

GRAMCRACKER

Original Pilot

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COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT/INT. CBS EVENING NEWS STATION

We see the rearview of a black couple (late 50s/early 60s) sitting on their couch, watching television with their backs to us. We don't see their faces, but we can see that they are embracing each other and we hear the sound of muffled sobs. After a few moments, we PUSH IN and get a full view of a NEWS ANCHOR speaking ONSCREEN:

NEWS ANCHOR

...Police are scouring neighborhoods in Cook County, Illinois in search of a suspect in connection with the murders of over seventy-five people in the Chicagoland area. Cook County police chief, Marty McDonald:

They cut to a clip of a police press conference. MARTY MCDONALD (60s), the guy you picture when you think of Chicago, speaks at a podium.

MARTY MCDONALD

We received a tip that the unsolved murders of a Southside barber, an elderly woman in Evanston, 'Flo' from those Progressive commercials and many others may have all been committed by the same person of interest. Witnesses describe the primary suspect as a black woman who is 'a little on the chunkier side' and around the age of thirty but quote 'since she is a black woman, it's nearly impossible to tell.'

Cameras flash and the room rumbles as journalists struggle to hold back their follow up questions.

MARTY MCDONALD (CONT'D)

She is often accompanied by her associate, a woman who is characterized as 'just an around the way kind of girl'. If you have any information that may aid police in locating these suspects, we urge you to contact us immediately.

TITLE CARD: 10 YEARS EARLIEREXT. SIDE OF THE ROAD - DAY

It's a lovely spring day in suburbia, 2019. A BLACK POLICE OFFICER pulls up behind a 2007 Nissan Maxima, shuts off his lights and exits his cruiser.

INT. RAIN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

RAIN LENNOX (24, Black), a chubby-cheeked fuck up, sits in the driver's seat. She works quickly - unbuttoning the top of her blouse, smudging her mascara and bursting into tears just as the Officer begins to tap on her window. She winds it down.

POLICE OFFICER

Ma'am, do you know how fast you were go-- is everything alright?

RAIN

(sniffling)

Just fine.

POLICE OFFICER

License and registration please.

She hands them both over and he takes a look.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)

Ms. Lorraine -

RAIN

Please, officer, call me Rain. I was speeding. I'm so sorry. I was in a rush to see my Grandmother.

POLICE OFFICER

Right.

RAIN

She raised me - taught me how to ride a bike and make one hell of a Gin Fizz. She's so sweet, I call her my Gramcracker.

She begins to sob, big fat tears rolling down her cheeks.

RAIN (CONT'D)

Stage Four Lung Cancer and who knows how much time she has left.

(MORE)

RAIN (CONT'D)

I begged her to quit smoking, but old dog, new tricks, you know?

POLICE OFFICER

I'll have to write you a ticket.

RAIN

Absolutely. Do what you gotta do. I was so relieved when I saw that you were...one of us. With so many of our brothers and sisters being gunned down by the police, I was terrified. I just can't handle any more stress right now.

Got him. He crumples up the ticket and shoves it in his pocket.

POLICE OFFICER

I'll let you off with a warning. Just please, pay attention to the speed limits. Drive safe.

RAIN

Wow, won't He do it! I can't thank you enough!

As soon as he returns to his cruiser, Rain wipes her tears one eye at a time and turns up the speakers, blasting "Norf Norf" by Vince Staples. She speeds off.

END COLD OPEN

TITLE CARD: GRAMCRACKER

ACT ONEEXT. GRAMCRACKER'S TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Top still unbuttoned, Rain rushes to the front door. GRANDMA/GRAMCRACKER (70s, White) who is definitely not dying of cancer, opens it. She's a classic Temporarily Embarrassed Millionaire with nothing to show for her life but liver spots and socialite dreams deferred. She squints at Rain.

GRAMCRACKER

You're late.

RAIN

Work ran over.

GRAMCRACKER

If you continue to show up places late with exposed breasts, Rastafarian dreadlocks and poor excuses, you will never accomplish anything.

RAIN

They're braids, Grandma.

GRAMCRACKER

That doesn't change a thing.

Rain grits her teeth and heads into the house.

INT. GRANDMA'S DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

At the dinner table, Rain is joined by her parents GERALD (50) and MONIQUE (47). Gerald is Gramcracker's son - he's biracial and sensitive about it. Monique went to Spelman and won't let anybody forget it.

GRAMCRACKER

I know The Lord says 'Love Thy Neighbor' but when my neighbor is a Mexican illegal raising two sets of triplets while collecting Welfare thanks to my tax dollars, my God, do I feel tested.

They all pick at their dinners in silence. Rain reaches for a dinner roll.

GRAMCRACKER (CONT'D)

I admire your lah-shay-fair approach to your figure. Personally, there's nothing I enjoy more than the adoring gaze of a man.

RAIN

Anyone want to respond to that? Because that is the saddest shit I have ever heard in my life.

GRAMCRACKER

You know, Mr. Ellingsworth from two doors down? He has developed quite the crush on me. Sometimes when I need a pick-me-up, I stop by his place just to see him stutter. All I'm saying is, that bread is holding you back.

Gerald COUGHS.

GERALD

...Work is fantastic. The memory foam shoe trend is great for business. I've treated so many fallen arches this month that we're thinking about getting a hot tub.

GRAMCRACKER

If you were a surgeon, you would have two hot tubs by now. Instead you've got a freeloader daughter you can barely afford to bankroll and a wife who *works*.

GERALD

You worked.

GRAMCRACKER

And I hated every moment of it.

Gerald slumps down in his chair.

MONIQUE

Let's not live in the past. He's happy. We're happy.

GRAMCRACKER

Well, forgive me for wanting more for my only son. It's a scary world out there. Terrorists are running for president.

(MORE)

GRAMCRACKER (CONT'D)

Computers have turned all the children into homosexuals. We're living in Revelations and I just want to be sure you'll all be taken care of.

MONIQUE

(panicked)

Rain? Anything you'd like to share?

RAIN

My tutoring job's going well. Little Robbie is finally starting to understand the concept of Eurasia. Beyond that, I'm out.

GRAMCRACKER

It's just... laziness is such an unattractive quality, especially in a black woman. The world already judges you all so harshly. Just look at what happened to Monica Lewinsky.

MONIQUE

She's not black?

GRAMCRACKER

Really? That hair fooled me.

RAIN

Lazy? I went to Northwestern.

GRAMCRACKER

Ah, yes. You lasted six weeks and when the going got tough, you got going.

GERALD

Now, Mom -

Gramcracker shoves a huge scoop of peas in her mouth and speaks while chewing.

GRAMCRACKER

My neighbor Gertrude Krambeer has three lovely grandchildren that she cannot shut up about. All brilliant, gorgeous, blue-eyed doctors.

RAIN

Why is their eye color relevant?

GRAMCRACKER

Sometimes, I can't help but think about how my life looks held up next to hers.

RAIN

Have you ever considered telling Gertrude Krambeer to suck a big black dick and see if that will level the playing field?

At that, she begins to choke.

MONIQUE

Gerald, help her!

Gerald leaps from his chair and gives Gramcracker the Heimlich. As each pea begins to dislodge from her throat and hit the wall in front of her, she locks eyes with Rain. She tries hard to fight off a smile as she watches Gramcracker choke.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

The three Lennox's burst through the front door of their home. It's impeccably decorated with just enough African art to let guests know that they are cultured. Rain tries to sneak up the stairs discreetly.

MONIQUE

Lorraine Lennox! If you don't bring your black ass down here right now, I swear to God.

GERALD

Monique, go easy on her.

RAIN

It's not my fault she can't be bothered to chew with her mouth closed. You can't seriously be blaming me.

GERALD

Cool it, young lady.

RAIN

I don't get why you're defending her. Isn't this the same woman who accused Mom of only marrying you for the tax benefits? And was too willfully ignorant to notice that her own husband was black?

GERALD

Hey! Pop looked pretty fair in certain light and he had a relaxer at the time.

MONIQUE

I know you don't like to talk about it, Rain, but whatever happened at school - it changed you. You used to be so driven, so sure of yourself, and now... What are you gonna do with your life?

RAIN

I don't know, okay!

MONIQUE

When I was pregnant with you at Spelman -

RAIN

(sarcastic)

Oh my God, you went to Spelman?

MONIQUE

- All I did was daydream about what kind of person you would be. But look at you. Reckless. Disrespectful. Headed nowhere at a hundred miles per hour. It's time you get out into the world and fend for yourself.

GERALD

I don't think your mother means that.

MONIQUE

I think she does!

RAIN

(fuming)

You know what? Thank you for giving me the push that I needed. I'll be out by the end of the month.

She walks up the stairs as calmly as possible, if only not to give them the satisfaction of a dramatic exit.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. ALINEA RESTAURANT - EVENING

A dolled-up Rain sits across from ROBBIE (40s) White, who thinks a blazer over his "Doggy-Style Chicago-Style Hot Dogs" work polo is formalwear. They talk over weird food at one of the fanciest restaurants in the city. He seems nervous.

RAIN

...so since Armenia's in Eurasia,
The Kardashians are technically
just white. Except for Khloe, which
goes without saying.

ROBBIE

Fascinating.

RAIN

Gramcracker was at it again last
night. She's so fucking racist.
God, I hate white people.

ROBBIE

How can you say that? She's your
grandmother, so doesn't that make
you part white?

RAIN

(uncomfortable)

You know what else I hate? How
insecure she is. If I have to hear
one more thing about Gertrude
Krambeer, I'm gonna shove her down
the fucking stairs. Can you imagine
being that old and still giving a
shit about what people think?

ROBBIE

No, I can't.

A handsome BLACK MAN sees the two of them and gives Rain a JUDGMENTAL LOOK. *Another black queen fucking her oppressor.* Rain, overcompensating, reaches over and starts caressing Robbie's arm.

RAIN

Enough about me. How are you,
Daddy?

He pulls his arm away.

ROBBIE

There's actually something I've been meaning to tell you. When we first met on Seeking Arrangement -

Rain looks around to make sure no one heard.

RAIN

You mean *Tinder*.

ROBBIE

Tinder. Right. When we met, you were exactly what I needed. You satisfied me, and I was happy. But I think it's time for this to end. I want to go back to my wife.

RAIN

Why the fuck would you do that?

ROBBIE

Because I love her.

RAIN

Oh, you love her! That makes perfect sense. We get stoned out of our minds and fuck at Shedd Aquarium because you love her.

ROBBIE

I'm sorry. I never meant to hurt you.

Rain throws on her jacket, shaking with anger.

RAIN

Why are you apologizing? You're not my boyfriend. Just give me the last of it and we're good.

He hands her a wad of twenties. She takes a deep breath, finally calming down.

ROBBIE

Promise me you'll take care of yourself.

RAIN

(heartfelt)

I will. I know you mean well. Best of luck with Sarah.

She exits the restaurant.

EXT. ALINEA RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER

Rain approaches a Lexus with a "Doggy-Style Chicago-Style Hot Dogs" bumper sticker. She admires it for a moment, then takes out her keys and SCRATCHES it, from the front bumper to the trunk.

EXT. MR. ELLINGSWORTH'S HOUSE - DAY

Gramcracker rings the doorbell, checking her reflection in the window. MR. ELLINGSWORTH (70s) opens the door, already blushing.

MR. ELLINGSWORTH
Lorraine! How can I help you?

GRAMCRACKER
I was wondering if I may borrow your vegetable spiralizer? I've gotta watch my figure and -

GERTRUDE KRAMBEER (70s) saunters over to join him, wine glass in hand. She places a flirtatious hand on his shoulder.

GRAMCRACKER (CONT'D)
(recovering)
...pasta is the devil on my shoulder.

MR. ELLINGSWORTH
I hear ya! One moment, I'll grab it.

He heads to the kitchen. Gertrude and Gramcracker give each other the once over.

GERTRUDE
You're looking tired. Is everything alright?

GRAMCRACKER
My eyes are probably just swollen from the chowder you brought to Bingo last night. A bit salty, wasn't it?

They share a devastating, fake chuckle. Mr. Ellingsworth returns with a cumbersome spiralizer.

GRAMCRACKER (CONT'D)
I'll have this back in a jiff.

She turns to leave and then -

GRAMCRACKER (CONT'D)
May I use your restroom?

INT. MR. ELLINGSWORTH'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Gramcracker enters the bathroom, locks the door, and examines the shower. She opens her purse to retrieve a small screwdriver and uses it to loosen his shower safety grab bar.

INT. SOUTHSIDE HAIR SALON - DAY

Rain sits in a salon chair as her best friend AISHA (24) Black, plaits her hair into impeccable box braids. She has big hoop earrings, an undercut fade and the kindest eyes.

AISHA
So the hot dog man -

RAIN
The hot dog *franchise heir*, Aisha.

AISHA
- left you to go back to his wife?
And your parents kicked you to the curb? I'm surprised their Huxtable-
asses had it in them.

RAIN
Maybe I'm actually just in a Tyler Perry movie and I'm being punished for being a whore.

AISHA
You know you can always stay with me, right? If Cameron has a problem with it I'll just remind her that only people who contribute to the bills get to have a say.

RAIN
I appreciate you. But my mom's right - I need to figure my shit out.

AISHA
Still, I'm sorry about Robbie. I know how much you liked his money.

JULISSA (20s), a hair colorist who exclaims everything she says, starts working on the client next to Rain.

RAIN
Men are trash.

JULISSA
Somebody should write that shit on
my gravestone.

AISHA
What he do, girl?

JULISSA
My sister's dating this asshole. He
hits her, tries to control her.
This idiot even catfished her just
to see if she would cheat on him.
But she loves him. She's never
gonna leave. I swear, I would kill
him if I could.

Aisha shakes her head in disbelief. Rain looks curious.

INT. AISHA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The apartment is littered with entrepreneurship books and photos of a younger Aisha and Rain on vacation with Rain's parents. The two are parked on a hand-me-down couch with CAMERON (20s), Aisha's broke but loving girlfriend, watching a trashy true crime docuseries called "RIP My Baby Daddy."

Aisha takes out her phone and types, *"Hey, Mom. I just wanted you to know that I love you and I believe God accepts me as I am. I hope you can too. I'm happy now and - "* Dissatisfied, she deletes it all and starts over.

CAMERON
Whatcha working on, babe?

Aisha locks her screen before she can see.

AISHA
Nothing. Pass the hot cheetos,
please.

Rain tosses the chips to her, eyes never leaving the screen.

AISHA (CONT'D)
You're way too into this. Isn't
being obsessed with murder for
white girls?

RAIN
Shh! He's about to take a bite.

ONSCREEN: A poorly produced dramatization shows a shifty-eyed BLACK WOMAN preparing ribs and serving them to a BLACK MAN. The NARRATOR sets the scene:

NARRATOR

When she found out that her baby's father was a cheater, Tameka Johnson's dreams of a big happy family were dead. But after he took one bite of her arsenic-marinated ribs, so was he.

The man takes a bite and drops to the floor. Rain CACKLES.

AISHA

Don't you ever get tired of all this true crime shit? Somebody's child is dead and they're making it look like an episode of *Martin*.

RAIN

Well, he seemed like an asshole.

The DOOR BUZZER goes off.

CAMERON

Postmates!

Cameron sprints downstairs for the food. Aisha grabs a huge handful of chips and tosses them into her mouth.

RAIN

All I'm saying is I don't think it's so black and white. Don't you think some people have it coming?

AISHA

I think most people are doing the best they can. And -

Before she can finish her sentence, a cheeto gets lodged in her throat. She begins to choke.

RAIN

Oh my God!

Rain runs to the kitchen and grabs Aisha a glass of water. As she chugs it, Rain's eyes light up, remembering Gramcracker and the peas.

AISHA

What in the hell is that look on your face?

RAIN

I just got an idea to solve my whole 'homeless in two weeks' problem. Just hear me out, okay?

AISHA

I'm listening.

RAIN

A few years back, my Dad told me he has a life insurance policy on Gramcracker and that once she dies, I get half of the payout.

AISHA

...Bitch. Have you lost your damn mind?

RAIN

Do you have any other ideas?

AISHA

You could get a job at the salon.

Rain wiggles her fingers in her face.

RAIN

I have fat fingers! Whose edges am I catching with these?

AISHA

You could actually tutor instead of just saying you do.

RAIN

You play too much.

AISHA

You're serious. Oh my God.

RAIN

Don't you see it as kind of a public service? There would be one less racist in the world, terrorizing Mexican waitresses and Filipino nurses at every turn.

AISHA

Rain. She's an old woman!

RAIN

And she's lived a full life. What are we taking her away from exactly?

(MORE)

RAIN (CONT'D)

Her petty feud with Gertrude
Krambeer? Her *Price Is Right*
reruns? Her slow radicalization on
Facebook?

AISHA

Did I just hear a 'we'?

RAIN

I'll split my cut with you. Come
on, you know two brilliant minds
are better than one. Don't you have
anything like this on your bucket
list?

AISHA

Uh, no? My list is more like
'tongue kiss Janelle Monae' or 'get
tickets to the B2K reunion tour'
like a normal fucking person.

RAIN

Listen. When your Mom put you out,
I forced my parents to take you in.
I've always been there for you and
I need you to be there for me. I
know we can pull this off and I
need you, Aish.

Aisha takes an honest look around her run-down studio
apartment. Cameron returns with the food, out of breath, and
begins to gyrate.

CAMERON

I got the wings!

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEINT. RAIN'S CAR - DAY

Rain hits unlock and reaches over to push the door open.

RAIN
Hop in, Jack The Thiccer.

Aisha gets in.

AISHA
I feel like shit.

RAIN
Remember that one time on *Living Single* when Maxine was like 'Guilt is a trick emotion your parents give you to stop you from doing things that feel good'? Relax. This is just that.

AISHA
You got the bread?

Rain picks up the loaf of BANANA BREAD that's wrapped in Saran Wrap sitting on her dashboard and hands it to her.

RAIN
Baked it myself. Great idea, by the way.

AISHA
Let's run it through one more time.

RAIN
It's simple.

Over their dialogue, we see the car pulling up to EXT. GRAMCRACKER'S TOWNHOUSE - DAY.

RAIN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You will play my sweet-as-pie best friend, the decoy. Keeping her off her guard.

AISHA (O.S.)
And you're *sure* she'll choke?

RAIN (O.S.)

Please. She's got no home training
and talks with her mouth wide open.
We should be out of here in twenty.

She puts the car into park and we're back to INT. RAIN'S CAR.

AISHA

I just have to ask one more time.
Are you sure about this?

RAIN

Girl just hurry up, the bread's
getting cold.

EXT. GRAMCRACKER'S TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Rain and Aisha stand at the front door. Aisha chews gum
loudly. Rain holds her hand out.

RAIN

Spit it out.

AISHA

I'm just nervous, okay?

RAIN

Spit.

She spits the gum into Rain's hand.

AISHA

You owe me, bitch. Big time.

Rain plasters on a huge smile and knocks. Gramcracker opens
the door and gives the two a nasty look.

GRAMCRACKER

Oh. I wasn't expecting company. And
you brought your...probation
officer?

RAIN

Ha, Grandma, you know I'm not on
probation. This is my friend Aisha,
whom you've met several times. We
were in the neighborhood and I
brought you some of my delicious
banana bread. I even used your
recipe!

GRAMCRACKER

Well, since you're here you might
as well come in.

INT. GRAMCRACKER'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rain pops around the corner into the kitchen. Aisha and Gramcracker watch a red-faced FOX NEWS ANCHOR scream on television.

GRAMCRACKER

You know never to let an illegal
into your house right?

AISHA

Absolutely. I would never.

GRAMCRACKER

Good.

AISHA

Your place is so lovely. I love
your, uh -

She gestures to her hideous paisley living room set.

AISHA (CONT'D)

I really just love the whole vibe.

Rain returns and hands Gramcracker a piece of the bread on a small plate.

GRAMCRACKER

I'm not hungry. If you want, you
can leave it here and if any
Jehovah's Witnesses come to the
door I'll give it to them.

RAIN

Please, just try a bite. It would
mean the world to me.

She looks so sincere.

GRAMCRACKER

Fine.

She takes a bite. Rain can barely contain herself.

GRAMCRACKER (CONT'D)

My God, it's biscotti-dry.

She begins to choke.

GRAMCRACKER (CONT'D)
Water. Please.

RAIN
I'll get it!

Rain sprints towards the kitchen.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Instead of getting the water, she pulls out her phone and leisurely scrolls through Instagram while Gramcracker CHOKES AUDIBLY in the background. She likes a photo of Kevin Hart's blasian baby.

RAIN
(whispering)
So cute.

INT. GRAMCRACKER'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Back in the living room, Aisha watches Gramcracker continue to choke. The Fox News Anchor is still at it ONSCREEN:

FOX NEWS ANCHOR
*They're infiltrating our schools.
Raping our women. Making your sons
gay and your daughters prostitutes.
Cheap ones, too.*

GRAMCRACKER
Where's...the...water?

AISHA
I'm sure she'll be here any second.

Gramcracker falls the ground, still choking. There's a KNOCK at the door. Panicked, Rain sprints back into the living room and sees Gertrude at the front door. It's unlocked so she opens it and comes right in. Rain heads to the kitchen for real this time.

GERTRUDE
Lorraine, I just dropped by to let
you know that Mr. Ellingsworth had
a nasty fall in the shower and -
(re: her on the floor)
Oh Dear!

Rain rushes back with the water and hands it to Gramcracker. She chugs it in one gulp, finally able to breathe. Gertrude gives Rain a curt smile.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)

This must be your namesake. I'm Gertrude.

RAIN

I've heard so many wonderful things.

She shakes her hand. Gramcracker looks humiliated.

INT. RAIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The room is a relic of Rain's former life as a high school class president. There are debate trophies, a Jack and Jill Teen Community Service Award and framed college acceptance letters on every wall. She and Aisha lay on the floor.

RAIN

What if I hide somewhere in the house and then, you know, jump out and scare her? Maybe she'll have a heart attack?

AISHA

Or maybe she'll open-hand slap you.

RAIN

Pillow over the face? Nah, that won't work.

AISHA

I had no idea you were named after her.

RAIN

Do not remind me. This is the same woman who threatened to Call ICE on Princess Jasmine at Disney World. She's pure fucking evil.

AISHA

Look, even though she's a piece of work, she's still apart of you. Maybe that lady walking in was God's way of talking some sense into you.

RAIN

God can mind His business. I'm trying to get this money.

Rain hears a KNOCK at the door. Gerald pops his head in.

GERALD

You two doing okay in here? Up to
no good like back in the day?

AISHA

(so nervous)

You got us Mr. Lennox! I'll be
right back.

She sprints to the bathroom.

GERALD

Listen honey, I'm sorry about the
other night. Your Mom went real
hard on you.

RAIN

You could have said something.

GERALD

I didn't want to get in the middle
of it. I understand how difficult
mothers can be, probably better
than anyone.

RAIN

Got me there.

GERALD

You think I don't hate dragging you
over there every week? Her life
didn't turn out the way she wanted
and she takes it out on everyone
around her. But she's the only Mom
I got and she won't be here
forever.

RAIN

You sure about that? Racist white
women tend to be immortal.

Gerald LAUGHS and reaches over to give her a hug.

GERALD

I don't want you to end up bitter
like she did. I want you to get out
into the world and chase your
dreams.

RAIN

You're right, Dad.

He pulls back and takes a good look at her.

GERALD

I know you two butt heads, but
sometimes you really remind me of
her.

Rain hugs him back, looking conflicted.

EXT. GRAMCRACKER'S TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Gramcracker opens the door and finds a smiling Rain and
Aisha.

GRAMCRACKER

You two again? I'm really not up
for company after the week I've
had.

RAIN

It won't take long. I've just been
watching a lot of Dr. Oz recently
and I'm concerned about your joint
health.

AISHA

You wouldn't want brittle joints,
would you?

She pulls out a bottle from her pocket.

RAIN

I brought you some vitamins. To
start your dosage, go ahead and
take five.

GRAMCRACKER

Now, hold your horses. I'll need to
load them into my pill organizer
first.

Rain panics, then spots the staircase behind her. Plan B.

RAIN

Of course. Let's go upstairs to the
medicine cabinet and I'll help you.

Gramcracker heads inside. Rain follows, trying and failing to
communicate the new plan to Aisha with only facial
expressions.

INT. GRAMCRACKER'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

GRAMCRACKER

(to Aisha)

Before you get any ideas, just know that every figurine in this house is documented and accounted for.

RAIN

Come on, Grandma!

INT. GRAMCRACKER'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

The door to the bathroom is the very first one off the top of the stairs. Rain is hard at work adding the new "vitamins" to her stuffed 30 Day pill organizer. Gramcracker finally makes it up the stairs, winded, and leans in the door frame.

RAIN

You sure do take a lot of pills.

GRAMCRACKER

Comes with getting old. With all the fried food you eat, you should be so lucky to reach my age.

She reaches for the pill bottle.

GRAMCRACKER (CONT'D)

What are these supposed to do, anyway?

RAIN

(improvising)

Dr. Oz says, uh, it just makes weak joints, like, bionic.

GRAMCRACKER

I'm surprised you've been checking up on me lately. I'm no fool. I know you've never really cared for me.

RAIN

That's not true, Grandma. In fact, I admire you. You always knew you wanted more out of life and never stopped trying to get it. I'm finally on the path to figuring out what I want and who I am. And I have you to thank for it.

Gramcracker is touched. Rain embraces her and after a moment, she returns the hug. Then, Rain pulls back and SHOVES her down the stairs. She bumps every step on the way down, landing HEAD FIRST on the floor, her body in full view from the front door. Rain rushes down the stairs to examine her.

INT. GRAMCRACKER'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rain searches for a pulse and there is none. Aisha rushes over and SCREAMS. It seems like gallons of blood are pouring from her head. The realization sets in on Rain's face - she has finally done it, she's cracked her Grandmother's head nearly in two.

AISHA

Let's clean.

QUICK CUTS -

- Wearing gloves, Aisha and Rain pour rubbing alcohol on paper towels and wipe down the railing of the stairs to get rid of fingerprints, carefully stepping over her body.
- They wipe down the door knobs.
- And the surface of all the furniture.
- And even the remote control.
- Finally, they dump the gloves and paper towels in a garbage bag and head out the front door, giving the front door knob a final wipe on the way out.

INT. RAIN'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Rain and Aisha quickly buckle up, breathing heavily.

AISHA

You really think people will believe she just fell?

RAIN

Absolutely. Old people fall down the stairs all the time. Haven't you ever seen a Life Alert commercial?

They look back at the house where:

EXT. GRAMCRACKER'S TOWNHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Gertrude approaches the front door and spots Gramcracker's body through the glass panel. She SCREAMS.

INT. RAIN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Rain SPEEDS around the corner.

INT. ANDY'S FROZEN CUSTARD - LATER

Rain and Aisha stand in line, whispering their post-game highlights.

AISHA

It was like you were on auto-pilot.
I haven't seen you spring into
action like that since we were
trying to get to the front row at
the Solange concert. You brought
that same energy.

RAIN

Please. I could never have pulled
it off without you.

It's their turn to order.

RAIN (CONT'D)

We'll have two Jackhammers, please.
Extra whip.

EXT. ANDY'S FROZEN CUSTARD - LATER

They sit outside at a picnic table, inhaling their custard.

AISHA

What are you gonna do with the
money?

RAIN

I plan on going to the Skokie Mall
and just blacking out. You?

Aisha stops eating, her face beginning to fall.

AISHA

I'm sorry, I just - It just hit me.
Oh my God.

She bends over, burying her face in her hands.

AISHA (CONT'D)

I can't believe it. I can't believe what we just did.

Rain suddenly bursts into tears. Aisha pulls her into an embrace.

AISHA (CONT'D)

It's okay, girl. Let it out. We made a mistake. We'll figure it out.

Rain pulls back, still sobbing.

RAIN

No, that's not it. A normal person would feel guilty at a time like this and I don't feel guilty at all. I feel...I'm -
(hiccuping)
I've never felt so alive.

Aisha pulls her back into the hug, looking absolutely horrified behind her back.

INT. LENNOX'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rain opens the front door and sees her parents sitting together, crying. Monique rushes up to her and gathers her up, crushing Rain's face in her breasts.

MONIQUE

Oh honey, where have you been?
We've been calling you for hours.

RAIN

I was with Aisha. Did something happen?

Gerald rubs her arm soothingly.

GERALD

It's your Grandma. Her neighbor called us. There was an accident and...she's gone.

Rain gives an Oscar-worthy performance - gasping, tears filling her eyes, even trembling.

MONIQUE

I've been awful to you and I'm so sorry. At a time like this, we really need to be together.

Suddenly, Rain's face begins to crumple. She pulls away from her parents and THROWS UP all over their fancy jute rug. Monique rubs her back as she heaves.

MONIQUE (CONT'D)
Poor baby. She's so upset.

INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

Dressed in a black dress with an inappropriate amount of cleavage for the occasion, Rain sits on the toilet. She stares at the used pregnancy test in her hand, then looks up at herself in the mirror and gulps.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

The church is packed - there's Gertrude, a handful of Gerald's cousins, Monique's sorority sisters, and a wrecked Mr. Ellingsworth in an arm sling. Monique consoles Gerald as he sobs in the front pew. Aisha and Rain stand in the back of the line to view GRAMCRACKER'S BODY in her casket.

AISHA
I hate funerals. Death has a smell, you know? Like curdled milk. Or earring backs. Or white people when it rains.

RAIN
I have to tell you something.

Aisha turns to look at her.

RAIN (CONT'D)
I'm pregnant.

AISHA
Oh my God. Hot dog man?

She nods.

AISHA (CONT'D)
Wow. Well. It's 2019. You don't need to give birth to every baby you conceive. Have you thought about it?

RAIN
I have. It just... feels like this is my baby.

AISHA

This isn't Instagram, Rain. It's real life. Are you sure you're ready?

RAIN

No. But I have seen *Baby Boy* on BET like thirty times.

Aisha CACKLES. A few people turn to look at her.

AISHA

You're gonna be a Mom. You know kids are expensive, right? What's your plan?

RAIN

Well, I was thinking...

Aisha's eyes widen.

AISHA

(loud)

You can't be serious!

(quieter)

You can't be serious.

RAIN

Let's say a woman has someone in her life doing her wrong and she can't get rid of them. Who does she turn to? *Us*.

AISHA

You seriously expect me to believe you're doing this out of the kindness of your heart?

RAIN

Can't I have a heart for justice and bills to pay?

Aisha is incredulous.

AISHA

You know how I feel about all of this. It's wrong.

RAIN

Can you just leave all that right and wrong and Jesus and Holy Ghost shit out of it for a second?

AISHA

We're in a church.

RAIN

I'm talking about bad guys only, I swear. Just think of the worst, most vile, person in someone's life. If you could give them the gift of snapping your fingers and getting rid of them like they never even existed, wouldn't you? Imagine how good that would feel. That freedom.

They move up a bit in line.

RAIN (CONT'D)

Think of the possibilities. I'd be able to provide for little Rain the Third. You could finally open up your own salon. You're too good to just be renting a booth. I know you, Aish. I know you want more out of life than you've got right now.

AISHA

My booth is just fine. My life is just fine. What do you even need me for?

RAIN

You're smart. Thoughtful. And you'll keep me from going too far.

AISHA

I'm not like you. I just want to be regular. I want to get married, have a few kids, live long enough to see Malia Obama finally get some black friends. A normal life.

RAIN

Oh, please. No one wants to be regular. You want more, just like me. And this is our shot.

Bingo. Rain nailed her. Aisha looks torn.

AISHA

(to God)

God, who am I?

She turns and squints at Rain.

AISHA (CONT'D)

And who are you?

RAIN

I don't know exactly. But I do know what I'm good at and unfortunately, this is it.

(beat)

I think I know someone who would make a great first client.

Aisha looks inquisitive. Finally, they reach GRAMCRACKER'S BODY. She looks kind for once. Rain runs her fingertips along the casket.

RAIN (CONT'D)

You know, I actually think I'm gonna miss her.

AISHA

They say you never forget your first.

Rain starts to laugh, then forces a frown, remembering where she is.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG**EXT/INT. SOUTHSIDE HAIR SALON - NIGHT**

Still in their funeral drag, Rain and Aisha knock on the salon door. It's closed but Julissa is inside, sanitizing her tools. She opens the door.

JULISSA

Here to finally let me wax that upper lip?

RAIN

You know your sister? The one with the shitty boyfriend?

Aisha starts to chew her gum loudly again.

RAIN (CONT'D)

What if I told you we could make him disappear?

Aisha POPS her gum. Julissa smiles.

FADE TO BLACK.

End of Pilot.