

The Wood

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Mali Finn

FADE IN:

EXT. INGLEWOOD, CA- DAY

MUSIC CUE: "GOLDEN TIME OF DAY"-MAZE FEATURING FRANKY BEVERLY
MIDDLE CLASS NEIGHBORHOOD SLOWLY FOCUSING ON ONE HOUSE.

INT. HOUSE OF MR. AND MRS. OLIVER BLACKMON-INGLEWOOD, CA- DAY

There is a flurry of activity. The house is packed and decorated with flowers. Men walk around in suits, women in dresses.

ROSE BLACKMON, a beautiful African American Woman in her early fifties walks around frantically barking orders. She sees the CATERERS walking in, carrying food.

ROSE
Please put that in the kitchen until the reception.

One of the caterers accidentally SCRAPES the wall with a pot on his way to the kitchen.

ROSE
Watch the wall! Shit.(to herself) I told Oliver we shouldn't do this here.

Rose turns and begins to move to the living room when she notices a HOME VIDEO CAMERA in her face.

ROSE
Mike, get this out of my face.(beat) You didn't get that last part did you?

MIKE
Yeah, I think Mr. Blackmon would be very interested in this.

ROSE
Yeah I got a few videos myself, I keep everything, boy.

MIKE FLEMING puts down the camera. He is wearing a BLACK ARMANI TUXEDO. He stands 6' 3" , dark complexioned, slim and very fit looking.

MIKE
You wouldn't go there?

ROSE
In a minute. Anyway, tell Roland I want to see him.

(CONTINUED)

MIKE
(hesitant)
Yeah, OK.

Rose walks away continuing to bark orders.

There are kids running around, playing in their best clothes. One of the little boys' mother grabs him by the arm and drags him.

Mike looks on and smiles. He then looks down at his watch. He now seems a bit concerned. He begins to walk through the house.

MIKE
(addressing the camera)
It just wouldn't have seemed right
without any drama.

He walks up the stairs and sees SLIM walking around very upset. He is also wearing a BLACK ARMANI TUXEDO. He is tall, about 6'7 very slender, thus the name Slim. He looks at Mike and then points to his watch.

Mike just shakes his head. Slim walks away.

MIKE
(to himself)
I never thought I'd see the day Roland
got married. (pause) Apparently, neither
did he. (addressing the camera)
You see, it's three hours until the
wedding, and Roland is no where to be
found. (beat) By the way, my name is Mike.
Big Mike in the Wood, but we'll get into
that later.

Mike continues to walk down the hall toward Roland's bedroom.

MIKE
What's the Wood? (smiling) Well, it's not
a what you think. It's a city,
Inglewood, California. The place I grew
up. Well, where we all grew up. Me,
Roland, Slim...

Mike is approaching the bedroom. He points to Slim. The camera pans to him.

MIKE
That's Slim. He's been walking around
pissed off ever since Ro turned up
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MIKE (cont'd)
missing. He walks up to me every so often
and says...

SLIM
(to Mike)
I can't believe that nigga.

MIKE
(to the camera)
See.

SLIM
Who the fuck you talkin' too?

Mike motions to the camera.

SLIM
(addressing to camera)
I'll tell you, and him when I see him. If
he didn't want to get married he
shouldn't have asked her. Nobody put a
fuckin' gun to his head. Shit, he wants
to be Hugh Hefner and get married at the
same time.

MIKE
Slim, you know Hugh Hefner is married?

Slim pauses for a moment in contemplation.

SLIM
Well, fuck him too. We were supposed to
meet here with the photographer an hour
ago. That fool's bullshittin'.

Slim walks away.

MIKE
(to the camera)
Don't mind Slim. He's always been like
that. Him and Roland always seem to be in
disagreement about something. And I have
to be the mediator, the peacemaker. But
it's always been like that.

Mike walks into Roland's Bedroom.

INT. ROLAND'S BEDROOM- SAME

The room is still as Roland left it when he was in high
school. Posters of SPORTS FIGURES, RAP GROUPS, and BEAUTIFUL
WOMEN.

(CONTINUED)

Mike picks up a picture. It is an old picture of THREE BOYS, Mike, Slim, and Roland. Mike shows the picture to the camera.

MIKE

It's hard to believe we dressed like this
and thought it was cool.

Mike smiles. He walks to Roland's OLD RECORDS and starts thumbing through. At a glance he sees RUN DMC'S "RAISING HELL", LL COOL J'S "RADIO."

MIKE

I always wonder where I'd be, if my
mother never moved us to Inglewood. When
was it?

Mike stops when he gets to one album: ERIC B. AND RAKIM'S
"PAID IN FULL" and smiles.

MIKE

Yeah it was 1986. January. I remember
cause Eric B. and Rakim, just hit with
"Eric B. is President".

Mike walks over to Roland's old record player.

MIKE

Let's see if I remember how this thing
works.

Mike fiddles with the player.

MIKE

There.

OVERHEAD ANGLE: A RECORD PLAYER. The automatic player drops
the record on the turn table.

The Needle comes down on the record. A few moments of static,
then as the music begins...

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. 405 FREEWAY- INGLEWOOD, CA-1986

MUSIC CUE: "ERIC B. IS PRESIDENT" -ERIC B. AND RAKIM

ANGLE ON a BROWN 1979 TOYOTA CELICA. Hitched to the car is a
U-HAUL TRAILER. The car drives under a sign that reads
"WELCOME TO INGLEWOOD, CITY OF CHAMPIONS"

INT. CAR- SAME

Young Mike (14) sits in the passenger's seat, looking very upset. Mike's mother, FLORENCE, drives. His little brother, KELVIN, plays in the back seat.

V.O. (MIKE)

Yeah it was 1986 when me, my little brother, and my mom moved from North Carolina to Inglewood, a small suburb of Los Angeles. My mom relocated to a new nursing job at Centinela Hospital. I was hoping for the last time. This was our third move in five years.

Mike's mother points to something.

FLORENCE

Look, the Forum. That's where the Lakers play. That's your favorite team right?

Mike's P.O.V. as he looks at the FORUM on one side and HOLLYWOOD PARK on the other.

YOUNG MIKE

Yeah, I guess.

Florence looks at Mike.

FLORENCE

Mike, you've been like this the whole trip. Now, I know this is hard on you guys, but you have to trust this is for the best.

YOUNG MIKE

That's what you said when we moved to North Carolina.

Mike's little brother Kelvin jumps around in the back seat.

KELVIN

Look, look. A big ole donut.

ANGLE ON RANDY'S DONUTS. Kelvin continues to jump around,

FLORENCE

(to Kelvin) Would you sit down, boy. (to Mike) I know I said that before, but this is a great opportunity. Centinela is the hospital the Lakers use. So I can get you

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FLORENCE (cont'd)
autographs when they come in for check
ups.

Mike smiles.

FLORENCE
It'll be OK, I promise.

YOUNG MIKE
So can I wait 'til next week to start
school?

FLORENCE
No. You go tomorrow, you already missed a
week of school, driving out here.

YOUNG MIKE
Come on, mom.

FLORENCE
Tomorrow.

EXT. LA TIJERA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL- NEXT DAY

The playground is a flurry of activity. There are kids
running around playing. A group of girls are playing "double
dutch".

In the back of one of the school bungalows an adolescent boy
and girl are making out.

There is a pick up basketball game in progress, on one of the
courts.

ANGLE ON Mike walking through the playground.

Little Mike's P.O.V. as he looks around. The images are in
SLOW MOTION.

V.O. (MIKE)
It was just like the movies out here. It
was the middle of January, yet it was 80
degrees and not a cloud in the sky.

Image of a palm tree.

V.O. (MIKE)
Palm trees. Sunny skies.

Image of three 12 year old girls. Wearing short shorts, tank
tops, and Jelly Sandals.

V.O. (MIKE)
And of course, beautiful women.

(CONTINUED)

END SLOW MOTION and ANGLE ON

Two kids arguing. One is tall and skinny. He wears a dry GHERI CURL. He also wears some GUESS OVERALLS with the shoulder straps hanging down, a GUESS Sweatshirt, and pair a of STAN SMITH ADDIDAS.

The other kid is about 5 inches shorter, light complexioned with a SHAG hair cut. He wears a LA TIGRE polo shirt. Some LEVI JEANS with the RED TAG, of course, a SWATCH WATCH, and a pair of all white K-SWISS tennis shoes.

GHERI CURL

Nigga you crazy? Your eyes fucked up or something? Vanity is the finest freak on this earth.

SHAG

Man, Apolonia is finer. You see her titties in Purple Rain. You could eat off those.

GHERI CURL

You can't say Vanity wasn't lookin' fine in Last Dragon.

SHAG

But she didn't show no tit.

The kid in the Gheri Curl turns to Mike.

GHERI CURL

Yo, who's finer? Vanity or Apolonia.

V.O. (MIKE)

Well since I just saw Last Dragon I said...

YOUNG MIKE

Vanity?

GHERI CURL

(to The Shag)

See I told you nigga. (to Mike) You new here ain't you?

YOUNG MIKE

Yeah.

GHERI CURL

You a blood or a cuz?

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG MIKE

What?

GHERI CURL

A blood or a cuz.

V.O. (MIKE)

I had no idea what the hell he was talkin' about. All I knew was he needed some more curl activator for his curl.

YOUNG MIKE

Cuz what?

SHAG

What set you from?!

YOUNG MIKE

I don't know about any sets. I'm from North Carolina.

The two boys start laughing.

GHERI CURL

I guess that's why you sound like Willie Nelson.

SHAG

Yo, a set is what hood you live in. Gang set.

GHERI CURL

Yeah, Bloods and Crips. They're gangs. Bloods say "What Up Blood?" and Crips say "What Up Cuz?" That's why I asked if you was a blood or a cuz.

Mike has a confused look on his face.

SHAG

Yo, just remember if someone asks if you a blood or a cuz. Or says some shit like, "What set you from?" Just say 'I ain't into that.'

GHERI CURL

Or just don't say shit.

Mike looks even more confused.

(CONTINUED)

GHERI CURL

Nigga, you betta hang with us, you got to learn some shit if you gonna make it in the Wood.

SHAG

You might mess around and say some shit that'll get you shot.

YOUNG MIKE

Shot?

SHAG

Yo, I'm Roland. (points to Gheri Curl)
And this skinny fool, is Slim.

YOUNG SLIM

What up.

They shake Mike's hand.

YOUNG MIKE

I'm Mike.

YOUNG SLIM

Damn, you as tall as me, you play ball.

YOUNG MIKE

I play baseball.

YOUNG SLIM

Baseball? Nigga we ain't in Boston.
That's white boy, Rickey Schroeder
shit. (quoting Kurtis Blow) I'm talkin'
bas-ket-ball.

YOUNG MIKE

Naw, not really, but I watch it a lot.

YOUNG SLIM

Rule 1 of livin' in the Wood. You can
either gangbang or play ball.

YOUNG ROLAND

Or, you can be a pimp like me. I gotta
stay clean.

Slim rolls his eyes. The school bell RINGS. Kids begin to
walk to class.

YOUNG ROLAND

(CONT'D)

Yo, who's home room you in?

(CONTINUED)

Mike takes out a piece of paper.

YOUNG MIKE
Uh, Ms. Hughes.

YOUNG ROLAND
Cool, that's where we're going. Come on.

The three boys walk away, toward the classrooms.

END MUSIC

INT. CLASSROOM- LATER

Mike, Slim, and Roland sit next to each other. There are kids filing into the classroom. Mike is looking around the room, when he notices someone.

That someone is ALICIA, the prettiest girl Mike has ever seen. She has a light brown complexion and hazel eyes. She sits a row in front of Mike.

YOUNG MIKE
(to Slim and Roland)
Who is that?

YOUNG SLIM
(smiling)
Oh, that's Alicia.

YOUNG ROLAND
Yeah, she's fine as hell, ain't she? What you like her?

YOUNG MIKE
(embarrassed)
Naw, I just think she looks good.

YOUNG SLIM
He likes her.

YOUNG ROLAND
Yeah, so does every nigga in the school.
(to Alicia) Hi Alicia, you're lookin' nice today.

Alicia just rolls her eyes and turns away. She talks to another girl.

YOUNG ROLAND
(CONT'D)
(to the boys)
She loves me.

(CONTINUED)

Mike continues to look at Alicia and smile.

MIKE'S P.O.V. of her LEGS. Then her LIPS. Back to Mike, with his mouth wide open.

RING. The bell rings, everybody settles in their chairs as MRS. HUGHES begins class.

MRS. HUGHES

OK settle down. Before we begin I want to introduce Michael. Today is his first day. Why don't you stand up and tell the class a little bit about yourself?

Mike snaps out of his daze and looks as if to say "Oh No". He looks down at his crotch.

He slowly gets up. He is about to speak. FREEZE FRAME just before the first word comes out.

V.O. (MIKE)

I kept thinking, 'Please go down. Please go down'. Why do teachers always call on you when you're in the middle of a boner?

END FREEZE as Mike begins to talk. He hides behind the desk.

YOUNG MIKE

Uh, well. I'm from North...

MRS. HUGHES

No, No. Come up here so the whole class can see...

V.O. (MIKE)

OK. OK I just gotta be cool. Think of something. Baseball, think of baseball. Yeah, 1st base, second...Hell, I'd like to hit a homerun with Alicia.

CLOSE ON Mike's face as he looks down at his crotch.

V.O. (MIKE)

Shit! bad move.

He grabs his notebook and walks up to the front of the classroom covering his private parts.

YOUNG MIKE

Yeah, I'm from Winston-Salem, North Carolina. And Uh, I like sports and yeah, I guess that's it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Alicia looks at him. Then whispers to her friend. The two laugh.

Mike walks back to his seat, still covered by his notebook.

Slim laughs.

MRS. HUGHES
Levinio, is something amusing you?

YOUNG SLIM
No Mrs. Hughes.

Mike sits down and mouths...

YOUNG MIKE
Levinio?

Mrs. Hughes continues on with the class.

SOUND CUE: A few seconds of STATIC then....

EXT. PLAYGROUND- LUNCHTIME

MUSIC CUE: "YOU BE ILLIN'" - RUN DMC

Again the playground is a flurry of activity. There are a group of girls jumping rope. Alicia is among them. Mike, Roland, and Slim are shooting around on the basketball court.

V.O. (MIKE)
The first day of school is always hard.
Especially when you're the new kid. I was
just trying so hard to be cool.

YOUNG SLIM
See this is a real sport.

Slim makes a quick move with the ball and then sinks a shot into the basket. SWISH.

YOUNG SLIM
Just like Magic, baby.

YOUNG MIKE
Your name's, Levinio?

Roland laughs.

YOUNG SLIM
Hell, yeah. That name is sweet.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG MIKE
You Italian or something?

YOUNG ROLAND
He's a spaghetti eatin', nigga, but he
ain't Italian.

YOUNG SLIM
Yo man, just shoot.

Mike takes a shot.

YOUNG ROLAND
(looking at Alicia)
Now that's a real woman. Look at her
booty. I bet it's soft.

YOUNG SLIM
Yeah, Like a Twinkie. I'd love to grab
that booty.

YOUNG ROLAND
Yeah.

Mike looks at Alicia.

V.O. (MIKE)
Now before sex, there was grabbin' booty.
For a twelve year old boy that was the
best.

CLOSE on Alicia.

V.O. (MIKE)
It was like a game, You would go up to a
girl with a nice booty, grab it and run.
I know, today, we'd probably get sued for
sexual harassment, but we didn't know any
better.

ANGLE ON a boy talking to a girl, reminiscent of old National
Geographic nature documentaries.

V.O. (MIKE)
Look, Look. Here goes one now.

ZOOM IN on the boy slowly walking toward the girl. The boy
slowly moves his hand and touches her butt. The girl
playfully hits him in the shoulder and acts mad. The boy
runs. She chases him, then lets him go and smiles.

V.O. (MIKE)
See, no harm no foul.

(CONTINUED)

BACK TO Mike, Roland, an Slim.

YOUNG ROLAND
(to Mike)
I dare you to grab her booty.

YOUNG MIKE
I'll grab it, the time ain't right.

YOUNG SLIM
You scared.

Mike laughs.

YOUNG MIKE
I ain't scared.

YOUNG ROLAND
(to Mike)
Grab it then. I'll give you a dollar if
you grab her booty.

YOUNG SLIM
Damn! A dollar? You gotta do it now.
Shit, look at her in those tight ass
shorts. That booty's beggin' to be
grabbed.

YOUNG MIKE
All right, It's a bet.

YOUNG ROLAND
You gotta do it before lunch is over or
the deal's off.

YOUNG MIKE
Cool, cool. I'll do it.

Mike looks at Alicia. She is spinning two ropes with a girl,
while one jumps in the middle.

YOUNG SLIM
Yo man, lunch is almost over.

YOUNG MIKE
OK. OK.

SLOW MOTION:

Mike paces back and forth trying to get the best angle of
attack.

(CONTINUED)

CLOSE ON Alicia's butt moving side to side as she spins the ropes.

V.O. (MIKE)

I was ready. Determined. Hell, for a dollar it was worth the risk. And the booty was looking good.

BACK TO MIKE. He is a bull and Alicia's red shorts are the cape.

BULL FIGHTING MUSIC CUE:

SOUND CUE: A CHEERING CROWD.

Mike runs toward the booty. Focused. Intense. This is it.

Slim and Roland look on.

BACK TO Mike charging. He reaches his hand out. He is just about to touch it...

END SLOW MOTION

Alicia see's him and moves at the last possible second.

Mike misses.

SOUND CUE: CROWD CHEERS "OLE"

Mike runs over to Slim and Roland.

YOUNG SLIM

Did you get it? I couldn't see.

YOUNG MIKE

(out of breath)

Yeah, I got it.

Alicia turns to Mike.

ALICIA

You missed, asshole.

YOUNG ROLAND

You missed. I ain't payin'.

YOUNG MIKE

Shit. I'ma get it.

(CONTINUED)

V.O. (MIKE)

At this point I was in a zone. I wasn't going to lose. What little rep I had was on the line.

Mike turns back around and goes after the booty.

YOUNG SLIM

What is this nigga doing?

Mike again charges Alicia. He reaches for her butt.

Alicia cocks her fist back. Mike grabs her butt.

Alicia slugs him in the eye. Then in the back of his head.

Mike runs away and then straight over to Roland.

YOUNG MIKE

Gimmie my dollar.

Mike's head is throbbing and eyes are watering from the blows from Alicia. Slim and Roland are laughing hysterically.

Alicia looks over at them.

ALICIA

You bet on this! Fuck you guys! I'm tellin' my brother!

YOUNG ROLAND

Oh shit!

V.O. (MIKE)

Now, all this time, I was trying so hard to fit in, I never asked myself why the hell they didn't want to grab her butt.

YOUNG MIKE

Brother?

YOUNG SLIM

Yeah, Stacey.

YOUNG MIKE

Stacey? Oh, for a minute I was worried.

YOUNG ROLAND

You remember that talk we had about Bloods and Crips?

YOUNG MIKE

Yeah?

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG SLIM
Well, he's a Blood.

ALICIA
He's comin' to pick me up after school,
then he's gonna kick your ass!

V.O. (MIKE)
I was thinking, you already did a good
job by yourself.

YOUNG MIKE
Oh, shit! Why didn't you tell me?

YOUNG ROLAND
I didn't think she would get that mad. I
guess since she doesn't know you, she
tripped.

YOUNG MIKE
Fuck that. You're in this with me.

YOUNG ROLAND
Shit. You better run out of here after
school...

BEEP.BEEP.BEEP...

INT. ROLAND'S BEDROOM- WEDDING DAY.

Mike's pager is going off. He looks down and checks the
number. Seconds later... BEEP. BEEP. BEEP. He hears a pager
go off outside of the room. Mike walks out and see's Slim
checking his pager.

INT. HALLWAY- BLACKMON HOUSE- SAME

The two men look at each other.

MIKE AND SLIM
Ro.

They walk over to a phone. Slim grabs it and dials the
number.

MIKE
Who's number is that?

SLIM
I don't know.

Someone answers the phone.

(CONTINUED)

FEMALE VOICE

Hello.

SLIM

Who the hell is this?

FEMALE VOICE

Well, hello and good to talk to you too,
Slim.

SLIM

Tanya?

MIKE

Tanya!

Mike turns to the camera.

MIKE

This is bad. This is real bad.

SLIM

Is Ro over there?

NOTE: CUT BETWEEN TANYA AT HER HOUSE AND SLIM AT THE WEDDING.

TANYA

Yeah, he's over here. And he's kinda
fucked up.

SLIM

What?

TANYA

Yeah, he's been drinking.

SLIM

Drinking? That fool doesn't drink.

TANYA

Well, he does now.

MIKE

(to the camera)

This is a snag of tremendous proportions.
See, Tanya is Roland's ex. Well not only
his ex, his first love. High school
sweetheart you know, his first, well, you
know.

Mike slowly pumps his fist forward and back.

(CONTINUED)

SLIM

Just keep that fool there. We're on the way over.

Slim hangs up the phone.

SLIM

Man I hope he didn't do what I think.

MIKE

We just gotta get his ass.

SLIM

I know. I know. I can't believe this guy.

At that moment, ROSE (Roland's mom), FLORENCE (Mike's mom) and VERA (Slim's mom) walk over to the two.

ROLAND

Ummm, look at those handsome men.

FLORENCE

Especially the tall one.

VERA

Girl, I remember when these fools were running around in their underwear with a ruler trying to measure...

MIKE

Shh, Keep that down. There are a lot of people here.

The women laugh. Mike and Slim are nervously trying to act like nothing out of the ordinary is happening.

ROSE

Where is that boy, Roland? The groomsmen were supposed to take their photos a half hour ago.

Mike and Slim look at each other.

MIKE

Well, we were just about to tell you. Uh. Ro had a little car trouble. He, He caught a flat...

SLIM

(at the same time as Mike)
He ran out of gas.

(CONTINUED)

MIKE

He's having car trouble. So he just paged us. And we're going to go get him.

ROSE

(panics)

Oh no. Is he OK, I gotta go, too.

MIKE

No! No. He's OK. We got him. You just stay here and take care of the wedding. Don't worry.

ROSE

OK. OK. You're right.

FLORENCE

You guys be careful.

VERA

And hurry the hell back. He's got a wedding going on. Why the hell would he be driving around on an empty tank anyway?

The three women walk away. Slim and Mike walk out of the house to the street.

EXT. STREET- MOMENTS LATER

Mike and Slim walk to a BLACK CHEVY TAHOE truck. CHIRP CHIRP. Slim deactivates the alarm.

MIKE

When the hell you get this?

SLIM

Last week. This shit is sweet ain't it.

Slim hops in on the drivers side, Mike rides shotgun. The car pulls off revealing the licence plate which reads :UROBALL.

INT. SLIM'S CAR- SAME

Slims drives as Run DMC's "You Be Illin'" plays on the radio.

SLIM

I thought this shit only happened in the movies.

Mike winks at the camera.

(CONTINUED)

MIKE

When's the last time you saw him?

SLIM

Man I haven't seen him since rehearsal yesterday.

MIKE

Yeah, me too.

SLIM

I guess people think it's cool sounding. "This is my fiancée". It sounds good. It feels good. It keeps the woman happy. But you gotta go through with it.

MIKE

Yo, he got cold feet. I guess?

SLIM

My ass. I bet he just proposed because she's fine as hell and he didn't want anyone mackin' to her.

MIKE

Roland was always too moral to be a womanizer. So he always had to be in a relationship. No matter how short or how long.

SLIM

The man's had about 50 girlfriends, and he claims to have loved them all. Julio Iglesias muthafucka.

Mike smiles.

SLIM

So you workin' on anything now?

MIKE

Naw, not really. Just got an idea that I've been brainstorming.

SLIM

What's it about?

MIKE

You know. Us. This whole wedding thing kinda got me thinking.

Slim turns up the radio.

(CONTINUED)

SLIM

Ah, this was the shit boy. Yo, remember this?

MIKE

Yeah.

Slim starts laughing.

SLIM

I remember, I just heard this on KDAY the day you first came to school.

MIKE

Yeah I remember that day. That fuckin' bet.

Slim laughs hard.

SLIM

Oh Yeah, Oh, yeah. I forgot about that. That day you grabbed Alicia's ass for a dollar. Shit, that was classic. You were the only nigga dumb enough to touch her. Everyone else was too scared of her brother.

Mike smiles. Slim looks at him and gives a sly smile.

SLIM

You know Ro sent her an invitation?

CLOSE on Mike, he doesn't respond.

SLIM

You hear me?

MIKE

Yeah, yeah I know. It's cool.

SLIM

It's cool. Don't try to act like your not still stuck on her.

MIKE

Man that's in the past.

SLIM

Yeah, whatever.

MIKE

(smiling)

I'm serious. It's cool.

(CONTINUED)

Slim looks at Mike.

MIKE

What?

Mike continues to smile, then looks out the window.

SOUND CUE: CLASSROOM MURMUR

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. LA TIJERA JUNIOR HIGH, CLASSROOM- 1986

Young Mike sits in his chair nervous looking at the clock.

People in the class whisper to each other, then point to Mike.

V.O. (MIKE)

My only hope was that she would calm
down. Maybe she would forget about it.

Alicia turns to Mike and makes a slashing motion with her
finger across her neck.

V.O. (MIKE)

So much for that. (pause) Any other day
time drags during last period. Not today.
Time was on crack today.

Mike's brow starts to bead with sweat. He looks at the clock.
It is almost 2:30. Time to get out of school. Slim and Roland
try to console Mike.

YOUNG ROLAND

Yo, just run. You look like you can run
fast, right?

YOUNG MIKE

But, what about tomorrow?

YOUNG SLIM

You live to run again.

RING. RING. RING. The final bell rings. All the kids run out
of class. Except for Mike, Slim, and Roland.

EXT. FRONT OF LA TIJERA JUNIOR HIGH- MOMENTS LATER.

There is a large group of kids waiting outside of the the
school. Mike, Slim, and Roland walk out in front. Mike looks
around at the crowd that has formed.

(CONTINUED)

V.O. (MIKE)

Funny how any hint of a fight always gets
around the whole school.

Mike continues to walk, with his new friends.

YOUNG SLIM

So far so good.

YOUNG ROLAND

Maybe she didn't tell him.

All of a sudden, a large hand grabs Mike by the shoulder and
spins him around.

When Mike comes to a stop, he is standing in front of the
biggest sixteen year old he has ever seen.

STACEY is a very large kid. He has a fully grown beard and a
mean scowl on his face. He is wearing a BLACK TEE SHIRT,
BLACK JEANS, a RED CINCINNATI REDS CAP with the "C" crossed
out, and some red FILA TENNIS SHOES.

STACEY

My little sister tells me you can't keep
your hands to yourself.

YOUNG MIKE

Uh, I'm sorry man. I didn't mean
anything.

STACEY

What you think my sister a toy?

YOUNG MIKE

Naw.

STACEY

You think she a hoe?

YOUNG MIKE

Naw, I think she's pretty. I. I...

Alicia looks on. She didn't expect to hear Mike say that.

Stacey pushes Mike to the ground. Mike gets up. Slim and
Roland look on.

Stacey socks Mike. The crowd goes "OHH"

Mike gets back up.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG SLIM

Yo Stacey, Leave him alone man.

STACEY

Oh you want some of this too?

Slim looks at Roland. Roland shrugs his shoulders. The two boys step up to Stacey.

YOUNG SLIM

(nervous)

Yeah, I. I guess so.

Roland nervously nods his head and swallows hard.

YOUNG MIKE

Naw, Naw. This is my fight.

Mike puts up his dukes. The crowd of kids cheer. Mike takes a swing at Stacey and hits him in the face.

The punch does nothing.

Stacey swings and hits Mike right in the mouth. Then he comes back with the other hand and slugs him in the stomach. Mike just backs up.

Stacey charges him and tackles Mike. He starts wailing on Mike.

Slim and Roland try to pull Stacey off him.

The crowd CHEERS.

V.O. (MIKE)

I could have sworn I saw the light. And a hand reaching out to me from the heavens.

Stacey hits him again.

V.O. (MIKE)

My mistake. It was just his fist.

Alicia looks on. She is horrified.

ALICIA

Stacey. That's it. Stacey stop!

YOUNG SLIM

Stacey listen to your sister, man!

Alicia runs over to Stacey and slaps him in the face.

(CONTINUED)

STACEY
What the hell are you doing?

ALICIA
I just wanted you to scare him.

V.O. (MIKE)
Oh believe me, I'm scared.

Stacey gets up. He throws Slim and Roland off of him.

Alicia walks over to Mike.

ALICIA
Are you OK?

Alicia helps him up. She grabs a tissue out of her little purse and wipes the blood from his mouth.

Stacey begins to walk away.

STACEY
Alicia, come on.

Alicia still tries to tend to Mike.

STACEY
ALICIA!

Alicia turns away from Mike.

Mike stands by himself. Slim and Roland walk up to him.

YOUNG SLIM
Damn man. I thought he was gonna kill you.

YOUNG ROLAND
I can't believe you got a hit in. No one's ever done that to Stacey, man.

YOUNG MIKE
Thanks for backin' me up.

YOUNG SLIM
Well we got you into this.

YOUNG ROLAND
Yeah. As long as you hang with us we'll have your back. Can't have you gettin' killed your first day in the Wood.

Mike smiles.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG SLIM
So was it worth it?

Mike looks at Alicia.

YOUNG MIKE
What?

YOUNG SLIM
Was it worth it?

Alicia turns around and gives Mike one last look.

YOUNG MIKE
Yeah.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TANYA'S HOUSE- WEDDING DAY

Slim and Mike knock on the door. Tanya comes to the door. She is a very attractive woman. She wears a sport bra and some leggings.

Slim and Mike walk in and see Roland on the couch. He is watching Bugs Bunny cartoons, drunk. He lifts his head and notices Mike and Slim.

ROLAND
My niggaz, what's up?

He staggers to the two and gives them a hug. He is also wearing his tuxedo.

SLIM
What the fuck is up?

MIKE
You remember that thing called a wedding you got today? You know, flowers, family. Lisa?

ROLAND
Oh, Oh yeah. Lisa. Is she lookin' good? I know that dress is lookin' good on her.

TANYA
He came here like this, about an hour ago, that's when I figured I better give you a call.

She holds up Roland's ELECTRONIC ORGANIZER.

(CONTINUED)

TANYA

I can't believe he still has my number in here.

Roland starts singing.

ROLAND

(singing)

The closer I get to you... You remember that song right, Tanya. That was our song.

SLIM

(to Tanya)

So y'all didn't...

TANYA

No! Come on Slim. What do you think I am?

SLIM

Naw, I'm just saying ya'll were kinda...

TANYA

Nothing happened!

MIKE

Yo, Ro. Come on man we gotta go.

ROLAND

I ain't goin' to that place, man. I can't do this.

TANYA

I got a pot of coffee brewing in the kitchen. I'll go bring some.

ROLAND

(singing)

Always and Forever. Each moment with you... Yeah you remember that. That's our song.

MIKE

You better bring the whole pot.

Tanya leaves the room. Roland stops singing and begins to hum, He walks over to Slim and Mike.

ROLAND

Yo man. She's playin' hard to get. Y'all need to go. I'm trying to get some.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SLIM

(angry)

Fool are you fuckin' sick?! You act like you're not getting married. Stop actin' like a fuckin' punk.

ROLAND

Punk? Fuck you!

Slim gets in Roland's face. Mike steps between the two,

MIKE

(to Slim)

Yo, chill. Chill! If he doesn't want to do this he doesn't. (to Roland) But you sure picked a fucked up time.

ROLAND

Yo man, I know this is fucked up. But I just started thinkin' you know. I don't know. It's not that I don't love her. It's just... I don't know.

SLIM

Shit, this fool thinks we're in an Aaron Spelling drama. All we need is his ugly ass daughter to walk in and this might get picked up by Fox.

MIKE

Yo, Slim!

SLIM

Yeah you thought about all that pussy you'd be missin' out on, and punked out.

ROLAND

Yeah, I got your punk...

Just then Tanya walks back in. All is quiet.

TANYA

Sorry I broke up your all boys meeting. But this is my house.

Tanya hands Roland a cup of coffee.

TANYA

Drink up.

Roland takes a sip.

(CONTINUED)

ROLAND

Oh man. My fuckin' head is spinning.

MIKE

Come on man let's go.

ROLAND

Man, I'm not doing this. I just gotta get my head straight.

MIKE

Cool, but we gotta go. This ain't our place. We'll go somewhere. Cool out.

Roland nods his head. He tries to walk and falls to the ground. Slim and Mike pick him up and escort him out of the door.

MIKE

Thanks Tanya.

TANYA

We have to plan better next time.

SLIM

Bye, girl.

TANYA

Bye, Slim.

Mike grabs the pot of coffee.

MIKE

I'll bring this back later.

They all walk out of the door.

INT. SLIM'S CAR- LATER

Mike and Slim are in the front. While Roland is laid out in the back seat.

SLIM

OK, since you're his acting psychiatrist, where do we go?

MIKE

I don't know..

SLIM

We gotta call the parents. They'll get worried after a while.

(CONTINUED)

ROLAND

Don't tell 'em. Not yet.

MIKE

Then what the hell are we supposed to say? You get married in two and half hours.

ROLAND

I don't know. Fuck! My head! I just gotta get some aspirin. Yo. Yo. stop at Nelson's.

SLIM

What? Naw we're getting your ass back to the wedding.

ROLAND

Just stop so I can get some aspirin.

MIKE

Let him go in. We can't take him to the wedding like this anyway.

Slim shakes his head then pulls into the Nelson's parking lot.

EXT. NELSON'S LIQUOR STORE- WEDDING DAY

Mike and Slim help Roland out of the car. Roland shakes them off as if to say "I'm OK". The three walk into the store.

INT. NELSON'S- WEDDING DAY

A cashier stands behind the counter.

ROLAND

Where's the aspirin, man?

CASHIER

Third aisle.

Roland walks away. Slim smells Roland's breath and winces.

SLIM

Nigga, you need to go on ahead and get some Tic Tac's while your at it.

Mike laughs. He walks over to the candy aisle and picks up a pack of green Tic Tac's.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKE

(to the camera)

Tic Tac's, small and pack a lot of power.

He smiles. Slim walks over to him. Roland follows with a bottle of aspirin in his hand.

SLIM

What you smilin' at? I don't see anything to smile about.

MIKE

Just thinking. About all those school dances, and all the times we were up in here getting these mints.

Slim smiles.

SLIM

Ah yeah, nigga. Those dances were the shit. I used to get all the ladies.

ROLAND

Shit. I had 'em all on my tip. And Mike's no dancing ass.

MIKE

Man, I could move. (to the camera) I was just ahead of my time.

SLIM

How'd he used to do it.

Slim awkwardly moves side to side.

ROLAND

No it was like this.

Roland demonstrates, using just his hips and legs, with his upper body completely stiff.

ROLAND

The key is in the legs.

They all laugh.

MIKE

Y'all are just jealous of the moves. Man, those dances were the shit.

ROLAND

The bomb.

(CONTINUED)

SLIM

The joint. Man if these aisles could talk they'd have some stories to tell.

MIKE

(to the camera)

But since aisles can't talk, I'll have to step in.

DISSOLVE TO:

OVERHEAD ANGLE: A RECORD PLAYER. The automatic player drops the record on the turn table. The Album is LL COOL J'S "RADIO".

XCU on the needle as it comes down on the record. A few moments of static, then as the music begins...

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. LA TIJERA JUNIOR HIGH- 1986

MUSIC CUE: LL COOL J- "RADIO"

We are at the familiar sight of the playground.

V.O. (MIKE)

The school dance was a bimonthly ritual of tremendous importance. It was a time for dancing, fun, but most importantly, girls.

Pan around the playground focusing on various activities. Stop on a basketball court where a group of boys are playing ball. Mike passes the ball to Slim. Slim hits a jumpshot.

V.O. (MIKE)

I had been here for about a month. I was starting to fit in well. Me and Slim played ball a lot. And Roland, well, he just played the field.

ANGLE on Roland talking to a girl. The bell rings signaling the end of recess. The kids all gather their books and bookbags and head to class.

Alicia and her friend, Tracey, walk by the basketball court. Tracey smiles at Slim.

TRACEY

Hi baby.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG SLIM

I ain't your baby.

Tracey is very tall and lanky, kinda clumsy, but cute. She's neither a heart throb , nor a dog. Just in transition.

ALICIA

You coming to the dance this weekend?

YOUNG SLIM

You know it. You'll save me a dance, right?

ALICIA

I'll think about it. What about you Mike?

YOUNG MIKE

Uh, yeah.

ALICIA

Cool, I can't wait. The first dance of the year.

Alicia and Tracey walk off. Roland walks over to them.

YOUNG SLIM

You just missed it. Alicia asked me if I was going to the dance.

YOUNG ROLAND

So?

YOUNG SLIM

So, it means she likes me man. (to Mike)
You saw how she was lookin'. Why the hell would she just come up to me like that?

YOUNG ROLAND

Cause she wanted to know if you're going. She asked me this morning.

YOUNG SLIM

So what?

YOUNG ROLAND

So she made a point to ask me early in the morning. So it was probably on her mind all night.

V.O. (MIKE)

The male radar takes a long time to develop. At this stage, anything a girl says is seen as a pass. The radar gets a
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

V.O. (cont'd)
little more accurate as we age, but not
by much.

Slim puts his arm around Mike.

YOUNG SLIM
So you get to show what you got.

YOUNG MIKE
What?

YOUNG SLIM
You can dance, right?

YOUNG MIKE
Hell yeah, I'm like Dance Fever.

Slim and Roland start laughing.

YOUNG ROLAND
Dance Fever? Yeah we'll see Friday.

YOUNG SLIM
Hey, why don't you guys spend the night
that night.

YOUNG ROLAND
Cool. I'll ask moms.

YOUNG MIKE
Yeah, me too.

YOUNG SLIM
Cool.

The kids walk off.

INT. FLEMING RESIDENCE- LATER.

Mike walks in his apartment after school. He plops on the
couch.

V.O. (MIKE)
I had never danced a day in my life. At
least not for real, you know, with a
girl. And all I could think of was Alicia
being there. I couldn't look like a fool.

Mike runs to the living room and turns on the television.

V.O. (MIKE)
So I figured, got a few days, I'll just
learn how to dance. And the best place to
start. MTV.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He watches the tube intently. Falco's "Rock Me Amadeus" plays on the screen.

V.O. (MIKE)

Oh yeah, this was the pre-black faze of MTV. Yeah, I know. But it's hard to consider Michael Jackson black.

YOUNG MIKE

What the hell is this? What am I gonna do, man?

Mike goes into his bedroom. He turns on the radio.

RADIO VOICE

Got some music from the Biz Markie. Check this out, 1580 AM K-D-A-Y.

MUSIC CUE: "MAKE THE MUSIC" BIZ MARKIE.

Mike begins to bob his head. He starts to move his legs. Then his hips.

YOUNG MIKE

Yeah, yeah. I got it. Shit, I got it.

He starts to get into it. Moving a little more aggressively and awkwardly.

YOUNG MIKE

Yeah, come on baby. Get on Big Mike's train. Oh you want some too. Well ya gonna hafta wait in line.

Mike's mom, Florence, walks in the front door of the apartment, with Mike's little brother, Kelvin. The stereo is blasting.

FLORENCE

What is going on?

Back in Mike's room we see him dancing with a life sized stuffed Bugs Bunny. Mike's mom walks in and sees this.

FLORENCE

Michael!

Mike stops.

YOUNG MIKE

Oh, hi mom.

Mike's little brother laughs.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG MIKE

(CONT'D)

Uh, I was just dancing. There's this dance on Friday and...

FLORENCE

You decided to do the freak with a doll.

YOUNG MIKE

Well, I never really danced before.

FLORENCE

What about at Debroah's wedding. You were so cute.

YOUNG MIKE

Mom I was four years old. It's different now.

FLORENCE

Look at my little boy growing up. Well I don't know what you were just doing, but I thought you were gonna hurt yourself.

YOUNG MIKE

Hey, that's the latest step. The, uh, the hip.

Florence laughs.

YOUNG MIKE

(CONT'D)

So how's the job going?

FLORENCE

It's going we'll. The people seem nice.

YOUNG MIKE

Good, Good.

Florence looks at Mike and smiles.

FLORENCE

So who is she?

YOUNG MIKE

What?

FLORENCE

I mean only a woman can make a man do crazy stuff like you were just doing.

Mike laughs to himself.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Slim takes the hat and tips it on the back of Mike's head.

YOUNG SLIM
(CONT'D)

That's how ballers wear it.

YOUNG ROLAND

OK, everyone got a pen and paper.

Slim pulls out a pen.

YOUNG MIKE

Pen?

YOUNG SLIM

You know, to get girls numbers. Whoever gets the most numbers at the end of the dance gets a dollar.

YOUNG MIKE

Oh. Naw I don't have one.

Roland hands him a pen.

YOUNG ROLAND

Luckily I always carry a spare. But, I guess it don't matter cuz, I'ma get the most numbers anyway.

YOUNG SLIM

Fool you crazy. You remember last dance.

YOUNG ROLAND

Yeah, we'll see this time.

CLOSE ON Mike. He stares at the pen.

V.O. (MIKE)

This was all new to me. I had never even asked a girl to dance, let alone try to get her number.

YOUNG ROLAND

Come on let's go in.

YOUNG SLIM

Wait! Wait! Oh shit. The breath test.

YOUNG ROLAND

Damn I forgot.

The boys all put their hands cupped up to their mouths and breathe.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG SLIM
Shit.

YOUNG ROLAND
Damn.

YOUNG MIKE
I'm cool.

YOUNG SLIM
Yeah, but for how long? No one's got any
gum, candy, Binaca?

The boys all shake their heads "no".

YOUNG ROLAND
Man, we gotta get something. My breath is
kickin' like Bruce Lee.

YOUNG SLIM
Nelson's is around the corner.

YOUNG ROLAND
What, Nelson's. Hell naw I ain't going
there, now. That's like Blood Central.

YOUNG SLIM
Well, what else we gonna do? I ain't
goin' in there with my breath all tart
and shit.

YOUNG MIKE
Yo, let's just go.

YOUNG ROLAND
All right, whatever.

The three boys walk away.

EXT. NELSON'S LIQUOR STORE- LATER

The three boys approach the store. There are many Blood gang
members hangin' outside of the store. They are dressed in
red, drinking FORTY OUNCE MALT LIQUORS and laughing.

Slim looks around, then at Mike.

YOUNG SLIM
Oh, shit, take off that hat.

YOUNG MIKE
Why?

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG SLIM

Man, it's got blue in it. That ain't good around here.

YOUNG MIKE

It's light blue, though?

YOUNG ROLAND

Fool, it don't matter the shade, it's still blue.

One of the gang members gives Mike a dirty look. Mike quickly takes off the hat, and the three boys walk into the liquor store.

GANG MEMBER

What up blood?

They all just nod their head, and continue into the store.

INT. NELSON'S- SAME

The boys walk toward the candy section.

YOUNG SLIM

Shit, that was too close. (to Mike) I forgot you still a rookie.

YOUNG MIKE

My bad, y'all.

YOUNG ROLAND

Naw, it's cool.

A cashier stands behind the register. The three walk to the candy aisle.

YOUNG MIKE

All right let's see here. Tic Tac's.

He reaches and grabs the orange flavor.

YOUNG SLIM

Good idea, bad choice of flavor.

YOUNG MIKE

Why, what's wrong with orange?

Slim and Roland look at each other.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG SLIM

Now Tic Tac's is always a good choice.
They're small and they pack a lot of
power.

YOUNG ROLAND

Always go small. Cause you might be
talking to a freak and the candy falls
out your mouth. You look stupid.

YOUNG SLIM

Tic Tac's are small, so even if they fall
out, they're too hard to notice.
Definitely not in a dance.

Mike is attentive, he is taking it all in.

YOUNG SLIM

Fruit flavors are never good.

YOUNG ROLAND

They taste good, but they don't
completely knock out the funk, and that's
important for slow dancing.

V.O. (MIKE)

You would have thought they where
professors at Harvard. They had breath
mints down to a science.

YOUNG ROLAND

Always go with, mints. Spearmint,
peppermint.

YOUNG SLIM

Cinnamon's cool too, but the aroma isn't
quite as nice.

YOUNG MIKE

What about Life Savers?

Roland shakes his head.

YOUNG ROLAND

Better, but still too big. Tic Tac's or
Binaca mouth spray.

YOUNG SLIM

But that shit costs too much.

V.O. (MIKE)

Now I was just curious.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG MIKE

What about gum?

YOUNG ROLAND

The thing to always remember when dealing with females. Suck don't chew.

YOUNG MIKE

Now and Later's. You don't chew those.

Slim and Roland are horrified.

YOUNG SLIM

That's the worst thing you can do. One, it's fruity, remember never fruity.

YOUNG ROLAND

Two, it's too big. And three, it turns your mouth and teeth all different colors. That's cool at the house, but not when a fine ass freak is dancing with you.

YOUNG MIKE

Cool, Tic Tac's. I'll get the green.

They all grab their packages of Tic Tacs.

YOUNG SLIM

Wait, I'm thirsty as hell, let me get a soda.

YOUNG ROLAND

Man, we gotta go. The dance started an hour ago.

YOUNG SLIM

Man, we're cool. I can't have my mouth all dry. Walkin' around with the white mouth.

YOUNG ROLAND

OK, just hurry up.

Moments later the boys hear a lot of yelling coming from the front of the store.

YOUNG MIKE

What's going on?

YOUNG ROLAND

I don't know.

(CONTINUED)

The three boys slowly walk down the aisle to see what's going on.

YOUNG ROLAND

Yo Mike, Look and see what's up,

YOUNG MIKE

Naw, not this time. You do it.

YOUNG SLIM

We'll all do it.

The three boys peek their heads over the divider. They see TWO GANG MEMBERS with RED RAGS around their nose and mouth. One is pointing a gun at the cashier, the other is clearing out the register. The three boys quickly duck down.

YOUNG SLIM

Oh shit man, they're robbing the place.

YOUNG ROLAND

(sarcastically)

Are you sure? I didn't know what they were doing.

YOUNG SLIM

Man, just shut up.

All three boys are nervous, especially Mike.

V.O. (MIKE)

Stuff like this happens all the time in the Wood. You just don't expect it to happen to you. After all, it wasn't like we lived in the Bottoms.

YOUNG ROLAND

Man, I thought this only happened in the Bottoms.

YOUNG SLIM

Man, we gotta get out.

YOUNG MIKE

Naw, if we hide here maybe they'll just rob the place and leave.

In the front of the store the robber continue to harass the cashier.

ROBBER 1

Yo, nigga where the rubbers at?

(CONTINUED)

The cashier points to the condoms.

ROBBER 1
Y'all don't have Magnum. Fuck that Trojan
shit. That shit's too tight. That's for
Korean dicks.

The two robbers laugh.

ROBBER 1
(to the other robber)
Yo, go get us something to eat. (to the
cashier) you don't mind if we get some
grub, do you?

The cashier shakes his head.

Robber 2 walks up and down the aisle grabbing stuff to eat.

Mike, Roland, and Slim sit in the potato chip aisle. The
Robber is in the aisle next to them.

YOUNG ROLAND
(whispering)
Oh shit. He's coming.

The robber turns the corner and sees the boys on the ground.

ROBBER 2
Yo, look at this.

ROBBER 1
What's going on?

ROBBER 2
There's some little niggas up in here.
They been here the whole time.

ROBBER 1
Bring em' up here.

YOUNG SLIM
Yo man, we were just gettin' some Tic
Tac's.

ROBBER 2
Tic Tic my ass.

The Robber points the gun at them and directs them to the
front. The three boys walk in line to the front of the store.

Robber 1 takes a look at them.

(CONTINUED)

ROBBER 1

These little niggas? Shit, they ain't nothing. The go to school with my little sister.

YOUNG MIKE

Stacey?

STACEY

Nigga, don't use my name, damn. (to robber 2) Yo, this little nigga got heart.

Mike, Roland, and Slim just look at each other.

STACEY

I kicked his ass, but he took it like a G. (to the boy) Y'all must be goin' to the dance tonight. I remember those dances.

The cashier moves. Stacey quickly points the gun at him.

STACEY

Don't even try it muthafucka! I'll smoke you right here! MOVE! MOVE! GET YOUR ASS ON THE GROUND.

He quickly drops to the ground behind the register.

STACEY

On this side muthafucka! Don't be a wise ass! Don't fuck with a nigga with a loaded gun!

He quickly runs around. Mike, Roland, and Slim look on, terrified.

Stacey turns back to them.

STACEY

Y'all want anything else. Soda? Chips? I'm sure Lu-chow won't mind. Do you Lu-Chow?

YOUNG SLIM

I was kinda thirsty.

Mike nudges Slim.

YOUNG MIKE

Naw, naw. We're cool.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Robber 2 ties up the cashier.

STACEY

Yo, come on then, I'll give y'all a ride
back to the dance.

The three boys stand for a moment. They all look at each other.

He motions for them to come on with the gun, but does it as if he didn't have the gun in his hand.

STACEY

Come on y'all. You missed an hour a half
already.

The three boys walk out of the store and get into Stacey's
BLACK CHEVY IMPALA on DAYTON RIMS.

INT. STACEY'S CAR- MOMENTS LATER.

The dark Impala rolls down the street. The stereo is blasting
"BOYZ IN THA HOOD"- EAZY-E.

Roland, Mike, and Slim sit nervously in the back seat. While
Stacy and his partner are up front.

V.O. (MIKE)

We're in the car with Stacey. The man who
kicked my ass, and just robbed a liquor
store. All I wanted was some fresh
breath.

Stacey's partner, BOO, rolls a JOINT and lights it up. He
takes a tote and passes it to Stacey.

STACEY

You did get more papers, didn't you?

BOO

Oh shit! I forgot!

STACEY

Nigga that's the whole reason we went in
that muthafucka.

BOO

My bad, man. I just wanted some rubbers.
I gotta go by Monique's tonight.

STACEY

Nigga you ain't fuckin' that.

(CONTINUED)

BOO

Yo, I fucked last week. She's sprung
nigga.

Stacey takes another hit. He then tries to pass it to the
kids.

YOUNG SLIM

Naw, I'm cool.

YOUNG MIKE

Me too.

YOUNG ROLAND

Yeah, me too.

STACEY

What y'all Muslims or something?

YOUNG MIKE

Naw, I just don't do that.

STACEY

That's cool. More for me, shit. I was
just tryin' to be generous. I don't know
about these kids nowadays.

BOO

Man pass that shit back this way.

STACEY

Naw, nigga, you didn't get no zigs-zags,
so you ain't getting no drig-drag.

Stacey laughs.

STACEY

That shit rhymes. I need to be a rapper
and shit. I got rhymes tougher than Run
DMC.

BOO

Nigga you crazy.

STACEY

Shit, I'ma make a whole album about
smoking weed.

BOO

Nigga ain't nobody gonna buy no album
about smoking weed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The kids remain in the back seat speechless. Meanwhile marijuana smoke is filling up the car.

STACEY

What? Hook up some fresh beats like this shit on now. Nigga, please. Weed is universal. Name me one race that don't smoke weed.

Boo is silent.

STACEY

See. That shit would be tough. I'd sell a million albums. The weed album.

Mike begins to cough.

STACEY

Gettin' buzzed from the contact. Ha. Ha!

Suddenly, Stacey notices something in the rear view mirror.

STACEY

Oh shit, nigga one-time (police).

CLOSE on Mike, frightened

BOO

Quick open the windows. Open the windows!

They all begin to roll down the windows. Stacey swallows the joint.

STACEY

Yo, just be cool. Just look straight ahead. Don't look back.

Stacey turns off the stereo and hides his gun under the passenger seat.

STACEY

Yo, I'm just takin' y'all to the dance. Just be cool.

Mike, Slim, and Roland just look at each other in a state of panic. Roland grabs his Tic Tac's and pops a few in his mouth. The other boys look at him like he is crazy.

SLAM! The officer shuts the door of the car

CLOSE on the boys as they listen to the sounds of footsteps approaching the car.

(CONTINUED)

The officer flashes his flashlight on each face in the car. He looks around for a moment.

STACEY

Is there a problem, sir?

OFFICER

You have a tail light out. I need to see your license and registration.

Stacey goes into the glove compartment to get his registration.

The officer puts his hand on his gun.

OFFICER

Slowly.

CLOSE on Mike. He is sweating and trying to stay calm. He can see the tip of the gun peaking out from under the seat.

Stacy takes out his registration, then driver's license, and hands it to the officer. The officer takes a look at his licence and registration.

OFFICER

Who's car is this son?

STACEY

It's mine, but it's in my mother's name, sir.

OFFICER

But the last name doesn't match.

STACEY

She re-married, sir.

The officer pauses for a moment, then walks back to his car. Another officer on the passenger's side keeps an eye on the car.

Boo is petrified. Tears start running from his face.

STACEY

(whispering)

Nigga, be a man. Stop crying like a bitch.

Boo continues to cry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STACEY
(whispering)
You gonna get us busted.

V.O. (MIKE)
It's amazing how the tables can turn. At the store, Boo was so tough. At that moment, though, they were just kids like us.

The officer comes back.

OFFICER
Everyone out of the car.

Everyone gets out of the car. The officers lines them up on the curb. They all kneel on the side of the road.

OFFICER
Put your hands behind your head.

They all comply. The other officer begins to frisk them.

V.O. (MIKE)
We're going to jail. I'm going to be on Scared Straight.

OFFICER 2
They're clean.

STACEY
All this for a tail light?

OFFICER
Shut up. Speak when you're spoken to.

STACEY
I'm just saying...

Officer 2 nudges him in the back with the tip of his club.

OFFICER
Now you just stay calm, now.

BOO
Man, just shut up Stacey, man.

Stacey gives him a dirty look.

Officer 2 begins to search the car.

CLOSE on Mike.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The officer searches the driver's seat. He flashes his light into the glove compartment.

Mike looks, he can still see the gun under the passenger's seat.

The officer is about to look under the seat when he gets a call on his walkie talkie. He stops and listens.

Officer 1 looks at the boys. Officer 2 speaks into his walkie talkie.

OFFICER 2

We're a couple of miles away. We'll go check it out. (to the other officer) Let's go, 1785 La Brea.

V.O. (MIKE)

That's Nelson's.

The officer backs away.

OFFICER

You guys can go, just take care of the light.

He gives them all wicked looks, then walks away. The cops jump into their car and speed off.

The boys walk back to the car.

V.O. (MIKE)

Man, prayer really works. The same robbery they just committed is what got us off the hook. Life's funny sometimes. You just don't want it laughing at you.

Boo walks to the passenger's side.

STACEY

Hell naw, you ain't riding up front with me! You fuckin' pussy! These kids had more heart than your ass. You ride in the back. Like a kid.

BOO

Man, fuck that, man.

STACEY

You ride in the back or you walk your ass home.

He looks at Mike.

(CONTINUED)

STACEY
Yo, you ride up front.

Mike hesitates.

STACEY
Come on, nigga.

Mike walks to the passenger's side and gets in.

INT. NELSON'S - WEDDING DAY.

Slim, Roland, and Mike are at the register paying for the aspirin and Tic Tac's.

SLIM
Now what the fuck were you doin'?
We're gettin' pulled over by the police,
and you're worried about fresh breath.

ROLAND
Man, I was just thinking, this may be my
last meal as a free man.

MIKE
I guess he thought if it was a female
officer, he would have to sweet talk us
out of the situation, and you can't have
bad breath.

The men all laugh.

ROLAND
Don't doubt the mack skills. They've
gotten me outta all kinds of shit.

The three men walk away and to Slim's truck.

Mike jumps in and shuts the door.

MIKE
I just remember Stacey. That was the
first time I realized how young he was.

CLOSE on Mike looking out the window.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. LA TIJERA DANCE- LATER

Young Mike looks out the window of Stacey's car. It pulls up
in front of the dance.

INT. STACEY'S CAR- SAME

STACEY

All right, y'all fools get out the car.
Go have fun.

Slim and Roland spring out of the car. Mike is about to get out of the car when Stacey stops him.

STACEY

Yo, little man. I'm sorry about kickin' your ass the other day. I'm just protecting my sister, you know. She's cute, and there's always some nigga trying to fuck with her.

YOUNG MIKE

Yeah, I know. It's cool.

STACEY

You like her don't you?

Mike hesitates.

STACEY

It's cool, I ain't gonna do nothin'.
We're cool.

YOUNG MIKE

Yeah, I guess.

STACEY

You guess?

YOUNG MIKE

Well, yeah.

Stacey smiles, gives Mike five.

STACEY

What's your name man?

YOUNG MIKE

Mike.

STACEY

Big Mike. You got good taste. She's cool, and smart too. Not like me. Anyway, she loves that slow song by Anita Baker "You Bring Me Joy". If they play that tonight, make sure you get a dance.

Mike just nods his head, "yes".

(CONTINUED)

STACEY

You got heart, I like that. Don't let
anyone take your heart. Go have fun.

Mike gets out of the car. Boo gets up to get in the front
seat.

STACEY

Just stay your ass in the back.

BOO

Come on, man.

Stacey drives off.

EXT. DANCE -SAME

Roland and Slim run up to Mike.

YOUNG SLIM

Man, what he say, what he say?

YOUNG MIKE

He just asked me my name.

YOUNG ROLAND

I thought he was gonna try to get you
again.

YOUNG MIKE

Naw, we're cool. Let's just get into this
dance finally.

The three boys walk into the dance.

INT. DANCE -SAME

MUSIC: "CINDAFELLA"- DANA DANE

The party is live. Kids are dancing and having a ball, with
minimal supervision.

V.O. (MIKE)

This was it. The party of all parties.

Mike looks around the party and is amazed. Girls are dressed
like women. Boys are, well, still dressed like boys.

Couples are dancing. Some mellow, some nasty. Mike notices
one couple dirty dancing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

V.O. (MIKE)

Oh my goodness. I'd never seen anything like this before. Hormones raging, music pumpin', it was great.

A teacher comes by and breaks up the couple.

YOUNG SLIM

Hell yeah, I'ma be freakin' all kinda girls tonight.

Just then, a girl grabs Roland and the two start to dance. Slim and Mike look on.

YOUNG SLIM

Yo just lay back for a while. We gotta see who's here.

They both look around.

YOUNG SLIM

Look at that freak. I bet she goes to Parent.

Angle on a girl standing on the other side.

V.O. (MIKE)

See, these dances were for every school in the district, and would rotate from school to school. So all the girls from the other school would be there.

Slim continues to look around.

YOUNG SLIM

Oh shit, look at her. Her booty is nice.

V.O. (MIKE)

How's the saying go. The only thing a boy likes more than booty, is new booty.

YOUNG SLIM

I'ma go dance with her. You get her friend.

V.O. (MIKE)

Her friend wasn't that cute but hey it was my first dance.

They walk up to the girls. Slim does the talking.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG SLIM

Would you like to dance with me and my friend?

The girls agree.

V.O. (MIKE)

The power of horniness is amazing. It makes you forget everything. We were just in a robbery and almost arrested, but it was like nothing happened.

Slim begins to dance along with the girls. The other girl starts to dance. Mike hesitates.

V.O. (MIKE)

Horniness also made me forget I didn't know how to dance.

Mike looks over at Slim and tries to imitate what he's doing. And of course he looks bad. Slim notices him and laughs.

YOUNG SLIM

What the hell are you doin'?

V.O. (MIKE)

I was looking like a fool. Forget this, I'll just go into my own thing.

Mike starts to dance like he did at home.

Roland dancing a few feet away from them notices.

YOUNG ROLAND

(smiling)

Yeah, Mike go get it.

Slim and the girls laugh, but continue to dance. Mike does his thing. The girl he's dancing with stops.

GIRL

I'm getting tired. I think I'm gonna stop.

YOUNG MIKE

Oh, OK.

The girl walks away. Mike stands alone, hurt. He goes to the side and leans up on the wall. He looks around the dance at everyone dancing and having fun.

He notices something.

(CONTINUED)

ANGLE ON ALICIA dancing. Mike continues to gaze at her.

There are some guys from another school standing by Mike.
They point to Alicia.

BOY

There goes Alicia's fine ass.

BOY 2

You gonna try to talk to her?

BOY

Naw, man. I don't know.

V.O. (MIKE)

There were a lot of good lookin' girls at
the dance, but no one as fine as Alicia.
And everyone knew it. You know a girl's
fine when she's known by name at other
schools.

Mike looks at Alicia dancing.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DANCE- LATER THAT EVENING.

MUSIC: "PAUL REVERE" BEASTIE BOYS

The party is still on fire, but Mike continues to stand by
himself. He looks around and sees Roland writing a phone
number down as he talks to a girl. He see's Slim on the other
side doing the same thing. After they are done they both come
over to Mike.

YOUNG SLIM

(to Roland)

How many?

Roland holds up six fingers.

YOUNG SLIM

Damn, I got four.

YOUNG ROLAND

I woulda had more if we didn't get here
so late. (to Mike) What about you?

YOUNG MIKE

Uh, I didn't get any yet.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG ROLAND

Fool you got to get up off this wall if
you wanna get numbers.

YOUNG MIKE

Don't worry about me.

YOUNG SLIM

I guess he's holding out for Alicia.

The two boys laugh. Mike smiles.

YOUNG ROLAND

Man, everyone up in here's tryin' to get
in that.

YOUNG SLIM

She's lookin' fly.

YOUNG ROLAND

Yo I'ma go over there and tell her that
you wanna talk to her.

YOUNG MIKE

Naw. Naw man. Don't do that shit.

Roland begins to walk over to her.

YOUNG MIKE

Come on man, don't.

YOUNG ROLAND

Yo, I'm just tryin' to help?

YOUNG MIKE

Why don't you go talk to her then?

YOUNG ROLAND

Yo, I got other girls to talk to.

A girl waves at Roland.

YOUNG ROLAND

That looks like number seven. You guys
are gonna owe me some money.

Roland walks over to her.

YOUNG SLIM

Man I gotta get some more numbers.

Slim looks around and finds a girl to talk to. He walks away.
Mike is again by himself.

MOMENTS LATER...

D.J. (VOICE)

OK y'all. We're gonna slow it down here for the last one. Guys grab you one of these fine ladies and get close.

Roland and Slim both grab who they are with.

D.J. (VOICE)

Gonna play a little something for you, from Anita Baker.

Mike's eyes light up. The music begins to play.

MUSIC CUE: "YOU BRING ME JOY"- ANITA BAKER

Mike desperately looks around.

V.O. (MIKE)

That's the song. This is it.

Mike begins to walk around and look for Alicia. He can't find her.

V.O. (MIKE)

I had to find Alicia. I didn't dance all night, but if I could get this one I would be happy.

Mike stops. He sees Alicia standing against the wall by herself.

V.O. (MIKE)

Somewhere inside I expected her to be dancing with someone else. I was actually kind of hoping she was so I would have an excuse not to ask her, but say I tried.

Mike gets himself ready. He pops a couple of Tic Tacs in his mouth and gets ready to go.

He sees a boy walk up to her and ask her to dance. She turns him down.

V.O. (MIKE)

Oh no. Maybe I should think about this. I did grab her butt that day. But that was two months ago. She's been cool since.

He see's her singing the lyrics of the song. He gathers himself again and walks over to her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

V.O. (MIKE)

I figured hey, I've already embarrassed myself as bad as I could, that day. I might as well try.

YOUNG MIKE

Hey, Alicia.

ALICIA

Hi Mike. What's up?

YOUNG MIKE

Nothing. I just wanted to say hi. This was the only time you've been alone all night.

Mike looks around.

V.O. (MIKE)

Boy, I was nervous as a hooker in church.

YOUNG MIKE

I never did really apologize right, for that day. You know. The bet.

Alicia smiles.

ALICIA

Oh yeah. That's what you get for hangin' around Roland. He's so nasty.

Mike nervously looks around

YOUNG MIKE

Uh, I really like this song.

Alicia looks at him.

ALICIA

Me too. This song is so beautiful.

YOUNG MIKE

Would you like to dance?

V.O. (MIKE)

I braced myself.

Alicia smiles at Mike and grabs his hand.

ALICIA

OK.

(CONTINUED)

Mike is stunned. Alicia pulls him by the hand to the dance floor.

She puts her arms around his neck. He puts his arms around her waist.

V.O. (MIKE)

My heart was beating a hundred times a minute. She was so soft, and smelled so good. All I could think is "Don't get hard. DON'T GET HARD!"

Roland looks and notices Mike dancing with Alicia. He turns and look at Slim. Slim is shocked.

The song continues to play.

ALICIA

(in Mike's ear)

I love this part.

She pulls Mike closer. Mike's hands move down Alicia back. She grabs the back of his neck.

V.O. (MIKE)

Oh shit. That's it. "I can can't hold it any longer, capt'n, she's gonna blow"

Mike slides his hand down too her butt, and grabs it.

Alicia smiles.

ALICIA

Now that's the right way to do it.

Mike laughs.

Slim see's Mike's hand on Alicia's butt.

YOUNG SLIM

Look at that shit. Look.

Roland see's the same thing. The two boys are amazed.

GIRL

Why don't you go dance with her then?

GIRL 2

You too.

They walk away. Roland and Slim watch them walk off.

(CONTINUED)

Back to Mike and Alicia as Mike begins to back his mid section away.

V.O. (MIKE)

I was in full salute at this point. I couldn't have it touch her. I would look like a fool.

ALICIA

You OK Mike?

YOUNG MIKE

Yeah, this is how we do it in North Carolina.

Alicia laughs.

ALICIA

Well this is how we do it in L.A.

She grabs his hips and pulls them in. She jumps as Mike's, well you know, touches her.

The song comes to an end. They pull away from each other. Mike quickly puts his hand in his pocket.

Roland and Slim continue to watch.

The lights come on in the auditorium signaling the end of the dance. The two look at each other in a moment of awkward silence.

ALICIA

Walk me outside?

YOUNG MIKE

Yeah, of course.

The two walk outside.

EXT. DANCE- MOMENTS LATER.

All the kids are either walking home or getting picked up by parents.

Mike walks out with Alicia.

ALICIA

I really had fun tonight.

YOUNG MIKE

Yeah me too.

(CONTINUED)

Just then, Stacey pulls up LOUDLY BUMPING "EVERLASTING BASS" by RODNEY O AND JOE COOLEY from his car.

Alicia sees him.

ALICIA

I gotta go. I guess I'll talk to you at school Monday.

YOUNG MIKE

Why not this weekend?

Alicia smiles.

ALICIA

Are you asking me for my number?

YOUNG MIKE

Uh, yeah. I guess I am.

ALICIA

You guess?

YOUNG MIKE

OK, I am.

Mike pulls out a pen. Alicia writes the number on Mike's hand. Mike looks at his hand. Alicia then gives Mike a hug and kisses him on the cheek.

Stacey sees this and give Mike a THUMBS UP. Mike sees him and smiles. Alicia lets go and walks to the car.

Boo is still in the back seat, as Alicia get's in the front. They drive off.

Mike stands there for a moment, smiling. Roland and Slim come up to him.

YOUNG SLIM

How the hell you do that?

YOUNG MIKE

I told y'all not to worry about me.

YOUNG ROLAND

Mike, my man. I can't believe this fool.

YOUNG SLIM

All I know is I got, seven numbers, That last one wasn't that cute but she had a body, boy. I know I won.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YOUNG ROLAND

I got seven too. I guess it's a tie.

YOUNG SLIM

You get any numbers tonight?

YOUNG MIKE

Just one.

He shows the boys his hand. It reads: Alicia 766-2365 and the "I's" are dotted with hearts.

The two boys look in shock.

YOUNG ROLAND

I knew you danced with her, but...

Slim reaches into his pocket and gives Mike a dollar.

YOUNG SLIM

That number is worth ten of these other girls'. You won, Big Mike.

Roland takes out a dollar and gives it to Mike.

YOUNG ROLAND

You're taking all my money man.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. SLIM'S CAR- WEDDING DAY.

Mike, Roland, and Slim are all laughing.

ROLAND

I still can't believe you pulled that off.

MIKE

That's why I'm Big Mike.

They laugh again.

ROLAND

Man, I've been to all kinda parties, all kinda clubs, and nothing has ever been as fun as those dances.

BEEP. BEEP. BEEP. Mike's pager goes off. Then Slim's. Again, they look at each other.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SLIM

Man, I'm getting like Ro. I forgot all about the wedding.

Roland gives him a dirty look. Slim pulls out a cellular phone.

MIKE

Ro, man. What do you want us to say?

ROLAND

I don't know.

MIKE

You want us to tell 'em it's off?

ROLAND

No.

SLIM

Then what the fuck, man? You have a wedding waiting. I gotta tell 'em something.

ROLAND

I just need to think.

SLIM

Shouldn't you have done that before you asked her to marry you?

ROLAND

I DID! It seemed right. But now I don't know. I wanna get married, but..

MIKE

You don't wanna grow up.

ROLAND

But I don't wanna wonder what if.

Roland pauses. His face is red.

ROLAND

Yo man, let me out.

SLIM

What are you crazy! I ain't stopping till we get to the wedding. Then you've gotta face this shit. I don't care what you do, but you ain't running away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROLAND

Naw I'm serious. Stop the car!

Roland grabs the door, and tries to open it.

MIKE

Ro, you fuckin' crazy?

Mike looks at Roland's face.

MIKE

Oh shit, I think you need to stop the car.

SLIM

Fuck that!

MIKE

Naw really. He's not lookin' too good.

All of a sudden Roland seizes, and vomits all over the place. Spraying himself, Mike, Slim, and part of the camera lens.

SLIM

Oh shit!

Slim slams the breaks, throwing everyone forward. Roland jumps out of the car and vomits on the sidewalk.

Mike and Slim look at each other, covered in Roland's lunch.

SLIM

I can't believe this nigga!

Slim storms out of the car and slams the door. Mike wipes himself with his coat, and then he wipes off the camera lens.

MIKE

(addressing the camera)

Sorry.

Mike gets out of the car. Slim stands over Roland as he kneels on the ground.

SLIM

You see this shit. You see this shit!

Slim looks down at his shoes, they are covered in chunks.

SLIM

These are fuckin' Ferragamo's. Three huned bucks.

(CONTINUED)

ROLAND

So, How much did you pay for 'em?

SLIM

It don't matter, there still worth three huned.

MIKE

Shit, it's over man.

SLIM

Naw, this ain't over. (he points at Roland) You're marrying that woman.

MIKE

Yo, Slim if the brotha doesn't wanna get married, he doesn't.

ROLAND

I didn't say I don't wanna get married.

SLIM

See, see Mike. This nigga's crazy, and a punk.

ROLAND

Fuck you!

Roland dives at Slim and tackles him. Slim puts Roland in a headlock. They struggle for a moment.

ROLAND

Let me go, muthafucka.

SLIM

You gonna be cool? Huh? Come to your senses?

Roland's face turns red. Mike jumps in and pushes the two apart.

MIKE

Man, both of y'all are acting like punks. Ro, there's a wedding that is or isn't going to happen today, and only you know the answer. You've been planning this for a year. Come on Ro, don't let cold feet fuck this up.

SLIM

So do you wanna do this or not?

Ro breathes hard, then just shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROLAND
(hesitating)
Yeah. Yeah, I guess so.

SLIM
You guess so?

MIKE
Hey, hey. That's good enough for now.
When the reverend asks, you can change
your mind then, now we gotta get cleaned
up.

SLIM
Cleaned up, where?

MIKE
I don't know.

Mike looks around, he see's the coffee pot in the back seat
of the car. Mike looks at the camera and smiles.

SOUND CUE: KNOCK. KNOCK...

EXT. TANYA'S HOUSE- LATER.

KNOCK. KNOCK. Mike pounds on the door. Tanya opens the door
and is shocked.

TANYA
What the hell?!

MIKE
Told ya I'd bring the pot back.

TANYA
Go. Go. Y'all need to take this shit away
from... Oh, what is that smell?

SLIM
Ro, had a little morning sickness. And we
need a place to clean up.

MIKE
And since the only people we know still
in Inglewood are you and our parents, we
decided to come here.

TANYA
You need to go to a gas station. 76
always has fresh paper towels and
squeegees.

(CONTINUED)

MIKE

Come on, he gets married in about two hours, and we really need your help.

TANYA

Where is he now?

SLIM

He's in the ride.

Tanya looks around. She takes a deep breath.

TANYA

I'm doin' this for her, not y'all, and especially not him. I can only imagine what she's going through.

SLIM

We'll, if we clean him up quick enough she won't have to know shit.

TANYA

Go bring him in.

INT. TANYA HOUSE- MOMENT LATER.

Mike, Slim, and Roland walk in the door.

ROLAND

Hey, Tanya.

Tanya just rolls her eyes.

MIKE

Can you clean the tuxedos?

TANYA

What do I look like, Alice from the Brady Bunch? You gotta take those to a cleaners or somethin'. You can clean up here, I got some of my man's clothes in the closet.

SLIM

Cool, I'm first in the shower.

TANYA

Shower? Ya'll niggas are not messin' up my tub. There's a hose in the backyard.

SLIM

Hose? You ain't washin' dogs?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TANYA

Says who?

Tanya gives them all dirty looks, especially Roland, then walks away.

TANYA

I'll bring y'all some towels.

The three men look at each other.

MIKE

Do we have a choice?

CUT TO:

EXT. TANYA'S BACKYARD- MOMENTS LATER

Mike, Slim and Roland shower with the hose. They each stand behind shrubs to cover themselves.

SLIM

Damn, this shit is cold?

MIKE

Maybe it'll snap Ro back to normal.

Slim grabs the hose and sprays Ro in the face.

ROLAND

Hey, stop playin'.

Ro backs away, moving out from in front of the bush. At the same time Tanya walks to the backyard with some dry clothes.

She sees Ro. Ro looks at her. She looks down.

TANYA

(giggling)

I see not a lot has changed since High School.

She puts the clothes down on a chair then starts to walk away. Ro looks down at himself.

ROLAND

Hey, it's not what you think. The water was cold. It's shrinkage.

Slim and Mike laugh.

(CONTINUED)

ROLAND

Come on guys, back me up. Tell her about shrinkage.

Slim and Mike laugh even harder. Ro looks around, then let's out a little smile.

INT. TANYA'S HOUSE- LATER

Mike, Roland, and Slim sit on the couch wearing various athletic clothes, from sweatpants to T shirts to shorts. But of course the clothes don't really fit because Tanya's man isn't as big as the three.

SLIM

Shit, we look like three Ralph Macchio's, wearing this tight ass shit.

TANYA

I don't understand why this is so painful for y'all?

MIKE

What?

TANYA

Marriage, that's what. You act like you're going to the electric chair or something. This is supposed to be a special moment.

ROLAND

It's not that simple...

TANYA

You love her don't you?

ROLAND

Yeah, with all my heart.

TANYA

Then its simple. Getting drunk, messing up your clothes, fighting. Just so y'all can keep acting like you did in high school.

The three men look at each other. Roland has a contemplative look.

SLIM

Come on let's go.

(CONTINUED)

TANYA
Can't take the heat can ya.

SLIM
I'm cool. I'm not the one getting married.

MIKE
Thanks for everything, Tanya.

SLIM
Yeah, thanks girl.

ROLAND
(hesitant)
Yeah... Thanks for putting up with me.

The two look at each other. Tanya smacks him in the back of the head.

TANYA
That's for the bride.

ROLAND
I deserved that.

Tanya smiles.

TANYA
Bye Rolando.

Roland smiles. The three men leave.

MIKE
(mockingly)
Bye Rolando.

Slim laughs. The three get into the truck.

EXT. LADERA SHOPPING CENTER-INGLEWOOD- LATER

Slim's truck pulls in front of SHINING STAR ONE HOUR CLEANERS. The three men get out of the car and walk in.

INT. SHINING STAR- SAME

Each man carries their tuxedos. Slim approaches the woman at the front counter.

SLIM
We need some cleaning done in an hour.

(CONTINUED)

WOMAN

OK, what do you need cleaned?

The men put the tuxedos on the counter. She looks at the clothes then back up at the men.

WOMAN

There's a church down the street, cause you're gonna need a miracle to get this cleaned in an hour.

MIKE

Look, there's a wedding going on, and we're in it. It starts in a couple of hours and, you're right, we need you to work us a miracle. Price is no object. (he points to Slim) He plays professional basketball.

Slim looks at Mike. Mike shrugs.

WOMAN

Marriage, huh.

SLIM

Yeah.

WOMAN

Let me guess. The silent one (she points to Roland).

Roland nods his head.

MIKE

He had a few butterflies, and kinda lost it.

The woman gives them all dirty looks.

WOMAN

Men are such cowards.

SLIM

Yeah I know, that's why we need a strong, beautiful woman like you to help us out.

WOMAN

Fool, don't try to run that game on me, boy. I ain't one of these little skirts running around.

MIKE

Can you help us? Please.

(CONTINUED)

WOMAN

I'll see what I can do, but I can't promise anything. This is very nice material, it's gonna be hard.

MIKE

Thank you.

WOMAN

Here, fill this out.

CUT TO:

EXT. SHINING STAR CLEANERS- MOMENTS LATER.

The three men walk out.

SLIM

OK, we got an hour.

ROLAND

Man, I'm hungry than a muthafucka. Man I haven't eaten since last night.

MIKE

So you drank how much shit on an empty stomach?

ROLAND

Man I don't know. But it was a lot.

SLIM

Man you don't need to eat. You just threw up a lung 20 minutes ago.

ROLAND

Yo, I'm cool. Really.

SLIM

Then where we gonna go?

MIKE

Is that Round Table Pizza still in here?

INT. ROUNDTABLE PIZZA- LATER.

The three men sit around a table eating pizza.

MIKE

OK. We're still in pretty good shape. We got a little under two hours.

(CONTINUED)

SLIM

Any of y'all want this last piece?

ROLAND

Hell yeah I want this piece.

SLIM

Nigga you don't need to eat shit. I'll take it.

ROLAND

Why'd you ask, if you wanted the last piece?

SLIM

The same reason you asked Lisa to marry you. It sounds nice.

ROLAND

That's not true.

MIKE

Then why?

ROLAND

Why do you think? Cause I love her.

SLIM

You said you loved Tanya, too. You didn't ask her.

ROLAND

Shit, I thought you would be happy, me havin' second thoughts. The way you were talkin' shit when I asked her.

SLIM

What the hell is that supposed to mean?

ROLAND

You know. All that shit about breakin' up the team. Especially when I said I was moving.

SLIM

I just don't think you should be following the woman. She's supposed get a job and move where you are.

ROLAND

That's bullshit. She's got a good job up there so I'm movin'. Mike, Come on. That makes sense, doesn't it.

(CONTINUED)

MIKE

(hesitant)

Yeah, I guess, but she coulda taught out here. You know.

ROLAND

What about Alicia?

MIKE

Man, that was high school, man... And she wanted to go to Columbia and I got into S.C.

ROLAND

You also got into N.Y.U. Now what?

Mike pauses and thinks about what Roland said.

MIKE

Yeah, I know.

SLIM

I know my ass. (to Roland) This is your home. We've been in the Wood together for years, now you talkin' about moving. We barely kick it together as is.

MIKE

That is true, Ro.

ROLAND

Man, I'm getting married. I didn't think... What did you think? Shit, No one tripped about Slim going to Italy.

SLIM

Nigga, that was to play ball. I love ball.

ROLAND

And I love Lisa.

SLIM

Then why are we sittin' here and not at the wedding?

Roland pauses for a moment. Slim reaches for the last slice of pizza. Mike stops him.

He senses a change of topic is at hand.

MIKE

Yo, wait, wait.

(CONTINUED)

Mike takes the piece and puts it in the middle of the pan. He then spins the pan around like a roulette wheel.

Slim and Roland smile.

MIKE
Y'all remember this?

Slim laughs.

SLIM
Ah man, I forgot about that shit.

ROLAND
How'd it go?

MIKE
We'd think of someone like Janet Jackson and whoever the piece of pizza pointed at would get with her.

SLIM
Or some ugly ass ho like Lynette Willard.

ROLAND AND MIKE
Ugh.

SLIM
Damn, we were some no pussy getting muthafuckas to come up with some shit like this.

ROLAND
Shit, speak for yourself, fool.

SLIM
Nigga don't get stupid now. You went through a lot of lotion. I know you weren't that ashy.

MIKE
Remember, that fool used to keep a lotion bottle in his book bag.

SLIM
Yeah, in case a fine ass honey accidentally rubbed up on him between classes.

Mike and Slim laugh.

ROLAND
That shit was for after P.E. class and you know it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SLIM

We didn't get none until, what, Junior year?

ROLAND

But we'd grind the hell out of a girl.

They laugh.

SLIM

Remember the bet.

They laugh some more.

Mike looks at the camera.

MIKE

The bet, I know you're asking what bet?
Well you don't have to think that hard.

Mike spins the pan. OVERHEAD ANGLE: The pan fills the screen, spinning.

MATCH CUT TO:

OVERHEAD ANGLE: A RECORD PLAYER. The automatic player drops the record on the turn table. The Album is EPMD'S "UNFINISHED BUSINESS".

The needle comes down on the record. A few moments of static, then as the music begins...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. ST. BERNARD HIGH SCHOOL- 1989

MUSIC CUE: "SO WHATCHA SAYIN'" EPMD

There is a flurry of activity in the St. Bernard High School hallway. Girls are wearing skirts and white collared shirts, boys are wearing slacks and polo shirts.

There are many adolescent kids talking, laughing.

V.O. (MIKE)

St. Bernard High School. Lots of memories here. High School was a whole different world. With the same objective at hand, girls.

ZOOM in on Mike age sixteen, as he comes out of class. He is talking to a girl. He sees Slim and Roland down the hallway.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG MIKE

Yo, I'll talk to you later.

Mike walks down the hallway with the swagger only a sixteen year old possesses. As he walks down the hall he gives guys high fives and girls "hello's"

V.O. (MIKE)

Yeah, high school was nice. Still beautiful girls, only now instead of just booty, they had legs, hips, breasts...

He notices a girl with large breasts.

V.O. (MIKE)

And, I'm a breast man.

Mike goes up to Slim and Roland and gives them a pound (hand shake) Slim no longer has a curl, but a CLOSE CUT FADE. Roland has shed the shag and grew a HI TOP.

YOUNG MIKE

What's up my brothas?

YOUNG SLIM

Just checkin' out these fine ass women.

YOUNG ROLAND

Yeah.

V.O. (MIKE)

The first day of school is always the best. Full of possibilities. And for us that meant sex, the wild thing, the nasty, the Mo Betta.

An attractive girl walks by. She points to Roland then motions with her finger to come here. Roland walks over to her. Slim notices something then nudges Mike.

YOUNG SLIM

Look, Look.

ANGLE on Alicia. She is standing by her locker and a guy is trying to talk to her. Alicia has grown into a beautiful young woman. Tall too. She stands about 5' 8".

YOUNG MIKE

Yeah so.

YOUNG SLIM

You gonna let Eric mack to your woman.

(CONTINUED)

Slim laughs.

YOUNG MIKE
Ha, ha, muthafucka.

V.O. (MIKE)
Yeah, it was the same old gang, new location. No one's parents wanted us to go to Inglewood High, so we all ended up at Bernard's.

Alicia smiles as Eric talks to her.

V.O. (MIKE)
After the dance, me and Alicia talked, and we were a couple for about three weeks, that's standard for junior high relationships. We stayed friends though.

Alicia writes down her number for Eric. Mike looks disgusted.

It is clear he still has feelings for Alicia.

Alicia finishes her business at her locker, then walks down the hallway toward Mike and Slim. She notices them and smiles.

ALICIA
What's up boys?

YOUNG SLIM
Boy?

YOUNG MIKE
Hi Alicia.

She gives Mike a long hug.

ALICIA
Upperclassmen. I don't feel like a Junior.

YOUNG MIKE
Yeah it's a trip ain't it?

ALICIA
So, library at 5:00?

YOUNG MIKE
Man, school just started.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALICIA

Yeah but I heard Ms. Quiano gives a test
in the first week.

YOUNG MIKE

Yeah, OK.

The bell rings, it's time to go to class.

ALICIA

I'll see you guys later.

Alicia walks away. As she walks down the hall, Eric
approaches her.

YOUNG SLIM

Damn, she's still fine as hell. You
shoulda held on to that.

YOUNG MIKE

Man, that was seventh grade. I'm into
new ladies now.

Close on Mike as he looks at Alicia laughing with Eric.

END MUSIC

INT. ROUND TABLE PIZZA- FRIDAY NIGHT 1989

Slim, Mike, and Roland sit at a table eating pizza. SPECIAL
ED'S "I GOT IT MADE" plays on the radio.

ANGLE on the spinning of the pan. The boys look intent at the
twirling piece of pizza. The slice begins to slow, slow,
slow, and lands on Slim.

YOUNG SLIM

Yeah, nigga! What I tell you. Paula Abdul
like a muthafucka!

YOUNG MIKE

Man she ain't all that.

YOUNG SLIM

Jealous niggas.

YOUNG ROLAND

Your turn Mike.

YOUNG MIKE

All right, All right. Whoever this lands
on will be the first to get some, for
real.

(CONTINUED)

Mike spins the pan. Again the boys look at the spinning piece of pizza this time with an added sense of seriousness. The pan begins to slow. ANGLE on each of the boys in anticipation.

It slows some more. It stops right between Slim and Roland.

YOUNG ROLAND

It's on me, it's on me!

YOUNG SLIM

You crazy! Look! It's landed on me!

Angle on the pizza pointer.

YOUNG ROLAND

Yo, yo spin it again.

YOUNG MIKE

Man, fuck that. This shit ain't real.
That's probably why it landed on nobody.

YOUNG SLIM

Yo, I don't know about y'all but I'm
tired of gettin' no coochie. Shit, we're
fuckin' juniors.

YOUNG ROLAND

Man, I done all that rubbing, grinding,
lickin' and pokin. I need some real shit.
Females get too much power with this
shit.

YOUNG MIKE

They just aren't givin' it up. I've been
tryin' to get at Monica for two months.

YOUNG ROLAND

Two months? It's time to move on.

YOUNG MIKE

Fuck that, I ain't gonna warm up the slot
machine, leave, and watch another brother
hit the jackpot. Shit I'm close. I know
it.

YOUNG SLIM

Man, I might just fuck with Kim.

YOUNG ROLAND

Naw man, every nigga from Inglewood to
Carson's been up in that.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG SLIM

Hey man, at this point, a nigga's desperate. I can't wait.

YOUNG ROLAND

This has got to be the year, shit. We're the head niggas now. Y'all are on Varsity, and I'm just looking better every day.

YOUNG MIKE

Shut up, fool. As pretty as you are, you still ain't gettin any.

YOUNG ROLAND

I bet I'll be the first one to get some.

FREEZE FRAME

V.O. (MIKE)

Well, there it is. I'm sure you're not surprised.

END FREEZE FRAME

YOUNG MIKE

Man did you hear what I just said? I'ma probably get Monica soon.

YOUNG ROLAND

Well, put your money where your dick is. We all put in five dollars, the first to get some pussy, gets the money.

YOUNG SLIM

Cool.

YOUNG MIKE

And it can't be with Kim, Julie, or Antoinette.

YOUNG SLIM

Shit! (beat) Well, I'm still in.

YOUNG ROLAND

And so this doesn't drag on forever, if after a month no one gets any, we all put in another five.

YOUNG MIKE

Wait, wait. Every month?

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG ROLAND
Every month.

The three boys look at each other.

YOUNG SLIM
Cool.

YOUNG MIKE
All right.

YOUNG ROLAND
Let the game's begin.

SOUND CUE: A few seconds of STATIC, then...

INT. ROLAND'S BEDROOM.

MUSIC CUE: "BONITA APPLEBUM"- A TRIBE CALLED QUEST

BEGIN MONTAGE:

A SERIES OF FADE AND DISSOLVES LINK THE FOLLOWING IMAGES.

Roland is on the phone talking.

YOUNG ROLAND
So when are we gonna make this real....
You know what I'm.... Yeah I care about
you... I was just thinking we'd have a
physical thing.

CLICK. She hangs up in his face. He grabs a pen and crosses a
name off a list.

INT. BEDROOM.

Slim is kissing a girl on the bed. He is moving his hand up
her shirt.

She smiles. He unzips her pants.

GIRL
Stop Slim.

YOUNG SLIM
Come on now. You know you wanna do this.

GIRL
I don't know. It's just. I'm not ready.

YOUNG SLIM
We've been together how long?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GIRL

A week and a half.

YOUNG SLIM

Oh. Time ain't nothin'. I think we've got a connection.

GIRL

You don't think I'ma give it up after one week. You must think I'm a hoe.

YOUNG SLIM

You let Terry, and I look way better than that, nigga.

The girl springs up out of bed.

GIRL

Slim, get out of here.

INT. MONICA'S BEDROOM

Close on Monica's face as she moans and groans.

Pull back to reveal Mike fully clothed with his hand up her skirt. Monica continues to moan.

MONICA

Oh you do that good. AH! Right there, right there.

Mike looks in the air, bored. He pulls his hand from under her skirt.

YOUNG MIKE

Come on, let's do something else.

MONICA

What?

YOUNG MIKE

You know. Let's make love.

MONICA

First of all, I know you don't love me, so don't say make love.

YOUNG MIKE

Well, it sounds better than bone.

MONICA

Second, I told you already I wanna wait 'til I get married.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG MIKE

Why wait for what you can get now?

MONICA

Cause it's in the Bible.

YOUNG MIKE

And the Bible says it's OK to do everything else before marriage? You already started on the wrong path you might as well finish.

MONICA

No. Mike. I want it to be special.

YOUNG MIKE

Baby, this is special.

EXT. ROLAND'S BACK YARD.

The boys pull out a jar from under the porch.

It read's "THE PUSSY POT" They all put in five dollars.

INT. LIVING ROOM.

Slim is on the couch with another girl.

YOUNG SLIM

I'm dead serious. I'll get blue balls. My shit may explode. It's happened before. Remember Andrew?

GIRL 2

Yeah.

Slim just shakes his head.

YOUNG SLIM

That nigga still can't walk. So It can't stay hard like this. I need to buss a nut.

GIRL 2

I wanna help, but I can't have sex. I'm not ready. (beat) I'll jack it off.

Slim thinks then shakes his head. He'll take anything at this point.

YOUNG SLIM

Shit. Get the lotion.

INT. BEDROOM

Roland is sitting on the bed with his pants down. A girl sits next to him, and looks down.

GIRL

You want me to let you put that inside of me. That's so nasty,

Roland just crashes back in the bed.

INT. BATHROOM.

Mike runs cold water on his private parts.

EXT. ROLAND'S BACKYARD.

The boys put more money in the pot.

END MUSIC

END MONTAGE

SOUND CUE: A few seconds of STATIC, then...

EXT. ST. BERNARD HIGH SCHOOL- HOMECOMING WEEK.

MUSIC CUE: "REBEL WITHOUT A PAUSE" -PUBLIC ENEMY

The courtyard is a flurry of activity. Kids walk around wearing BLACK AFRICAN MEDALLIONS around their necks, and RED. BLACK, and GREEN bracelets. Mike, Slim, and Roland sit on a bench.

V.O. (MIKE)

It was Homecoming week. And still no love. The pot was at sixty dollars, so you do the math. The stakes were getting high.

YOUNG ROLAND

Man, I don't get it. I thought Catholic school girls were supposed to be easy.

YOUNG SLIM

Man I think I should get the money. I almost hit, until Crystal's mom came home. The tip was in.

YOUNG MIKE

Hell no. All or nothing. You don't win the lotto if you get one number.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG SLIM

But if you get five you get a piece.

YOUNG ROLAND

All or nothing.

YOUNG SLIM

Fuck it. I'm gettin' some after Homecoming.

YOUNG MIKE

Who you taking?

YOUNG SLIM

I don't know, it's either Crystal or Nicole. Whoever's gonna let me bone.

YOUNG MIKE

And what if neither does?

YOUNG SLIM

Oh, I don't think so. Besides Crystal's best friend, Rebecca, just did it with that nigga Claude. So you know she's gonna be curious. I was already close, this might take me over the top.

YOUNG ROLAND

I'm in the same boat, I asked Tanya. I think I got it in the bag, She's been hinting all week, asking what kind of rubbers I use.

YOUNG SLIM

You gonna take Monica?

YOUNG MIKE

Yeah.

YOUNG SLIM

You know Alicia's going with Eric.

Mike sees Eric talkin' to her.

YOUNG MIKE

So why you tellin' me?

YOUNG ROLAND

Look, he's gettin' all sensitive. You know you still like her.

He looks at Alicia. She see's him and smiles.

(CONTINUED)

V.O. (MIKE)

They were right. Alicia was still on my mind a lot. But we were friends.

INT. INGLEWOOD LIBRARY- NIGHT

Mike and Alicia sit at a table, studying.

V.O. (MIKE)

We had A.P. History together. So we talked a lot. Mainly about class, her boyfriends, my girlfriends. It was kinda cool. I could always get the female perspective.

ALICIA

Why the hell did you say that?

YOUNG MIKE

It was the first thing that came to my mind. Just explain to me her reasoning. We're doing everything, everything besides it, so what's up?

Alicia just shrugs.

ALICIA

You know, doing this ain't easy. It's special. It's...

YOUNG MIKE

...Gotta be right, Yeah I know.

ALICIA

You need to stop trying to trick her into doing it.

YOUNG MIKE

I ain't trickin' her. I don't need tricks, my game is strong.

Mike gives a confident laugh. Alicia mockingly laughs back.

ALICIA

Well If your game is so strong, why aren't you gettin' any?

YOUNG MIKE

Cause y'all are fronting like you don't want it as much as we do.

ALICIA

That's not true.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG MIKE

Yes it is.

ALICIA

Then I guess you just need to find
someone who wants it as bad as you.

YOUNG MIKE

Yeah, I guess so.

Alicia laughs.

ALICIA

Let's go. It's clear we're not gonna
study tonight.

Mike and Alicia get up and walk out.

EXT. STREETS- LATER

Mike walks Alicia down the street.

V.O. (MIKE)

We would always study on Wednesday's at
the Library into the night. She lived
around the corner, so I would always walk
her home.

ALICIA

So. You start sending out your apps, or
are you still trying to play ball?

YOUNG MIKE

Naw, Slim's the man with college coaches
all over him. I gotta do it the old
fashioned way.

ALICIA

Where?

YOUNG MIKE

You know U.S.C., U.C.L.A, Loyola. What
about you?

ALICIA

Well I applied to Columbia, Georgetown,
and Michigan. And I'm thinking about
Penn.

YOUNG MIKE

What? That's kinda far.

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA

Yeah, I've been in Inglewood all my life.
I gotta get out of here.

YOUNG MIKE

Yeah, I guess if I've been in one place
that long I'd feel that way.

The two continue walking.

YOUNG MIKE

So, can I ask you a personal question?

ALICIA

It depends on what you ask.

YOUNG MIKE

Have you? You know?

ALICIA

What?

YOUNG MIKE

Done it.

V.O. (MIKE)

Please say no, please say no.

Alicia smiles.

ALICIA

No.

V.O. (MIKE)

Yes!

ALICIA

I'm waiting for...

YOUNG MIKE

...Someone special.

ALICIA

You got it.

Alicia laughs. Mike looks at her and smiles.

ALICIA

What are you gonna wear to homecoming?

YOUNG MIKE

I don't know. I gotta suit from last
year's basketball banquet. I'm not trying

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG MIKE (cont'd)
to spend anymore money. (smug) You're
going with your boy, what's his name,
Eric?

ALICIA
Yes I'm going with Eric. You're goin'
with Kim, right.

YOUNG MIKE
Monica.

ALICIA
(giggling)
Oh yeah, Monica.

YOUNG MIKE
So is Eric someone special?

ALICIA
I don't know. Maybe. You tell me you play
ball with him, right?

YOUNG MIKE
He's cool. I guess.

They get to Alicia's house.

ALICIA
Is Bonita special?

YOUNG MIKE
Monica.

ALICIA
Oh, sorry. Monica.

YOUNG MIKE
Yeah, whatever. She's special enough. I
knew if I asked she would say yes.

ALICIA
That's the only reason you asked her,
cause you knew she'd say yes?

YOUNG MIKE
Yeah.

ALICIA
What, you afraid of rejection?

MIKE
Yeah.

Alicia just shakes her head.

(CONTINUED)

MIKE

See you wouldn't know anything about that since, all the brothas ask you.

ALICIA

Not all the brothas.

She gives him a look. Mike smiles.

YOUNG MIKE

So, what are you wearing?

ALICIA

I got this red dress. Why don't you come in? I wanna show you.

V.O. (MIKE)

(sarcastically)

Yippie.

INT. ALICIA'S HOUSE- SAME

Alicia and Mike walk into the house. Alicia puts her books on the dining table.

ALICIA

Come on up. My room's upstairs.

V.O. (MIKE)

Bedroom?

Mike walks up to her room.

INT. ALICIA'S BEDROOM

The bedroom is very nice. Decorated with basketball posters and stuffed animals.

V.O. (MIKE)

So this is her bedroom. I always wanted to get up here.

She turns on the radio, then walks to the closet and pulls out the dress.

ALICIA

It's nice isn't it.

YOUNG MIKE

Yeah. You'll look beautiful.

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA

Thank you. I guess you could have seen it at the dance, but I just got it today and I was excited.

YOUNG MIKE

So where's your mom and Stacey?

ALICIA

My mom works late, and Stacey's where ever, He's never here.

She takes off her shoes and stockings from under her skirt. Mike looks at her feet and legs.

V.O. (MIKE)

Down boy.

RADIO D.J.

We're slow jammin' tonight. If you got any dedications call 545-KJLH. This next one goes out to Lisa from Terence, Maurice in Carson. Glenita I love you, from Rick. Here's Anita Baker, "You Bring Me Joy".

Mike and Alicia look at each other. This is the same song they danced to in Junior High.

ALICIA

(smiling)

You remember this?

YOUNG MIKE

Oh yeah. La Tijera 1986.

ALICIA

That seems so long ago. I remember the first time I met you.

YOUNG MIKE

Yeah you met me with your fist.

Alicia laughs.

ALICIA

That's right I met you with my fist. You and that stupid bet.

YOUNG MIKE

The bet wasn't stupid.

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA

Yes it was, that's why you got the fist.
You, Slim, and Roland are always betting
on something. You probably bet on who
would get the booty first.

Mike nervously laughs.

YOUNG MIKE

Come on, now. booty first. Ha, ha.

ALICIA

Yeah whatever. You and you nasty little
friends.

YOUNG MIKE

Yo, those are my boys, you know what I'm
sayin'.

Alicia smiles.

ALICIA

You're forever talk'n about your boys.

YOUNG MIKE

Hey, they are.

Alicia starts to sing along just like the night of the dance.

YOUNG MIKE

You remember that dance?

ALICIA

Yes, I remember. I still love this song.
ya know?

YOUNG MIKE

I remember seeing you singing. I just had
to ask you, I don't know why I did, I was
scared to death.

Alicia smiles.

ALICIA

Well I'm glad you asked me.

Mike stands up and extends his hand.

YOUNG MIKE

Would you do me the honor again?

ALICIA

Dance?

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG MIKE

Yeah.

Alicia gets up. She puts her arms around his neck. He puts his around her waist.

The two giggle. Slowly the laughter dies down as the two listen to the song that holds so many memories for them. They dance like they did that night. They both have their eyes closed, enjoying the moment.

The song fills the soundtrack. Alicia again grabs the back of Mike's neck and pulls him in.

ALICIA

(in Mike's ear)

I still love this part.

He squeezes her tight.

The two look up, and look into each other's eyes. Mike kisses her. The two kiss passionately. Mike begins to rub up and down her body, she does the same to him. Mike pulls her shirt out from her skirt.

She doesn't stop him.

CLOSE ON MIKE'S face, he is surprised.

He puts his hand up her shirt then up her skirt. She moans.

V.O. (MIKE)

Oh my God. Is this really about to happen?

She unzips his pants and pulls him onto the bed.

V.O. (MIKE)

Oh, shit, it is. OK just stay calm.

Mike and Alicia go at it in the bed.

ALICIA

You have protection, right?

YOUNG MIKE

Yeah, Yeah.

V.O. (MIKE)

Yeah I had protection. Some condom I got from Slim that's been in my wallet for about six months.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He takes the condom out. Alicia pulls down her panties. She waits on the bed as Mike unwraps the condom.

He tries to put it on. It won't roll down.

V.O. (MIKE)

Shit.

He flips it over and tries again. He struggles to roll it down.

ALICIA

What's going on?

YOUNG MIKE

Nothing, it's cool.

Mike continues to struggle with the condom.

V.O. (MIKE)

Come on. Come on. There.

Mike stops. He spent more energy on the condom than on Alicia. Alicia looks at Mike's stuff.

ALICIA

Should it be that tight?

YOUNG MIKE

Yeah, Yeah. I guess.

ALICIA

Come on.

Mike lays in the bed and gets on top of Alicia. His pants are around his ankles and his shoes are still on because he was so excited.

Mike attempts to do it.

ALICIA

Slow, slow. If it hurts you're gonna get the fist, I'm not playing Mike.

YOUNG MIKE

OK, OK.

He move his hips. She slugs him in the shoulder.

ALICIA

What are you doin?

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG MIKE
What do you think?

ALICIA
Not there.

YOUNG MIKE
Oh, sorry.

He tries again.

ALICIA
OUCH! OUCH!

With each "ouch" she socks Mike in the shoulder.

ALICIA
Stop, Stop. Naw. You better back up!

YOUNG MIKE
Come on, girl.

ALICIA
OK. OK.

Mike tries again.

YOUNG MIKE
Oh yeah. Oh yeah.

Alicia winces in pain.

All of a sudden. POP. The condom breaks.

YOUNG MIKE
Shit. It broke.

ALICIA
It broke. Then get another one.

YOUNG MIKE
Come on we don't need one, do we?

ALICIA
Naw, you get another one.

YOUNG MIKE
That was my only one. Shit.

ALICIA
Just get one out of Stacey's room. I know
he keeps some in his top dresser drawer.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG MIKE
I ain't going in his room.

ALICIA
It's just down the hall. Do you wanna do
this or not?

YOUNG MIKE
OK, I'll get it.

Mike pulls up his pants and walks out of the door.

He walks down the hallway and opens the door to the room.

INT. STACEY'S ROOM- SAME

He slowly walks in. He looks around the room for a minute.

YOUNG MIKE
I can't believe I'm doing this.

He walks up to the dresser and opens the top drawer.

MEANWHILE, downstairs the front door opens and Stacey and a woman walk into the house. They are kissing, and making their way upstairs.

Back in Stacey's room, Mike looks through the drawer. He can't find the condoms.

YOUNG MIKE
Shit.

INT. ALICIA'S ROOM- SAME

Alicia hears Stacey walk in the house.

ALICIA
Oh no, Mike.

Alicia gets up to warn Mike, but it's too late, Stacey and his woman are almost at the door.

INT. STACEY'S ROOM- SAME

IN THE ROOM Mike finds a condom. He hears voices outside, and see's the knob turn.

He quickly looks around for a place to hide.

He jumps under Stacey's bed and lands on a pile of dirty laundry, mostly underwear. Mike turns his nose up in disgust.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

At that moment, Stacey and his woman enter the room. They land on the bed, then continue to pant and moan.

Meanwhile, Mike is right under them.

ANGLE UNDER THE BED. The bed bounces around, pushing Mike's face into the dirty laundry.

V.O. (MIKE)

The things men do for sex. I was stuck in Stacey's room with no way out. He was getting lucky and I was stuck with briefs in my face.

Mike hears his zipper unzip, then see's his pants go down to his ankles. The woman then kneels on the ground.

STACEY (VOICE)

Oh, Oh. Oh yes. yeah.

Mike hears the drawer open. Suddenly there's silence.

WOMAN (VOICE)

What happened to your rubbers?

STACEY (VOICE)

What?

WOMAN (VOICE)

You had four rubbers, I counted. Now one's gone! You fuckin' ass hole. Who is she?

STACEY (VOICE)

What? What are you talkin' about?

WOMAN (VOICE)

The ho you're fuckin'.

STACEY (VOICE)

I ain't fuckin' no one, but you.

Mike listens and looks at the condom he just took.

WOMAN (VOICE)

Take me home.

STACEY (VOICE)

Come now.

She puts on her clothes and storms out of the door. Stacey pulls up his pants and follows.

(CONTINUED)

Mike stays under the bed for a while then he gets up, and slowly tip-toes out of the room.

INT. ALICIA'S BEDROOM- MOMENTS LATER

He walks back to Alicia's room. Alicia sits up in the bed. Mike sits next to her.

ALICIA
What happened?

YOUNG MIKE
Don't worry. I got the condom. It worked out.

ALICIA
I guess that means this was meant to be.

YOUNG MIKE
Yeah. I guess it is.

She kisses him. The two go at it. This time Mike gets on the condom with ease. Alicia gives him a wink. He gets back on top.

ALICIA
Ouch, Ouch. Oh...Ah...Ah yes. Ah yes.

Mike joins along.

V.O. (MIKE)
I can't believe this. I'm actually having sex. And with Alicia. This can't be real.

Alicia let's out a big moan.

V.O. (MIKE)
Oh yeah, it's real. Real, Real good.

They continue to have sex. Mike speeds up then all of a sudden it hits him.

V.O. (MIKE)
Oh shit. MAN! WOW! So this is what it's all about.

Mike lets out one last wail, then collapses on to Alicia. It lasted all of six minutes.

ALICIA
That's it?

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG MIKE
(out of breath)
Yeah, Yeah.

ALICIA
Oh.

Slow music continues to play in the background. Mike lays on his back and Alicia puts her head on his shoulder.

There is a moment of awkward silence.

YOUNG MIKE
So. Now what?

ALICIA
What?

YOUNG MIKE
You and me?

ALICIA
Yeah, that sounds nice. You and me.

YOUNG MIKE
What about Homecoming?

ALICIA
I guess we just gotta break some hearts.

Mike smiles. Alicia and Mike laugh.

V.O. (MIKE)
So I won the bet. But, I didn't feel right, you know betting. This was Alicia. She was worth more to me than some money and braggin' rights. So I didn't tell Slim and Roland anything 'til after one of them won.

They both look into the air. Thinking about what has just happened.

INT. ROUNDTABLE PIZZA- WEDDING DAY.

It is later in the day and the men still talk.

SLIM
I told you she was gonna cave that night. That money helped me buy those Black Jordan's. So I had the black and the white.

(CONTINUED)

ROLAND

Man I was one day away.

SLIM

But this, nigga Mike got Alicia. I still can't believe it. I guess grabbin' her ass in the seventh grade really stuck to her.

They all laugh.

MIKE

Yeah I guess it did.

Roland looks around.

ROLAND

You know. I never thought I'd meet Mrs. Right. I guess you can never plan these things.

MIKE

Yeah, I guess not.

ROLAND

When I asked her, I knew what I'd be gaining, but I never thought about what I'd be losing. It's kinda scary, ya know.

Roland looks at Mike and Slim.

CLOSE on Mike. Roland's words ring true.

SLIM

So you gonna let the best thing that's ever happened to you slip away, cause you're scared?

ROLAND

No. No I'm not.

SLIM

So what are you saying?

ROLAND

(confidently smiling)

I'm saying. I want to marry Lisa. I guess I just needed this time, with you guys, before I did this.

MIKE

Hell, a little get together over dinner would have bee a lot easier, man.

(CONTINUED)

SLIM
Maybe bowling?

MIKE
Miniature golf?

The three men laugh.

MIKE
So you're sure about this?

ROLAND
As sure as the day I asked her.

Roland looks at a clock on the wall. It's 3:55 PM.

ROLAND
Let's go get these tuxedos.

INT. SHINING STAR CLEANERS- MOMENTS LATER

The three men walk in. The cleaning woman is running around, getting the tuxedos ready. They walk up to the counter.

MIKE
So were you able to clean 'em?

The woman gives him a cocky look.

WOMAN
Yeah I got 'em. Luckily for y'all the stain hadn't set.

The woman's assistant hands them the three tuxedos. They are all spotless.

SLIM
You are beautiful. Thank you.

ROLAND
Yeah, thank you. You saved my butt, good.

MIKE
How much do we owe you?

WOMAN
Twenty bucks.

SLIM
That's it? For all that work in one hour?

WOMAN
Consider it my wedding gift.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Roland takes out the money and puts it in her hand.

ROLAND

Thank you.

The woman smiles. The three men run out. The woman puts the money into the register.

The three men run back in.

SLIM

You gotta place for us to change?

The woman smiles and points them to the restroom.

EXT. SHOPPING CENTER PARKING LOT- MOMENTS LATER

The three men run to Slim's truck again, all dressed in their tuxedos. They get in the car and drive off.

INT. CAR-SAME

SLIM

Oh man!

MIKE

Damn it smells like shit in here.

ROLAND

Ugh.

SLIM

Nigga it's your fault. You better save some of that wedding money so you can clean my shit.

ROLAND

Yo what time is it?

MIKE

We got 45 minutes.

They continue to drive. Roland looks out the window and sees something.

ROLAND

Stop.

SLIM

Oh no!

ROLAND

Naw, look.

(CONTINUED)

The three men look and notice something. Mike smiles.

MIKE
La Tijera.

ROLAND
Yo, just stop. For justa minute,

SLIM
Cool, cool. But we gotta go soon.

Slim pulls in the parking lot. The three men get out.

EXT. LA TIJERA JUNIOR HIGH-SAME

It is their old school. Some buildings are familiar, some brand new. They stand on the ground they all became friends.

They look around. Some classroom windows are boarded up.

CLOSE on each of the three men as they look around.

SOUND: Playground noises

SLIM
This. It was so simple then. All a nigga worried about was grabbing booties and basketball.

MIKE
Isn't that all you still worry about?

Mike and Roland laugh.

SLIM
Ha, ha muthafuckas.

ROLAND
Wait, wait.

He looks at Mike, He look's at Slim.

SLIM
What?

ROLAND
I just wanted to see the crew one last time. You know we'll never hang like this again. Like we did today.

The are all silent for a moment. CLOSE ON Mike.

(CONTINUED)

MIKE

Yeah, I know.

Slim laughs.

SLIM

This was like some old school shit we
used to get into, wasn't it?

Roland walks up to Mike and Slim and gives them a hug.

ROLAND

Thanks.

The three men hug.

SLIM

OK, OK let's break this up. Lookin' like
thritysomething out here.

MIKE

Come on let get this fool married.

The three men walk away.

Mike turns back and looks at the playground. He then looks at
the camera.

MIKE

Yeah, I always wonder where I'd be if my
mom never moved us here. I'm glad I'll
never find out. So happily ever after,
right?

INT. THE HOUSE OF OLIVER AND ROSE BLACKMON- WEDDING.

Mike, Slim, and Roland walk into the house. Florence along
with Rose and Vera walk up to Mike. Florence punches him in
the arm.

MIKE

What the...

FLORENCE

Where the hell have y'all been?

MIKE

Well Slim had some...

VERA

Car trouble. Don't make me get crazy, boy
Did you think that story would hold up?

(CONTINUED)

MIKE

Well I thought...

FLORENCE

Come on Mike, you're a writer. If you read that in a script would you believe it?

Mike looks at the camera and shrugs.

ROSE

Do you know how much money Lisa's parents and us spent on this wedding?

MIKE

Why are y'all on my case? He's the one gettin' married.

ROSE

Cause if I look at him, I don't know what I'll do Mike.

Vera grabs Mike by the arm

VERA

Come on.

She points to Roland.

VERA

You better stay.

Vera drags Mike into the room where the Bride and her bridesmaids are getting ready.

LISA

Hell, if he doesn't wanna do this I'm not gonna force him! Call it off then!

Lisa see's Mike.

LISA

Y'all must think I'm stupid like one of those Thelma & Louise bitches!

MIKE

But...

LISA

Car broke down! Tell that fool, he should have at least been a man, and faced me! I'm not gonna cry. I am NOT. I spent TOO much time on this damn make up.

(CONTINUED)

MIKE
Lisa just calm down.

LISA
I am calm!

MIKE
Then why are you yelling.

LISA
I'M NOT YELLING!

MIKE
OK, I'm gonna go get Ro. You guys need to talk.

LISA
No! No! It's bad luck to see him.

MIKE
Bad luck? I thought you wanted it off.

LISA
Mike look at me. Would I be here in this dress if I didn't want to marry him? But I'm not going to do it if he has doubts.

MIKE
Lisa, he wants to do it.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK.

VOICE O.S.
Lisa. It's daddy. I got Roland here, and he has something to say.

ROLAND(VOICE)
Lisa, come on baby. I'm sorry.

OUTSIDE THE DOOR

Lisa's father, Who stands 6'5" grabs Roland by the back of the neck, while Roland's mother, Rose, grabs him by his ear. Roland continues to plea.

ROLAND
I love you. I wanna marry you.

BACK INSIDE THE ROOM.

LISA
GO AWAY, ROLAND!

(CONTINUED)

Mike walks to the door and opens it.

MIKE
You guys need to go away.

ROLAND
Mike I gotta see her.

MIKE
She doesn't wanna see you. She says it's bad luck.

ROLAND
So she still wants to get married?

MIKE
Yeah, I think, but you gotta let me handle this.

ROLAND
Yo, Mike give her this.

Roland puts something in Mike's hand. He looks at it and smiles.

SLIM
I'm going in there too.

MIKE
OK. Only if you promise not to aggravate shit. She's already on edge.

SLIM
I'll be cool man.

Mike and Slim go into the room.

SLIM
(to Lisa)
You spill something on your dress or somethin'? Come on now.

LISA
Shut up Slim!

SLIM
Why I gotta shut up?

LISA
Cause you probably said some shit to him, to get him not wanting to do this.

Slim looks at Mike.

(CONTINUED)

SLIM

They're perfect for each other, they're both nuts.

MIKE

Slim shut up!

SLIM

Why I gotta shut up.

ROLAND O.S.

Lisa I love you.

MIKE

Listen to him. He loves you and wants to marry you.

LISA

Then why'd he do this?

MIKE

Cause he was scared. He was scared he wasn't ready.

Lisa looks disgusted.

MIKE

Lisa, believe me. I know him. We've been friends for fourteen years. And I've never heard him talk about, or seen him look at any one, like he does you. This is for real.

Mike pulls something out of his pocket.

MIKE (cont'd)

Lisa, he wanted me to give you this.

Mike hands it to her. She looks at it. A tear rolls down her face.

It is a CONCERT TICKET STUB.

LISA

I can't believe he still has this.

MIKE

You remember that day, at the concert. It was hot as hell and Slim and Roland both saw you. So of course, they were fighting about who would talk to you.

Slim looks at Mike and smiles.

(CONTINUED)

MIKE

And I remember Roland saying, "you see how's she looking at me", and Slim saw how you were looking, then came over...

LISA

...and introduced Roland to me.

MIKE

So just think. That could be Slim knocking on that door.

Lisa laughs.

ROLAND O.S.

Lisa I'm sorry.

SLIM

So please take this man out of his misery. Before I have to.

Lisa grabs Mike and Slim's hand.

LISA

I'm glad he has you guys as friends. Tell him to stop whining and let's do this.

Lisa wipes tears from her eyes.

Mike lets out a deep breath. He and Slim walk out.

SLIM

You're a lucky man, it's on.

VERA

I woulda left your ass out here.

Roland smiles.

Mike shakes his head then notices something.

Distant in the background a WOMAN enters the house, She looks around, confused at all the commotion.

She pulls out her invitation. She looks at it then looks around.

BACK ON Mike with an ear to ear smile. People are running around him trying to get the wedding started on time.

BACK TO the young woman walking and still looking around. She lifts her head and notices Mike looking at her. She stops and smiles. It's Alicia, older and still beautiful.

(CONTINUED)

Slim runs up to Mike and grabs him by the arm.

SLIM

Come on before the reverend changes his mind.

Mike gives Alicia one last look. She waves to him.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BACKYARD- LATER

The backyard has been transformed into a beautiful chapel. Flowers, candles, white lace and ice sculptures illuminate the early evening ceremony.

Roland stands at the alter with the REVEREND on his right, Slim and Mike on his left.

A crowd of people sit in chairs waiting for the ceremony. Most are smiling, but some cry.

MUSIC CUE: GREATEST INSPIRATION- TEDDY PENDEGRASS

The music signals the beginning of the wedding march. Down the aisle walks LISA, the bride, on her father's arm.

CLOSE on Roland as he looks on with a huge smile on his face.

SLIM

Yeah, smile it up. You just gotta say two words.

MIKE

I do.

Roland lets out a little laugh.

SLIM

I'm serious.

The bride gets closer and closer. Roland is assured with every moment that he has made the right decision.

Mike looks out into the crowd and finds Alicia. She looks at him and smiles.

CLOSE on Mike looking at Alicia. A world of feelings well up inside him.

CLOSE on Alicia. Her feelings are the same.

(CONTINUED)

The bride and father of the bride stop at the altar. The reverend steps up.

REVEREND

Who gives this woman to this man?

LISA'S FATHER

I do.

Roland steps down. He reaches out his hand to Lisa's father. Lisa's father won't let go. Lisa looks at him.

He lets go and shakes Roland's hand.

MIKE and SLIM's P.O.V.

Lisa's father says something to Roland, and continues to shake his hand.

Roland just nods. The father continues to speak.

Roland continues to nod. The father won't let go of Roland's hand as he continues to talk. The crowd of people laugh.

LISA'S FATHER

(smiling)

I may be retired, but I still got my gun.
Don't make me use it.

ROLAND

I won't, sir.

Mike and Slim look at each other. They laugh.

Lisa's father finally lets go, and gives Roland a hug. Roland takes Lisa by the arm, and the two walk up to the altar and the reverend.

The music engulfs the soundtrack as we...

BEGIN MONTAGE: LINKS BY FADES AND DISSOLVES

1. Roland and Lisa exchanging vows.
2. The bride and the groom kiss. There is a huge ovation from the crowd. Roland and Lisa walk away together.
3. Mike and Slim shake hands and take a deep breath.
4. The bride and groom's first dance
5. It's time to toss the bouquet. Women stand in a group, posting, and jockeying for position like basketball players

(CONTINUED)

trying to get a rebound. Lisa tosses the bouquet. Women dive, pull, scratch, and jostle to get the flowers. Finally one woman prevails and lifts the bouquet in victory.

6. It's time for the groom to throw the garter belt. Men reluctantly get into a group. Some have their hands in their pocket, others just look around. Roland tosses the garter. The men flee as if it were a grenade. The garter lands on the ground. Everyone laughs. Finally Slim picks up the garter and hands it to Mike. Mike looks at Alicia and shrugs.

END MONTAGE

END MUSIC

EXT. RECEPTION- LATER

MUSIC CUE: "REASON" - MAZE FEATURING FRANKIE BEVERLY

The dance floor is full of couples. Mike stands with Slim talking and laughing, he wears the garter on his wrist.

Mike sees Alicia across the dance floor.

SLIM

Yeah, he finally did it. I thought...

Mike ignores Slim and walks toward Alicia. Slim is upset at first then notices what's going on. He smiles to himself.

Mike approaches her.

MIKE

You cut your hair. I almost didn't recognize you.

Alicia smiles.

ALICIA

You like it?

MIKE

Yeah, It's different. (pause) You look good.

Alicia straitens Mike's tie.

ALICIA

You're looking pretty good yourself.

Mike looks at her straitening his tie.

ALICIA

Oh, I'm sorry.

(CONTINUED)

MIKE
Naw, naw. Thanks.

There is an awkward silence.

ALICIA
So are you going ask me to dance with
you, or what?

MIKE
Yeah, I guess so.

Mike extends his hand. The two begin to dance.

MIKE
So. How's life in the Big Apple?

ALICIA
Cold. I still haven't gotten used to it.

MIKE
Heard you made law review.

ALICIA
And I heard you got an agent.

Mike smiles.

ALICIA
Yeah, I still keep track too.

MIKE
So you made it back to Inglewood.

ALICIA
Yeah, the wedding gave me a good reason
to come back and see an old friend.

MIKE
An old friend, huh?

ALICIA
Yeah, I haven't seen Roland in years.

Alicia laughs.

MIKE
Oh, so you just came to see Roland, huh.

ALICIA
(smiling)
And Slim.

(CONTINUED)

MIKE

Oh, OK. Then why are you dancing with me?

Alicia looks at Mike, then puts her head on Mike's shoulder. They dance in a moment of comfortable silence.

MIKE

So you here alone?

ALICIA

Uh, no. I brought somebody, and he can't wait to see you.

MIKE

(disappointed)

Oh, yeah OK. Cool.

Alicia looks behind Mike and smiles.

A man in a wheelchair wheels up to them.

STACEY

So one of y'all finally did it.

MIKE

What up, Stacey!

Alicia winks at Mike then bends over and gives Stacey a kiss on the cheek.

STACEY

I had to see this in person to believe it.

Slim and Roland walk over to Stacey and begin to talk. Mike steps back and looks at Stacey for a moment.

STACEY (cont'd)

Hey don't give me that look Big Mike. Don't feel sorry for me.

MIKE

Naw, when I heard I...

STACEY

Hey man. I could be dead. This might sound crazy, but it gave me a second chance.

MIKE

Yeah I heard man. You graduate this year. Cal State L.A., right?

(CONTINUED)

STACEY

You know I ain't on that U.S.C. status
like you or nothin' but it's a start.

Stacey looks at Mike and Alicia for a while.

STACEY

(smiling)

Thank God for second chances.

Stacey wheels away humming "You Bring Me Joy".

Mike looks at Alicia and smiles.

MIKE

So how cold is it back east?

Alicia smiles.

EXT. MR. AND MRS. BLACKMON'S BACKYARD- NIGHT.

The wedding party and dates sit at one table.

The reception is still in progress. People sit at tables
eating and laughing.

CLING. CLING. CLING.

A fork taps against a full CHAMPAGNE GLASS. PULL BACK to
reveal Mike tapping on the glass. He stands up along with
Slim. The crowd gets quiet.

MIKE

I just wanted to announce that the
Revered Parker has been taken into
custody by the police for fraud, and we
have to come back next week and do this
again.

The crowd laughs.

SLIM

So Lisa this is your last chance to come
to your senses.

The crowd laughs again. Close on Roland and Lisa as they
laugh.

MIKE

Naw, but seriously. Since we're the best
men. I guess we have to say a few things.
I did a lot of things today, to get ready
for this moment.

(CONTINUED)

Mike looks at Slim and Roland.

MIKE

We all did. I did a lot of thinking. And. And it made me realize how selfish I was. Because all this time I should be happy, because Roland was getting married I was sad and upset, that I was losing my, uh, friend.

Mike pauses. Roland looks on.

MIKE

I know that's probably not the right thing to say, but, I moved around a lot when I was little and I would always move before I...Before I could really know how it felt to have good friends.

Mike's mom looks on. Tears begin to form in Mike's eyes.

MIKE

Until I moved here and met Roland and Slim. So I was a little selfish, and I've been trying to hide it all day.

Roland, Slim, and Mike's eyes all lock.

MIKE

You know a wedding isn't about just the two people. All this time I thought it was. It's a happy and painful time, for everyone involved. So I am sad, but I'm also very happy, and very proud.

Alicia looks on and nods, giving Mike encouragement. Mike lifts his glass, still fighting back tears.

MIKE

So today the team retires the first jersey. And celebrates Roland's first step into a new, beautiful life. To the parents I thank you for Roland and Lisa.

ANGLE ON the parents of the newlyweds looking on proudly.

MIKE

To Lisa, take care of my friend, and let us know if he's messin' up. Slim's got a headlock for him.

Lisa laughs. Slim nods and points to Ro.

(CONTINUED)

SLIM
Remember that.

The crowd laughs.

MIKE
To the friends and family. Thank you for
all your love and support. And to my
boys. I'll always remember the times we
had, and I look forward to the times we
will have.

Mike looks around to his friends and family: Roland, Slim,
Stacey, Alicia.

MIKE
To where it all started.

Mike looks at the camera.

MIKE
To the Wood.

SLIM
The Wood.

ROLAND
The Wood.

EVERYONE
To the Wood.

They all raise their glasses.

FADE OUT:

THE END