

Concrete Jungle Pilot Episode- Herstory In The Making

By

De'Angelo Young

EXT. NYC - BRIGHT DAY TIMES SQUARE

MONTAGE

Concrete jungle theme song plays

INT. NYC BAR - OPEN MIC NIGHT

REAGAN (23,, bold, fiery) stands on stage She lifts her head confidently and a Melodic note emits from her lips.

- The lights on NYC buildings turn on.
- Crowds of people travel to and fro on NYC streets.
- Raegan arrives in New York steps out of a Yellow Taxi
- Walks through NYC streets singing concrete jungle theme song
- Walks out of retail store with shopping bags and does a dance routine with Melody and Lexii

INT. ROBS DINER

Lexii Stone, 21, Bold, Shift Manager, Mr. Bobby's Daughter, taps Raegan on the shoulder

Lexii

Raegan! Raegan! C'mon Stop day-dreaming. Get back to work

she snaps out her daydream suddenly

RAEGAN

Oh snap my bad Lex

Mahki stops cleaning tables and approaches

MAHKI

Yo don't worry about Lexii she's been buggin ever since she got bumped up to shift manager, she lucky she's my cousin

The scene opens with a shot of an empty Diner on a late night. Workers are closing for the night. Raegan is behind the bar cleaning glasses at the end of her bar-tending shift. she hears a beat in her head and begins to sing softly to herself.

she suddenly glances at a wall and see's photos on the wall of iconic influential African Africans from Martin Luther king, Malcom x, Billie Holiday, Hattie McDaniel, Nat King Cole next to photo those photos she see's a man she doesn't recognize

RAEGAN

Yo Mr.Bobby who is that?

Raegan, Mahki and the rest of the staff stops working and gathers around a table.

BOBBY

Oh i'm glad you asked Sweetie, that's my grand daddy Robert Stone I, the founder of Rob's Diner. see this used to be a whites only Diner back in the 60's. He dreamed of being a chef so he came in this restaurant and begged for a job. they spit in his face and threw him out right out on his ass. But he believed in his dream until one day, as fate would have it the place went out of business. And he bought this place in 1965 been in the family ever since.

RAEGAN

That's an amazing story

Camera zooms in

BOBBY

Yep he never gave up, Always remember you can do anything you set your mind to, but I'm gonna head out. You kid's make sure you lock up good, i don't want none of these protesters getting into my establishment

LEXII

Good night Dad

Lexii walks over to Mahki and puts a broom in his hand

LEXII (CONT'D)

Mahki you're a bit too leisurely if you've got time to lean you've got time to clean! and Raegan take out the trash please thank you

They all get back to work but Raegan lingers a while and stares at the photos, the camera follows her as she walks outside and throws away trash in the dumpster outside. The camera gets a long shot of her walking home, down a dimly lit road alone

Time Card: Concrete Jungle

FADE OUT.

INT. RAEGAN'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Raegan is sitting in her living room, softly strumming her guitar and trying to write a song. Her roommate MELODY (19, Bi-Racial, energetic, creative, dancer) walks pass with a frying pan and a spatula

RAEGAN

Hey Mel what rhymes with breathin'

MELODY

I don't know, you're the song writer and I'm about to cook breakfast, you want some?

RAEGAN

I know, i have writers block and Mel you know you cant cook, yesterday it took you three hours to make minute rice

MELODY

Fine more for me, and for your information i can cook i just have my own style.

Raegan writes a lyric, strums again, sings aloud and then repeats. Mid-rift someone knocks on the door taking Raegan out of her concentration.

RAEGAN

Mel can you get that?

Melody walks to the door and opens it to find Mahki (22, African-American) standing in her doorway

MAHKI

Hey? Is Raegan home?

MELODY

Yes, i'm her roommate, whats up?

MAHKI

Yo you're madd beautiful raegan
didn't tel me she had a roommate.

MELODY

(bashfully)

Aww, stop.

MAHKI

No, I'm serious. If beauty were a
minute you would be an hour. And if
beauty were a flower you would be a
rose.

MELODY

That's really sweet, and you are?

MAHKI

Oh I'm Mahki Stone, "THE" Makhi
Stone, pretty sure you've heard of
me. I was the lead in the
critically acclaimed play 'Mama I
Burned The Chicken'

Melody shakes her head no

MAHKI (CONT'D)

What about "The Illusion of the
Slave"?

MELODY

Nope.

MAHKI

Well have you seen 'Black Panther'

MELODY

You were in Black panther!?

MAHKI

Well uh sort of i was way in the
background You couldn't see me
because i was protecting the
village from the colonizers

MELODY

Uuh okay

MAHKI

Well, I'm something of a celebrity
on the off-off broadway scene. Like
way off.
(laughs)

Just then Raegan steps to the door

INT. REAGAN AND MELODY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

RAEGAN

Mahki, what are you doing here?

MELODY

Well id love to stay and chat but i really have to get going, nice to meet you Mahki

Melody exits and Mahki stares as she walks away

RAEGAN

Okay put your eyes back in your head

MAHKI

Oh, sorry

RAEGAN

What do you want?

Mahki holds up a wallet

MAHKI

You left this at the Diner last night

RAEGAN

Oh my God thank you i thought i lost it, literally my whole life is in here

MAHKI

You gotta get yourself together

RAEGAN

Yeah i know, I've been all over the place ever since I moved to the city

MAHKI

Yeah understand its stressful moving to a new city, its a whole new world, but aye if you need anything just give me a holla okay?

RAEGAN

Most def

MAHKI

Aye your girl Melody? She single?

RAEGAN

Yeah why?

MAHKI

Hook a Brotha up!

RAEGAN

Boy! Get out of here, hook yourself
up

She closes the door on Mahki and walks in the kitchen and looks at the stove and realizes Melody left the stove on

RAEGAN (CONT'D)

Melody!! You left the stove on
again!! like I'm living with a 2
year old.

She grabs an apple and takes a bite. She walks toward Melody's room. As she walks up the stairs she can hear the music blasting from her bedroom. It gets louder and louder as she approaches. She steps to her bedroom door and finds it ajar she pushes it open slightly and watches momentarily as Melody dances beautifully to the beat of the music.

RAEGAN (CONT'D)

Girl! who taught you how to move
like that?

Melody turns down the music.

MELODY

I was born with rhythm...My mom
told me when she was pregnant with
me, I would kick every time she
played music. That's why she named
me, Melody.

Raegan looks at a picture of Melody and her mother.

RAEGAN

(Sits on her bed)

Aww that's beautiful, ya know you
never talk about your mom much,
does she live in New York?

MELODY

No, she died when i was 10.

Momentarily an awkward silence fills the air

RAEGAN

Oh sorry
 (tries to lighten the mood)
 So why are you looking so cute? You
 have a hot date or something

Melody sits at her vanity and starts to apply her makeup.

MELODY

I'm going to Joe's memorial
 service. He died the other day.

RAEGAN

Oh my God! Joe died?! Not
 Joe!...Who is Joe?

Melody opens her cosmetic case and gently applies make up

MELODY

The weird guy that cat called all
 the women that walked down the
 street.

Melody excitedly turns to Raegan.

MELODY (CONT'D)

You should come with me!

RAEGAN

Melody hell no, we didn't even know
 that man. Plus i'm trying to finish
 writing this song. by the way what
 rhymes with Breathin'

MELODY

Damn Rae you're still working on
 that song? Just come with me Brett
 invited me and he's kinda cute
 sooo..

RAEGAN

Ooh wow i see what this is about,
 can't the man be dead long enough
 before you hit on his son

MELODY

It happens. People die and other
 people come and flirt with their
 sons. It's the circle of life. Now
 get dressed.

RAEGAN

No, no I'm not getting involved in anymore of your shenanigans. Remember what happened with the guy at central park ?

MELODY

Oh, yeah...well at least he dropped the lawsuit!

RAEGAN

No, you're on your own this time. I'm not doin' it. No way. No how.

INT. JOE'S MEMORIAL SERVICE - AFTERNOON

Melody and Rae enter the room.

RAEGAN

I can't believe I'm doing this.

MELODY

Oh my gosh, there's Brett. He just looked at me. How do I look?

RAEGAN

Desperate.

MELODY

He's coming this way just act natural.

Melody and Reagan makes sad attempts to look as natural as possible BRETT (27, African-American, suave, conservative) makes his way across the room, towards Melody.

BRETT

Hey thank you for coming. How are you ladies?

RAEGAN

Very natural thank you.

MELODY

Umm, Brett this is my roommate, Raegan. She's an amazing singer

Raegan shakes Brett's hand. Raegan spots a food table and her eyes brighten.

RAEGAN

Nice to meet you, I'll just leave you two alone

Reagan awkwardly makes an exit...

Melody and Brett continue their conversation.

BRETT

Well, Melody I really can't thank you enough for coming. And if it is not too forward, I must say you look beautiful.

MELODY

(blushing)

oh thank you i just threw on something, no big deal, and It's no problem sorry for your loss, i was absolutely devastated when i heard the news, Joe was like a father to me and my friend Raegan

BRETT

Yeah it's devastating. my mom is not handling it too well

Shot of his mother crying over the urn

INT. FUNERAL PARLOR - BACK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

, SERENITY (24, African American, sarcastic, intelligent) approaches her.

SERENITY

Raegan Thomas!?

RAEGAN

Hey. Have we met?

SERENITY

Oh, no sorry. I'm Serenity Cordova I saw you from across the room and I couldn't tell if was you or not. I saw you perform at the hellcat palace, i think you're really talented, like your voice is so unique.

RAEGAN

Thank you so much!

SERENITY

I'm also a singer and a poet...Are you from around here?

RAEGAN

Thank you, no I just moved here from Georgia, i just recently got into the music scene here in new York, nice to know i have a fan already

SERENITY

Oh, what part of Georgia?

RAEGAN

Blakely, very small town.

SERENITY

Oh ok. Never heard of it.

SERENITY (CONT'D)

So, how do you know Joe?

RAEGAN

(in between bites)

Who?...Oh Joe, yeah Joe. Uuuhh, he was a really great guy really, going to miss him. Heaven has gained an angel. Right?

SERENITY

Heaven?! Ha! He was the biggest sleeze ball, I've ever met. He tried to sleep with me and every other woman in the neighborhood. The guy has a first class ticket to hell I'm just here to be nice

Raegan looks at Serenity like she is crazy.

CUT TO:

INT. FUNERAL PARLOR - FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Melody stares dreamily at Brett.

BRETT

Yeah, I was just with him the other day. I can't believe he is gone...

MELODY

Well that's life. Here one day gone the next.

Melody gently touches Brett's elbow.

MELODY (CONT'D)

If you need anyone to talk to or a shoulder to cry on, please feel free to reach out.

BRETT

Thank you. I appreciate that. We can exchange numbers

MELODY

That would be perfect.

Brett pulls out a business card and puts it in her hand

MELODY (CONT'D)

Umm, Can you excuse me one second?

Melody approaches Raegan.

INT. FUNERAL PARLOR - BACK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

MELODY

See God answered my prayers

RAEGAN

(gritted teeth)

Don't bring God into this, over there flirting with the dead mans son. God is not pleased

MELODY

(whispers back angrily)

God knows i'm single he wants us to be together

RAEGAN

Oh yeah sure..."I'm God and I would love to end world hunger but i have to make sure Melody has a date Friday night...Sorry Africa!"

MELODY

Yeah well i'm sure God's not pleased with that thing i saw in your dresser drawer....

RAEGAN

Shut up!.....and stay out of my room. Can we leave now? You said we would be in and out.

MELODY

Yeah, we can bounce. I'm creeped
out by the man's ashes just sitting
in the shelf

The two turn. As they begin to walk out, Brett steps up to
the podium and begins to speak.

INT. FUNERAL PARLOR - FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

BRETT

Hey, everyone. Thank you all for
coming, it really means a lot to
me. I don't want to keep you long
so At this time, we want to go
around the room and share memories
of my father.

RAEGAN

Oh God

Attendees begin to gather in the of the front room. Serenity
comes up front to read a poem that is way too long

BRETT

Thank you Serenity

SERENITY

Wait but i'm not finished...

BRETT

Its fine we all got the point

A man, FRANKIE (40s, White, surly) stands up from the pew and
begins to speak. Everyone turns to look at him.

FRANKIE

Well, uuh Joe owed me two hundred
dollars. And i need my money!
So, uh if anyone could pay on his
behalf that would be great...

BRETT

Sit down please.

Suddenly a mysterious woman comes from the back of the church

ROXANNE

Hi everyone my name is Roxanne
Davis, i just want to say that Joe
was a great man... and an amazing
lover.

(MORE)

ROXANNE (CONT'D)

He could go for hours and hours and
hours We'd make love all over his
house, the bedroom, the kitchen, we
destroyed a futon once

Suddenly, Joe's WIFE (60s, White very tall,) stands up.

WIFE

Wait? Who is this hussy?

ROXANNE

I'm his girlfriend who are you?

WIFE

I'm his wife

The whole room looks on in disbelief as the two women bicker.

FADE OUT.

INT. FUNERAL PARLOR - FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

BRETT

Listen, I know my Dad wasn't
perfect, but for God's sake the man
just died. He deserves some
respect. So is there anyone who
anything to say about my dad

Everyone raises their hand

BRETT (CONT'D)

Anything positive

The whole church puts their hands down

Melody leans over and whispers to Serenity

MELODY

Man this guy pissed off a lot of
people huh?

BRETT

Raegan, Melody told me my dad was
like a father to you. Can you come
up and say something please

Raegan gives melody a death stare and walks up front to the
podium

RAEGAN
(nervous)

Umm...Joe left us far too soon and
i don't have alot to say....so i'll
sing one of Joe's favorite songs

Reagan glances at the microphone beside her she then takes a deep breath clears her throat and begins to soulfully sing "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot". Melody Joins her and they harmonize together. The crowd claps along. Rae gets hype off the crowd. beautifully singing at the top of her lungs. Reagan then hits an incredibly high note and spins mid-air and hits Joe's urn and knocks Joe's ashes over. The whole church is shocked

RAEGAN (CONT'D)
Ya know what, i knew i shouldn't
have came

WIFE
Look what you did! you uncivilized
heathen!

BRETT
excuse me! were you raised by
circus bears?

MELODY
(embarrassed)
I'm so so sorry Brett, forgive her
she knows not what she does

BRETT
I think you and your buddy should
leave

MELODY
Wait...but

BRETT
Get out now, both of you, oh and
Melody please don't call me

QUICK CUT:

EXT. OUTSIDE STREET-EVENING

Door slams behind them

RAEGAN
(Puts her arm around Melody's
shoulder while eating the food she
put in her purse)
(MORE)

RAEGAN (CONT'D)
One day we're gonna look back on
all this and just laugh and
laugh...

MELODY
(pushes her arm aside)
.... ya know with friends like you
who needs enemies

She starts angrily walking down the street leaving Raegan
behind

Concrete Jungle theme song plays

RAEGAN
but hey! i found a word that
rhymes with breathin'...Heathen...
What? I can finally finish the
song!

Raegan hits a note and does a dance move

RAEGAN (CONT'D)
Hey Mel wait up!

Camera shows a shot of them walking away together fading away
slowly as they walk home getting lost in the busy streets

FADE OUT.

THE END.