

# BOO

MORGAN CROSS

30 June 2022 - 25 Jan 2023 - 26 May 2023

Fade in:

**1. INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT (2012 '6)**

**CHI**, a 6-year-old Nigerian boy wearing a white shirt with gray shorts, emerges from a room from the hallway with dim lighting, pale orange walls, and a wooden door.

CHI is crying silently, blood running down his leg slightly. He walks into his room and crawls under his bed frame. He tries to fall asleep. Footsteps are heard from the hallway.

MOM

(O.S.)

Chi?

**MOM**, late 30s Nigerian mom of Chi, wearing rectangle-shaped glasses and has a curly bob haircut. She walks in and squats to check for Chi. She sighs and then grunts in relief, walking away. Chi begins to dream about his future.

CUT TO:

**2. INT, BEDROOM - DAY (2024 '17) (Dream Sequence)**

CHI, 17, curled up on a bed, silently sobbing in **CASS's** arms, a 17-year-old black girl with bright red dyed hair. She places her hands against the side of his face, caressing his cheek.

**3. EXT, MONASTERY - DAY (2020 '14) (Dream Sequence)**

CHI, 14, wearing an orange monk robe. Laying and surrounded by red spider lilies. He looks up at the sky, dazed.

**4. INT, MENTAL INSTITUTION - DAY (2018 '12) (Dream Sequence)**

CHI, 12, in an empty room, eyes raw and bloodshot. His mouth is dried and cracked. No expression on his face.

**5. INT, KITCHEN - NIGHT (2012 '6) (Dream Sequence)**

CHI, 6, is impaled with a butter knife and bleeding from the stomach. Tears filled his eyes, blurring his vision.

**6. INT. BEDROOM - MORNING (2012 '6)**

CHI wakes up. Sitting up and looking at the sunlight from the curtains. He peeks out of his room. ...The house is silent, it's sunny and warm, but dusty.

He ambles around his home to find his family, but no one is home. He only has the company of the white walls with traditional paintings, family photos, and an empty antique vase collection.

He looks all over the house, making it back to his room. He grabs his toy cars and colorful Legos.

He wanders back to the living room and plops down on the black living room carpet.

Setting up all his toys, he spots his favorite, a remake car toy of the black GTR NISSAN model. He places the car closest to him. Chi rolls his car over the black carpet back and forwards among the other toys. He pulls it forward and lets it go.

CUT TO:

**7. INT/EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT (2024 '17)**

CHI, 17, wearing black cargo and black long-sleeves, in a Nissan GTR on the phone with CASS. The highway is quiet, with no one around to witness the commotion within this car. The only thing around is darkness, the stars, and the deer located to the sides of the road within the woods.

CASS

(O.S.)

What is going on? Where are you?

7. (cont'd)

CHI

Cass. Humans are divided  
all into despair and hope.  
We wouldn't be able to  
exist without an equal  
balance of the two.

CASS

(O.S.)

Are you having a panic  
attack? Just breathe,  
please you're freaking me  
out.

CHI

But that doesn't mean these  
two concepts exist in  
equilibrium within each  
individual person.

His pupils grow more and more dilated. He is in a state of  
complete derealization.

CHI

For some, there's hope  
without despair  
And for others, there's  
despair without hope.

The car is going faster and faster. The whistling from the  
small crack in the car window grows higher in pitch. The  
engine roars.

CHI

But why is it that the  
people that despair without  
hope must exist the way  
they do? To suffer from  
life until death.

7. (cont'd)

CHI

What could any of these  
people possibly have done  
to warrant such adversity  
I don't know the answer.  
Neither do I know where I'm  
going with this. But, It  
just isn't fair

CHI

I guess... What are these  
people who were made to  
suffer supposed to do?

CHI

Honestly, It's kind of  
ironic. Suffer for a world  
that you won't have to deal  
with if you're gone?

CASS

(O.S.)

Chi, I don't understand,  
please. I'm sorry

CHI

I guess we're unlike in  
that way

CASS

(O.S.)

CHI STOP IT!

He doesn't speak.

CASS

(O.S.)

Chi?... Whatever's going on  
it's okay. Just please be  
ok.

Cass becomes more and more frantic with every bit of silence.  
He slows down and pulls over to the side of the road.

7. (cont'd)

He places his head in his hands over the steering wheel. Their hyperventilating becomes less frequent.

CHI

Cause that's important to  
you huh?

CASS

(O.S.)

Yes?

CHI

You sure?

CASS

(O.S.)

Yes, of course. I promise.  
I just wanted to go to the  
beach with him.

CHI

Well, I want to relapse!  
Actually what a great idea  
right Cass? Is that what  
you want?

CASS

(O.S.)

Please don't...

All we can see is the phone on the car dash.

CASS

(O.S.)

Please. Chi?

The driver's door clicks open.

*Slam.*

We hear Chi get out of the driver's seat.

7. (cont'd)

CASS

(O.S.)

I don't know what you want  
me to do.

Another click, a backseat door opens.

CASS

(O.S.)

Please. Please be ok.

There's rumbling. What is he doing? Searching for something?  
Cass's voice is beyond distressed. She begins crying over the  
phone.

CASS

(O.S.)

I love you more than  
anything. You're the best  
thing that's ever happened  
to me. Please answer me.

The backseat car door slams close. Cass's voice is shaky and  
weak.

CASS

(O.S.)

I love you Chi, I just want  
to make you happy and safe  
and okay, please. I'd do  
anything.

The driver's door opens again. Chi sits back in his seat. He's  
holding something, placing it in the car's cup holders. Chi  
sighs.

CHI

Isn't it funny that I used  
to do this when I was  
younger? I remember it was  
the only thing that made me  
feel there was at least one  
thing I could control in my  
life.

7. (cont'd)

CASS

(O.S.)

CHI! Are you okay?

He rests his forehead against the headrest. He acts like a completely different person. His voice sounds so condescending.

CHI

I'm perfect.

CASS

(O.S.)

Please.

CHI

I'm doing just fine. Go to bed.

CASS

(O.S.)

No fucking way. You can't just pull this shit and then be fine. I wanna make sure you're okay. What happened?

CHI

Nothing really happened. It's alright I'll be fine. Sleep, it's getting late. I said I'm perfect.

CASS

(O.S.)

I'll stay up all night.

CHI

Why?

7. (cont'd)

CASS

(O.S.)

For you! And cause I  
fucking said so. Just till  
you make it-

**8. INT. LIVING ROOM - LATE MORNING (2012 '6)**

Door opens abruptly

MOM

(to Amebo)

We're home!

CHI looks up in confusion, his mother walks through the front door. Along with AMEBO, a late 20s housemaid for the Nkomadu family, Straight hair, fairly tall.

MOM

(raised voice)

Chi!

Mom is waiting for a response but with seemingly no answer. She lifts the shopping bags onto a table, with Amebo following along.

MOM

(signs, reluctantly)

So uh, I have bought the  
school supplies.

She turns to face Amebo.

8. (cont'd)

MOM

I'm not sure why he needs  
so many things. It's just  
first grade.

Amebo shrugs and continues unpacking. Mom turns back to Chi.

8. (cont'd)

MOM

I want you to clean this  
all up and start getting  
ready for tomorrow, ok?

Chi stares, no response.

MOM

Chi? You understand, yes?

Chi hesitates, then nods, and he begins cleaning up. Amebo  
turns to Mom.

AMEBO

Ma'am? I've finished  
placing everything away.

MOM

Oh, yes yes Amebo, you may  
rest now.

**9. EXT. NEIGHBOURHOOD - AFTERNOON (2012 '6)**

CHI is walking and playing in the quiet neighborhood near his  
house. The sun is beginning to set. The sun's rays gleam on  
the flowers, and Chi, wobbling side to side, trying to balance  
on the sidewalk ledge. He crouches down and turns his head to  
look at the flowers. Silence.

**10. EXT. TEMPLE - AFTERNOON (2020 '14) (Daydream/Flashforward)**

CHI, 14, is kneeling among the flowers. It's calm and quiet.  
This isn't Nigeria - the temple reflects Japanese Buddhism. He  
picks a spider Lily and then pulls it closer to his mouth and-

**11. EXT. NEIGHBOURHOOD - AFTERNOON (2012 '6) (cont'd)**

*ZOOM!* A *Nissan GTR* drives by, snapping CHI out of his  
imagination. He aimlessly watches the car drive out of sight.  
He starts to walk back home

**12. EXT. SIDEWALK - MORNING (2012 '6)**

Chi walks along the sidewalk, a family is moving into a house along the sidewalk. However, Chi doesn't notice them. Instead, he notices other parents walking along with their children to school. He feels nervous on his first day.

**13. INT. CLASSROOM - NOON (2012 '6)**

Chi is sitting down at his desk. He looks over to his new teacher, Ms. Nafiu, talking to a student (EFIKO, 6 years old.) Efiko is talkative and outgoing, his face filled with joy. He pulls on Ms. Nafiu's long skirt, trying to grab her attention to show her his new backpack.

Chi admires being more like Efiko. Life wouldn't be that lonely that way.

More than half the class seemingly is trying to get Ms. Nafiu's attention now. All while Chi sits alone, watching. He traces with his fingers the dust lying on his table.

**14. EXT. SIDEWALK - AFTERNOON (2012 '6)**

CHI walks home alone, cars coming every few seconds. He smells something sweet? Almost lemony? He turns towards the smell. Chi's eyes glisten. It's a flower patch- a blur of oranges, crimsons, and ambers.

He kneels, then carefully begins collecting the flowers- one by one- organizing and tidying up a tiny bouquet.

**15. INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING (2012 '6)**

Click. CHI enters, and the house seems stale, dusty, and almost dark. The only light gleaming in is from the sliding glass door looking out to the garden. A figure sits against the garden bed. It's Amebo, the housemaid.

**16. EXT. GARDEN - EVENING (2012 '6)**

He carries his bouquet.

CHI

Where is my mother?

AMEBO

I thought maybe you would  
know. She'll turn up I'm  
sure it will be alright...  
What's that in your hand?

CHI

Flowers...

AMEBO

Do you think I can see  
them, please?

He tilts his head. Placing his hand on his lap, hesitant.  
Realizing, she points towards the bouquet.

AMEBO

These. Not the other one.

He nods, lifting them to Amebo's hands, carefully taking the  
flowers with both hands.

AMEBO

These are beautiful! Did  
you make this all by  
yourself?

He nods again.

AMEBO

I'd love to see what kind  
of bouquets you'll make  
when you're older. Maybe  
you can be a florist.

He looks away, pondering his thoughts.

16. (cont'd)

AMEBO

Your first day of school  
was today, right? How was  
it?

He turns back, entrenched

CHI

I don't like it. I don't  
wanna go back.

AMEBO

(Chuckingly)

Well, you have to go back.  
Why? Did something happen?

With a saddened face, Chi doesn't answer.

AMEBO

It sucks, I know ... But hey,  
I'll be here to help you  
through it.

Amebo bends forwards to see Chi's face. Scrunching her face to  
make him laugh. He turns and mimics her.

She pauses.

Smiling, she abruptly stands up, reaching her hand back to  
Chi.

AMEBO

Come on. While your mom's  
not home.

The wind picks up. He hesitates, looking up with a  
disconcerting face. He takes her hand, and they walk inside  
together. Leaving the bouquet.

**17. EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - NOON (2012 '6)**

Chi is sitting alone during lunch. His body is tense. The sound of children's chatter and exult is muffled. A small child walks up. It's Efiko.

EFIKO

Hi!

CHI

Hi

EFIKO

My mommy gave me this  
snack.

Chi looks over to the snack Efiko he is offering in his hands. It's plastic carrots. Chi hesitates, and he shakes his head. Efiko looks perplexed. Efiko hands him the "snack" regardless.

EFIKO

Oh ... You wanna play over  
there?

Chi looks back up at Efiko, he shakes his head. Efiko is taken aback. He pauses, looking down at his fidgeting hands. Looping and intertwining his fingers. Chi's eyes follow along with Efiko's action.

Efiko promptly stands up, brushing off the dirt and twigs off his shorts.

EFIKO

Ok.

Efiko turns to face with a wide smile across his face, catching Chi's curiosity.

EFIKO

Next time!

Efiko skips along the way to the other side of the playground. Happy and cheerful as always.

17. (cont'd)

Chi sits alone on the curve. Watching Efiko walk away before returning to look at the rocks, flowers, and twigs beside him. Placing down the plastic toy before the concrete. The voices of chatter and muttering fills the background. He takes another glance at Efiko and his other classmates, giggling and playing. He couldn't care. Who needs him anyway.

**18. INK6. INT. (6)CHI'S ROOM - AFTERNOON (2012 '6)**

Chi is lying on his stomach on his bed. Rustling is coming from his red pen. On the paper is a drawing of a small boy and a tall girl with straight hair. Behind that drawing is a second one, with lines and shapes seemingly unintelligible.

**19. INK11. INT. (11)CHI'S ROOM - EVENING (2017 '11)**

Chi (11) is sitting on the same bed as he did when he was little. He sobs and sniffs. A slight tint of orange covers the room from the sunset peeking in through the curtains. Trying his hardest to contain his cries. He writes on a piece of paper with red ink.

It contains :

*"Dear Mom,*

*I am really sorry.*

*I had tried to tell you how I felt. You said I was being ungrateful and selfish. I just wanted a normal mom. It's not your fault.*

*There was something I never told you. When I was around 5, something happened to me. When I was alone--"*

It's a suicide note, in cursive. He writes frantically, applying hard pressure against the pen.

**20. INK17. INT. (17)CHI'S ROOM - NIGHT (2024 '17)**

2:36 AM. A small harsh orange light from a lamp colors Chi's (17) faces. He sits cross-legged. He ponders and looks around, yawns, then continues writing.

*"Dear Cass.*

*I love you so much.*

*I love your mannerisms, just the way you speak, the way you talk, text, eat, and the way you write. I mean, god I'm fucking stupid.*

*The way you look up, the way you handle the things around you so tenderly. Even when you deny being cute, it's cute. I don't think I can ever really properly explain it. I am so lucky to have you.*

*I'll be here forever and always."*

A love letter addressed to Cass. The pen catches more and more pace. Frantic scratches from the pen to paper.

**21. INK6. INT. (6)CHI'S ROOM - NOON (2012 '6)**

*Crack.*

Red inks cover Chi's hands. The pen broke. He stares at his hands. Not sure how to act. It's staining the sheets, covering his bed in red. He notices and then freaks out.

He panics over the stains and drawings with his pillow as if nothing happened. He moves away from the crime scene. And exits quietly to wash his hands.

**22. INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING (2012 '6)**

*Clap. Clap.*

Ms. Nafiu is trying to organize the kids and get them to sit down. The kids rush to sit down on their place on the rainbow carpet.

22. (cont'd)

AZI, a 6-year-old boy with a backpack on and a bookbag in his hand, near the doorway. Chi's gaze fixes on him as he sat down. There's something about him.

MS. NAFIU

Good morning class!

Class

Good Morning Ms.Nafiu

MS. NAFIU

Class, today is a very special day- Iniko, sit down properly- today is special because we have a new student today.

Besides Ms. Nafiu, Azi swiftly looks down, his eyes shifting away from the class. Ms. Nafiu softly places her hands against his back.

MS. NAFIU

(to Azi)

Would you like to say your name to the class?

The boy nods to Ms. Nafiu before turning to the class.

AZI

My name is Azi.

Chi turns over to look at Efiko. Something glistens within his eyes.

A beat.

Chi looks concerned about how Efiko looks at Azi. Jealous almost. Efiko turns to Chi, catching him off guard, Efiko smiles at him.

**23. INT. CLASSROOM - NOON (2012 '6)**

The windows to the outside of the classroom are fogged and tinted white. Chi and Efiko sit next to each other on the colorful dotted carpet. The small toy box filled with Legos tipped over, showing a wave of colorful bricks that Efiko picks up. Chi pulls out his black toy car. Rolling between the brick buildings and spaceships Efiko has made.

EFIKO

Wow! Where did you get that?

CHI

Amebo got it for me. It's my favorite.

EFIKO

Who's Amebo?

CHI

Oh, she's the lady who helps my mom and dad. She's nice. If you come to play at my house you'll meet her.

EFIKO

Ok!

Chi turns his car outside of the Lego creation Efiko has made and notices Azi standing next to him. Efiko looks up noticing Azi as well with a bright smile on his face.

EFIKO

Hi!

AZI

What you guys doing?

23. (cont'd)

EFIKO

Legos! Do you wanna play  
with us?

Azi nods and sits down with the rest of the boys. Chi turns back to Efiko, seemingly upset and nervous. Azi begins piecing together some blocks, leaning over Efiko to grab a different block, Efiko hands it to him. Azi turns over to see Chi's scared face. Looking down Azi noticed the car in his hand.

AZI

That's such a cool car! I  
wish I had one like that!

Chi looks down and nods.

AZI

You're so cool!

Chi slowly looks up and sees Azi's smile. Chi passes the car towards Azi as it rolls on its wheel. Azi looks down and turns the car back. They begin passing the toy car between each other's knees. Efiko looks up to see Chi and Azi playing, he smiles.

#### **24. EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON - FOGGY (2012 '6)**

A group of 6-year-old boys, including Azi, Efiko, and Chi. Are walking down an empty, foggy road. The boys are wearing their oversized backpacks against their tiny torsos. The fog is becoming denser and denser.

BOY 1

This is kinda scary

AZI

Nooo! This is so cool!

24. (cont'd)

Chi's face brightens, and he runs forward into the fog and disappears. The rest of the boys stop walking, looking around for Chi.

AZI

Chi...?

The boys look into the distance. It's empty. Suddenly, Chi runs, emerging from the white clouds. Pushing and scaring Azi.

CHI

BOO!

Azi gets spooked, and Chi runs off into the mist again.

EFIKO

You keep disappearing!

Boy 1

Hehe, he's like a ghost!

Chi runs back, tapping Boy 1 on the shoulder.

CHI

Boo!

BOY 1

Hehe, boo!

EFIKO

That should be your name.

Chi runs back slowly.

CHI

Boo?

24. (cont'd)

Efiko nods and Chi looks at the rest of the boys, and they also nod and giggle.

CHI

Hehe, BOO!!!

Chi runs back into the fog, disappearing.

**25. INT. CHI'S ROOM - EVENING (2012 '6)**

Amebo is tidying up Chi's room. She lines up his toy cars. She walks over to clean his bedsheets. She moves the pillow and discovers ink and drawings covering the bed.

She holds up a drawing covered in dried red ink. She pauses and stares and then scrambles to collect the sheets. Shoving them into a washing basket. Drawing still in hand.

**26. INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (2012 '6)**

Click. The door opens. A tall black man wearing a business suit pushes open the main door.

CHI (O.S.)

DAD!

Chi grabs onto his dad's leg, and his dad pets his head and pushes him aside. He grabs his trolley bag through the door. Chi trying to help.

MOM (O.S.)

Is that you Maduka?

DAD

Yes, I'm home

27. (cont'd)

MOM (O.S.)

There's some dinner in the  
fridge. I'll be there in a  
minute.

**28. INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (2012 '6)**

Dad is eating on the kitchen counter. At the same time, Mom is making some tea. Chi reaches and grabs the edge of the counter, and he pushes against it while his dad tells about his work trip.

DAD

So Nzinga's family will get  
repositioned to London next  
month. But he seems excited  
about it. A lot of people  
seem to be

MOM

What about his kids? I  
mean, they're leaving their  
culture behind.

DAD

He said he thinks his kids  
will be excited by it. I  
mean they'll get an English  
diploma.

MOM

Ah, then they'll have to  
find a job there.

CHI

Do you know what I wanna  
be?

DAD

What Chi?

28. (cont'd)

CHI

I wanna be a florist! And I  
can make *bo-k's*!

MOM

Haha, Chi, you're gonna  
have a better job than a  
florist. You can do better,  
be a doctor.

Chi stares and begins to cry. Mom groans.

DAD

You didn't need to make him  
cry.

MOM

He needs to stop being so  
sensitive. My son is not  
gonna be a florist.

DAD

Well, I don't wanna hear  
him scream when I'm trying  
to eat.

Chi keeps crying. Wiping away his tears from his cheeks. Mom  
slaps the counter.

MOM

CHI STOP!

He gasps. And stops.

MOM

God, just go to your room.

He waits, then runs off. Mom walks as he screws away. She  
continues dipping her tea bag in her mugs and then sips.

**29. INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING (2012 '6)**

Pinks, Blues, Yellows, and Reds fill the room. Balloons, streamers, a "Happy Birthday" banner, typically party decorations. Children's chatter and singing. Ms.Nafiu helps lead the first graders into singing.

CLASS

Happy Birthday to you.  
Happy birthday to you.  
Happy birthday to Azi!  
Happy birthday to you~.

Chi's eyebrows tense up. He stares as Azi giggles.

**30. INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING (2012 '6)**

Azi is cutting the cake for the class to share. Chi walks up to Azi. His voice is shaky but strong.

CHI

It's my birthday today too!

AZI

No, it's not. You already  
had your birthday.

CHI

No, I didn't!

EFIKO

Why are you yelling?

CHI

I'm not

EFIKO

You aree!

30. (cont'd)

AZI

He says it is his birthday

EFIKO

But it's Azi's birthday  
today

CHI

Noo. I want presents and  
cake and ...

MS. NAFIU

What's going on, boys?

AZI

Chi's crying

Chi's eyes swell. His body is tense and shaking. Trying to  
hold it in. Boys don't cry.

MS. NAFIU

Why are you crying, Chi?  
What's wrong?

His tears break through his waterline. He begins screaming and  
crying—another tantrum.

Ms. Nafiu sighs, grabs him by his shoulder, and pulls him out  
of class.

### **31. INT. CASS'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON (2024 '17)**

It's dark, Chi's eyes are covered by Cass's hands. A 17 year  
old girl with vibrant red hair. The room smells of flames and  
sweets. He grabs the end of the wooden table Cass leads him  
to. Cass reveals her surprise.

Chi doesn't know how to act. It's a cake, with a small candle,  
and a small present.

31. (cont'd)

CASS

Happy Birthday to you~

Happy Birthday to youu~

Her singing isn't perfect, but it's for him. Chi's eyes swell with tears. He shuts his eyes before a single tear falls onto his cheek.

CASS

Happy Birthday to Chiii~

Happy Birthday to youuu~

He blows out all the candles. Smoke fills the room a smidge.

Chi turns to Cass with a soft, wholesome smile. Cass scrunches her face as a form of greeting. He does the same, followed by a small laughter between the two. She tilts her head towards the present for Chi sitting on the table.

CASS

Go ahead.

He opens it gently. Unraveling the paper carefully so as not to ruin the wrapping Cass made.

She smiles, encouraging Chi to feel that he deserves this. He deserves to be celebrated. Chi begins fumbling with his words.

CHI

You... I don't know what even  
to say.

### **32. INT. CASS'S HOUSE - EVENING (2024 '17) (continued)**

Chi walks over to the couch with Cass's arm around his. Chi puts his head in his hands. Cass turns back around to Chi.

No response. She scoots over, wrapping her tiny frame against Chi's back. He turns around, grabbing and holding onto her tight, almost shivering.

32. (cont'd)

CHI

(whimpers)

No one has ever done that  
for me. Thank you, I love  
you.

Cass cradles his face against her chest. Sniffling. She  
shushes and caresses his cheek. Resting her head on top of  
his.

CASS

(whispering)

I'll always love you.

**33. INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON (2012 '6)**

Dad sits on the couch, watching a nature documentary. Chi  
slowly walks up to him.

CHI

Dad?

DAD

What is it, Chi?

CHI

Why don't I have a  
birthday?

His dad turns—

A pause.

DAD

What?

CHI

I want a birthday, with  
cakes and presents

33. (cont'd)

DAD

Stop being silly Chi. All  
of that is too expensive.  
Besides, you don't need any  
more cakes.

He doesn't say anything back. He sits up properly and watches  
the documentary.

CHI

Can we watch something  
else?

Dad looks at his watch and sighs.

DAD

Sure

He grabs the remote and switches channels. Chi turns to the  
tv. Dad lays his head back against the couch, crossing his  
arms.

After a while, he snores. Chi turns back, Chi slowly moves  
closer to his dad, resting his head on his arms. He falls  
asleep

**34. INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING (2012 '6)**

CHI is lying on the couch alone. He wakes up to hear his mom  
yelling. He gets up and creeps over to where the yelling is.

MOM

My sheets are red. That's  
not getting out. Those  
flowers are poisonous, do  
you not get that?

**35. INT. HALLWAY - EVENING (2012 '6)**

CHI walks over to the beginning of the hallway of his parent's  
room. He peaks from the corner. MOM is pointing to her room.

35. (cont'd)

MOM

I mean, look at it. It ruined my sheets. Amebo, do you know how expensive this is? It's from my hometown.

AMEBO

Ma'am, I didn't place those flowers down.

MOM

Well, I just came back from church. So I couldn't have done it.

While turning back to Amebo, Mom takes notice of Chi.

MOM

Did you do this Chi? Did you put the spider lilies on my bed?

Chi shakes his head no.

MOM

Chi!

CHI

I didn't. He did it

MOM

Maduka?

DAD

I was asleep? I couldn't have.

35. (cont'd)

CHI

No, a ghost did it. His  
name is Boo.

Mom signs. Looking down while closing her eyes

Pauses.

She takes a deep breath in.

MOM

CHI! Stop this now! Why are  
you doing this?

Mom walks down the hall and crutches down, grabbing Chi's arm.

MOM

What is wrong with you? You  
never do anything right  
Chi. CHI! LISTEN TO ME!

Mom grabs Chi's face to face him. He looks down, and her eyes follow.

The floor is wet. Mom looks around. Where is the source coming from? A small stream ran down the side of Chi's leg. He looks up back to Amebo. He's trembling. She turns back to face Amebo as well.

MOM

She's not gonna save you. I  
am your mother.

Mom stands up, smacking an empty box sitting on the hallway desk. She begins to walk away.

MOM

...You're six years old Chi.

Chi runs away to his bedroom. Amebo watches Chi's reaction. She grabs onto Mom's arm, stopping her while still watching Chi till he's out of sight. Mom tries to get out of Amebo's grasp.

35. (cont'd)

MOM

Let me go. Don't touch me.

Amebo turns to face her.

AMEBO

I did it, ma'am.

Mom scoffs.

MOM

Don't protect him. We both  
know he's already gonna  
fail the family.

AMEBO

No, Ms. Nkomadu. He's not.  
And I really did leave  
those flowers there.

MOM

Well then, I guess you'll  
take the blame then.

As she walks away and beams at Amebo, Mom pushes her hand off her shoulder. Amebo watches Mom flounce into her bedroom, shutting the door. Amebo's eyes glide over to look at Dad, with an apathetic look. Merely staring at each other.

### **36. INT. PLAYGROUND CUBBY HOUSE - MORNING (2012 '6)**

Inside a small colorful cubby house sits Efiko and Chi. The air is warm and static from the sunlight shining down on the red plastic roof. One touch of the walls and a small zap will prick your fingers.

EFIKO

Doctor Chi, there is  
something wrong with my leg

36. (cont'd)

CHI

Oh, you've broken it Efiko?  
I see let me get my magical  
posio-

EFIKO

No no, it is not broken. It  
aches.

Azi pokes his leg, pretending to be in pain

EFIKO

Owww!

Chi thinks to himself, then begins to poke EFIKO's leg.

EFIKO

Ow! See, it's hurts

CHI

Hmmm.

Chi puts on his thinking face. Then begins to look around in  
the play box. And pulls out a toy, plastic chopped-up carrots.

CHI

Here, eat these carrots and  
your leg is feeling all~  
better.

EFIKO

These aren't carrots Chi.  
These are chips!

CHI

No, they're special  
carrots.

Chi hands the toy over to Efiko. Efiko pretends to eat the toy

36. (cont'd)

EFIKO

Nom nom.

Chi pokes Efikos leg again

CHI

See, all better.

EFIKO

No~ it still hurts.

Chi grabs his toy stethoscope and plays it against Efiko's chest. He listens. Efiko looks down at Chi, and he waits. It's starting to feel like forever.

Chi sits up, looking back down at Efiko's leg. His eyes shift.

### **37. EXT. PLAYGROUND CUBBY HOUSE - MORNING (2012 '6)**

The outside of the cubby house stands in the close corner of the playground. The sun shines down, making the house even brighter. All the tiny colorful doors and windows are shut—no one is going in. No one is going out.

This side of the playground is quiet, with only plants and small toy bikes lying around. Distant screaming and laughs echo throughout the rest of the school.

CHI (O.S.)

Does it hurt here? Your flower?

EFIKO (O.S.)

...Uh, I don't know.

CHI (O.S.)

It's ok. Take it off, and I can check.

37. (cont'd)

EFIKO (O.S.)

Check what?

CHI (O.S.)

You'll see, you'll feel all better.

Another 6-year-old runs past the cubby house.

CHI (O.S.)

I'm your doctor. You should listen to me.

Another taller figure passes the colorful cubby house—the same 6-year-old dragging one of the elementary teachers. The kid drags the teacher toward the other side of the playground.

*Zip.*

### **38. INT. CLASSROOM - NOON (2012 '6)**

The light beams into the cluttered classroom, showing off all the different colorful shows and drawings. MS. NAFIU is huddling all the children together. They all sit together on the rainbow carpet. AZI and EFIKO sit near each other, CHI also sits near but not close enough. Ms. Nafiu claps her hands together, and the children follow along.

MS. NAFIU

Alright, everyone, let's settle down.

Today we are gonna start something very fun... So boys and girls. Does anyone know what day it is?

GIRL 1

It's Monday!

38. (cont'd)

MS. NAFIU

It is. Good job, Ime. It is Monday but what else? Does anyone know? ... Well, today is Nigeria Day.

And to celebrate we will be doing a big project together.

You have to talk about your favorite thing in our country. You can tell a story. Or make a song. Or what animals live in Nigeria. Or plants.

Anything you like. Let's get started, everyone!

The class stands up as the teacher guides some students on what to do.

Chi turns over to look for Efiko. Through the small crowd of first graders. Azi and Efiko are talking. The room is too loud for the other kids' chatter for Chi to hear what they are saying. Azi

**39. INT. CLASSROOM - NOON (2012 '6)**

AZI and EFIKO sit on their tiny chairs. Azi is holding a small guitar, and Efiko lightly bangs on the tiny djembe drum.

CHI sits on the other side of the classroom, drawing different flowers. He looks up, noticing Azi and Efiko. He stares. He looks unsure of himself, out of place.

Chi grabs his drawing and stands up, takes his first step, and just then, MS. NAFIU taps Chi on the shoulder.

39. (cont'd)

MS. NAFIU

What are you doing, Chi?

She looks down to see his drawing.

MS. NAFIU

Wow! Did you draw that?

It's so pretty.

Ms. Nafiu lifts Chi's drawing up to get a closer look.

MS. NAFIU

Aww, those are my favorite  
flowers. Lilies right? Is  
that gonna be your big  
project?

Chi nods.

MS. NAFIU

Wow! All the flowers in  
Nigeria are very pretty. I  
can't wait to see it. But  
make sure you get someone  
else to help. Mmm... I know  
Efiko can draw very well.  
Maybe ask him to help.

Ms. Nafiu points over to where Efiko and Azi are. Chi's eyes follow Ms. Nafiu's finger. Chi turns back to face Ms. Nafiu, he nods again.

Chi begins to walk over. Azi looks up.

AZI

Hi Chi.

Efiko looks up to see Chi. Chi's eyes seemingly glisten when looking back at Efiko. Efiko's body language seems cautious of Chi.

39. (cont'd)

AZI

What's your project?

CHI

Flowers.

AZI

Oh! Me and Efiko are gonna  
make a song!

CHI

Oh, but I wanted Efiko to  
work with me.

Efiko still looks down. Unable to give his own opinion. Azi  
turns to Efiko.

AZI

I think Efiko wants to work  
with me.

Efiko slowly nods, Chi's face drops. He looks as if he just  
lost his favorite toy bear forever. His waterline fills, but  
he can't be seen as weak. Then Efiko will never want to be  
with him. He can't cry again. His head swells with heat and  
rage. Yelling is the only other option.

CHI

NO! HE'S WITH ME!

The whole class turns, making confusing comments. Efiko curls  
up even more so than before. Ms. Nafiu turns her attention to  
the fight.

AZI

We don't wanna work with  
you Chi!

She storms over.

39. (cont'd)

CHI

I HATE YOU!

She grabs Chi by the arm, dragging him out of the classroom. Efiko looks up at Chi to see the commotion he caused. Their eyes connect. For what might possibly be the last time.

Slam! The door shuts.

**40. INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON (2012 '6)**

Click. The door opens. CHI walks into the living room. In one hand, a rolled-up paper with colorful illustrations peaking out. And in the other, an array of different types of flowers.

Chi looks around, searching for something. The house seems more dusty than usual. More things are lying around, empty cups and plastic wrappers.

CHI

Amebo?

Chi wanders around the living room. He stands in front of the coffee table, noticing its mess—a few sticky notes filled with names, verses, and websites. Cigarettes left unfinished. An opened bible. He holds onto his drawings a little tighter. Something's off.

He hears his mother talking in her bedroom.

He listens to her angered tone, but it's all muffled. Unable to make out what she's actually saying.

He walks over to the beginning of the hallway. It's almost dark, the only lighting coming from the side of Chi's face reflecting from the living room's large sliding windows. He stands, hesitant. If he bothers her again, she'll get mad. Chi looks to his hallway, considering just retreating. The voice is getting louder. He looks back. He slowly loiters over.

**41. INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON (2012 '6)**

CHI makes his way to the doorway, peeking in, He looks down at the crack in the wooden floor panel careful not to trespass on his mom's territory. He moves his foot back that crossed that line. She told her never to come in here. Not an inch past the door frame.

MOM hunches over the desk of her wooden vanity, her head in her hand and the other holding her phone to her ear. She's aggravated over what's being said on the other line of the call. She sighs. Not taking notice of Chi's presence.

The vertical blinds are half shut, letting in the faintest of orange light but just enough to show the dust floating around. It's endless, never-ending. Chi fixates on it, the narrow, colorful rows of drifting partials.

She rotates her body to face the other way. She stands with her back against the vanity.

Grabbing something from the desk as she turns. Lifting it up. A golden cross necklace, slightly rusted. She dangles it from her fingers as she listens. She signs, placing her hand along the brim of the vanity with the necklace against the desk. The noise of the chain and pendant clash against the wood. She turns to lead on her right hip.

MOM

I know we can talk about it  
more when you're back home  
tonight. And I get that it  
would be nice to be  
somewhere safer, but would  
they have a church-

Her eyes lift and notice Chi. She's startled.

MOM

Jesus! ...God, Chi, what is  
it?

41. (cont'd)

CHI

Where is Amebo?

She rotates back around to the vanity. She grabs the cigarette package from the cluttered desk.

MOM

Oh, she's not here

CHI

She will be here tomorrow,  
right?

MOM

No Chi. She's gone.

Chi's head tilts. He doesn't get it. Mom stands up and

MOM

She's not gonna work here  
anymore.

Chi steps forward, catching Mom's attention. She removes her cigarette from her mouth, slamming her hand.

MOM

CHI!

He briskly jumped back before the doorway.

CHI

But I want her here.

She lifts her hand with the cigarette back up. Rest her elbow on top of her right hand wrapping around her waist. She watches the paper slowly burn up into ash. She sighs.

MOM

Not happening, Chi...

41. (cont'd)

CHI

I WANT HER HERE!

Mom snatches an empty vase throwing it in Chi's direction, smashing it into pieces. Chi quickly covers his face, dropping his flowers. The bundle unravels itself when coming into impact with the wood panels.

Shards scatter across the floor. Blending together with the flowers.

He lifts his head. Mom stood before Chi, her hands clenched. The light cigarette on the floor with ash scattered. They face each other. Silent. Chi stares at her in disbelief.

A pause-

MOM

...you devil, there's  
something in you...GET OUT!

Chi ducks and collects his loosely stringed-together flowers, before sprinting off to his room.

Mom storms over and slams her bedroom door.

#### **42. INT. CHI'S BEDROOM - EVENING (2012 '6)**

Harsh footsteps can be heard. The door handle turns. CHI runs into his bedroom. *Bang*. Slamming the door behind him.

Throwing his drawings and flowers on the floor.

He forcefully seated himself on the floor among the drawings and flowers. He attends his attention to his work. He gathers all his school supplies that his mom bought him earlier this year. He begins drawing on his posters, scribbling.

He lifts up a roll of tape, a strip dangling down. Trying to cut a part off with his safety scissors. The sticky side getting caught against the scissors, unable to cut through. He tries moving the scissors around, then pulling even more tape off, with that piece getting caught with the mess already.

42. (cont'd)

He crumbles up the tape with the scissors and tosses it aside.

Chi curls his tiny figure up into a ball, wrapping his knees with the opposite hand. He tucks his head in the small nestle between his chest and thighs.

A pause.

Chi lifts his head. Tilting and resting his head on his knees

His eyes drift over his supplies, the vibrant colors of the flowers lay in front of his vision. He stares, what is he thinking?

Chi let's go of his grasp of his knees, his hand slowly hovering over the array of flowers. Peacock flowers, ixoras, lilies- red spider lilies.

He hesitates. He looks down and holds onto his stomach, looking back at the flowers. What's the worst that can happen?

He softly picks up a small red lily. Twirling it around between his index and thumb, examining it carefully. He stares at each vein in each petal. He touches the top part of the anther, causing it to leave a small residue of red pollen on his finger.

He places the flower in his small mouth.

His face gives off a bitter expression. The pollen rubbing off his tongue. He's reluctant, but swallows.

He lays on his sides, resting his head on his palms. He rests. Without a thought, for once.

#### **43. INT. 11 LIVING ROOM/BASEMENT - AFTERNOON (2017 '11)**

The white walls reflect an orangey light from the sunset. Bending and turning in all different angles. Nudge into the corner of the room sits a red couch. Sitting on it just for one second could make you feel trapped.

All of a sudden chatter is heard from the other room. Above? Behind? Somewhere within the house, yet it sounds familiar.

43. (cont'd)

CHI (11) and EFIKO (11) walk into the room, Efiko taking the lead with Chi meticulously following behind. They're still friends? It was everything Chi hoped for.

CHI

Efi, you said you had that new game right? Hollow or something?

EFIKO

Uh-huh.

Efiko plops down on the couch with Chi trailing along.

A pause.

EFIKO

Did you see Imu today?

CHI

Yea? What about her?

EFIKO

You didn't notice? Dude she had the biggest hickey, probably did it to herself, no way Renzo actually did that to her.

CHI

Hickey?

EFIKO

Yea?

CHI

Wasn't that a bruise?

43. (cont'd)

EFIKO

That's what she wants you  
to think. Was 100% a  
hickey.

Chi stares back at him with an unsure expression, words unable  
to leave his mouth upon the topic.

EFIKO

What? Y'know what that is  
right?

Chi looks away. Unable to bear the embarrassment of Efiko  
knowing more than him. Efiko's shoulder's relaxed and he tilts  
his head down in shock.

EFIKO

Shut up, how do you not  
know this already?

CHI

I don't know man, I'm not  
weird like you.

EFIKO

Uh, I'm not weird! It's  
normal

Efiko shrugs Chi's accusation off and places his elbow on the  
couch's headrest. Chi crosses his arms.

CHI

Then why is it not normal  
when Imu has one?

While simultaneously talking to Efiko, Chi begins staring off  
into the corner of the room. His eyes fixated on the light  
beaming in.

43. (cont'd)

EFIKO

It is but it's- I don't  
know. Y'know I had a  
hickey, right?

Chi tilts his head back to Efiko astonished.

EFIKO

No one could really see it  
'cause I'm- y'know.

Efiko flicks his hands towards himself, indicating his skin  
tone. Chi looks back into the corner of the room.

EFIKO

Same thing for you  
probably.

Chi still dissociated, Efiko turns his head down trying to get  
Chi's attention, Efiko plops his back against the couch with a  
carefree attitude.

EFIKO

Not like you would know...

Chi snaps out of it, hitting Efiko in the stomach.

EFIKO

Ow! You bitch. What? You  
want one now huh?

CHI

Shut up.

EFIKO

Would be funny.

CHI

What?

43. (cont'd)

EFIKO

If I gave you a hickey.

CHI

You gay?

EFIKO

No way! Nah for real, it  
would be funny though.

Chi glances into Efiko's eyes. His face trembled with fear and curiosity. Shrugging his shoulder in a cool toon attitude, in an attempt to cover his vulnerability.

CHI

Shit, whatever.

EFIKO

Alright, alright chill, but  
ay I'm just teaching you so  
it ain't gay.

Efiko moves to place his hand on his neck and cup his cheek. Leaning his head just under Chi's chin.

CHI

Suree.

Chi rolls his eyes. Looking down at Efiko below him. Efiko pulls back to look back at him the same.

EFIKO

Bitch please you wish.

Efiko moving his head closer again Chi feels a sense of fear wash over him. What if he does want it? What if he does leave if he doesn't? He closes his eyes in an attempt to cleanse his thoughts, taking a deep breath of false confidence.

43. (cont'd)

EFIKO

Listen here, basically you  
just gotta like, bite and...

Suck. With a sensation Chi felt so familiar yet unfamiliar with, his body shifts itself back. His hands slowly feel hot and clammy, panic floods over his face. Efiko slides his hand over closer to Chi's cheek, rubbing his thumb over the crease of this lip. The music comes into view. His closes his eyes and-

**44. INT. CHI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (2012 '6)**

Chi lays on the floor, his unfinished project and flowers lay alongside with him. The moonlight beams over his face, he's still asleep. His face shows he looks like he's having a nightmare, or worse. He begins fidgeting in his sleep. Tossing and turning with a sign of agony on his face.

He opens his eyes, disorientated, he props his body up with his elbow, rubbing his eye. Looking around, he stares at the moon, as it looks back at him. Suddenly he grabs his stomach in pain. His face seems warm, and his lips are chapped. Again, the pain is getting worse, he wraps both arms around his stomach, beginning to rock back and forth. His eyes swell up with tears, he doesn't understand what's happening to him.

He looks down at his stomach, contemplating what he should do. He places his hand over his throat, trying to swallow. Maybe Mom was right. He whispers to himself.

CHI

There's something in me?

He shifts his weight to his hips. Holding himself up with his arm. To turn to the floor, while trying to get up he stares at the red spider lily placed on the floor. His eyes fix as he tries standing up. His hand stays over his stomach, holding it as if it were to fall out. Carefully waddling over to grab the door handle.

Click.

**45. INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT (2012 '6)**

Chi opens the door and stumbles out the hallway of his bedroom. An orange light from the other end highlights the sweat and pain on his small face. He leans his body against the wall, arm wrapped around his stomach. He looks up to the rest of the hallway.

CHI

(Whispering)

Amebo?

Coming from the living room we hear voices.

DAD (O.S.)

Chi? You're awake?

MOM (O.S.)

Don't talk to him.

DAD (O.S.)

What? He's our son. Chi?

MOM (O.S.)

Maduka.

Chi makes it to the end of the hallway. Staring at his parents having dinner, yet they don't look back. Dad's head facing down only looking at his food. Mom looks at Dad to check if he is doing just that.

**46. INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT (2012 '6)**

Chi grabs onto the kitchen countertop ledge. His small hands barely cover any surface. He makes his way to the utensil's draw. Using all this weak force to pull it open. He looks inside.

**47. INT. 17 SUPERMARKET - AFTERNOON (2024 '17)**

The aisles filled with colorful packaging, Chi (17) pushes the shopping cart. It's all slowed. His arms rest against the handles. Behind him, a black girl with red dyed hair skipping along the aisle with products in her hand. It's Cass.

She shows one of the products to him, he nods and puts it in the cart. She smiles and kisses him on the cheek. Something grabbing her attention towards the end of the aisle, she runs towards it. Chi watches her, longingly.

**48. INT. 17 KITCHEN - AFTERNOON (2024 '17)**

Chi and Cass (17) standing with each at the kitchen, helping one another with the small tasks of making their meal together. Cass puts on a white apron with blue dots, perfectly tied around the waist. She places a red apron on Chi's neck, seemingly too small for his body, they laugh. She ties a small bow at the back for him. Hugging from behind, Cass follows Chi every step.

Cass begins clearing up the utensils, bowls and ingredients. While chi begins finishing up cooking.

Cass sits up upon the kitchen counter top, passing the plates towards Chi to help serve up their dinner.

They sit together on the kitchen island. Chi turns to Cass, with food in his mouth. Pointing to the food he so carefully made for her, asking if she likes it. She nods intensely.

After finishing, Chi grabs their plates. Cass turns trying to take them from his hands. He lifts them up out of her reach, shaking his head. Her expression is both annoyed and grateful. She pulls his hand.

**49. INT. 11 LIVING ROOM/BASEMENT - AFTERNOON (2017 '11)**

Efiko's still kissing Chi's neck. Nothing but mosquitoes and vampires fill his mind. And her.

49. (cont'd)

He opens his eyes looking down at Efiko's hair covering almost all of Chi's sight. Stuttered breathing. Humidity. The music's rhythm following Efiko's.

Chi's lip quivering, his cautiousness careful enough as to not make any noise. What does he want? He hates this feeling, yet, can't come to hate Efiko for wanting it. Cherishing and trying to remember this moment for forever. A mental picture. It tingles while feeling numb simultaneously. Efiko's curls poking against Chi's warm cheeks. The pain swells and lingers more and more powerful. Running down the side of his face, a singular teardrop. And just like that-

CHI

Ow! Fuck man.

Chi shoves Efiko off him, placing his hand over the blood-filled bruise. Efiko places his hand on his cheek, rubbing it in. It was over.

EFIKO

God my cheeks hurt!

CHI

Why you do that for so long?

EFIKO

Whatcha you mean? It was like 24-ish seconds.

CHI

You counted? You weird as hell man.

EFIKO

Says you

CHI

You're the one to kiss my  
neck bitch.

EFIKO

(laughing)

Whatever.

Efiko lays back against the couch properly. He acts like nothing happened. Does he do this all the time? Chi with his hand still placed over his neck. Their eyes meet again.

Awkward silence.

Efiko looks away, looking around. Trying to come up with something to say.

Chi's eyes still linger over Efiko's face. He pauses, his eyesight becomes blurry with tears. Looking down and shutting them before it possibly escapes. He can't act this way in front of him.

Efiko, seemingly unaware of Chi's emotions right now, picks up and lifts the remote.

EFIKO

So, you said you wanted to  
play Void right?

Chi ignores Efiko. He can't just let it go. He remembers.

CHI

Can I... tell you something?

Efiko tilts his head. Softly looking up and down. His mouth opens. But there's silence.

## **50. INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT (2012 '6)**

The utensils click and clatter. Chi pulls out a butter knife. No bigger than 15cm. It's small, even in Chi's small hand.

Lowering it down, he looks up and out the window, the shiver and shiny reflection of the butter knife beams against the window into the black night sky.

50. (cont'd)

The water in his eyes reflects that very same light. His pupils are still. He inhales.

The reflection falls down to his cheeks. They unlock, shifting down, seeing what he's done.

A butter knife, sticking out his stomach. Just 5 cm below his belly button.

Mom and Dad turn their heads. Sticking their heads just over the countertop from the dining table.

DAD (O.S.)

Chi?

Chi's bloody hands hover around the knife's handle. He's careful not to touch it. She sighs at Chi's reluctance to answer. Mom stands up and walks around the kitchen island.

MOM (O.S.)

What do you want now Chi-

Her expression turns blank. Gaze widening. She covers her mouth and stomach. She looks ill. Like she can replicate the feeling of the knife within her.

MOM

Chi...

She turns her head slightly to the dinner table while keeping her eyes fixed on her.

MOM

Maduka!

Chi looks back at his mother as she yells. A small bloodstream from a small corner of his mouth dripped onto his shirt then ran down to the floor. Making his lips look like cracked rubies.

50. (cont'd)

Dad stands up and rushes over to Mom and Chi. He glances at Mom. Scurrying to grab and pick up Chi and rushing out the door with Mom panicking behind him. The door slams. Silence, after chaos.

**51. INT. 11 LIVING ROOM/BASEMENT - AFTERNOON (2017 '11)**

Chi pulls his feet up onto the couch. Wrapping his arm around his torso tight. His other arm begins to pick at his lip. The music swarms the scene, the soft echoed keys lining the walls.

Chi speaks with caution. Yet we can't hear him. His voice is somewhere lost in the tempo.

Chi mouths "I don't know if I should be telling you this."

Everything slows. Chi's talking. Efiko's shifts in his eyes. Even the dust in the air.

Chi mouths "But when you did what you just did then... I--"

His mouth stutters. Efiko nods, seemingly eager to listen. Just as much as we are.

Chi mouths "When I was 5 or 6, back when we first met. I think I was--"

Efiko's eyes narrow. Pausing.

He laughs.

Everything feels slower and slower.

Efiko gets up, leaving Chi all alone curled up on the couch. He watches him walk away. This is it. It's over.

**52. INT. CAR - NIGHT (2012 '6)**

The car door clicks open. Mom rushes in and sits in the backseat. She hastily yet consciously places Chi's head on her lap.

52. (cont'd)

MOM

Careful now. Hand him over.

His irises are almost fully black. Droplets of sweats cover his tiny face. Mom caresses his forehead. Turning her attention to Dad.

MOM

DRIVE!

Bang, the door slams shut.

Dad begins driving. It's pitch black outside. The only source of light being the orange-yellow tinted car light in the back seat.

Mom is praying over Chi's body. She holds her dainty cross necklace between her hands.

*Screech!*

The car shifts and leans to the right. Mom grabs onto the grab handles, making sure Chi doesn't slip away.

His lips are cracked and dried up with blood. Chi's short and shallow breath catches Mom's attention. He slowly opens his mouth. His voice is slow and staggered.

CHI

Ma-ma?

He slowly raises his hand. Mom grabs his small bloodstained hand. She holds it with both her hands, bringing it closer to her forehead.

CHI

It hurts. Above my flower.

She looks down where Chi's other hand is placed, on his stomach. She looks lower. She looks back at Chi's face. Her face is filled with confusion.

MOM

Your flower?

52. (cont'd)

Chi's eyes roll back. Mom screams frantically. Banging her hand against the driver's seat. Dad looks back to see what Mom is screaming for. His eyes are filled with panic, panning his head back and forth between the road and Chi. He's coughing.

**53. INT. 17      BEDROOM - AFTERNOON (2024 '17)**

Cass pulls towards her bedroom. It's filled with white walls and flowers.

She pulls Chi close, dancing around her room. They giggle together. She twirls in circles, pulling Chi onto the bed with her. There's something with her. Something unexplainable. Dust surrounds them. Pushing her head up against his. They say nothing. They don't need to say anything.

Cass rests her head against his chest. Moving her lips closer to his neck. Hysteria fills his waterline. He places his hand over her head and-

He pushes her.

She lies on the wooden floor, trying to sit up. What happened? He takes notice of Cass, pulling her back up on the bed comforting her. Apologizing over and over again.

CHI

I'm sorry.

**54. INT.    HOSPITAL - NIGHT (2012 '6)**

Montage of Chi on the stretcher in and out of consciousness. The bed is being pushed by a nurse and a doctor, alongside Mom holding her small stained hand laying upon his chest.

Black.

Chi's eyes slowly open, his eyelids seemingly heavy. Lifting his hand over the large ventilator being placed over his mouth. It's suffocating. His breath is unable to balance, trying to catch his breath. The sharp and shallow pain falls down and up his throat.

54. (cont'd)

Black.

He tries to move the mask off, with all zero strength he has. Mom removes his arm while the nurse places it back on properly. The harsh sterile lights flash upon Chi's body, reflecting the blood surrounding him.

Black.

He coughs, then coughs harder.

Blood covers the insides of the ventilators. The nurse removes the ventilators, trying to clean him up.

The beeping gets louder.

Blood running from his chest flows down to his weak collar bones.

Mom squeezes his hand tighter.

Chi looks up at the sterile lights.

There's dust.

He closes his eyes.

**55. INT. BEDROOM - AFTERNOON (2024 '17)**

Cass sits beside Chi, not saying anything. Not even looking him in the eye.

CHI

I'm really sorry. I didn't  
mean it.

She still looks away. He breathes in.

CHI

Look, Cass, I-

A beat.

55. (cont'd)

CHI

You don't have to believe  
me but...

She turns to Chi, curiosity fills her face.

CHI

I just never told anyone  
because I thought it was  
invalid because I could  
never prove it or anything  
but...

Another beat.

CHI

You have to know because of  
this shit I keep pulling.

She slowly places her hands over his leg.

CHI

When I was 5...

Cass looks at Chi with deep concern. Praying she's wrong about  
what he's about to say next. Tears fill her waterline.

CHI

My housemaid...

CHI

She, repeatedly-

CHI

(voice shaking and  
cracking.)

Raped me.

A beat.

55. (cont'd)

CHI

I'm sorry.

**THE END.**