them.

Jamal takes this in.

Xavier approaches Rick, TURNS ON THE CAMCORDER.

XAVIER
How do you feel?

RICK
Pardon?

XAVIER
You're on a bus with twenty Black men.
How do you feel?

Rick nervously shrugs it off. George sits behind Rick, tickled by all this.

RICK
Black men, White men. All the same to me. I like to think of myself as color blind.

XAVIER

Color blind? So, you didn't notice that everyone on this bus is Black, except you? Black men. Descendants of slaves.

RICK

We're...we're all brothers under the skin, right?

Randall rolls his eyes.

RANDALL

Now we're your brothers. Just 'cause you're on the Black of the bus.

RICK

Hey look, I never wore a white sheet over my head, okay? I'm Jewish.

RANDALL

God forbid we think a Jewish person is prejudiced.

RICK

My parents were in the Civil Rights Movement. They had Black people at our house all the time.

RANDALL

Are you getting this Xavier? They actually had Black people at their house.

RICK

I didn't mean it like that.

RANDALL

Spare us. As far as I'm concerned, only two things came out of the Civil Rights Movement. One, Black people got a few crumbs. And two, condescending White people got the right to say they struggled with us. Difference is, our struggle didn't end with the March On Washington. We're still catching hell.

RICK

I think my people know a little something about catching hell, alright? At least my parents did their part.

RANDALL

Their part to make a difference or their part to appear liberal?

RICK
Jewish people made a difference in the
Civil Rights Movement.

RANDALL
And as soon as they got what they
needed, they abandoned it.

RICK
I don't see any Black people marching
for Jews or Italians or the Irish for
that matter. So why is it up to every
White person to solve your problems?

RANDALL
White people created our problem. You
think we asked for slavery?

RICK
You think we asked for the Holocaust?
Six million Jews died. That doesn't
mean we're going to remain oppressed
by Germans or Arabs or anyone else.

RANDALL
You know how many Black people died
coming over in slave ships? Over 25
million.

RICK
And I didn't kill any one of them.
Nor did my parents. So don't blame us
for that.

RANDALL
(sarcastic)
Oh yeah, it's all our fault. And
after four hundred some odd years of
slavery, oppression and pink soles on
our backs, me and my people are
suppose to just fix everything
ourselves.

GEORGE
Damn right we are. And you don't have
a clue about the Civil Rights
Movement. Now cut the man some slack.
If he can help me drive this damn bus,
then that's all that matters right
now.

Xavier TURNS OFF HIS CAMERA. He and Randall cross away.
Rick whispers to George.

RICK
Thanks George. You're alright.

But George ain't about to sing "We Are The World."

GEORGE

As long as you do your share of the driving, I don't have a problem with you either.

25 EXT. ROUTE 40 - NIGHT

25

It's pitch black. A sign reads: OKLAHOMA CITY - CITY LIMITS.

26 INT. SPOTTED OWL - DUSK

26

Junior nudges his father who's fallen asleep.

JUNIOR

I gotta piss.

EVAN

(groggily)

What?

JUNIOR

Piss. The bathroom. And if you don't mind, I'd like to go by myself.

With a key, Evan unlocks the cuffs off of Junior. Junior walks to the back and goes to the bathroom.

A cell-phone rings. Flip reaches in his pocket and pulls out his cellular.

FLIP

Yeah. What's up Barbara?..Yeah. So they liked me?..Uhhuh...Oh believe that. I'm keeping my fingers and toes crossed.

Flip hangs up the phone.

GARY

You get it?

FLIP

They're making a decision over the weekend. But it looks good.

GARY

So is it a big role?

FLIP

Kidding me? They throw me in that movie and I'm gonna blow up too large. People will be like, "Denzel who?"

GARY

Well, I hope it works out. Then I can say, I knew you when.

FLIP
 For real, though.
 (then)
 So yo, what you think my man's
 thinking?

GARY
 Who?

FLIP
 Mighty Whitey driving the bus.

GARY
 He's probably thinking about kicking
 his boss's ass.

Flip and Gary laugh.

FLIP
 I guess...you don't have a problem
 with him though.

GARY
 (losing patience)
 Look, I already told you, I consider
 myself Black.

FLIP
 No disrespect partner, but I can
 consider myself six foot four and
 ugly. That don't change the fact that
 I'm five ten and too cute for the
 English vocabulary.

Jeremiah turns around in his seat.

JEREMIAH
 Look Hollywood, the brother is Black.
 Why don't you leave him be?

FLIP
 He's also White.

JEREMIAH
 If this was slavery, you think the
 massah would care that he was half-
 white? He'd be a slave just like the
 rest of us.

FLIP
 But he'd be a house slave pimping
 around the big house. And while the
 rest of us would be talking about
 "grits, dummy." This fool would be
 eating potatoes. He'd have the breast
 of chicken, we'd have the neck bones.
 Our woman would be blistered up and
 stinking from picking cotton.

(MORE)

FLIP (Cont'd)

His women would be all bathed,
smelling good. And nine times out of
ten the honey he'd be hitting skins
with would be some White girl.

GARY

So that's your beef? You want a White
babe?

FLIP

Please. Player is written all over
me, cousin. I tag all kinds of
freaks. Black, White, Chinese,
Mexican. If you can think it, I can
bang it.

GARY

And that makes you a man?

FLIP

Oh, so you're on that hen peck tip?

GARY

Just 'cause I don't mess around on my
woman doesn't make me a hen peck. It
makes me honest.

FLIP

Wish I could see how straight up noble
you'd be if you had as many drawers
thrown in your face as I do. Guess
we'll never know.

RANDALL

Delusions of grandeur.

Flip is taken aback by Randall having the nerve to speak.

FLIP

What did you say?

RANDALL

If you ask me, you're insecure.

Flip gets out of his chair leans into Randall.

FLIP

Nobody asked you Harriet Tubman, Alice
Walker, Angela Davis or whichever
sister you think you are--

RANDALL

The name is Randall, thank you very
much.

FLIP

Well Randall, just 'cause I like pussy, like the way it feels, like the way it smells, and on occasion like the way it tastes, doesn't make me insecure. Can you even say that word? Pussy. C'mon say it. Puhsee.

RANDALL

Get out of my face.

FLIP

Say it faggot. Pussy! Pussy!

Kyle jumps up.

KYLE

Leave him alone!

The entire bus gets quiet. The tension of a fight is in the air.

FLIP

Stand by your man, Huh?

(gets in Kyle's
face)

Nah. Nah actually, I think, you're the man of the relationship. Am I right?

Kyle tries to stand his ground.

KYLE

He wasn't bothering you.

FLIP

He was bothering me! Just the fact that we got faggots on this bus bothers me!

EVAN

Why don't you leave them alone.

FLIP

Oh, so now Mr. Chain gang is in the mix. What, you got an enter sign on your ass, too?

Evan jumps up. Junior makes his way back from the bathroom, stands next to his Pop.

JUNIOR

Dad. Let it go.

FLIP

Yeah Dad, let it go.

Flip and Evan stare each other down. Then Evan takes a seat.

Flip shakes his head, walks towards the back, takes a seat by himself.

Everyone relaxes a bit, chills out. Randall goes to the seat next to Kyle.

RANDALL

Thanks.

Kyle nods and Randall goes back to his own seat. Then Evan puts the handcuffs back on Junior.

CUT TO

THE MAP OVERTAKES THE SCREEN.

The dot moves up to Little Rock, Arkansas.

27 INT. SERVICE AREA BATHROOM - MORNING

27

Jamal is at the sink. He performs a ritual, washing his face three times, head, feet, etc.

28 EXT. ARKANSAS SERVICE AREA - MORNING

28

The scenery is barren but beautiful. The brothers are spread out on the parking lot stretching and loosening up. Kyle has a 35 millimeter and takes pictures. Flip is on the ground shirt off, doing push-ups.

Xavier looks at Randall THROUGH HIS CAMCORDER. They care in mid-conversation.

XAVIER

But a lot of gays think Farrakhan is homophobic.

RANDALL

He called for a day of atonement, right?

XAVIER

Right.

RANDALL

Well did you hear him say atonement to everyone except gays?

XAVIER

No.

RANDALL

When I walk down the street White women clutch their purses same as they would do for a brother who's straight.

(MORE)

RANDALL (Cont'd)

I'm going to the March 'cause I'm a Black man. My sexual preference has nothing to do with that.

Jamal exits the restroom with a prayer mat. He finds a private spot, faces East and kneels on the mat to pray.

George walks up to Rick.

GEORGE

If you want, I'll drive the bus for awhile. Let you kick back in a real seat.

RICK

I think I'll stay behind the wheel.

And it's clear Rick doesn't want to sit anywhere near the brothers.

Junior and Evan sit on a bench. Evan lights a cigarette, smokes. Junior is busy trying to unravel the tape from a cassette.

EVAN

You and your music. You're almost as bad as I was. But when I was coming up, we had real music. The Four Tops, Smokey Robinson, Marvin Gaye. Shoot. If a brother sang one of their songs, a girl will find herself in trouble. One night I sang, "If This World Were Mine" to your mother and the rest was history.

(singing)

"If the world were mine, I would place at your feet, all that I own..."

JUNIOR

Do you mind?

EVAN

What?

JUNIOR

Your cigarettes. They stink.

Evan gives up on meeting his son half-way.

EVAN

Then turn your head.

Evan continues to smoke. Junior turns away. Jeremiah sits resting and writing out the rest of his prayer.

Flip finishes his set of push-ups as a car pulls in the rest area. It's occupants, two Black women in their twenties. The sisters exit their ride and Flip walks over.

FLIP
Hello ladies. It gives me great
pleasure to welcome you to the Little
Rock Arkansas rest area.

One of the sisters, JAMILIA, gives him attitude.

JAMILIA
And who are you suppose to be?

FLIP
The welcoming committee for all the
fine sisters that pass through.

JAMILIA
Oh really?

FLIP
Oh yeah. See fine sisters aren't
allowed to pass through here without
talking to me. My name is Flip.

The other sister named ANNE speaks up.

ANNE
We're very sorry, Flip, but we've been
driving all night.

Anne and Jamilia head to the restroom. The other brothers
check Flip out -- Mr. Mouth in action. Anne is the one Flip
likes the most. He follows.

FLIP
So where you from?

ANNE
Dallas.

FLIP
Dallas, Texas. Should have known. I
always heard Dallas had the finest
honeys on the planet.

ANNE
(unimpressed)
What do you know.

Then Gary steps up.

GARY
I know he must be getting on your
nerves. Hopefully Farrakhan will
teach him not to bother young ladies.

JAMILIA
You're going to the March?

GARY

(nods)

Time for the brothers to work things out.

ANNE

And you think you could work things out without the sisters?

FLIP

(trying to get on
her good side)

Nah. It's not right to exclude Black women. Not after everything beautiful, Nubian sisters like yourselves have done for the original man of color.

GARY

I have to disagree. The reality is, Black men have issues that are specific to questions of manhood. One of them is how we can be better brothers for and to the Black woman.

ANNE

You can start by not trying to put us in our place. I mean you can't name one struggle in Black America that Black women haven't been a part of? Can you?

FLIP

(challenging)

Yeah, can you?

GARY

No. But this isn't about leaving sisters out. It's about figuring out what we can do to gain your respect and keep it. By the way, I'm Gary.

ANNE

Anne.

JAMILIA

Jamilia.

Flip starts to get pissed as he realizes he's losing ground with the ladies, especially Anne.

JAMILIA

(to Anne)

Girl, don't you wish we could go to D.C., just to peep the whole thing out?

FLIP
Sisters as fine as you? You'd start
a riot. Tell you what, slide me your
digits and as soon as it's over, I'll
give you the whole run down.

ANNE
I don't know.
(to Gary)
Can we trust him?

GARY
I just met the brother.

ANNE
Well in that case, can we trust you?

A beat as Gary contemplates his response.

GARY
Me?

FLIP
(jumping in)
Of course. Brothers don't come more
trustworthy than good old Gary here.
All you gotta do is ask his
girlfriend.
(then)
Oops.

Gary shoots Flip a look.

ANNE
Girlfriend?

GARY
Yeah. And he's right. She will tell
you I'm trustworthy.

Then George calls out to all the brothers.

GEORGE
Alright everybody! Time to roll!
Let's go! Let's go!

The brothers begin to pile on the bus.

JAMILIA
Well, nice meeting you both.

FLIP
(dejected)
Yeah. The conversation's been too
damn stimulating.

Flip walks to the bus.

GARY
You sisters take care.

ANNE
You too, brother.

Gary nods, then jets to the bus.

29 INT. SPOTTED OWL - CONTINUOUS

29

Gary walks on the bus as the brothers cheer calling him "player" and "Mack Daddy." Gary laughs.

GARY
You guys are crazy.

He takes a seat. Flip stares at him.

GARY
What?

FLIP
Nothing.
(then)
Mr. "I don't cheat on my girlfriend."

GARY
I don't.

FLIP
Give me a break. You were salivating
all over baby girl.

GARY
You're crazy.

FLIP
Hey Pops, you hearing this?

JEREMIAH
I hear it.

FLIP
Now you tell me, what man who likes
women ain't gonna get a little
something, something on the side if he
can get away with it?

JEREMIAH
A lot of brothers wouldn't.

FLIP
Name one. Better yet, how 'bout you?

JEREMIAH
What?

FLIP

Ever cheat on one of your women?

GARY

Ignore him Jeremiah. He's just mad 'cause he couldn't get the digits.

FLIP

Nobody's talking to you. I'm asking the man a question.

(to Jeremiah)

You ever cheat on one of your women?

JEREMIAH

I...I suppose in my youth.

FLIP

Suppose my ass! That's a yes. What about you George?

GEORGE

Never.

FLIP

Never?

(unrelenting)

Never, ever, ever?

GEORGE

Well, never on my wife.

FLIP

Ha! Then you have messed around on a honey before.

GEORGE

I didn't say that! I gotta think about it.

FLIP

You ain't got to think about a damn thing George and you know it.

XAVIER

I ain't never cheated on any girlfriend.

FLIP

How old are you?

XAVIER

Nineteen.

FLIP

That's alright. You got time.

JEREMIAH

Brother Jamal doesn't cheat on his woman.

FLIP

Well of course not. Why the hell you think he prays five times a day?

JAMAL

George! Throw on some more of that James Brown so we don't have to keep listening to this fool.

GEORGE

I left the tape on the other bus!
(to Rick)
You bring anything?

RICK

Well...yeah, but --

George presses play.

Suddenly the most HARD-CORE HEAVY METAL SONG PLAYS. Wild guitars, screaming singers, etc.

KYLE

Oh hell no!

FLIP

What is this madness?!

XAVIER

I'd rather walk to chocolate city than ride listening to this!

JUNIOR

And they call our stuff Jungle music.

JAMAL

Turn that off, George!

JEREMIAH

Yeah. I want to hear that like I want to see a burning cross on my lawn.

George presses stop.

RANDALL

Damn that was scary.

Rick feels humiliated as the brothers continue to jeer and diss his music.

JEREMIAH

Hey! Don't worry young bloods! You want music, you got it.

Jeremiah reaches into his pillowcase.

JAMAL

What you got in there, a set of spoons or something?

The brothers laugh. Jeremiah pulls out a small single headed African drum.

JUNIOR
(rolling his eyes)
Oh no.

XAVIER
You gotta be kidding.

JEREMIAH
The hell I am. Say hello to my djembe drum.

GEORGE
And what exactly are you going to do with that?

JEREMIAH
Take your sorry behinds back to the Motherland.

All eyes are on Jeremiah as he sits down, puts the djembe between his legs and begins to play a RHYTHMIC AFRICAN BEAT. The brothers on the bus begin to nod vibing with the music. It's not bad.

GARY
Check him out. Damn.

Xavier TURNS ON THE CAMCORDER as Jeremiah displays serious talent. Then Randall jumps out of his seat, begins dancing like an African warrior. But Randall is clearly being a clown. Making fun of himself before any one can make fun of him.

As Rick glances around, he couldn't feel more out of place.

As the beat becomes more furious, so does Randall's dancing. The brothers are in hysterics. Even Kyle shakes his head having to admit it's funny.

CUT TO

THE MAP OVERTAKES THE SCREEN.

The dot moves from Arkansas up to Memphis, Tennessee.

30 INT. SPOTTED OWL - NIGHT

30

George is fast asleep as are half the brothers on the bus. It's quiet. The brothers that are awake basically look out the window reflecting on women, life and how bad the Clippers are. Xavier talks to Kyle THROUGH THE CAMCORDER.

KYLE

You don't think I have a right to go
the March?

XAVIER

I didn't say that. I just want to
know, what do you think the Black gay
man's role is in the Black community?

KYLE

So you're saying you don't think we
belong?

XAVIER

I didn't say that. Why? Don't you
think you belong?

KYLE

I...I don't know. Man, turn off the
camera alright? Turn it off.

Xavier TURNS IT OFF.

The bus pulls off at the next exit.

31 EXT. HIGH NOON COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT 31

The Spotted Owl pulls into the parking lot.

32 INT. SPOTTED OWL - NIGHT 32

RICK

George. Hey...

GEORGE

(waking up)

Yeah.

RICK

Memphis.

George looks around, nods.

GEORGE

Okay.

Then he rises, lets out a yawn.

GEORGE

Alright listen up everybody. It's
just about two a.m. We need to be
back on our way by three. And I'm not
having none of that C.P. time. If you
don't get back, your ass gets left.

The doors of the bus open and the brothers pile off. George
turns to Rick.

GEORGE

Let's go put some gas in this bad boy,
then I'll take over the driving for
awhile.

RICK

I need you to do me a favor George.

GEORGE

You can't drive the Spotted Owl the
whole way, Rick.

RICK

That's not it.

(then)

When the base asks, I need you to say
I got sick.

GEORGE

Why?

RICK

(hands George the
keys)

'Cause I'm not coming back.

Rick gets off the Owl.

33

EXT. HIGH NOON COFFEE SHOP PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

33

George follows Rick.

GEORGE

'The hell you mean, you're not coming
back?

RICK

I can't do it.

GEORGE

You're just gonna get off here in the
middle of nowhere?

RICK

Be a lot safer out here.

GEORGE

Meaning what? You think we're gonna
put you in boiling water, have you for
supper?

RICK

You already have the African drums...

GEORGE

Kiss my ass.

A beat as the two men stare each other down.

RICK

Alright George, here it is. Maybe I am a little bit prejudiced against Blacks. But no more than you're prejudiced against White people. You want me to stay on, prove how liberal I am? Well I don't have to prove nothing to no one. I think O.J. was guilty. He's a cold blooded murderer who killed two innocent human beings. I also think Affirmative Action sucks. And I wish there were more White players in the N.B.A.

GEORGE

And for that, you want me to cover for you?

RICK

That bus is going to Farracan's March. You can't really expect me to be a part of that.

GEORGE

It's not just his march.

RICK

I don't want to debate it. He called Judaism a gutter religion. He said Hitler was a great man. I wouldn't expect you to drive a bus to a Ku Klux Klan rally. So don't expect me to do this.

GEORGE

Now you're comparing this to a Klan rally?

RICK

Look George, either I'm gonna get fired or you're gonna cover for me. But no way am I gonna get back on that bus. So what's the deal?

GEORGE

You want me to say you're sick. Fine. I won't be lying.

Rick takes this in.

RICK

Thanks.

George watches Rick walk off. Then George goes back to the bus and drives to the nearby gas station.

34 INT. HIGH NOON COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

34

Looks like something out of an old western flick. Moose and deer heads are tacked on the wall. The place is half empty with redneck cowboys and women.

Suddenly a Black man enters, followed by another Black man and another Black man...The brothers from the bus crowd the place.

JEFFERSON, the White clerk dressed like the sheriff stands shocked.

JEFFERSON
(to no one in particular)
What the hell...

And it's as if the bad guys walked into the saloon. The place turns quiet. Whites stare at the Blacks and vice versa. Finally, Flip breaks the ice.

FLIP
What's happening?

JEFFERSON
Not much I guess.

FLIP
Not much is better than nothing. Can we get a couple of menus?

JEFFERSON
Sandy, get them some menus.

SANDY, the White waitress grabs a bunch of menus. She passes them out as the brothers take seats.

FLIP
Bet ya'll are some real rodeo fans up in here, huh?

Jefferson stares at him blankly. Jamal whispers something to Gary.

JAMAL
Someone needs to tell that fool to shut up before he gets us shot.

GARY
Maybe we'll get lucky and they'll just shoot him.

Sandy pulls out a pad and pencil.

SANDY
You gentlemen ready to order?

FLIP

Yeah. Let's see. I'll have the
uh...Ponderosa omlette with the Little
Joe french fries and a coke.

SANDY

(to Jeremiah)

Sir?

JEREMIAH

Yes, how 'bout the Kemo Sabe chicken
and a glass of water. Please.

Sandy jots down his order.

At another table, Evan sits with Junior. A cowboy named
RODNEY notices the chains.

EVAN

There a problem?

RODNEY

Sorry. It's just that, I've never
seen so many...people in here before.
Where ya'll from?

EVAN

L.A.

RODNEY

(being nosey)

It's a long way from L.A.

JUNIOR

We're going to the Million Man March.

RODNEY

No kidding. Hey Mitch, guess where
these guys are going?

MITCH, a redneck sitting a few feet away shouts back.

MITCH

Where?

RODNEY

The Million Man March.

MITCH

No fooling?

RODNEY

That's what they said.

Mitch crosses over to them.

MITCH

So Farrakhan is the new Black leader,
huh?

EVAN
The new Black leader?

RODNEY
Like Martin Luther King was.

JUNIOR
You could say that.

EVAN
Not really. He's one of our leaders.

JUNIOR
(defiantly to his
father)
But he's the only one that could pull
this off.

MITCH
So what about all that stuff they say.
About him thinking the White man is
the devil. That true?

JUNIOR
(quickly)
Yup.

EVAN
No. It's not true. He's pro Black.
Doesn't mean he's anti White or
anything else.

RODNEY
Tell you one thing, the man speaks his
mind. I mean that dodo bird Gingrich,
I wouldn't piss down his pants if his
dick was on fire. By the way, I'm
Rodney, this is Mitch.

EVAN
I'm Evan.

JUNIOR
I'm Smooth.

MITCH
So what's with the handcuffs, Smooth?

EVAN
It's personal.

JUNIOR
(ignoring Evan)
It's a court order. I'm in my
father's custody.

Evan is annoyed by Junior's big mouth.

MITCH

A judge mandated that?

JUNIOR

It was either community service and this for 72 hours or me serving a one year sentence.

RODNEY

So what'd you do?

JUNIOR

I stole something from a grocery store.

MITCH

Like a candy bar or something?

JUNIOR

Like money out of the cash register.

MITCH

Damn.

JUNIOR

But it's not like it was at gun point or anything.

EVAN

It was still a bone-headed thing to do. You know better.

JUNIOR

How do you know what I know?

EVAN

I know your mother raised you with better sense.

JUNIOR

Put it off on Mom, right?

EVAN

We'll talk about it later.

At another table Kyle talks to the waitress Sandy.

SANDY

So you work out, huh?

KYLE

Oh, yeah. Yeah I try.

SANDY

I tell you, the bums around here, they got nothing but big bellies and flabby arms. Women appreciate a man who takes care of his body.

As Randall crosses by --

RANDALL

You should see him with his clothes off.

Randall crosses to the bathroom.

As Jeremiah eats he notices a trophy behind the counter.

JEREMIAH

What's that for?

JEFFERSON

First place in the amateur rodeo. Steer wrestling.

JEREMIAH

No kidding. Used to be big on rodeo myself. Well, until a horse kicked me upside the head. You ever hear of a Black cowboy named Bill Pickett?

JEFFERSON

Kind of sounds familiar.

JEREMIAH

He invented steer wrestling. See, one day old Bill was loading cattle on a stock car and this long horn breaks loose. So Bill hops on his horse, chases the steer down and when he got close enough, he slid down, grabbed the steer's horns and twisted his head around. Then the steer ran back to the stock car and Bill Pickett invented a new sport.

JEFFERSON

(impressed)

A Black guy, huh?

JEREMIAH

Yes sir.

Jefferson takes this in.

JEFFERSON

Damn. Well what do you know.

35 INT. THE BATHROOM - NIGHT

35

Randall stands at the urinal, finishing up a piss as Jamal walks in. Jamal hesitates when he sees he's alone with Randall, then plays off the discomfort like it's no big deal.

RANDALL

Hey.

JAMAL

(coldly)
What's up.

RANDALL

There is another urinal. You don't have to wait for me to finish.

JAMAL

Nah, that's alright. Gotta comb my hair.

Jamal looks in the mirror busies himself with combing his hair. An awkward silence, then --

RANDALL

These White people are a trip, aren't they? You ever meet such cool rednecks?

JAMAL

Don't get too comfortable. When they start pulling out their lassos and yelling yeehaw, it ain't 'cause they want to jump double dutch.

Randall laughs.

RANDALL

That's funny.

Randall goes to wash his hands, stands right next to Jamal who's still combing his hair.

RANDALL

You comb your hair anymore and it's gonna fall out.

JAMAL

Oh...yeah.

Jamal walks over to the urinal. Pulls out his meat but stands extremely close to the urinal to make sure Randall can't see his package.

Randall knows exactly what Jamal is doing which brings a smirk to his face.

RANDALL

See ya later.

JAMAL

Later.

INT. HIGH NOON COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Randall enters from the bathroom, passes Jefferson who stands at the jukebox.

JEFFERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I dedicate this Charlie Pride song to the memory of my main man who invented steer wrestling. And for those of you who don't know, his name was Bill Pickett.

Jefferson drops a quarter in the jukebox and a Charlie Pride jam plays. Some of the locals get up and begin dancing. Gary nudges Jeremiah.

GARY

What is he doing?

They are looking at Flip.

Flip walks over to a couple. A huge White guy named TREE and his woman EILEEN.

FLIP

Excuse me, you want to dance?

TREE

She don't dance.

EILEEN

Just 'cause you don't dance doesn't mean I don't dance.

(to Flip)

C'mon.

Flip grabs her hand, they get on the floor and dance. The two of them look pretty damn good on the dance floor...considering it's a coffee shop.

Then Sandy crosses to Kyle.

SANDY

So how 'bout it?

Kyle contemplates, then nods.

KYLE

Bet.

Kyle joins Sandy on the dance floor.

The brothers and rednecks clap their hands to the music. The place is bumping. Even some of the other brothers get up and dance as if they were dance partners.

Xavier video tapes the whole thing. It ain't Soul Train but then again, this is Memphis.

WENDELL PERRY, a thirty-three year old, straight-laced, tight ass brother enters, seems annoyed by all the noise. But it doesn't deter anyone else from having fun.

Then George enters and can't believe what he's seeing.

GEORGE

I'll be damned.

37 EXT. HIGH NOON COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

37

The brothers exit, laughing and joking. They sure as hell didn't expect to have that much fun. Jefferson and Sandy walk them out.

JEFFERSON

Ya'll be sure to stop here on your way back.

JEREMIAH

Count on it.

FLIP

Later ya'll.

SANDY

(to Kyle)

Take care.

The brothers say goodbye then head for the Spotted Owl.

JEREMIAH

So where's your driving partner?

GEORGE

I don't know.

FLIP

What do you mean, you don't know?

GEORGE

He had something to do.

FLIP

You mean he bailed on us?

GEORGE

Don't worry about it. I'll still get us there.

GARY

How you gonna do that? It's not like D.C. is around the corner, you know.

GEORGE

The devil wants us to throw in the towel. But like I said, I'll get us there. Now c'mon.

They continue to walk.

VOICE

Hey! Excuse me!

The brothers stop. Wendell runs up.

GEORGE

What can we do for you?

WENDELL

Word has it, you gentlemen are going to the D.C. March.

JEREMIAH

You heard right young man.

WENDELL

Well my name is Wendell Perry. I own a car dealership here in Memphis.

GEORGE

We already have a ride.

WENDELL

No, I'm not trying to make a sale. I was hoping I could tag along with you.

GEORGE

You want to come with us to D.C.?

WENDELL

The guys at the gas station over there said they'll keep an eye on my car. I'm about to sell it and I'd hate to run up the mileage.

Wendell points to his Lexus in the nearby gas station.

GEORGE

Wish I could help you brother but everybody paid money to get on this bus.

WENDELL

Well if it's money you're concerned about --

He pulls out a wad of bills from his wallet.

GEORGE

It's not just that. Look Wendell, if I pick up strays I could lose this gig. Understand?

JAMAL

How are they gonna know?

GARY

Yeah George. It ain't like we're gonna tell anybody.

JEREMIAH

I'm with them. The man says he wants to come with us to the March we should let him come. This is a brother we're talking about.

George contemplates.

GEORGE

Does anybody have a problem with us picking him up?

The brothers shake their heads no.

GEORGE

Fine. Wendell, welcome aboard.

The brothers pile on the bus as they introduce themselves to Wendell. Then the Spotted Owl drives off.

38 INT. SPOTTED OWL - DAWN

38

Signs on the freeway let us know that we are in Nashville.

Everybody on the bus is catching z's as George drives. It's about 5:30 A.M., sunrise. Outside, the view couldn't be better.

George looks in the rear-view, sees Xavier looking out the window.

GEORGE

Nothing like sunrise.

XAVIER

Yeah. Reminds me of Heaven or something.

GEORGE

Oh you've been there, huh?

XAVIER

I'm just saying, can't imagine what could be nicer.

GEORGE

I hear you. Times like now, you couldn't pay me a million bucks to do something else.

XAVIER

So if you weren't hired to drive, would you still be going to the March?

GEORGE
Kidding me? Even if I didn't want to,
the women in my house wouldn't let me
hear the end of it.

XAVIER
They wanted you to come?

GEORGE
They insisted. "George, you find time
to watch football. You better find
time to go to D.C." Or "Daddy, I know
you're gonna do the right thing."
"Daddy you're gonna be there aren't
you?"

George laughs to himself.

XAVIER
Sound like...two daughters and a wife.

GEORGE
(nods)
How 'bout you? Any kids?

XAVIER
(as if he's crazy)
Naw, man.

GEORGE
That's good. Good. Keep Jimmy in
your pants, finish school, get married
then start making those babies.

XAVIER
(defensive)
I got my priorities straight. You
don't have to worry about me.

GEORGE
Sorry. I don't mean to get on your
case, that's just how I was raised.
Wasn't just mom and dad telling you
what you needed to hear, it was all
the grown folks. Hell. If more
people took the time out to talk to
these knuckleheads running around, we
wouldn't have half the problems we
have right now.

XAVIER
What makes you think these
knuckleheads will listen?

GEORGE
You got a point.

Xavier TURNS ON THE CAMCORDER, shoots the scenery that
passes by.

GEORGE
Kind of attached to that thing, huh?

XAVIER
One day, I'll let my kids see this tape.

GEORGE
Gonna be some big Hollywood guy?

XAVIER
(shrugs)
Maybe. Just want to tell different stories. Stuff Hollywood doesn't know about Black people.

GEORGE
Yeah, they got us all figured out don't they? Hollywood and the evening news.

XAVIER
They sum us up with the four R's.
Rap, Rape, Rob and Riot.

Wendell lets out a big yawn as he wakes up. Xavier TURNS THE CAMCORDER ON WENDELL.

WENDELL
Who's making the coffee?

GEORGE
When you find out, let me know.

Wendell laughs.

GEORGE
So how long you been in Memphis?

WENDELL
Born and raised.

XAVIER
You never lived anywhere else?

WENDELL
Nope. Don't intend to either.

GEORGE
Business must be good.

WENDELL
Couldn't get any better.
(to Xavier)
Let that be a lesson to you. If you work hard, graduate from school, the White man can't hold you down. I don't care what anyone says.

GEORGE

Amen.

All the brothers begin to wake up, as Wendell talks.

WENDELL

Woo. We better open a window.
Starting to smell a little funky.

FLIP

Gary forgot his deodorant. Rest of us
are starting to get used to it.

GARY

(waking up)

You're too funny man.

WENDELL

As I was saying, I don't think
Farrakhan is a viable leader or
anything, but at least he doesn't
teach people to beg the White man.

JUNIOR

Who are you to diss Farrakhan?

WENDELL

You might be a little young to
comprehend this brother but the man is
what you call, self serving.

GEORGE

Aw c'mon. Who isn't self serving on
some level? Fact is, The Nation of
Islam has helped a lot of brothers.

WENDELL

And put a lot of money in the
Minister's pocket.

FLIP

So what you saying, Memphis? You
don't think people should get paid for
helping people?

JAMAL

Priests get paid. Reverends get paid.

GARY

And the President's pockets aren't
hurting.

WENDELL

Yeah but he's the President. He
doesn't have to help people.

The brothers laugh.

WENDELL

Look at Little Man over there. He's still mad at me.

EVAN

Now hold on brother. I don't need you too bait my son.

JUNIOR

(to Evan)

I'm not a kid, alright.

WENDELL

I don't mean any harm. Look, if there's one positive about Farrakhan, at least he doesn't have that same nigger mentality as Jesse "Rainbow Coalition" Jackson.

GEORGE

Hey, hey. Now don't start dissing Jesse. Because of him (as Jesse) I am...

THE BROTHERS

Somebody.

GEORGE

I may have a big belly. My feet may be smelly.

FLIP

Well...

GEORGE

The bus that I drive, may be for the ugliest brothers alive. But I am...

THE BROTHERS

Somebody!

The brothers crack up.

WENDELL

Ya'll are too much. But seriously you know what I'm saying about brothers like Jackson. "Hire us, feed us, Affirmative Action." Like we need America to keep a nipple in our mouth.

XAVIER

You a Republican or something?

WENDELL

And proud of it.

Evan shakes his head.

WENDELL

You don't approve?

EVAN

I don't see how any Black man can be a Republican.

WENDELL

I don't see how any Black man can't.

KYLE

I agree.

RANDALL

(rolling his eyes)

Oh here we go again.

KYLE

Democrats want to keep us powerless and docile so we have to keep begging for handouts. And then if we run around having babies, Democrats say that's okay. Take some more hand outs and have a few more babies.

FLIP

A gay Black Republican. Now I know I've seen everything.

KYLE

Get off my case, Flip.

WENDELL

Don't blame him Kyle. It's really not his fault. See the problem is, we are an endangered species. As endangered as the owl painted on the side of the bus. But it's because niggers like Flip have become accustomed to wearing suffering like a badge of honor.

FLIP

Oh wake up and smell the coffee. 'Cause nine times out of ten your mama's in the White man's kitchen brewing it.

WENDELL

That's better than her being at his doorstep begging -- like most lazy, ignorant niggers.

GEORGE

You trying to say that all brothers and sisters who haven't made it are lazy and ignorant?

WENDELL

Basically.

EVAN

Ever hear of racism and discrimination?

WENDELL

In the 1990's it exists as a figment of the Black man's imagination.

The brothers on the bus grumble.

WENDELL

If I'm lying then how do you explain men like Colin Powell? The White man didn't keep him down.

EVAN

(frustrated)

Colin Powell made it in spite of Racism. Not because it doesn't exist. You Uncle...

WENDELL

Go ahead, say it.

(to Kyle)

See that's the ignorance that I'm talking about. Because we stand up on our own two feet and not sing slave songs, that makes us Uncle Toms.

KYLE

We nothing. At least I got sense enough to know racism isn't imaginary.

WENDELL

I see. So I'm Brutus. I'm the enemy to my brothers and sisters but people like O.J. are heroes? Niggers are dancing in the street for him like he's the second coming. Tell me how many of you nigs were out there?

JAMAL

People weren't celebrating because he's a hero. They were celebrating because for once, the shoe was on the other foot. For once White people could be angered by injustice the same way our people have always been angered by injustice.

WENDELL

So you admit he's guilty.

GEORGE

He didn't say no such thing. The man is just saying White people get over on us all the time.

RANDALL

That's right. Maybe now since they see how it feels, things will get better for everyone.

WENDELL

Oh please let there may be a voice of reason among you niggers! How 'bout you old man? You got an opinion?

JEREMIAH

Don't you know any word other than nigger?

WENDELL

Such as?

JEREMIAH

Kings and Queens.

WENDELL

Sorry. But, "If it don't fit, you must acquit."

Wendell laughs.

XAVIER

Why are you even going to the March?

WENDELL

Niggers and cars. Think I was going to miss out on networking? Hey I got a joke. What do you get when you cross one million lesbians and The Million Man March? Two million people that don't do dick.

Wendell cracks up.

39 EXT. ROUTE 40 - MORNING

39

The Spotted Owl speeds up to the side of the freeway and stops. Suddenly the door opens and Wendell comes tumbling out.

The bus speeds off and then a window opens. Wendell suitcase goes flying out the window. They leave his "nigger" ass stranded.

CUT TO

THE MAP OVERTAKES THE SCREEN.

The dot moves from Nashville heading towards Knoxville.

40 INT. SPOTTED OWL - DAY

40

One brother sits in the back, sneaking a puff on his cigarette. He blows the smoke out of the window. The wear and tear inside the bus is starting to show. Candy wrappers and trash on the floor, newspapers piled on seats. Some brothers have their shoes off as they sleep.

Jeremiah is tutoring Xavier on playing the djembe. Jeremiah plays a beat, then Xavier gives it a shot.

JEREMIAH

No. See your hands are too tense.
It's just like dancing.
(he demonstrates)
You gotta be loose. Loose.

Xavier tries again.

XAVIER

Like this?

Xavier is getting the feel of it.

JEREMIAH

(nods)
Yeah, now there you go.

Jeremiah continues to tutor the kid.

Randall crosses over to Kyle.

RANDALL

Mind if I sit for a second?

KYLE

Does it matter?

RANDALL

I was thinking about what you said.
About you needing space. And well,
the answer is no.

KYLE

Didn't realize I was asking.

RANDALL

I know you don't want to let me go.

KYLE

What I don't want is to talk about it.

RANDALL

Fine. Then we'll change the subject.
Why don't we talk about, the first
time I rocked your world.

KYLE
(annoyed)
Oh please.

RANDALL
(persisting)
I gave you a hot bath. Scrubbed every inch of your body. Then when you came out, I rubbed warm oil on your feet, up to your thighs, then onto your big juicy cock.

KYLE
(getting hot)
Stop it...just stop.

RANDALL
If I remember correctly it was, "Don't stop. Don't stop."

KYLE
Shhh.

RANDALL
You always worry about what this person is going to say and what that person is going to think. If you decide you don't want me anymore, if you don't want this lifestyle I'll live with that. But walk away because that's what Kyle wants. Not because that's what people want from you. If anything, be a man about it.

Randall crosses away.

George's eyes are getting heavy. He starts to fall asleep then wakes up as the bus swerves. Evan, notices. Whispers because Junior is asleep.

EVAN
You alright?

GEORGE
Yeah. If I get a cup of coffee in a little while, I'll be good to go.

EVAN
Listen man, I've been driving an eighteen wheeler for nine years. Say the word and I got your back.

GEORGE
Gonna be hard for you to take the wheel with them shackles.

EVAN
They're long enough where I'd have enough room.

GEORGE

You mind if I stick my nose where it doesn't belong?

EVAN

If you need to back off I'll let you know.

GEORGE

I think you got yourself a good kid. I mean teen-agers mess up. That's what they do.

EVAN

Your point?

GEORGE

Whatever crime he committed, he probably did it to get your attention. If I was you, I'd take the cuffs off the boy. Let the two of you work things out man-to-man.

EVAN

Court order says to keep it on him one more day.

GEORGE

'Don't know about you, but I don't see a judge on the bus.

Evan takes this in, looks over at his son who sleeps like a baby.

DISSOLVE TO:

41 INT. SPOTTED OWL - DAY

41

A little while later. Jamal, Gary and Flip talk as they play pinochle.

JAMAL

A man doesn't have to sneak around no lady's back. A man says, this is how things are and then he lives by his word.

FLIP

Just 'cause I have a multitude of honeys doesn't mean I have to sneak. They know I'm not the settling down type. Besides I learned a long time ago never to lie to a woman. Especially a Black woman.

GARY

Sounds like you learned the hard way.

FLIP

You know I did. See one day, I guess I was like thirteen years old, I told my mother I was going to the library after school. But instead I went to try out for the school's track team. Now my moms was real clear about it, "Until you get your grades up, I don't want you trying out for nothing."

GARY

But you had to be hard headed.

FLIP

Absolutely. My mother went to the library and couldn't find me. So one of my friends told her where I was. Next thing I know, she comes marching on that track where the tryouts were with her big old thick ass belt. I mean this belt was so thick, couldn't nobody wear it. It was made for whipping ass. I ran so fast I set a new record.

JAMAL

But mothers know, you can't run forever.

FLIP

You're telling me. She whipped my ass so good, till this day I hate wearing belts.

JAMAL

Worst beating I ever got was when I was about eight. My mother's a Baptist. So we were all in church Easter Sunday I think. And this woman sitting next to me got the Holy Ghost. I mean, old gal was hooping and hollering talking about, "Thank you Jesus! Thank you!" And she stepped on my brand new suede British Walkers. Only thing I could think to do was kick her in her big old bubbly behind.

GARY

You didn't.

JAMAL

I did. And the whole congregation just about froze. Even the lady stopped hollering. Next thing I know my mother snatched the collection plate out of some usher's hand and whopped me up side the head.

(MORE)

JAMAL (Cont'd)

I tried to tell her the spirit made me kick that fat lady but that just made my mother hit me again.

GARY

(laughs)

I remember one time I stole candy from the grocery store and the manager caught me. So he calls my mother and my mother came right down to that store and man...

(laughs again)

She must have lectured me for about two or three hours.

JAMAL

Lectured you? You mean...she didn't beat you or nothing?

GARY

Well...no.

JAMAL

Not even a slap?

FLIP

His mother's White.

Jamal nods. Enough said. They resume playing cards.

FLIP

So what do you do for a living?

JAMAL

I work with kids at risk.

FLIP

What kind of kids?

JAMAL

Gang bangers.

GARY

Good luck. I run into them every day at work. Trying to get through to them is like talking to a wall.

JAMAL

So what do you do?

GARY

I'm a cop.

Suddenly the game stops. It's like Gary has the plague.

JAMAL

A cop?

GARY

Yeah.

FLIP

Where's your precinct?

GARY

South Central.

FLIP

So let me get this straight. Your father was one eighty sevened by a brother and now you're Five-O in South Central?

GARY

The point?

JAMAL

We need cops on the street that aren't looking for every excuse they can get to smoke a brother.

GARY

I work South Central 'cause there's a lot of cops in the hood that don't give a damn. They call an ambulance it takes twenty minutes. They call a cop it takes two hours.

FLIP

And when you get a call?

GARY

A.S.A.P.

FLIP

So you never pulled a Rodney King on someone?

GARY

Nope. Hope I never have to.

JAMAL

You hope? What does that mean?

GARY

It means some of these kids out here play for keeps. Bloods and Crips ain't exactly choirboys.

JAMAL

Most White kids aren't choir boys. But you wouldn't take license to beat them at will.

GARY

Look, if I got to clock a brother to get through to him and save his life, then I'll clock the brother to save his life.

Flip shakes his head.

GARY

Yeah, think what you want. But all you know about it is what you read at your Boyz N The Hood audition.

(to Jamal)

And even though you work with kids at risk, hearing horror stories ain't the same thing as being out there, seeing how it is up close. You have no idea what it's like.

JAMAL

Don't tell me I have no idea. 'Cause I've been on the front lines many times, my brother, okay? Many times.

Gary studies Jamal, gets the implication.

GARY

You used to bang?

Beat.

JAMAL

Up until about two years ago.

Jamal rolls up his sleeve, reveals a "crip or cry" tattoo.

JAMAL

Been crippling since I was twelve years old. Gang banging, that was my job. You hear what I'm saying? 24-7 I had to watch my back. Kill or be killed? Why? 'Cause that's what every fool in my hood did. And who was I to pioneer something new?

FLIP

You ever smoke somebody?

Jamal contemplates. Then --

JAMAL

First time was on my thirteenth birthday.-- You know what Jewish kids are doing when they turn thirteen?

(then)

The O.G.'s wanted to test my manhood. So we pulled up on some bloods.

(MORE)

JAMAL (Cont'd)

They were kids but I just saw them as bloods. Then this fool probably fourteen or fifteen was kicking it to a girl, tickling her and what not. All of a sudden he turns to me, sees my nine pointed in his face. Didn't even give him a chance to blink.

GARY

You said that was the first time.

JAMAL

If I used both hands to count the number of times I canceled a kid, I'd run out of fingers. The problem with me was, I was so good at my occupation, I didn't know what else to do with myself.

GARY

What made you stop?

Jamal takes a breath, his eyes tear up.

JAMAL

I went to my best friend's funeral: Buried a lot of homies before, but D was like a brother to me...Wasn't like I wanted to go out and kill every Blood in the world. I wanted one of them to smoke me, you know? Went into their hood and everything. Where I come from that's suicide. But there wasn't a Blood in sight. Then I figured I'd pull the trigger on myself. Next thing I know, I meet Jindai. She breaks it down how Allah has a plan for me. How he could use me...see brothers nowadays will kill each other over a glare, know what I'm saying?

FLIP

Yeah, man.

JAMAL

Well I was no different. But there's no way I'd have been able to dodge jail time if it was White boys I was smoking up and down those streets. You allow someone to get away with murdering a Black man, then you encourage them to murder a Black man. I was just as lost as these kids are today. But Jindai helped me realize, killing myself wouldn't end the cycle.

GARY

Well I wouldn't have let you get away with it. Matter of fact, when we get back, I just may bust you.

JAMAL

Of course. 'Cause you've got to make your arrest quota.

GARY

No. 'Cause someone like you killed my father. And you can rationalize it all you want. But growing up in the hood ain't no excuse for killing people.

FLIP

How would you know? I mean, you're a mulatto from Monterey.

GARY

Mulatto means mule.

FLIP

Fine 'bi-racial.'

GARY

I'm Black, alright.

FLIP

According to who? All the Bloods and Crips chilling in Monterey?

Gary stands up, throws his cards at Flip.

GARY

You're an asshole Flip.

Gary crosses away, takes another seat.

DISSOLVE TO

42 EXT. THE FREEWAY - NIGHT 42

The Spotted Owl speeds down the freeway. A sign reads: KNOXVILLE CITY LIMITS.

43 INT. SPOTTED OWL - NIGHT 43

The brothers are chilling. Then we hear THE SOUND OF A POLICE SIREN.

GEORGE

Aw, damn.

The brothers nervously look around as George pulls the bus over. Then he opens the door.

SGT. CONNORS, thirty-five years old, White, from the Knoxville Highway Patrol steps on.

CONNORS
What's going on, here?

GEORGE
Officer I was keeping it under sixty.

CONNORS
(looks George over)
We've been asked to beef up surveillance around here. A lot of boys have been smuggling drugs through our State.

GEORGE
What does that have to do with us?

CONNORS
You tell me.

GARY
Excuse me Sergeant.

Gary approaches, flashing his badge.

GARY
I'm Officer Rivers. We're just taking a bus trip to Washington D.C.

Connors looks at the badge.

CONNORS
L.A.P.D. right?

GARY
That's right Sergeant.

CONNORS
Well I hate to break it to you Rivers, but this is Knoxville son.

GARY
I just thought --

CONNORS
I know what you thought. Take a seat.

Gary takes his badge back, sits back down.

CONNORS
Mike, bring the dog up here.

Another officer, MIKE, boards the bus with a German Shepherd.

CONNORS

If one of ya'll are carrying some illegal substance, now is the time to confess your sins. Bruno here, has one hell of a nose.

The brothers sit nervous and silent. Mike walks down the aisle with Bruno. Connors stands at the front keeping his hand on the butt of his gun. Bruno sniffs everywhere. Under seats, on seats, on the brothers. The Black men stare at the cops with looks of rage, hatred and centuries of humiliation. After Bruno sniffs every inch of the bus Mike walks back to Connors.

MIKE

They're clean.

Connors nods and Mike walks off with the dog.

CONNORS

Okay boys. It has been my pleasure. You have a safe trip and if you ever find yourself in Knoxville needing the assistance of law enforcement, don't hesitate to look us up.

Connors steps off.

FLIP

Bastard.

GEORGE

Just be cool till we get out of here.

George calmly starts the engine and drives off. The brothers ride in silence. Not like revolutionaries on their way to the Nation's Capitol. But like Black men who have had their pride, respect and manhood stripped. Just like their father's who were emasculated by the Klan and like their father's fathers who were emasculated by the slave master. Humiliation is written all over their faces. There ain't nothing to say.

CUT TO

THE MAP OVERTAKES THE SCREEN.

The dot moves from Knoxville up to the outskirts of Virginia.

44 INT. SPOTTED OWL - MORNING

44

George sleeps in a chair. Behind the wheel is Evan.

Junior is uncuffed and sits in his seat with the Walkman earphones over his head. He stares at his father.

EVAN

What's on your brain?

Junior gets up, stands by Evan.

JUNIOR

Mom told me you can drive anything.

EVAN

Car, truck, bus, tractor, boat,
motorcycle...

JUNIOR

How 'bout a plane?

EVAN

That's something I haven't got around
to.

JUNIOR

Well that's what I'm going to do. I'm
gonna be a pilot.

EVAN

A pilot, huh?

JUNIOR

After high school, I'm going to join
the Air Force. Might even make a
career out of it.

EVAN

Why planes? People get killed in
planes.

JUNIOR

People get killed in grocery stores.
Doesn't mean I should stop eating,
does it?

EVAN

You take after your mother.

A comment that doesn't sit well with Junior.

EVAN

Swear to God, you definitely got that
mouth of hers.

JUNIOR

Want to hear something funny?

EVAN

What?

JUNIOR

She thinks I take after you. Can't
wait to tell her she was wrong.

Junior sits back down and escapes into his world of hip-hop as the headphones consume his ears.

Flip sits in the back of the bus by the bathroom. One of the big brothers on the bus steps out. Flip winces at the smell coming from the bathroom.

FLIP

Damn brother, what you been eating?

The brother ignores Flip. Then Flip's CELL-PHONE RINGS and he answers it.

FLIP

Hello? What's up Barbara, you hear anything? Wait a minute, I can't hear you. Yeah a truck is going by.

And Flip waits for the TRUCK TO PASS.

We see Jeremiah THROUGH THE CAMCORDER as he faces the lens.

XAVIER

No way Jeremiah, I'm not letting you off the hook. What made you want to go to the March?

JEREMIAH

What made me want to go?

XAVIER

That's the question.

A long pause. Then --

JEREMIAH

I missed the March on Washington.

XAVIER

What do you mean, missed it?

JEREMIAH

I mean, I didn't go. Just got a job working in downtown L.A. An office job at an advertising agency. The only brother on the floor.

Xavier continues to RECORD JEREMIAH as other brothers listen in.

JEREMIAH

Did my best not to remind them that I was Black. If they talked politics, I made sure I left the room. I didn't make the march 'cause I thought my White colleagues would respect me for not going.

XAVIER

Did they?

JEREMIAH

(shrugs)

Doesn't matter. Can't say I respected myself.

(then)

You want to know why I'm going? To say a prayer for all the brothers and sisters that died in the movement. And to say a prayer for all the brothers and sisters being born into the movement. I waited thirty years for a chance to redeem myself.

The brothers take this in. Suddenly Flip bursts down the aisle.

FLIP

Hot damn! I'd like you all to know, you're looking at the co-star of Denzel's new flickity flick. I got the part!

No response.

FLIP

What? Ain't none of you gonna congratulate me?

GEORGE

Congratulations. Now why don't you shut up. No one wants to hear your screaming.

Randall chuckles.

FLIP

Oh so that's funny?

RANDALL

I'm rather amused.

Flip angrily nods, crosses to Kyle.

FLIP

You hear that, Mr. In The Closet? You're girlfriend thinks it's funny.

KYLE

Stop riding my jock, Flip.

FLIP

Are you sure?

KYLE

What?

FLIP

You sure you want me to "stop riding your jock?" Oh that's right. That waitress in Memphis slipped you her phone number. Now I guess you're feeling a little butch about everything. -- Hear that Randall? You boyfriend might be giving up his membership.

Kyle instantly stands up.

KYLE

I told you to stop riding my jock.

FLIP

Or what?

KYLE

Or I'm going to bust your ass.

FLIP

Must have had your Wheaties.

KYLE

You better hope that you've had yours, bitch.

"Oohs" and laughs from all the brothers.

FLIP

I know you didn't just call me a bitch.

JEREMIAH

Alright everybody just calm down!

GARY

(goads Flip)
Sounded like bitch to me.

EVAN

That's what I heard.

FLIP

How's this for a bitch?

Flip decks Kyle and it's on. The two of them throw down.

GARY

Kick his ass Kyle!

JEREMIAH

Hold it! Hold it!

GEORGE

Evan, take the next exit!

Flip and Kyle wrestle around on the bus. Jeremiah tries to separate them.

JEREMIAH

Cut it out! Cut it out!

The bus speeds off of the freeway.

45 EXT. LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA REST AREA - NIGHT

45

The Spotted Owl pulls in.

Evan parks the bus, the door opens and suddenly Kyle and Flip come out. Everyone else jumps out to spectate. For a moment Kyle and Flip are separated. They breathe heavy as does Jeremiah.

JEREMIAH

Listen everyone! This is foolish!

GEORGE

I think we need to let them fight it out.

EVAN

Me too! Let them handle it like men!

JEREMIAH

You think this is handling it like men? You brothers need to shake hands and drop it! That's how you handle it like men.

FLIP

Back up old man. I ain't done with him yet.

JEREMIAH

The rest of you are just gonna let this happen?

The brothers don't respond.

JEREMIAH

I didn't come here for this. You think it's okay for them to fight? Why don't you just give them a couple of guns and get it over with?

XAVIER

I'm not saying you don't have a point Jeremiah, but yo, I got five bucks riding on this.

Jeremiah shakes his head in disappointment. It's useless.

JEREMIAH

I didn't come here for this.

He gets back on the bus.

FLIP

C'mon cutie pie. Don't be shy now.

Kyle and Flip square off with each other.

EVAN

Get him Kyle!

FLIP

Yeah fag, bring it on.

Then Kyle breaks into a martial arts stance.

FLIP

Oh, give me a break.

Suddenly Kyle sidekicks Flip in the face. Flip hits the ground. The brothers crack up!

JAMAL

How you feeling boy? You don't look too good.

Flip smirks, gets up. The fight resumes. Kyle tries another kick and this time Flip blocks it and clocks Kyle in the gut and then his face. Kyle drops.

FLIP

Counted me out too soon fellas.

(then to Kyle)

C'mon sugar. The dance ain't over.

Kyle gets up from the ground and Flip immediately decks him again. Kyle falls down to one knee.

FLIP

How ya' like that, fag?

GARY

C'mon Kyle, shut him up!

Kyle stands. The fight resumes. It's brutal and intense. Both men deliver and receive their share of punishment.

Then Kyle begins to get the best of Flip.

KYLE

Faggot, huh? Is that what I am?

Then he really starts to kick Flip's ass.

KYLE

Now who's the faggot? Huh? Who's the faggot now? Maybe you didn't hear me but I asked you a question.

Bam! He punches Flip in the face.

KYLE
You got something against gays? This
is for Langston Hughes!

Bam! Kyle punches Flip, he goes down. Then Kyle pulls Flip
up again.

KYLE
This is for James Baldwin!

Bam! Kyle punches him again and Flip falls. Kyle pulls him
up.

KYLE
This is for Dennis Rodman!

Bam! Kyle punches him again and Flip falls again.

Gary whispers to Jamal.

GARY
Dennis Rodman is gay?

Jamal shrugs.

KYLE
Had enough? Huh?

Kyle prepares to punch him again, then --

FLIP
I...I had enough.

Kyle throws Flip down and the brothers cheer. Doesn't
matter that he's a homosexual, right now he's the
heavyweight champion of the world. As everyone celebrates,
Evan begins to look around. Calmly at first, then he
panics.

EVAN
Anybody seen Junior?
(to one of the
brothers)
You seen my son?

The brother shakes his head no.

EVAN
George, where's Junior?

GEORGE
I don't know.

EVAN
Junior! Junior! No one's seen him?

People begin to look around. Then --

XAVIER
Evan, over there!

Xavier points. Thirty yards away, we can make out Junior in the darkness. He runs across the field to a wooded area.

EVAN
Junior!

Evan, Jamal and Gary sprint across the field chasing after Junior.

XAVIER
(handing his camera
to George)
Hold this!

Xavier joins the men.

46 EXT. WOODED AREA - CONTINUOUS

46

They look around for Junior unable to find him.

EVAN
Junior!

XAVIER
Yo, Junior!

GARY
Let's split up.

The three men split up searching for Junior. We stay with Evan as he looks through the brush. No luck.

Gary does the same. Nada.

Then Jamal.

JAMAL
Junior. C'mon man where are you?

No luck either.

Xavier searches and something catches his eye. A pair of sneakers are hidden behind a tree. Xavier looks closer.

XAVIER
Junior is that you?

Suddenly, Junior jets.

XAVIER
Wait a minute!
(calling out to the
other men)
Over here! He's over here!

Junior cuts through the woods as Xavier gives chase. The other men run in the direction of Xavier's voice.

Junior checks over his shoulder. Xavier is a few yards behind. Suddenly, Junior is grabbed. Startled, Junior looks up to see that he's in the grasp of his father.

EVAN

What the hell is wrong with you?

JUNIOR

Get off me!

EVAN

(demanding an
answers)

What is wrong with you? You think I
need this mess?

JUNIOR

No!

EVAN

Then where were you going?

JUNIOR

Nowhere!

EVAN

Then why the hell were you running
away?

JUNIOR

Maybe I take after you more than you
know.

Evan takes this in.

GARY

We'll meet you back at the bus.

Gary, Xavier and Jamal leave.

EVAN

I'm...I'm not saying you don't have
the right to be mad. Matter of fact,
you're right about me. After you were
born I broke out as fast as I could.

JUNIOR

You don't think I know that?

EVAN

But I wasn't rejecting you. That's
not what it was about.

JUNIOR

Whatever.

EVAN

I got scared. Twenty years old, no job and a brand new baby from a woman I kind of liked. But it wasn't love. Guess I figured if I left, the problem would go away.

JUNIOR

Well I'm not your problem anymore.

EVAN

Listen to me Junior. Listen to me. Last three years, I've been trying. Swear to God, I've been trying to be your father. And whether you know it or not, your mother's right. You need a man in your life.

JUNIOR

What, is you mad? You think I need you? Look at me. I'm practically grown. What could you do for me? Huh? My mother is the one who taught me how to tie a tie. How to rap to girls. She even told me how to use a condom so I wouldn't be some brother with an unwanted baby like you. She was my mother and father. Now you want to step in the picture? Talking about I need you?

EVAN

You're hanging out all kinds of hours, running with thugs, robbing. I don't want you to go to jail.

JUNIOR

If I do it'll be none of your damn business!

EVAN

Then I'm making it my business! Look -- Junior, I don't expect things to be great with us over night. It may even take a few years. But, you're my son. My son. I know I ain't never told you this but...I love you. I'm not running away again. You hear me? I want to be your father Junior. I want to be your father.

Junior tears up.

JUNIOR

Whatever.

EVAN

No son, not whatever. Not whatever.

Junior tries to move away but Evan stops him. He forces a hug, then Junior breaks down, sobbing in his father's arms.

47 INT. SPOTTED OWL - NIGHT

47

The brothers on the bus wait for Evan and Junior to return. Gary crosses to Flip, gives him some money.

GARY
Here man. Three dollars.

FLIP
What's this for?

GARY
In case you want to buy a box of
Wheaties.

The brothers in ear shot crack up. Then Kyle approaches.

KYLE
By the way, congrats.

FLIP
On getting my ass kicked?

KYLE
On your acting job.

Flip is taken aback as Kyle crosses away. He's more of a man than Flip gave him credit for.

48 EXT. LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA SERVICE AREA - NIGHT

48

Jamal finishes a prayer on his prayer mat and boards the bus. Then Evan and Junior walk up.

49 INT. SPOTTED OWL - NIGHT

49

George is behind the wheel as Junior and Evan board.

GEORGE
Everything okay?

EVAN
Yeah.

Evan and Junior take their seats. George wheels the bus out of there.

The brothers have become more reflective and pensive as they get closer to D.C. Then the bus makes it's way onto the freeway.

50 EXT. THE 81 FREEWAY - DAWN

50

It's packed. Bumper-to-bumper but the traffic is moving. Really moving. It's too damn amazing. Just about everyone on the freeway is a Black man. Written on the back window of one car are the words: "ONE MILLION STRONG." On another back window: "ONE IN A MILLION." On the license plate holder of another brother's car: "RESPECT AND PROTECT THE BLACK WOMAN." On another license plate, "RYZE UP."

51 INT. SPOTTED OWL - DAWN

51

The Black men look out of the windows in amazement.

XAVIER

Damn. You ever see anything like this?

FLIP

Hell no.

52 EXT. 81 FREEWAY - DAWN

52

In one ride, brothers bob their heads to music just like the ride behind them and the ride behind them.

There are license plates from, Texas, Atlanta, North Carolina, Virginia, etc. Black men from all over. Cars honk giving each other love.

53 INT. SPOTTED OWL - NIGHT

53

The brothers throw peace signs to the brothers on the freeway.

Xavier scoots next to Jeremiah.

XAVIER

Jeremiah, you ever see anything like this? Man, I bet when this whole thing is over, they'll try to say not that many brothers showed up.

No response. Jeremiah's head leans up against the window. His eyes are open.

XAVIER

Jeremiah, you still angry?

As Xavier taps Jeremiah on the shoulder, Jeremiah slumps back in his seat. His eyes look glazed over, it looks like he's having a stroke.

XAVIER

Jeremiah. Hey! Hey something's wrong with Jeremiah!

The brothers huddle around Jeremiah as Xavier lightly taps on his face. Jeremiah looks like he's on his last breath.

JAMAL

Jeremiah, can you hear me?

(then)

Take the next exit! We gotta get him to a hospital!

George wheels the bus off of the freeway.

54 INT. RICHMOND HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - DAWN

54

Jamal, Gary, Evan, Junior, Flip, George, Xavier, Randall and Kyle nervously wait. A woman, Doctor Floyd, talks to them.

RANDALL

What was it?

DOCTOR FLOYD

A heart attack.

FLIP

Is he going to be alright?

DOCTOR FLOYD

I don't know. We found some pills in his pocket. So I contacted his doctor from the prescription. He's a very sick man.

KYLE

Was this trip too much for him?

DOCTOR FLOYD

He had coronary artery disease.

GEORGE

Which means what?

DOCTOR FLOYD

He knew the trip would put his life in jeopardy.

XAVIER

So is he going to make it?

DOCTOR FLOYD

We're doing everything we can.

The doctor walks off. Silence as the brothers take this in.

EVAN

Now what?

JAMAL

We wait.

FLIP

We wait much longer we're going to miss the March.

GARY

Is that all you care about?

FLIP

Look, I'm just bringing it up.

XAVIER

You guys go ahead, I'll stay with him.

RANDALL

Me too.

KYLE

Me too.

FLIP

Same with me.

EVAN

(to Junior)

What do you want to do?

JUNIOR

We can't leave him Dad. Not till we know he's alright.

EVAN

(nods in agreement)

Yeah.

(then)

George, all those other brothers came too far to miss the March. Why don't you get them there?

GEORGE

I don't want to leave the old guy either.

JAMAL

We got it covered.

FLIP

He's right, man.

George nods.

GEORGE

Okay. I'll wait for you at The Mall.

GARY

We'll find you.

George walks out and the brothers slump down in their chairs...waiting.

55 INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

55

Doctors work nervously and rapidly to save Jeremiah's life.

DISSOLVE TO

56 INT. RICHMOND HOSPITAL - DAY

56

Several hours later. The brothers in the waiting room have fallen asleep, except for Jamal and Gary. They stare at the television set. Maya Angelou is reciting a poem to all the brothers at The Million Man March.

MAYA ANGELOU

(on T.V.)

My brothers and sons, and grandsons,
and cousins and nephews. The night
has been long. The wound has been
deep. The pit has been dark. And the
walls have been steep. Under a dead
blue sky, on a distant beach, I was
dragged by my braids just beyond your
reach....

The audience of Black men at the March listen in awe.

GARY

That sister is alright.

JAMAL

Yeah.

An uncomfortable beat.

GARY

Can't wait till basketball season
starts.

JAMAL

Yeah. Lakers looked pretty good in
the playoffs.

GARY

Think Magic will come out of
retirement?

JAMAL

Nah. I wouldn't count on it.

Another beat.

JAMAL

By the way man, about before, I didn't
want you to think I was rationalizing
smoking brothers. What happened to
your father was messed up. The way I
lived was messed up.

(MORE)

JAMAL (Cont'd)

All I can do is try to keep other kids from doing the same.

GARY

I just wish I could have one week where I didn't come across the homicide of a Black boy or girl or baby. Man, if that happened, I wouldn't know what to do with myself, you know?

Jamal takes this in.

JAMAL

It took all of us to lift that bus out of the ditch.

Gary gets the implication.

GARY

I hear you.

Doctor Floyd approaches.

JAMAL

Fellas.

Jamal nudges Xavier and Gary. Then everyone else opens their eyes.

KYLE

How's he doing?

DOCTOR FLOYD

His heart muscle was just too weak. He was pronounced dead at 4:18 P.M. I'm very sorry.

Xavier slumps down in his chair.

XAVIER

Oh man.

Flip walks to the wall and out of frustration punches it.

DOCTOR FLOYD

Do you have any idea who his next of kin was?

JAMAL

He...He didn't have anybody.

57 EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

57

Feeling sad and dejected, they walk out of the hospital. Tears fill Xavier's eyes. Jamal does his best not to break down.

JUNIOR

Look.

The brothers look up and see the Spotted Owl parked outside. They approach the bus and pile in.

58 INT. SPOTTED OWL - CONTINUOUS

58

As Gary walks on the bus --

GARY

Thought ya'll were leaving.

GEORGE

Everybody wanted to wait. How is he?

GARY

He's gone.

The other brothers take their seats. Everyone is sullen. George starts the engine and drives off.

GEORGE

(tears welling up)

Damn.

59 EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. - DUSK

59

A few buses and cars are still pulling out of the city.

The Spotted Owl drives on Independence Avenue and parks. Junior looks out the window.

KYLE

What's going on?

JUNIOR

Everybody's leaving.

GARY

Damn. We missed it. We came all this damn way and missed it.

RANDALL

Now what are we suppose to do?

EVAN

Ain't nothing we can do.

FLIP

Might as well go to The Mall anyway.

GARY

What for? Everything got screwed up. We've been on this bus for three days and it's all screwed up.

JAMAL

Guess you were right George. Devil didn't want us to make it and we didn't.

GEORGE

The devil can kiss my ass! Doesn't matter if we missed the March, as long as we didn't miss the point! You hear what I'm saying? At least we stood by the brother.

FLIP

The old man gave up his life to come here and we've been acting like a bunch of niggers and negroes. Me and Kyle fighting each other. I don't know about the rest of ya'll but I'm going anyway. Nothing else I can do.

Jamal finds something in Jeremiah's pillow case.

XAVIER

What is that?

JAMAL

That prayer he wanted to read.

XAVIER

Let's do it for him.

EVAN

What?

XAVIER

All he wanted to do was come here and read this prayer. I think we should read it for him.

Everybody contemplates.

JUNIOR

I'm with it.

EVAN

Yeah, me too.

And all brothers nod in agreement.

KYLE

Let's go.

60 EXT. LAKE ON THE MALL - DUSK

60

The twenty brothers huddle together by the water. Xavier unfolds the sheet of paper as the brothers link arms with each other.

XAVIER

Um...I think he'd want us to bow our heads.

The brothers do so. Xavier reads from Jeremiah's paper.

XAVIER

Lord, in this life, will I ever be worthy of your blessings? No. Will I ever be all that you intended of me? I doubt it. But I, like my ancestors before me, and their ancestors before them, have come this far by faith. Many times I thought you had forsaken me.

(tears falling)

Many times I thought you had forsaken Black people.

Then Jeremiah's voice begins to overlap Xavier's.

DISSOLVE TO:

61 INT. SPOTTED OWL - NIGHT

61

George drives the bus and pulls onto the freeway. The brothers are reflective. Randall and Kyle talk. Junior and Evan talk. Gary, Flip and Jamal laugh as they play cards. Xavier lightly taps on the djembe.

JEREMIAH (V.O.)

But I know, as I stand here now, that victory is upon us. Victory is upon us 'cause we chose to have it so. Because you chose to have it so. And I know you have not forsaken the Black man or the Black woman. Or the Black boy or the Black girl. You have not forsaken our people in Universities or our people in jail, nor our people anywhere. You have lifted us up. And whether I live another decade or just another second, I atone my transgressions and commit to no longer being a spectator. I commit to no longer complaining. I commit to being involved. And with this day brings hope of a better today, a better tomorrow and a better world for us to live in. If we choose to do thy will...Amen.

GEORGE (V.O.)

Amen.

GARY (V.O.)

Amen.

Amen. JAMAL (V.O.)

Amen. FLIP (V.O.)

Amen. ALL THE BROTHERS (V.O.)

62 EXT. ROUTE 40 - DAWN

62

As the Spotted Owl makes it's way down the freeway, Junior and Evan's shackles come flying out the window. We hear A STRONG AFRICAN BEAT FROM THE DJEMBE.

FADE OUT

AMEN