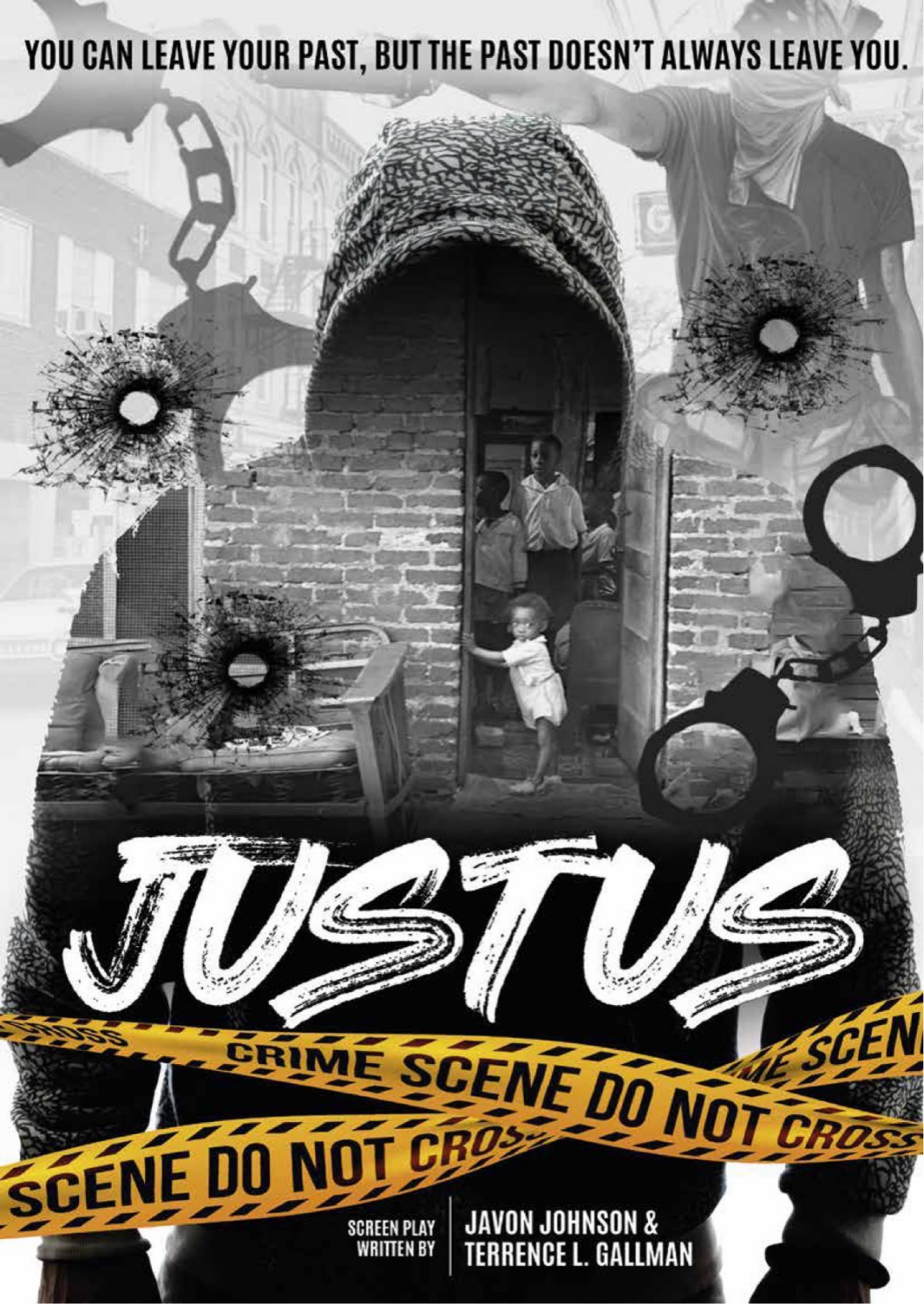


YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR PAST, BUT THE PAST DOESN'T ALWAYS LEAVE YOU.



JUSTUS

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

SCREEN PLAY
WRITTEN BY

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In the small town in the State of South Carolina, an innocent and hope-filled ambitious JUSTUS BELL is hurled into a traumatic world of sorrow the night DEVONTAE BELL, his mentor and older brother, is murdered and dies in his arms. What was once a thriving staple of inspiration for local aspiring artists and a respectable place of business for those who enjoy good entertainment and just want to have a good time, Devontae's Bar & Lounge is now a sad memory of that unsuspected violent night and all that Justus has lost. His will and heart broken, Justus resorts to flipping burgers and earning a minimum wage in order to support his girlfriend EVA JONES and their new baby girl, AVIS BELL. This is not the life Justus wanted but the pain of losing his brother has robbed him of his will to pursue more. That is, until his street-savvy coworker KHALIL JACKSON, instills in him a new hope, a new purpose and a new scheme to make the "streets" pay for what it took from Justus. In the name of honoring his deceased brother's life, Justus partners with Khalil and turns Devontae's Bar & Lounge into an uncover drug spot with intentions to save the lounge from foreclosure then get out of the drug game as quick as possible. There's only one problem, the drug game does not let you escape that easily. The money flows as fast as the trouble. Devontae never wanted to see his brother in the streets, dead or in jail and Justus ends up in two of them. Locked up, he battles with regret and fear and the shame of making careless decisions out of pain and desperation. His criminal plan to honor his brother's life has now destroyed his own. Feeling betrayed, his newlywed wife, Eva moves out of their new home to live a safer life with her mother EDNA and warns Justus to stay away from her and their precious daughter. Khalil convinces Justus to lay low so they can keep their operation going but this will be hard for Justus once he discovers his brother's killer has been lurking. Justus now must fight to get his brother's lounge back and to save his broken marriage and family all while trying to stay alive and out of jail.



JUSTUS BELL

Mid 20's. Abandoned by their mother and the absence of their unknown father, Justus' young ambitious mind is attached like a Siamese twin to his admiration for his older brother Devontae. Devontae's entrepreneurial light and guidance sets Justus on a path to survive the hood until his brother's life is fatally ended at the hand of two masked gunman. With a baby on the way and his brother gone, Justus' heart darkens with grief and hopelessness. His desire to make his brother proud and not become a product of his environment turns down a cold-hearted path of hustling drugs in the name of saving his brother's lounge and keeping his short-lived legacy alive. Guided by his newly befriended coworker Khalil, Justus dives heart first into a world of crime and deceit to make the streets pay for the life it stole. But his thirst for justice may cost him more than his brother's life. His own life, his freedom and his recent marriage to Eva and their innocent baby daughter Avis are all at risk.





KHALIL JACKSON

Mid 20's, a street-savvy hustler and a bit rough around the edges and tired of hustling on his own, Khalil quickly works his way from Justus' trainee at a local diner to his new business partner when he convinces Justus not to wait for the law to avenge his brother's death just as Khalil refuses to wait for the law to avenge the death of his father, also fatally shot down in the "streets". In the words of Khalil, "Someone has to pay." Sharing an all too common pain, the two decide to take justice and the legacy of Devontae's life into their own hands. The new business partners turn Devontae's well-respected Bar & Lounge into a drug trafficking spot in order to save it from foreclosure and falling into the hands of the city. Khalil's relentless pursuit of vengeance lights a fire in Justus unlike he has ever experienced before. Together they will make the streets pay for the lives it took or lose their own.



EVA JONES

24, Justus's baby momma and soon to be wife. She is a homegrown nurturing beauty who stands by her man as long as he gives her something to stand for. She is not lassy but believes in the benefits of hard and honest work. Eva wants the traditional family life full of love and security. She has invested all of that and trust into Justus and faces her biggest challenge with the man she loves deceives and puts his family in danger. Eva is always under the critical and judgmental eye of her mother Edna and wants to prove she can make her own life without her mother's controlling hand of approval.





MOMMA EDNA JONES

60's, Eva's overbearing and controlling mother. Since her husband's passing, Edna invests her full attention into Eva's life and what she feels is best for daughter and granddaughter. By far, she is no fan of Justus or any man for that matter when it comes to her daughter. She is a high brow uppity type who does not mind staying as far as she can from the hood.





DEVONTAE BELL

27, Justus' older brother and his soul caretaker since his mother's absence from their childhood life. Devontae put all his stock into Devontae's Bar & Lounge. As a business man, he prides himself in providing an opportunity for the people in his community to shine, have hope beyond the street life and have a good time without all the violence. Even more, Devontae does all he can to keep justus' mind off the streets and focused on hard work and not becoming a product of his environment. Unfortunately, devontae's life is cut short too soon leaving Justus to find his way on his own.





TONYA

30's, Justus and Devontae's mother. Life for Tonya has not been "no crystal stairs". She is a fading beauty worn by abuse and a toxic relationship. Conflicted with which way to go in her life she decides to abandon her own children.





DEMETRIUS "DOUGHBOY" DANTY

27, big in stature, Doughboy works as the security guard at Devontae's Bar & Lounge under Justus and Khalil's leadership. He is the muscle and down for making the "bread" however they need to.

