



Ubuntu

Written by

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INT. SHACK - EVENING

A woman (Fatima, 27) studies herself in a cracked mirror, looking at every tiny blemish. She starts to put makeup on. Slowly doing her lipstick and then eye shadow with careful precision. Once done she stares at herself in the mirror for a second. She is wearing a large coat, covering most of her body. She slowly turns around, revealing a child, (girl, 6), in the reflection of the mirror.

FATIMA

Alright honey. Time for bed.

Fatima stands up from the desk and kneels down in front of her daughter and adjusts a strand of her hair.

DAUGHTER

Will you read me a story?

Fatima thinks for a second and sighs.

FATIMA

Not tonight honey.

(A beat)

I have to go.

Her daughter frowns. She takes her hand and walks her into a separate room and closes the door. The shack is packed with worn furniture and kids toys. A drawing of a little girl with a stethoscope, bandaging a puppy is held up with faded tape. Photographs of the two of them fill the room. A pair of kids shoes with tape on the toes sits by the front door. The bedroom door opens and Fatima returns into view. She slowly unzips her coat, sighing as she does it. She takes it off and hangs it up, exposing her short, revealing dress. She grabs her purse, takes a big deep breath and lets it out before opening the front door and locking it behind her.

EXT. STREET CORNER - EVENING

Fatima walks up to a group of women similar in age and appearance. She waves as she approaches them.

FATIMA

Hey.

OTHER WOMEN

(Excited to see her)

Hi!

They stand in silence for a second.

FATIMA
How is it today?

WOMAN
Makenna got picked up already.
(A beat)
Nothing for the rest of us.

WOMAN 2
(Shaking her head)
Lucky bitch...

Fatima sighs. She walks to the curb and attempts to wave down a passing car. It slows for a moment to get a good luck then accelerates past her.

END TEASER

BLACK SCREEN - WHITE LETTERS FADE IN

The letters read: "We are. Because you are."

TITLE SCENE "UBUNTU" - OPENING SONG

ACT 1

EXT. OVERVIEW OF CAPE TOWN - DAY TO EVENING

Birds eye view of Cape Town.

Commercial offices and hotels. Highways static with end to end traffic. The DHL Stadium. White sand beaches.

Birds eye view of the Cape Flats.

Shacks and small houses. Taxi's and mopeds speed through. A lively outdoor market place.

NEW ANGLE - STREET TRAFFIC

Street view: Cape Town.

Fancy restaurants and malls. Tourists shopping. Surfers rushing into the water. We hear the sound of waves crushing against the shore, birds chirping in the distance and a mix of English, French, Spanish etc.

Street view: Cape Flats.

Kids playing football using their shoes as goal posts. An old man shuffling down a road with his groceries. Men smoking on their stoops. Aunties selling goods in the market place. A teenager freestyle rapping to his friend. Cars honking, dogs barking, music, sirens and kids laughter all fill the air.

NEW ANGLE - BIRDS EYE VIEW OF CAPE FLATS - AFTERNOON

Zoom in on Mitchell's Plain, zoom in on The Rocklands Neighborhood, zoom in on two teenagers walking.

NEW ANGLE - STREET VIEW

JUNIOR (17), fair-skinned, athletic and handsome, and perceptive.

Beside him, MIKEL (17), short, muscular and dark-skinned, carries himself with the confidence of someone twice his age.

The two walk home from school, backpacks slung over their shoulders.

MIKEL

What you thinking of?

JUNIOR
(A beat)
Football trials next month.

MIKEL
Ah come on, you got it.
(A beat)
I've seen you play. You're good.

JUNIOR
Thanks.

A moment passes.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
You think any scouts will be there?
Mikel laughs for a second.

MIKEL
(Mockingly)
Yeah totally. I'm sure the Sundowns
coach is flying in just for
Rocklands.

JUNIOR
Fuck off.

MIKEL
Come on bru... What scout is gonna
come all the way out here.

Mikel gestures to the condition of neighborhood they live in.
Junior shrugs.

JUNIOR
Someone might.

MIKEL
And when they don't?

JUNIOR
(Jokingly)
They miss out on the next Ronaldo.

They both laugh.

They reach a street corner.

MIKEL
Anyway Bru I turn here. See you
tomorrow.

They dap each other up and start to go their separate ways.
Mikel turns back quick.

MIKEL (CONT'D)
Hey Junior?

JUNIOR
Yeah?

MIKEL
You're coming to the party right?

Junior perks up.

JUNIOR
(As if it was never in
doubt)
Of course.

Mikel nods. Junior waves back to Mikel and turns and keeps walking. We follow him through his neighborhood for a second. As he walks sirens ring out in the distance. He passes a group of men standing playing dice and gambling on a street corner. Then he passes two kids passing a football in the street. He gestures for one of them to pass to him. He does a few tricks to show off and passes the ball back. Junior walks off as the kids stare impressed. Junior passes by a kid, (Jonathan, 13) dark skin, buzz cut, leaning up against a wall smoking a cigarette. They never notice each other. We stay with Jonathan as Junior walks off into the distance.

A thin, weathered man steps into frame. He checks over his shoulder before approaching Jonathan.

JONATHAN
How much you want?

MAN
(Stuttering)
Fou- Four.

JONATHAN
80 rands.

The man nods. He digs in his pockets, his hands shake while he does, pulls the money out, and hands it to Jonathan. He counts it like a pro and nods him across the street. The man stumbles across. Jonathan holds four fingers up from behind him.

NEW ANGLE - NONI

Another teen (Noni, 13) dark skinned, has a baby face, is leaning up against the wall across from Jonathan. He checks in both directions before sliding the man the drugs. Sweat runs down his cheek.

MAN

Thank yo- Thank you.

The man hobbles away. Noni waits a second and then crosses the street and leans up against the wall next to Jonathan. Jonathan hands Noni the cigarette. Noni takes a puff and hands it back.

NEW ANGLE - BOTH KIDS

JONATHAN

(Surprised)

We done already?

Jonathan takes another drag.

NONI

Yep.

(A beat)

Sold out.

JONATHAN

Seems early.

NONI

Hey, we're gettin more customers.

(A beat)

That's a good thing.

Jonathan shrugs and pulls out 200 rands out of the backpack and tucks it in his pocket. He pulls another 200 out and hands it to Noni.

NONI (CONT'D)

Thanks, bru.

JONATHAN

You doin the drop for Adolfo?

Noni shakes his head.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Come on.

NONI

Nah bru, I did the last one.

JONATHAN
So? I did like four in a row before
that.

Noni sighs.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
Rock, paper, scissors?

Noni doesn't budge. Then, finally...

NONI
Alright.

They count down.

BOTH
Rock, paper, scissors... Shoot!

They look down at their hands Jonathan has rock, Noni has
scissors. Relief paints Jonathans face. Noni gulps.

NONI
Fuck.

Jonathan laughs and shoves the backpack over to Noni.

JONATHAN
(Mockingly)
Ha-Ha. you're turn.

Jonathan notices Noni is actually stressed.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
Hey, don't stress bru.

A moment passes.

NONI
I'm not.
(A beat)
Alright.
(A beat)
See you later.

The two boys dap each other up.

JONATHAN
Peace, Noni.

Jonathan walks in the opposite direction, while Noni takes
off with the backpack. Once they leave, the wall behind them
reveals graffiti showing who runs this block.

INT. JUNIOR'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Junior comes through his front door. His mother is stirring a pot on the stove. His father is sitting in a chair reading an old, torn, history book. Junior resembles his father much more than his mother.

Junior enters the kitchen and takes a deep breath in, enjoying the smell of his mom's cooking.

MOM
(Turning toward him)
How was school honey?

Junior shrugs.

JUNIOR
Same as always.

He sets his backpack down and takes a seat at the table.

MOM
Well only a month left! Aren't you excited?

JUNIOR
Yeah.
(A beat)
I guess.

His dad peers up from his book.

DAD
Have you called about that job yet?

JUNIOR
No. Not yet.

DAD
Better get on it before they hire someone else.

JUNIOR
I know. I know.

MOM
(Turning towards the dad)
Oh Pieter, relax. Let him enjoy graduation first a little bit.

PIETER
Alright, alright.

Pieter returns to his book. A few moments pass.

JUNIOR

By the way, there's a party this
Friday for the seniors. I won't be
home til late.

PIETER

Just be safe.

JUNIOR

I will.

(A beat)

What's for dinner?

MOM

Potjiekos!

JUNIOR

(Jumping up from seat)

I love Potjiekos!

PIETER

(Nodding to Junior)

Me too.

MOM

I know you guys do. Don't ever say
I don't take care of my boys.

Junior's mom walks over and kisses each on the forehead.

INT. TRAP HOUSE - EVENING

Noni is sitting at a kitchen table with two men (Obi, 25 and Simon, 28) sitting either side of him, each gripping his arm uncomfortably. Obi is dark skinned with short braids, he isn't enjoying this. Simon is a bit lighter skinned and balding, his face looks more worn than it should at 28.

NEW ANGLE - MAN AT SINK

A man (Adolfo, 31) well built with a buzz cut and goatee stands at the sink humming to himself while washing his hands patiently. Then he fills a kettle with water. A half eaten plate of food sits on the counter next to him.

Noni remains quiet, clear nervousness written across his face.

NEW ANGLE - MAN AT SINK

Some moments of tension pass as Adolfo finishes filling the kettle and carries it over to the stove. He puts the kettle down and turns up the flames.

NONI
(Nervously)
Adolfo I-

ADOLFO
(Calmly)
Shut up.

Noni shuts up immediately. The kettle starts to reach peak heat. The whistling fills the room. Adolfo nods to Obi and Simon. Obi hesitates, but follows Simon's lead. They pull Noni up from his chair and drag him to the sink.

NONI
(Screaming)
No! No! Please! Let me go!

His screams go unheard. They arrive at the sink. Obi and Simon shove his face over it and force his head sideways, exposing one half of his face. Noni looks fearfully directly at Adolfo, who shows no emotion.

NONI (CONT'D)
(Begging)
Adolfo please- What are you-

ADOLFO
I said shut up.

Noni shuts up again. He closes his eyes and prepares to brace for it. Tears drip down his face. Adolfo carefully pours the boiling water over Noni's cheek, burning his skin. Noni screams in pain.

NONI
AHHHHH! FUCK! FUCK! HELP!

Adolfo shakes his head in disapproval. He sets the kettle and nods to Obi and Simon. They let go of Noni.

NONI (CONT'D)
(Gripping his half-
mutilated face)
Jesus! Fuck!

NONI (CONT'D)
Fuck you, Adolfo!

ADOLFO
I knew.

NONI
(Trying to catch breath)
Wha- What?

ADOLFO
I knew you were stealing from me.

Noni looks up at Adolfo.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)
I gave you extra this time.

Noni's expression changes. He realizes.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)
You didn't even notice.

A moment passes.

NONI
I'm... I'm...
(A beat)

ADOLFO
You sell how much I give you. Until
there's nothing left.

Noni nods.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)
Now get the fuck outta here.

Adolfo shoves Noni hard towards the front door. He hits the floor. Obi and Simon watch as he quickly scrambles to his feet and runs out of the room crying. Adolfo grabs his plate of food from the counter and takes a seat at the table. He continues eating.

EXT. HOUSE HOSTING THE PARTY - NIGHT

Birds eye view of the section of the houses where the party is. The one hosting the party is larger than the surrounding ones. Viewer can see a bunch of teenagers all gathered around the house, smoke coming up into the air. If the viewer pays close attention, they can see a figure a few blocks off to the side standing in an alley, dealing. Music can be heard throughout.

INT. HOUSE HOSTING THE PARTY, DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Mikel is standing in the dining room talking to his girlfriend, (Amahle, 17) short, pretty and a smile that brightens anyones mood. In the next room, there are a bunch of kids dancing. Loud music plays in the background.

Junior enters the room.

JUNIOR
What's up guys?

Junior and Mikel dap each other up. Junior hugs Amahle.

AMAHLE
Nothing, we were just talking about graduation.

JUNIOR
Ah forget that.

AMAHLE
Why?

MIKEL
He's just worried about his football trials coming up.

AHMALE
You're always nervous and then you score three goals.

Junior laughs but it fades quick.

JUNIOR
Yeah but it doesn't matter if no one sees it.

They all show a tiny look of despair. Luan (17), a skinny Cape Malay kid with slicked-back brown hair and the confidence of someone who knows everyone enters the room.

LUAN
(Obnoxiously loud)
Hey what's good?

They all dap each other.

JUNIOR
What's up Luan?

LUAN
The beautiful Amahle I see.

Luan half charmingly, half jokingly gestures to Amahle.

AMAHLE
(Giggles and blushes)
Thanks Luan.

MIKEL
(Joking)
Aye bru, get your own girlfriend.

They all laugh.

LUAN
So what's happening tonight? We
getting fucked up?

JUNIOR
(Nodding)
Course.

MIKEL
I'm already two beers deep.

Amahle laughs.

LUAN
Alright. Let's have fun.
(A beat)
Who wants a drink?

ALL
Me.
(All laugh)

LUAN
Four beers, two hands. I think I
can do it.

Luan walks towards the kitchen.

MIKEL
Grab me two!

LUAN
We'll see!

Luan enters the kitchen.

INT. ADOLFO'S HOUSE - DAY

A group of men, featuring Adolfo, Simon and Obi are all sitting around on couches and chairs. A thick haze fills the room.

Adolfo and Simon are wired and on edge passing a glass pipe between them. Obi sits apart smoking a cigarette looking at his phone. A young man, EKAMBI (19), tall, lanky and dark-skinned, enters with news. Eager to impress.

EKAMBI

Yo you guys see Ray is in Lesotho
makin a deal?

ADOLFO

Where'd you hear that?

EKAMBI

My cousin at the border.

Adolfo looks intrigued.

ADOLFO

He saw him? Or just heard about?

EKAMBI

Check the photo.

Ekambi pulls out his cellphone and swipes to a photo. He tosses Adolfo the phone. Adolfo scans it. He zooms in on Ray's face.

ADOLFO

How long is Ray gonna be gone for?

Adolfo takes a hit from the pipe.

EKAMBI

Don't know, but my cousin just saw
him today.

ADOLFO

If Ray's outta town, this is the
best time to hit them.

OBI

Are you sure? That's gonna be an
all-out gang war.

ADOLFO

We won't get a better chance.

Obi turns unconvinced.

SIMON

So what's the plan?

ADOLFO
Me, you and Obi.
(A beat)
We hit the house right across the
tracks.
(A beat)
Ray won't know what to do til he's
back.

Simon gets amped up, Obi looks unsure.

OBI
When?

Adolfo smiles.

ADOLFO
Now.

Silence fills the room. Obi looks at him nervous.

INT. HOUSE HOSTING THE PARTY, DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Luan walks back in holding six beers.

LUAN
(Laughs)
Look three in each hand.
(A beat)
Mikel I got you two.

JUNIOR
Thanks bru.

MIKEL
Yeah thanks.

Mikel smiles. Luan starts passing out the beers.

JUNIOR
Cheers!

Junior holds his drink up, the other three clink their
glasses together.

ALL
Cheers!

They all take a big gulp simultaneously.

INT. HOUSE HOSTING THE PARTY, DIFFERENT ROOMS - NIGHT

Montage scene of the group. Junior and Luan are on a team playing beer pong, Junior sinks his shot as Luan completely misses. They both burst out laughing. Mikel is in an arm wrestling match. The other kid is holding on for dear life as Mikel slowly pushes his hand down. He finally wins, cheering when he does so. Amahle and her girl friends are all dancing together in the crowd. Luan is telling a story about the time he snuck on to a construction site. Junior is in a heated argument about who's a bigger club: Manchester United or Liverpool?

EXT. BACKYARD OF THE PARTY - NIGHT

The group walks out into the backyard. A few kids are smoking, some couples are kissing and one group of kids is playing dice. Luan notices them.

LUAN

Now that we out here... You guys
tryna smoke?

Luan pulls some joints out of his pocket.

JUNIOR

I'm down.

AMAHLE

Yeah that sounds nice right now.

LUAN

Mikel?

MIKEL

Nah, I got my fight in a couple
days. But I'll come along.

JUNIOR

Oh that's right you got your boxing
match this week.

(A beat)

You ready?

MIKEL

Oh for sure. I'm gonna smoke him.

Mikel throws some drunk punches at the air. The group breaks out laughing, including Mikel.

MIKEL (CONT'D)

Hey, I expect you all to be there!

Mikel kisses Amahle on the cheek.

JUNIOR
We will.

LUAN
For sure.

A moment goes by. Luan is about to light the joint then thinks twice.

LUAN (CONT'D)
Not here. Too many people.

The group starts walking a couple blocks away toward an alley.

EXT. RAILROAD TRACKS SEPARATING ROCKLANDS FROM TAFELSIG -

NIGHT

Three dark figures scurry across the railroad tracks quickly, staying low to the ground.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

The group stands around smoking the joint. Luan takes a massive drag and lets out all the smoke in relaxation before laughing and handing the joint to Junior. Junior takes a drag. Out of nowhere another kid (Sal, 18) can be seen approaching in the distance.

JUNIOR
(Under his breath to
Mikel)
Fuck bru. This guy.

Sal reaches the group.

SAL
(Directed at Junior)
Hey, if there's anything the Dutch
do right it's weed.

The group stays quiet.

SAL (CONT'D)
(Gesturing to Mikel)
And look at you Mikel.
(A beat)
Always tryna be somethin your
not...
(MORE)

SAL (CONT'D)

(A beat)

Bringing chink and Boar boy with
you everywhere you go.

JUNIOR

Just shut up Sal.

SAL

(Now to Junior)

Oh or maybe you bring Mikel?

(A beat)

He your fuckin house dog?

MIKEL

Shut up.

Sal laughs. His attention turns to Amahle.

SAL

Amahle, you're lookin good.

Sal puts his hand on her waist. Amahle slaps it away.

AMAHLE

Get off me!

Amahle steps back.

MIKEL

Fuck off Sal.

SAL

Oh? And what are you gonna do?

Sal reaches out to grab her by the hand. Mikel steps in front
and shoves him back. Sal grabs Mikel and pins him up against
the wall of the alley.

SAL (CONT'D)

You think cause you're a boxer I'm
afraid of you?

Sal chuckles. Mikel pushes Sal off of him and punches him in
the face. This time Sal stumbles a few feet backward, his
mouth bleeding.

Sal's smile fades. He wipes the blood from his mouth and
reaches into his waistband. He pulls out a knife. Fear
spreads across all their faces.

SAL (CONT'D)

Now what?

(A beat)

Huh?

Sal steps towards Mikel. He lunges at Mikel, but Luan steps in front of it. The knife tears through Luan's fore arm.

LUAN
DAHHHHH! FUCK!

Luan falls to the ground in pain. Amahle cries out.

MIKEL
Luan!

JUNIOR
What the fuck!

Junior quickly tackles Sal backward knocking him to the floor. Sal drops the knife and it lands a few feet from them. Junior tries to get a punch in, but Sal easily reverses the situation and is now on top of Junior. He punches Junior once in the face, giving him a bloody nose. Junior puts his hands up and blocks the following few blows. Sal breaks through eventually and smushes Junior's face into the mud. He then wraps his hands around Junior's neck and begins choking him. Mikel rushes over and grabs the knife and slides it to Junior on the floor.

MIKEL
Junior!

Junior frantically feels around on the ground next to him. Sal continues choking him. He finally grips the knife and swings his hand upward at random. Sal Screams.

SAL
AHHHH!

Sal holds himself up over Junior with all his might. Finally it gives out. He slumps over on top of Junior. A gurgling sound coming from his throat. Junior shimmies out from under Sal's body and gets to his feet. Mud covers his clothes and face. He stands there dead silent, shaking, staring at Sal's body. The gurgling along with the cries of Luan and Amahle fill the alley.

MIKEL
We need a plan and fast.

EXT. OUTSIDE HOUSE, TAFELSIG NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Adolfo, Obi and Simon stand across the street from a house slightly separated from the others on the block. Music and laughter are coming from the home and a dark silhouette passes the window. Simon has a uzi.

OBI
(Whispering)
Didn't think they'd still be awake.

ADOLFO
(Shaking his head)
It doesn't matter.
(A beat)
The plan is the same.

Simon smiles. They both nod.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)
Alright.
(A beat)
Simon... Light em up.

Simon pulls the uzi and unloads a clip at the house. Screams and shattered glass follow.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)
Now Obi! Now!

Adolfo stands up and sprints across the street, running down one side of the house. Obi does the same to the other side.

EXT. BACKDOOR - NIGHT

Adolfo and Obi meet at the back door. The shots from Simon have stopped. Both draw their handguns. Adolfo shoots the handle twice, Obi kicks the door open. Adolfo enters.

INT. TRAP HOUSE HALLWAY - NIGHT

A man comes from down the hall and shoots forcing Adolfo and Obi to duck back outside. Obi shoots into the house a few times blindly and misses. The man shoots back, hitting the doorway right next to Obi's face. Obi ducks even further back with fear. Adolfo turns and shoots, hitting the man in the stomach. Adolfo enters and sees the man on the floor. The man shakes his head no as if to say "please" but Adolfo shoots him and reloads his clip without second thought.

ADOLFO
Come on!

Obi follows. They enter the kitchen with speed and efficiency.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Two bodies lay on the floor, each with bullets from Simon's Uzi. Two more men lay crouched underneath a table. The table has cards and chips spread across it; clear they were playing poker.

ADOLFO
(Gestures them up with his
pistol)
Stand up!

The two men stand up from under the table and raise their hands to surrender.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)
(Waving his gun)
Where the candy? Where the money?
Huh?

MAN 1
What about our deal?

ADOLFO
Nah fuck that.
(A beat)
So where's it at?

The two men remain dead silent. A moment passes and Adolfo shoots one man in the shin. He falls to the ground in agony clutching his leg.

MAN
AHHH! FUCK! AHHH!

ADOLFO
Where the fuck's it at!

MAN 2
(Whimpering with fear)
Upstairs... Take a left. Bedroom
closet... Green bag got the rands.
Red got the drugs.

Adolfo nods to Obi. Simon enters the kitchen, gun over his shoulder. Obi heads up the stairs.

INT. UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Obi enters the bedroom and heads straight for the closet. He locates the bags with ease and turns to leave when a cap with the FIFA World Cup South Africa 2010 patch caught his eye. He snagged the hat and put it on before leaving the room.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Adolfo calls up to Obi.

ADOLFO
You found it?

OBI
(Calls down from upstairs)
Yeah, it's all here.

Adolfo starts laughing and turns around and walks away. As he passes Simon he gives him a tap on the shoulder. Simon smiles and shoots the remaining two men as Obi comes down the stairs. Obi looks at Simon, then the bodies. Adolfo laughs more and grabs Simons shoulder in appreciation.

ADOLFO
Lets get outta here.

SIMON
Yep.

Adolfo and Simon leave out the back door. Then Adolfo's voice calls.

ADOLFO
Obi!
(A beat)
Let's go!

Obi leaves the room after one more glance at the bodies.

INT. ROCKLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL, HALLWAY - MORNING

Junior stumbles towards his locker, where Luan and Mikel are already waiting for him. He has huge circles under his eyes and is moving like a zombie. Luan's arm is wrapped in bandages.

MIKEL
You good bru?

JUNIOR
(Shaking his head)
Fuck bru. I'm exhausted. I didn't
sleep all weekend.

Luan grabs his bandaged arm.

LUAN
(Sighing)
Same.
(MORE)

LUAN (CONT'D)

(A beat)

I heard their announcing Sal's
disappearance this morning.

JUNIOR

(Nervously)

Already?

Luan nods.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

(Under his breath)

Fuck.

Another group of kids passes them in the halls.

MIKEL

(Whispering)

Maybe we should talk somewhere
else.

LUAN

Like where?

Mikel pulls both Luan and Junior through the bathroom door.

INT. ADOLFO'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - MORNING

(Kaya, 17) coloured, short black braids, pretty, but hidden through her rough look, enters the living room. There is a large group gathered in the room already. Simon, Ekambi and a few others pass a glass pipe around. Obi smokes a cigarette. Jonathan and Noni sit slightly more distant, talking amongst themselves. Kaya takes a seat on the couch between Ekambi and Obi. Obi is wearing the hat he found in the other house. Ekambi passes her the pipe.

EKAMBI

Want a hit?

KAYA

Nah, you know I don't do that shit.

Ekambi rolls his eyes and takes another. Adolfo steps into the room from the kitchen.

ADOLFO

Alright everyone listen up.

The whole room takes a look around at each other.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)
Some of you already know, but Ray
is outta town makin a deal.

The group look around at each other.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)
Simon, Obi and I took out one of
his houses last night.
(A beat)
Now we take the whole fuckin
operation.

Simon smiles as Adolfo describes it.

KAYA
And how we gonna do that?

Adolfo smiles.

ADOLFO
Maurice.

A moment passes.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)
Maurice knows where the money
moves.
(A beat)
Who's selling.
(A beat)
When and where the next shipment
is.

Adolfo smiles again.

The group nods, Simon also smiles. Kaya doesn't hide her
doubts. Adolfo notices but lets it go.

INT. BATHROOM OF ROCKLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL - MORNING

The three boys quickly scan the bathroom and check the stalls
before talking.

MIKEL
(Turning towards Luan)
So, when are they announcing about
Sal?

LUAN
Uh- I don't know when exactly.
(A beat)
(MORE)

LUAN (CONT'D)

I just heard they were going to say
something about Sal today.

Junior starts pacing back and forth, rubbing his forehead.

JUNIOR

Fuck. Fuck. Fuck.

MIKEL

Calm down. Let's think for a
second.

Junior stops pacing.

MIKEL (CONT'D)

You think anyone found the body?

LUAN

I don't know.

Junior thinks for a second.

JUNIOR

(Nervous)

I don't think so.

(A beat)

We're okay.

(A beat)

We should be okay.

(A beat)

I think.

All three boys seem unsure.

MIKEL

We just need to stay quiet until
this all blows over.

Junior and Luan nod.

MIKEL (CONT'D)

What about your arm Luan?

(A beat)

Everything went well at the
hospital?

LUAN

Yeah. I told them I cut it open on
some barbed wire while climbing a
fence. They didn't ask too many
questions.

(A beat)

It wasn't as bad as it looked.

MIKEL

Good.

(A beat)

Alright. This may all just work out.

Junior lets out a big sigh. Another student enters the bathroom, and the group tries to act natural. Mikel casually leaves while Luan goes to the urinal to piss and Junior washes his hands. Junior leaves soon after Mikel and then Luan. Then just the other kid is in there and he's left confused. (Comedic)

INT. ADOLFO'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

ADOLFO

Now we need to talk about Sal.

The group looks around at each other, some confused, some in the loop.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)

Ekambi... I'll let you explain since you were there.

Ekambi nods. The attention turns to him.

EKAMBI

Sal and I were dealing outside some party for his high school. We were on opposite sides tryna cover more ground, you know?

(A beat)

Anyway... I got back to the meeting spot, but he never showed.

(A beat)

I looked around a bit but didn't find anything.

The group looks around at each other.

ADOLFO

Personally, I doubt it's related to Ray.

(A beat)

If he's gonna retaliate, it's going to be a planned attack. This...

(A beat)

This sounds personal to me.

Adolfo takes another hit.

OBI
Sal was in some other shit?

ADOLFO
I don't know, but Sal had plenty of
enemies.

Obi nods.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)
Either way, whoever it is. We'll
find them.

The group nods.

KAYA
(With attitude)
Anything else?

ADOLFO
Oh and yeah...
(A beat)
Take a look at Noni over there.

The group all turn and look at Noni. Kaya winces.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)
Think twice about being a thief.
(A beat)
Now get the fuck outta here.
(Gestures with his hands)

The whole group stands up.

INT. AUDITORIUM - MORNING

The group enters the Auditorium and sees Amahle already sitting. She waves them over with a slightly panicked look on her face. They make their way across the busy auditorium. They walk past Sal's friends who show no interest in them. They sit in the seats next to Amahle.

AMAHLE
Oh my god guys. They're announcing
Sal.

MIKEL
Shhh. Best we act like we don't
know.

The principal takes the stage and grabs the microphone.

NEW ANGLE - JUNIOR'S PERSPECTIVE (AS IF WE ARE JUNIOR)

PRINCIPAL

It is with great sadness that we gather here today. One of our students, Sal Abara has gone missing. He was last scene Friday afternoon leaving school. We hope wherever he is, he is alright. Sal's mother Ms. Abara would like to read a statement.

NEW ANGLE - LOOKING AT JUNIOR

Junior starts to look sick, Mikel nudges his leg and gives him a look like "suck it up."

MS. ABARA

(With tears in her eyes)

My son Sal isn't perfect. I know he had his difficulties and would get in to trouble sometimes.

(A beat)

But he's my son...

(A beat)

(She begins to cry more)

If anyone knows anything... Anything at all that could help lead to finding my son, please step forward and help us.

Junior looks at Mikel as if to say he can't hold it in, but Mikel shakes his head no. Ms. Abara walks off the stage and the principal takes her place.

PRINCIPAL

We encourage you all to keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

(A beat)

If anyone has any information that can help find Sal. Please come see me or any of your teachers.

(A beat)

Thank you.

NEW ANGLE - Shows the crowd of students, most are barely even listening and don't care. His friends look sad, an empty seat amongst them.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

You are all dismissed.

Junior lets out a panicked sigh. Luan taps his leg to calm him.

NEW ANGLE - The group exits the auditorium in a crowd of the rest of the students. The viewer eventually loses them in the crowd. (As if to show, they're still normal kids/They don't stand out from the others)

INT. HOUSE ADOLFO RAIDED - DAY

A group of policemen are rummaging around the house and examining the bodies Adolfo and his group left behind. Two are older, one is a rookie. The older ones look unbothered, the rookie clenches his jaw and initially turns his head. A minute passes.

POLICE 1 (OLD)
Gang related?

POLICE 2 (OLD)
Gang related.

POLICE 3 (YOUNG)
How do you know?

POLICE 2 (OLD)
The tattoo's kid.

He kind of nudges the mans arm with his foot to point it out.

NEW ANGLE - Up close of the Tattoo.

POLICE 3
So, what do we do now?

POLICE 1
Write a report.

POLICE 3
That's it?

POLICE 1
That's it for us. The detectives
take it from there.

The older cops chuckle as if they know that'll never happen. They walk away as the rookie's eyes linger on the bodies for an extra second.

INT. JONATHAN'S SHACK - EVENING

Luan enters the room where Jonathan, Noni are sitting smoking a joint together. Jonathan stands up and daps Luan.

JONATHAN
Aye Luan. What's good?

LUAN
Ah, you know the usual.

Luan hands Jonathan the money. Jonathan nods and stand sup and goes over to a backpack to grab a bag of weed.

JONATHAN
(Pointing out the
bandages)
What happened to your arm?

LUAN
Ah got into a fight Friday night.

JONATHAN
A fight?

LUAN
Yeah.

Jonathan tosses Luan the weed.

JONATHAN
With who?

Luan realizes he may have said too much

LUAN
(Hesitates)
Ah, just this kid from my school.

Luan tries to brush it off.

JONATHAN
What happened?

LUAN
Nothing much, was just outside our
grad party smoking with some
friends and this guy came up and
started talking shit.

JONATHAN
(Laughing)
You win the fight?

LUAN
Yeah. I think so.
(A beat)
Anyway thanks bru.

JONATHAN
Course bru. See you soon.

The two dap each other up. Luan leaves.

NONI
Hey didn't Adolfo say Sal
disappeared on Friday night?

JONATHAN
Yeah, so what?

NONI
So... Sal was dealin at the same
party and goes to the same school.
(A beat)
And he dodged your question about
what happened in the fight.

Jonathan thinks for a second.

JONATHAN
You're sure it was the same party?

NONI
(Nodding)
Yeah.

Jonathan thinks again.

JONATHAN
(Doubtful)
You think Luan killed Sal?

NONI
I don't know about killed. But He
may know something.

Jonathan thinks for a seconds. He paces.

JONATHAN
Fuck.
(A beat)
FUCK!

Jonathan kicks the couch.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
We have to tell Adolfo.

INT. BOXING GYM - EVENING

Mikel repeatedly strikes his trainers pads in a variety of combinations. Sweat pours down his body. The gym is pretty standard, in the best condition you could expect given their neighborhood. Basic weight set up, poor lighting, paint chipping from the walls.

TRAINER

Two! One! One! Two! Three!

He continues to punch harder and harder.

TRAINER (CONT'D)

Come on! Thirty more seconds!

Mikel hammers the pads even harder.

TRAINER (CONT'D)

Time!

Mikel finally begins to relax.

TRAINER (CONT'D)

Stretch. Eat. Get some sleep
tonight. Big fight tomorrow.

Mikel nods, still dripping sweat. He takes a seat and leans over catching his breath.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

Mikel comes up to Junior and Luan in the hallway. They all dap each other.

MIKEL

What's good?

LUAN

What's up?

JUNIOR

(Jokingly)

You better win tonight.

MIKEL

(Laughing)

Don't worry.

(A beat)

You guys are coming right?

JUNIOR

Yeah.

Luan nods. Their usual energy is missing.

MIKEL

Cool.

(A beat)

So... How you holding up?

JUNIOR

Fuck.

Junior shakes his head.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

It's all I can think about.

(A beat)

Your fight will be a good distraction.

LUAN

Definitely.

MIKEL

(Nodding to Luan)

And how's the arm?

Luan shrugs.

LUAN

It's fine.

Mikel nods.

MIKEL

For sure.

(A beat)

My fight's at six, but get there early if you want to see the first couple.

They nod.

EXT. STREETS OF CAPE TOWN - AFTERNOON

Luan stands on a street corner shuffling through his bag for his headphones. He pulls them out and messes with them for a bit, pulling the black cords in all sorts of directions. He untangles them and plugs them into his phone and turns on his music. (Music plays over the scene) (Nasty C, South African rapper). A moment or two go by and Luan fishes in his bag for a joint. He struggles to light it as the wind is so strong. He gets frustrated and wipes the sweat from his brow and tries again. Finally, he was able to light it.

He stands smoking his joint, finally clearing his head when a black jeep pulls up behind him. He doesn't hear because of his headphones.

NEW ANGLE - CLOSE UP ON LUAN'S FACE

Luan continues to smoke when suddenly a hand covers Luan's face from behind. He drops the joint.

NEW ANGLE - JOINT IN FOREGROUND, LUAN GETTING KIDNAPPED IN BACKGROUND

He tries to scream, but the hand quickly covers his mouth. Luan is thrown into the back of the black jeep. Obi and Ekambi get in the front.

The joint, still lit lays on the sidewalk while in the background, the jeep drives away.

INT. THE GYM - EVENING

Junior enters the gym and searches for Luan amongst the crowd. He spots Amahle and makes his way shuffling through people. The crowd cheers in the background. He reaches Amahle and gives her a hug.

AMAHLE

Hey Junior, good to see you.

JUNIOR

You too.

AMAHLE

You look tired.

JUNIOR

I know.

They both pause for a moment.

AMAHLE

Luan comin through?

JUNIOR

He said he was.

Junior looks around the crowd for Luan. He shrugs.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

You know how he is though; he'll be late.

Amahle nods.

INT. THE GYM, DRESSING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Mikel shadow boxes in the mirror. He's in workout clothes, his hands are wrapped up. His trainer approaches him and grabs him by the shoulder.

TRAINER

Lets stretch.

Mikel nods and lays down on the floor. His trainer grabs his leg and pushes it back.

NEW ANGLE - MIKEL'S FACE (BIRDS EYE VIEW) (VIEW OF TRAINER)

TRAINER

Alright, he's going to immediately put you on the back foot. He tries to force his opponents into a corner. Move around a lot. He's gonna gas way before you do.

Mikel stands up.

TRAINER (CONT'D)

Hit him with your body shots and once he leaves his head open, step in and use your power for the knockout.

Mikel stares at himself in the mirror.

TRAINER (CONT'D)

Listen, you're the favorite, everyone is expecting you to win this fight. Let them see why.

Mikel takes a deep breath and beats his gloves together.

INT. ADOLFO TRAP HOUSE, HALLWAY - LATE AFTERNOON

Obi and Ekambi drag Luan down a hallway.

LUAN

Where the fuck are you takin me!

(A beat)

What's going on!

They stay silent. They get to the end of the hallway and open a bedroom door. They immediately throw Luan into the room and lock the door behind him.

LUAN (CONT'D)
Who are you!

INT. THE GYM, RING - LATE AFTERNOON

Mikel stands at his corner of the ring; his trainer sprays some water in his mouth as the commentator announces the fighters.

COMMENTATOR
Introducing our first competitor.
(A beat)
Standing at 5'10 and weighing 171
pounds
(A beat)
Adwin Ndlovu!

A few people in the crowd cheer.

COMMENTATOR (CONT'D)
And now, your neighborhood
favorite.
(A beat)
Standing at 5'9 and weighing 168
pounds.
(A beat)
El Semente Hande... Mikel Nnadi!

The crowd cheers, clearing favoring their local boy. Mikel looks into the crowd and sees Junior and Amahle.

INT. ADOLFO'S TRAP HOUSE, BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Luan stands up and runs to the door and grabs the handle and shakes it violently. He bangs on the door and yells again.

LUAN
Hey! What the fuck! Where the fuck
am I! Who are you people!

Luan turns around and collapses to the floor, his back leaned up against the bedroom door. tears run down his cheeks. He coughs like he's going to throw up. A moment passes. He then shakes his head and wipes his face and begins to scan the room.

NEW ANGLE - LUAN'S PERSPECTIVE

The room is plain, chipped paint, a bed in one corner and a desk and a chair in the other. A single lamp sits unplugged on the desk. There was an overhead light that was on and no windows.

NEW ANGLE - BACK ON LUAN

Luan again turns around and begins slamming on the door demanding answers.

LUAN (CONT'D)

Who are you people! Where am I?

Luan backs up and begins kicking the door as hard as he can. He gets about two solid kicks in. As he's winding up for his third, the door opens, and Adolfo is standing in front of him smoking a cigarette.

ADOLFO

Calm down kid.

Luan looks up at Adolfo confused. Jonathan enters the room behind Adolfo.

LUAN

Jonathan?

Adolfo turns towards Jonathan.

ADOLFO

This him?

Jonathan nods.

LUAN

What?

Jonathan leaves the room, sparking terror in Luan.

LUAN (CONT'D)

Jonathan?! Where you going?! Who is this guy?!

Jonathan hesitates and then closes the door behind him, now just Luan and Adolfo remain.

ADOLFO

Relax kid.

(A beat)

I just want to talk.

LUAN

(Nervous)

Talk about what?

ADOLFO

(Gestures towards the bed)

Take a seat.

Luan doesn't move.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)
(Casually)
Come on take a seat.

Luan reluctantly walks over to the bed and takes a seat.
Adolfo pulls up the chair and sits across from him.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)
My friend Sal.
(A beat)
He's missing.

LUAN
(Stuttering)
Sal? I don't know a Sal.

ADOLFO
Oh?

Adolfo takes a big drag of his cigarette.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)
Don't you go to school together?

Luan doesn't know what to say.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)
What happened to your arm?

LUAN
What?

ADOLFO
Your arm?
(A beat)
What happened?

LUAN
Nothi-

Adolfo grabs Luan and shoves him up against the wall.

ADOLFO
(Yelling)
What happened to Sal?!

LUAN
(Stuttering)
Wha-?

ADOLFO
 I'm not fuckin around. YOU got in a
 fight at a party Friday night...
 (A beat)
 Same night and same party my dealer
 disappears?
 (A beat)
 What happened? Where's Sal?

LUAN
 (Tears running down his
 face)
 I- I- I don't know what you're
 talking about!

Adolfo raises his arm fist to strike Luan.

INT. THE GYM, RING - LATE AFTERNOON

Mikel strikes his opponent's face with a right hook.

INT. ADOLFO'S TRAPHOUSE, BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

COMMENTATOR
 Strong strike to the face from
 Semente Hande!

Luan is up against the wall dazed from the strike from
 Adolfo.

ADOLFO
 Where's Sal?

LUAN
 I swear I don't know!

ADOLFO
 Don't lie to me.

Adolfo raises his fist again.

INT. THE GYM, RING - LATE AFTERNOON

Mikel strikes his opponent again.

INT. THE GYM, BLEACHERS - LATE AFTERNOON

Junior and Amahle cheer Mikel on from the crowd.

JUNIOR
Let's go Mikel! Knock his ass out!

AMAHLE
Come on Mikel!

INT. THE GYM, RING - LATE AFTERNOON

Mikel locks his arm back ready to strike again.

INT. ADOLFO'S TRAPHOUSE, BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Adolfo's fist strikes Luan again.

ADOLFO
I'm not asking again.

Luan looks up at Adolfo, face bloody and bruised. He stays quiet.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)
Fine.

Adolfo shrugs.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)
Let's try this one more time.

He cracks his neck.

LUAN
Fuck. Okay... Okay.

Tears, blood and snot cover Luan's bruised face.

LUAN (CONT'D)
He's.. He's..
(A beat)
He's dead alright!
(A beat)
Please! Please don't kill me!

Adolfo chuckles and shakes his head.

ADOLFO
How did he die?

LUAN
What?

ADOLFO
(Over pronouncing, slowly)
How did he die?

LUAN
Fuck.
(A beat)
It- It was- It was an accident.

ADOLFO
Not what I asked. How did he die?

A moment goes by as Adolfo stares at Luan

LUAN
He got stabbed okay!
(A beat)
Bu- But he started it! He pulled
the knife on us.

ADOLFO
Us?

Luan shuts up.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)
So there was a group of you?

Luan stays quiet.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)
Look I'm going to get it out of you
one way or another.

Luan thinks for a second and then reluctantly nods.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)
Who?

LUAN
Just me and a few friends.

Adolfo shakes his head.

LUAN (CONT'D)
We didn't know he was one of your
guys! I swear.
(A beat)
HE was the one who pulled the knife
on us.

ADOLFO
Who was with you? Who's the one who
actually killed him?

LUAN

You gotta understand. He had to.
Sal was gonna kill him. It wasn't
his fault.

ADOLFO

I'm not fucking around. Who was
with you?

LUAN

Alright, alright. It was me and a
few friends. I got sliced by Sal.
(Shows his wound) Sal dropped the
knife but was on top of my friend.
He was choking him. He was just
tryin-

ADOLFO

How many friends?

LUAN

Three.

ADOLFO

What are their names?

LUAN

I'm not tellin you.

Adolfo stares at Luan piercing him.

LUAN (CONT'D)

Okay I'll tell you.

(A beat)

But only if you promise not to hurt
them.

ADOLFO

I just want some answers.

Luan takes a deep breath.

LUAN

Okay. Okay.

(A beat)

It was me Mikel, Junior and Amahle.

Adolfo thinks to himself.

ADOLFO

And who's the one who actually
killed him?

A moment of silence goes by.

LUAN

Ju- J

(A beat)

Junior.

(A beat)

But, but we were all involved.

Adolfo squints. He stores Junior's name in his memory.

ADOLFO

Do you know where they are?

LUAN

What?

ADOLFO

Do you know where they are?

LUAN

(Shaking his head)

No.

Adolfo stares at Luan like he doesn't believe him.

LUAN (CONT'D)

(Sighing)

Yes... They're at the boxing gym.

(A beat)

I was on my way there when your
guys grabbed me.

Adolfo eases up and smirks.

INT. THE GYM, THE RING - LATE AFTERNOON

Mikel's fist smashes against his opponents face. His opponent backs up against the ropes. Another punch strikes his gut and then his face. His opponent throws a few back, hitting Mikel. Mikel shakes it off and stays patient, waiting for an opening. He throws rapid jabs until finally he throws a huge hook that catches his opponent clean. His opponents legs give and he drops to the ground, head hitting the canvas. The commentator goes crazy.

COMMENTATOR

And it's over!

(A beat)

Just like that Nnadi knocks out
Ndlovu with a strong right hook!

Mikel jumps up, punching the air in celebration. He runs over to his trainer and hugs him over the ropes.

Junior and Amahle cheer. Junior peers towards the entrance for any late sign of Luan.

COMMENTATOR (CONT'D)

And the winner... By knockout is...
your local El Semente Hande...
Mikel Nnadi!

The referee grabs Mikel's arm and raises it in the air. Mikel stands up tall and proud. Junior and Amahle cheer in the crowd.

INT. ADOLFO'S TRAP HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Adolfo enters the living room where Obi and Simon are playing cards, smoking.

ADOLFO

Yo, lets go.

He taps Simon on the leg.

SIMON

Where we goin?

ADOLFO

The fuckers are at the gym.

INT. THE GYM, LOCKER ROOM - EVENING

Mikel is changing into comfortable clothes after his shower.

TRAINER

Good shit today. You really put the pressure on him tonight.

MIKEL

(Laughing)

Thanks. You saw how he dropped?

TRAINER

(Laughs a bit too)

Yeah.

(A beat)

You keep fighting like this and who knows.

Mikel shrugs that comment off, and turns around to his locker and starts to change.

TRAINER (CONT'D)

Alright Mikel. I'm gonna head out.
Get some good food in you.

(MORE)

TRAINER (CONT'D)

(A beat)

Rest.

(A beat)

And ice yourself, alright?

MIKEL

Yeah, yeah, you know I do.

The trainer waves off Mikel's response and leaves the room.

Mikel examines his face in the mirror. Only a small cut above his eye. He smiles to himself. He pulls a sweatshirt over his head and heads out.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE GYM - EVENING

Mikel exits the gym. Junior and Amahle are there waiting. Amahle rushes Mikel and hugs and kisses him.

AMAHLE

You did so good! I'm so proud of you!

Junior daps Mikel up.

JUNIOR

Yeah bru, you fuckin killed him.

MIKEL

(Laughing)

Eh, he was light work.

Mikel fakes some punches at Junior, they both laugh.

MIKEL (CONT'D)

Either of you see Luan?

JUNIOR

No. We were wondering where he is.

The group wonder.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Maybe we should stop by his place and check on him.

MIKEL

Cool.

Amahle nods. The group walks away, joking and laughing together. We stay on the gym. They turn a corner and disappear. (Voices fade out) The street goes quiet. The sound of a car in the distance getting closer.

A black SUV pulls up and parks the car and Simon, Obi and him all hop out and enter the gym.

Adolfo walks up to the door. A poster reading Mikel Nnadi with "El Semente Hande" next to his name sits on the door. Adolfo catches it out of the corner of his eye. Adolfo holds the door open for his men as they walked in.

INT. THE GYM, LOBBY - EVENING

Adolfo approaches the front desk, the man behind it is on the phone. Adolfo drums the desk with his fingers. Adolfo catches his eyes impatiently. The man finishes up answering the callers question and hangs up before turning to Adolfo.

FRONT DESK MAN

How can I help you sir?

ADOLFO

Yeah... uh, Im looking for Mikel Nnadi?

(A beat)

"El Simente Hande."

FRONT DESK MAN

You just missed him. Just won his fight.

ADOLFO

Yeah, well I was actually looking to talk to him about that.

(A beat)

I'm a scout here in Cape Town and I've been following Mikel's fights for a while. I think he may really have something.

(A beat)

Do you know if I can still catch him?

FRONT DESK MAN

Not sure.

(A beat)

He usually goes towards Mitchell's Plain.

Te front desk ushers Adolfo in that direction.

ADOLFO

Appreciate that.

Adolfo nods Obi and Simon towards the door. He pulls out some rands and tips the front desk man as he swiftly exits the gym.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

Junior, Mikel and Amahle are walking.

MIKEL

Damn bru, I can't believe he missed it.

JUNIOR

(Worried)

I know.

MIKEL

Man, I'm starving.

AMAHLE

Me too.

JUNIOR

Why don't you guys go get some food and I'll check on him.

MIKEL

Nah, you sure?

JUNIOR

Yeah, yeah. You just had a fight bru.

(A beat)

Go eat.

MIKEL

Alright, cool.

As Mikel and Junior dap each other up, Junior hugs Amahle nobody notices the black SUV pull up. Obi and Simon hop out and grab the group.

JUNIOR

What the fuck!

AMAHLE

Ahhh! Help! Help!

Mikel punches Simon in the face, while Obi forces Junior into the car. Simon steps back dazed. Amahle continues to scream as Mikel and Simon square up. They scrap for a second and Mikel seems to be beating Simon, but once Obi joins in they shove Mikel into the trunk. Amahle takes off running down the street.

ADOLFO

Fuckin grab the girl!

Obi and Simon chase after Amahle. They catch up easily, grab her and force her into the car next to Junior. The car pulls off into the darkness. Quiet once again fills the street.

INT. ADOLFO'S TRAP HOUSE, BEDROOM

The door of the bedroom swings open and Junior and his friends are shoved inside. The door closes and locks behind them. Luan who was crying immediately hugs them.

LUAN
(Distraught)
I'm sorry guys. I'm sorry.

MIKEL
What the fuck is going on bru?

JUNIOR
What happened to your face?

The group stares at his beaten face. Luan is breathing heavily.

LUAN
It's Sal.
(A beat)
He works for these guys.
(A beat)
I- I told them what happened.

JUNIOR
What?!

LUAN
(Crying)
I had to bru. They were torturing me.

MIKEL
Well what the fuck is he gonna do to us?

Luan shakes his head in despair.

LUAN
I don't know.
(A beat)
I don't know.

JUNIOR
There's gotta be a way outta here somehow right?

Junior starts circling the room.

LUAN
I've tried.
(A beat)
It's no use.

The door slams open and Adolfo steps into the room. The group stops and looks up at him.

ADOLFO
You must be Junior.
(A beat)
So...
(A beat)
You're the one who killed Sal?

JUNIOR
I-I guess...

Adolfo laughs.

ADOLFO
You guess?

JUNIOR
I had t-

ADOLFO
I know, I know.
(A beat)
(Gesturing to Luan)
That one told me what happened.

JUNIOR
I'm sor-

ADOLFO
Shut up!

Junior shakes in fear.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)
That boy Sal.
(A beat)
He made me a lot of money.
(A beat)
A lot...
(Kisses teeth)
The way I see it, you owe me.
(A beat)
But, you couldn't possibly have
anything I want.
(MORE)

ADOLFO (CONT'D)

(A beat)

So... What do you think?

JUNIOR

(Pleading)

I'll, I'll give you anything.
Please...

(A beat)

Just let us go.

MIKEL

Come on, it was an accid-

ADOLFO

(Turning towards Mikel)

Shut the fuck up.

(A beat)

I'm talking to Junior.

Adolfo thinks for a second. He rubs his goatee.

ADOLFO (CONT'D)

What about this.

(A beat)

You take his place.

JUNIOR

What?

ADOLFO

You take his place.

(A beat)

You sell the Tik instead of him.

JUNIOR

No.

Adolfo laughs.

ADOLFO

No?

JUNIOR

(Adamant)

I'm not selling drugs.

Adolfo stares into Junior eyes. It becomes apparent to Junior he doesn't get to choose. A moment passes. Junior looks around at his friends. They don't know what to do.

ADOLFO

Whatchu looking at them for?

A moment passes.

JUNIOR
What about my friends?

ADOLFO
Them?

JUNIOR
Yeah.

Adolfo shakes his head.

ADOLFO
I don't give a fuck about them.

JUNIOR
(Worried)
So they're good?

Adolfo shrugs.

ADOLFO
They're good.

Junior thinks.

JUNIOR
I have no choice?

ADOLFO
Looks that way.

Junior thinks and nods slowly. Then realizes.

JUNIOR
How much do I need to make?

Adolfo thinks.

ADOLFO
Hmmm.
(A beat)
That kid was worth a lot of money
to me.
(A beat)
300k?

JUNIOR
How the fuck am I supposed to do
that?

ADOLFO
(Laughs)
Better get started.

Junior looks around at his friends desperate.

Fade to black.

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