

KISS FROM A ROSE

SCREENPLAY X

DE'ANGELO MAURICE YOUNG

## ACT I- A FIGHTING CHANCE

INT NEW YORK CITY HOME- NIGHT

A street musician walks onto a street corner and begins to play a beautiful melody on a violin as the credits begin to roll over shots of New York on a cold December Christmas night. The music engulfs the scene as the shots cut to Different iconic New York City locations a shot of Taxi cabs, a sea of people walking to and fro and trains wizzing by takes the audience on a journey into the world of the story

Time Card: Kiss from a Rose

opening scene of the movie begins with (Messiah Rose, young African American boy age 13) laying on his bed in his room writing in his notebook when his father (Josiah Rose African American man 5'10 stocky, unshaven age 33) wonders into his sons room with a cigarette hanging from his lips seemingly intoxicated with a pair of worn out red boxing gloves

JOSIAH

Messiah, your mom told me you got  
in trouble at school ?

MESSIAH

Yeah, I got into another fight at  
school today, mom said instead of  
fighting I need to write down my  
thoughts and feelings in a journal.  
I wrote this poem you wanna read?

JOSIAH

She said what? Give me this  
bullshit. Who do you think you are  
Langston Hughes or somebody

Josiah takes Messiah's book and rips it up and throws it away

JOSIAH (CONT'D)

I ain't raising no pussy, here put  
these on, these are my old boxing  
gloves. I won a city league  
championship with these. Since I  
cant fight no more I'm passing the  
torch

He reaches for the boxing gloves and puts them on Messiahs  
fists, Messiah poses in a fighter stance with his fists out

JOSIAH (CONT'D)  
 you're going to be a fighter just  
 like your pops. its in your blood,  
 now you're a man

Josiah gets up and heads out of the room he turns around as  
 messiah is still in his stance.

JOSIAH (CONT'D)  
 I don't know if you know this but  
 you aint the brightest bulb in the  
 box, you know what I'm saying? If  
 you wanna go some where you better  
 use your fists

Josiah exits, the shot zooms in on Messiahs as he stares at  
 his small fists inside these tattered worn out gloves while  
 in his fighting stance

CUT TO:

INT. FAMILY HOME

The scene opens with a shot of Messiah and his younger  
 brother (Alyx Rose age 8 African American) play fighting in  
 the living room while their Mother (Jaqueline Rose, 35 small  
 petite, religious) prepares dinner for Alyx's birthday.  
 Jaqueline is in the kitchen speaking with her sister Robin  
 Rose as she turns around and places a cake on the table along  
 with and a plate of Hamburgers and French fries

ROBIN  
 You shouldn't put up with this sis  
 he doesn't love you

JAQUELINE  
 I know Josiah loves me he's just  
 battling his own demons

ROBIN  
 If he loved you he wouldn't put  
 hands on you or take you through  
 all of this madness

JAQUELINE  
 He's just torn apart because he  
 can't fight anymore, you know after  
 he got knocked out in that fight he  
 suffered a head injury and the  
 doctor told him couldn't fight  
 anymore he's been drinking and  
 losing his mind lately.

(beat)  
 (MORE)

JAQUELINE (CONT'D)  
 When I met him he was a sweet soul  
 I just keep waiting for him to  
 change but.....

ROBIN  
 Girl he's a ticking time bomb  
 anything you say could set him off  
 so be careful but, I'm going to  
 leave now I dont want him to catch  
 me here and there be more problems

JAQUELINE  
 Okay sis thank you for stopping by

ROBIN  
 No problem girl if you need  
 anything I'm here for you

Jaqueline hugs her sister before Robin heads for the door

ROBIN (CONT'D)  
 Bye boys your auntie loves you,  
 happy birthday Alyx

MESSIAH  
 Bye! Auntie Robin

ALYX  
 Bye! Auntie Robin

JAQUELINE  
 Boys come eat  
 (beat)

Messiah cut that out, stop beating  
 up your brother, you better use  
 these responsibly or I'm going to  
 take these away, you here me? I  
 dont know why your daddy gave you  
 these old beat up gloves anyway

CUT TO:

INT: KITCHEN

JAQUELINE  
 Happy birthday Alyx, I'm so happy i  
 got Christmas baby

Alyx immediately starts eating the food like he hasn't eaten  
 in days

JAQUELINE (CONT'D)  
 Alyx put that food down boy we  
 haven't even said grace yet

ALYX

Sorry ma

JAQUELINE

As long as you live under my roof  
you're going to thank the lord  
every time you open your mouth to  
eat.

ALYX

Yes ma'am

JAQUELINE

Now Bow your heads

The boys both bow their head around the kitchen table as  
Jaqueline begins to pray

JAQUELINE (CONT'D)

Dear Lord...we thank you for the  
gift of this food, which nourishes  
our bodies we thank you for the  
gift of hard work and have faith  
that all our dreams and goals will  
be fulfilled with our perseverance.  
We are thankful for our wealth of  
blessings. Bless this food may it  
nourish our mind, body and souls  
within. Amen

MESSIAH

Thank you mama

They all begin to feast on the food in front of them

The family sits at the table eating in a good mood, when  
suddenly that mood is broken and a cloud of fear fills the  
air when they hear the sound of keys turning in the door way  
and a drunken man stumbles in (Josiah "Joe" Rose 33, African  
American 5'10 stocky unshaven) he slowly makes his way to the  
kitchen area and grabs a chunk of cake with his hand and  
takes a bite

JOSIAH

Whats happening?

JAQUELINE

Nice of you to join us, Its your  
son's birthday did you forget?

JOSIAH

Oh yeah I didn't forget happy  
birthday son how old are you now my  
boy 10? 11?

ALYX

I'm 8 dad

MESSIAH

Yeah, It's on the cake

JAQUELINE

Where have you been Joe you haven't  
been home in 3 days

JOSIAH

Ive been Out Jaqueline

JAQUELINE

Out where?

JOSIAH

Out handing business woman

JAQUELINE

Out where!? Your family is your  
business

Joe gets angry and raises his voice and bangs the table  
startling the boys he reaches over and grabs her hair yanking  
her head back violently

JOSIAH

Woman I said 'OUT' don't worry  
about where I've been I'm a grown  
damn man, I come and go when and  
where I damn please don't ever  
question me,

JAQUELINE

Messiah and Alyx go to your room  
please

MESSIAH

But ma...

JAQUELINE

Go now!  
(beat)

The 2 little boys run to their room quick as they can

JAQUELINE (CONT'D)

Joe I'm fed up with your crap and I'm sick and tired of being disrespected, you leave and don't show up for days at a time and half the time I don't know if you're dead or alive and when you do show up you show up smelling like alcohol I deserve better and the boys deserve better....

Joe jumps in Jaquelines face

JOSIAH

Deserve better? What the hell do you mean you deserve better? Don't you have clothes on your back, shoes on your feet You sitting up in my damn house eating cake and ice cream that i payed for you ungrateful bitch who do you think you're talking to, all i ve done for you and you're talking about you deserve better? You should be appreciative

JAQUELINE

Oh you want me to congratulate you for doing the bare minimum, I work, cook, clean, wash clothes, pick up the kids from school, pay the bills, all for you to run around and do God knows what with God knows who and come in here and put hands on me and walk around like you're king TUT, all im asking for is for you to take care of your responsibilities, and be a Man

JOSIAH

What?

JAQUELINE

(fear in her voice)  
I said be a man...

JOSIAH

I am a Man!

He slaps her across the chin as she stumbles on the counter and slides on the floor

JOSIAH (CONT'D)

God dammit, As a matter of fact  
since you think you deserve better  
how about you get out go find  
someone better

JAQUELINE

No Stop Josiah!

Joe grabs Jacqueline by her ankle and presedes to drag her  
out of the house by her feet as Jacqueline fights back. She  
musters the strength to kick Joe in the nose and runs towards  
the sink and pulls out a knife

CUT TO BEDROOM:MESSIAH AND ALYX LISTENING TO THE CHAOS

CUT TO:KITCHEN

JAQUELINE (CONT'D)

Now I said stop

JOSIAH

Oh so you're tough now? You wanna  
be tough? what are you going to do  
with that? you're going to stab me?  
do it, I dare you ?

JAQUELINE

If I have to I will! Now I want you  
to get out I ve had enough I want  
you to pack your stuff and get out  
we're through, you put your hands  
on me for the last time

JOSIAH

You kicking me out of my own house?  
This is my shit too

JAQUELINE

Yeah I want you out

Messiah and Alyx leave their room and walk towards their  
mothers side

JOSIAH

You know what, I'm leaving, but I'm  
taking my boys with me

JAQUELINE

No you're not

JOSIAH

Give me my son's, my sons want me  
(beat)



JOSIAH (CONT'D)

Come on Messiah and Alyx lets go!

Messiah and Alyx clutch on to their mother

JOSIAH (CONT'D)

Boys! did you hear what I said,  
listen to your daddy, lets go! I'm  
not going to tell you again

MESSIAH

No

JOSIAH

See what you did, you've turned my  
own kids against me

JAQUELINE

No you did!

JOSIAH

Its okay stay with her, ya'll aint  
nothing but little mistakes any way

JAQUELINE

Just leave Joe

JOSIAH

I'm gone, I got plenty women I dont  
have to deal with this shit

JAQUELINE

Well go have as many women as you  
want

JOSIAH

You aint gonna be shit with out me  
remember that, you're going to need  
me one day Jackie, remember that

Josiah stumbles to the door and walks out and slams the door.  
the camera cuts to Jaqueline holding the knife while Messiah  
and Alyx stand close by her side as she breaths a sigh of  
relief.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT: MESSIAHS ROOM- LATE NIGHT

Young Messiah walks picks up the old boxing gloves and puts them on his fists and makes a fighting stance and stares at himself in the mirror

DISSOLVE TO:

**ACT II - AGAPE**

10 years Later

INT. NEW YORK CITY BOXING GYM - EVENING

Messiah standing in front of a mirror in a locker room making the same boxing stance getting ready for a boxing exhibition when his younger brother alyx walks behind him

ALYX

You ready champ lets go get 'em

CUT TO:

Messiah is sitting in his corner ready for battle, he hears the bell ring and meets his opponent in the center of the ring, messiahs opponent comes out aggressive throwing blows but messiah ducks and throws a body shot that staggers his opponent, Messiah see's an opening and ko's his opponent with a right hook. the match is over as quickly as it started. Messiah's younger brother Alyx and his trainer ozzy are celebrating in his corner

CUT TO:

INT. NEW YORK CITY BOXING GYM OFFICE ROOM

Messiah and Alyx are collecting the money they won from their fight from the gym owner an older Italian man

GYM OWNER

20,40,60,80,100

MESSIAH

Is that it?

ALYX

What the hell is that? do we look stupid you saw all those people in the stands we pack this place every night I know we made more than that, the deal was for 300

GYM OWNER

Okay here's an extra hundred fifty  
you dont deserve it but ill pay you  
to get the hell out of my face, and  
Alyx take that money and buy some  
food you skinny little bastard

ALYX

Thats more like it, atleast I  
don't have a case of ligma

GYM OWNER

What the hell is ligma?

ALYX

Lig ma balls

The owner launches at alyx trying to fight, messiah breaks it  
up

CUT TO:

INT. LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD BAR-NIGHT

Messiah 23, Alyx 18, and Alyx's girlfriend (Phoenix Dela La  
Cruz, 21 hispanic smal petite female) are sitting in a booth  
having drinks celebrating messiahs win, people are coming up  
to messiah and giving him high fives

PHOENIX

Messiah they love you in here

ALYX

You see that man, knocked him out  
in two rounds! Two rounds! And look  
at the money we made, let's go!

PHOENIX

We? I didn't see you fight anybody

MESSIAH

Yeah and will you relax, all we got  
was 300 dollars

ALYX

This is more than 300 dollars, this  
is our future, today its 300  
dollars 5 years from now its 300  
million, look out the window, look  
how we live, we can make it out of  
the hood and you got the power to  
change that

ALYX (CONT'D)

Let me be your manger man I got  
style, the gift of Gab and I had  
your back, you see how that clown  
tried to stiff us for our money

MESSIAH

I dont know man, you gotta keep  
your nose clean

ALYX

What? my nose is clean, look at my  
nose

Alyx shows messiah his nostrils in a comical manner

ALYX (CONT'D)

Im good

MESSIAH

What do you think phoenix, should I  
let him be my manager?

PHOENIX

Yes, how could you deny this face

Phoenix leans over and kisses alyx on the cheek

MESSIAH

ight

ALYX

Lets go! We're going to take over  
the world you and me, we can be  
like dun king and Mike Tyson or dun  
king and Mohammad Ali, we're going  
to eat lightning and crap thunder!

MESSIAH

Stop before I change my mind!

ALYX

Okay my bad

ALYX (CONT'D)

Lets get another round, baby you  
want another round? hey bartender?

MESSIAH

Nah you know i don't drink

ALYX

C'mon just one drink you deserve  
it,  
stop being a square

MESSIAH

Nope plus i need to check on moms,  
I'm going to get out of here

ALYX

Yeah moms not doing too good, you  
need me to give you a ride home

MESSIAH

No I can walk

ALYX

You sure?

Messiah puts on his jacket gives his brother dap then hugs  
phoenix and walks out the door

DISSOLVE TO:

INT NEW YORK CITY FAMILY HOME- NIGHT

Messiah walking up the street, arriving home, he walks into  
the kitchen, The sound of a TV playing in another room and a  
cough from a woman can be heard in the background. Messiah  
looks in the Cabinets and grabs a bottle of pills and pours a  
glass of water in a glass he walks into his mothers room,  
Jaqueline Rose 45 is lying in bed very ill from stage 4  
cancer diagnosis, she starts coughing profusely, Messiah  
walks gingerly by her bedside and gives her water and her  
pills

JAQUELINE

Thank you son

Jaqueline sits up in bed and looks at the marks on Messiahs  
face

JAQUELINE (CONT'D)

Boy what in the world happened to  
your eye

MESSIAH

Ah ma its just a little bruise it  
ain't that bad

JAQUELINE

That aint a little bruise, looks  
like somebody beat you like you  
stole something, how did that  
happen?

MESSIAH

I had a match tonight, I knocked  
out this guy in the second round ma  
you should've seen me

JAQUELINE

Oh you won? Sure could've fooled me  
(beat)  
I just worry about you Messiah,  
down there boxing at that gym, but  
if it keeps you off these streets  
and doing something positive then  
follow your heart...I just pray you  
don't wind up like your father....

MESSIAH

I'll be fine ma don't worry about  
me and Dont even mention me in the  
same breathe as that man. I hate  
that clown, I'm making my own  
legacy

JAQUELINE

Hey don't you speak that way about  
your father, he may not be perfect  
and he made his fair share of  
mistakes but at the end of the day  
he is still your father, and you  
only get one. Holding on to anger  
is like drinking poison and  
expecting the other person to die

She abruptly begins to cough uncontrollably and Messiah  
reaches for her water and puts it to her lips as she sips the  
water

MESSIAH

You okay Mama ?

She takes the pills and drinks the water

JAQUELINE

No baby, mama's not okay, this  
cancer is kicking my behind, I'm in  
so much pain right now, looks like  
I've taken a turn for the worst

MESSIAH

Nah you'll be fine ma you just  
gotta keep fighting

JAQUELINE

I've been fighting this for 3 years  
but this time your Mama is tired of  
fighting. I'm not going back to  
chemo I cant take it any more

MESSIAH

What? you have to! how are you  
going to get better, you gotta keep  
pushing mama, never give up. thats  
what you always taught me and alyx  
practice what you preach

JAQUELINE

Messiah.....the Doctor said I'm not  
going to get any better, I have  
stage four breast cancer, all it  
does is delays the inevitable and  
prolongs my suffering.

Messiah becomes emotional and grabs her hand

MESSIAH

But I'm not ready for you to leave  
I need you here, Alyx needs you  
here, I don't know what i'd do  
without you

JAQUELINE

I know son, lord knows I wish I had  
more time on this earth, but I  
serve a God that doest make  
mistakes and I'm in God's hands,  
Ill be okay, I promise, you and  
your brother will be fine. I raised  
2 beautiful and strong young men, I  
know its going to be hard, but  
you've gotta be strong okay?

MESSIAH

Okay Mama

JAQUELINE

And when I leave just promise me  
you'll take care of your brother,  
because lord knows that boy is  
always into something

MESSIAH

Yeah I know, I told him he could be  
my manger maybe that it will keep  
out of trouble

JAQUELINE

Oh God, good luck

They share a laugh before she sips more of her water

JAQUELINE (CONT'D)

Agape son

MESSIAH

Agape mama

JAQUELINE

But if you love me then let me go  
son, just let me go, I fought a  
good fight but its time for me to  
leave

Messiah starts to cry, Jaquiline tilts his chin up

JAQUELINE (CONT'D)

Boy, hold your head up! You'll be  
fine. You've got greatness in you,  
my first born child, I knew you  
were going to be special when you  
were born, thats why I name you  
Messiah

Messiah and Jacqueline give each other a lingering hug  
Messiah gives his mother a kiss on the cheek before letting  
go

JAQUELINE (CONT'D)

Goodnight

Messiah then slowly exits the room.

The camera shoots a downward shot of Jacqueline as she lays  
in bed and stares at the ceiling. She reaches her hand over  
and turns off the lamp and the screen goes dark

DISSOLVE TO:



EXT. CEMETERY-EARLY MORNING-GLOOMY OVER CAST

Messiah and Alyx walk into a cemetery where their mom is laid to rest, dressed in black and white suit and ties they both carry bouquets of bright red roses solemnly to her grave. Messiah walks up first to his mothers grave and places a bouquet of red roses on her grave and speaks

MESSIAH

Man, I can't believe you're not here any more. words can't describe how much I miss you ma. And its more so the little things you know? the sound of your voice, the way the way you would sing every time you cook or the way your knees would pop every time you walked. I promise you, you did not live in vein, you did not live in vein, I promise we're going to make you proud. I promise

Alyx walks forth and places his bouquet of roses on her grave and begins to speak

ALYX

Hey ma its definitely hard to say goodbye but I know you're in a better place, no more pain and no more suffering. No more sickness And I know you stayed on me about staying out of trouble and I'm trying. I got a couple charges pending but I'm gonna be ight. I guess its true what they say there's nothing like a mother love because right or wrong you always went to war for me you were by my sided thought thick and thin..and that's irreplaceable

He steps back and lets messiah say more

MESSIAH

I remember you told me I need always write down how I feel and I never stopped doing it. I wrote this poem for you.

Messiah pulls out a poem from his pocket and begins to read the poem he wrote for her. as he is reading Josiah steps beside them and places flowers on her grave. he is older and grayer but appears to be more clean and put together.

The two brothers pause in shock as they see their father for the first time in years

ALYX

What the hell are you doing here,

JOSIAH

I come to put flowers on Jackies grave and I know I have some explaining to do.

ALYX

Damn straight, man we haven't seen you in almost 10 years

JOSIAH

Its good to see you two again and I know me and your mother had our issues but we still loved each other till the end. She was my first love and that will never change.

MESSIAH

Well if you loved her so much how come I never heard you say it? How come you walked out on us and never came back? How come you use to come home drunk and high and beat on her how come me and alyx had to listen to her cry her self to sleep every night because of you. You dont love her you don't love us, you only love yourself

JOSIAH

I know I didn't do right by you or your mother and I regret that every waking day of my life. Jackie was a very special person and I failed her and I failed you but I cant go back in time and fix anything and understand you hate me but it wont bring your mother back

ALYX

Do you know how much pain you caused her she didn't deserve that, and its not fair! why did she have to leave I honestly sometimes wish it was you not her.

JOSIAH

Look you have to trust me Im better now. Im off the drugs and not chasing different women ever night, in fact I recently became a minister. Im not who I use to be. I promise

ALYX

Oh you're a mister now? Thats well and good, I'm glad God has forgiven you but I'm just not ready. Not now not at this moment. I'm hurting man, we hurting

MESSIAH

We'd appreciate it if you left man, we just need to heal alright

JOSIAH

I realize its bad time and you have a right to be upset but I'm asking you to forgive me, not for me, but for yourselves and for your mother i know thats what she would have wanted

Josiah walks away from them and leaves the cemetery

FADE OUT.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREETS-EVENING

The scene opens with 18 year old Alyx Rose standing outside a bodega in a dark hoodie and sweat pants, he stands on the street corner playing dice and talking with his friends and carefully observing his surroundings. Suddenly a blue Jeep Cherokee pulls up on the corner with 2 gentlemen in the vehicle one in the passenger seat and one in the drivers seat, while suspicious Alyx lowers his guard when one gentlemen pulls down his window and calls his name, he obviously recognizes the passengers from a prior meeting

GENTLEMAN 1

YO Alyx! It's me!

Alyx walks up to the car and gets in the back seat

ALYX

Oh man whats up? Yo my bad i almost didn't recognize ya'll, i have to be careful, you know the cops are learking

GENTLEMAN 2

C'mon do we look like the cops to you? Do you have what we need or what?

ALYX

Of course i have everything you need homie

Alyx grabs his backpack and pulls out a bag of what appears to be drugs and hands it to the gentleman in the front seat

GENTLEMAN 2

Oh yeah this is what i'm talking about

ALYX

Yeah the best quality my G, you cant find anything that pure at that price

the two gentleman briefly analyze the contents of the bag, the gentlemen in the drivers seat then turns around and reveals his police badge

GENTLEMAN 1

NYPD you're under arrest for possession of a controlled substance.....

ALYX

Damn! Ya'll set me up

Alyx opens the door and takes off running with the undercover officer's in hot pursuit, he runs for two blocks dodging traffic and leaping over trash cans before tripping and falling and being quickly nabbed and violently shoved against a wall

ALYX (CONT'D)

Okay, okay you got me you're gonna break my arm yo

GENTLEMAN 2

(out of breathe)

Shut up little punk you're lucky i didnt put a bullet through your back. i'm too old for this shit you're under arrest for possession of a controlled substance

GENTLEMAN 1

and now you can add evading police officer, lets go!

The two gentlemen begin to walk Alyx to the squad car

FADE OUT/FADE IN

INT. PAROLE HEARING ROOM - DAY

Alyx walks into a small room with his lawyer and sits on a steel chair, trying not to slouch. His hands folded on his lap at full attention

MAN #1 (O.S.)

In the case of Alyx Rose. Age 18 we see you've served 3 months of a 1 three year sentence at the Manhattan detention complex. Is that correct?

ALYX

Yes, sir.

Across from Alyx and his attorney (Malissa Banks caucasian female 38) two MEN and a WOMAN seated behind a desk. Folders open before them. MAN #1 looks up from a much younger photo of Alyx inside the folder.

WOMAN

do you feel you have been rehabilitated?

ALYX

Yes Ma'am I have

MRS. BANKS

And if I may interject ma'am Alyx was dealt a bad hand, being raised by a struggling single mother after his father walked out on the family when he was 8 years old in quite frankly one of the worst crime infested neighborhoods in New York city making him susceptible to bad influences and despite that he has received his Diploma early while incarcerated and has shown a continued growth and by all accounts. has been well behaved and proved he has learned from his mistakes and deserves parole

ALYX

Mrs. Banks with all do respect I  
 dont care to hear some sad story  
 because frankly its no excuse,  
 regardless of his circumstances or  
 where he came from it doesn't give  
 him a license to become a criminal  
 , I'm looking at his rap sheet and  
 its quite lengthy, there's drug  
 possession, assault, theft....

(Beat)

MRS. BANKS

Sir! I disagree...

She is cut off by the other judge

MAN #1

... thank you Mrs. Banks,  
 (beat)

Man #1 shuts the folder.

WOMAN

I see your high school test school  
 scores and You are a very smart  
 young man, Mr. Rose. There isn't  
 any doubt about that. Our concern  
 is, whether you'll be able to  
 readjust to society

MAN #2

Yes you see mr. Rose we see so many  
 young men like you get in trouble  
 at a young age and they get trapped  
 in a cycle, how can we be sure we  
 won't be seeing you again

MRS. BANKS

Sir I think with what Alyx has  
 accomplished and being this was a  
 non violet offense may i add, I  
 think he has shown he is not a  
 threat to neither himself or  
 society and deserves to be paroled

MAN #1

What you did Mr. Rose was a very  
 serious offense before we make our  
 decision do you have anything else  
 you'd like to say or anything we  
 should take into consideration  
 before we deliberate

Alyx slowly pulls the mic to his chin

ALYX

Well I think my attorney Mrs. banks  
said it very elegantly, and I think  
I have shown that I have matured  
and that I've learned from my  
mistakes, what I did was wrong but  
I think I deserve another chance  
...and sir I heard you a second ago  
say you don't care about my  
circumstances...but you see sir,  
when a flower doesn't bloom  
correctly, we never get upset with  
the flower, we don't curse the  
seed, we always look at its  
environment. And we question what  
is wrong with its environment? the  
flower is never the problem we have  
to look deeper. and in that same  
vein why am I condemned for the  
environment I came from and the  
circumstances I was born into....

Alyx begins to tear up as the room is moved by his statement,  
the three parole judges look at each other and speaks softly

-close up shot of one of the judges hand stamping "Approved"  
on Alyx's file, he is paroled

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY HOME- EARLY MORNING

The shot cuts to shots of New York City then zooms in on  
Messiah Rose as his alarm clock goes off and he hops out of  
bed and does push ups, sit ups and pull ups then walks over  
to where his brother Alyx Rose is sleeping next to his  
girlfriend (Phoenix Dela La cruz, 21) peacefully as the early  
morning sun light glides between his curtain and touches his  
forehead. The camera pans around the apartment showing boxing  
trophies metals and boxing attire and a picture of his late  
mother, before settling on a close up shot of Messiah Rose  
bursts into his room with a pot and a big spoon banging  
dishes together

MESSIAH

Yo Alyx, wake yo ass up, jail bird,  
we got work to do

ALYX

Man, i thought i locked my door

MESSIAH

You know nothing works around this  
raggedy ass apartment, including yo  
ass, now lets go!

Alyx climbs out of bed groggily and walks over to a mirror  
and stares momentarily. Suddenly Phoenix feeling ill hops up  
all at once and runs to the bathroom and throws up, alyx  
follows behind

ALYX

Yo you good?

Head over the toilet she continues throwing up she eventually  
lifts her head to speak to Alyx

PHOENIX

Yeah i'm fine

ALYX

You sure you don't look fine

PHOENIX

I'm good Alyx, just get me some  
water please

-Alyx jogs quickly to grab a glass of water and hand it to  
phoenix

-a quick montage shows Messiah and Alyx getting ready for the  
day, walking around in an unkept apartment revealing the two  
brothers live together struggling barely making ends meet

CUT TO:

-Alyx stares in a mirror grabs a g//4un and put in his waist  
ban, walks into the living room and flips a couch cushion and  
takes a wad of cash and counts it before suspiciously  
counting it and placing it in his pocket

CUT TO:

-Messiah eventually walks to the refrigerator with barely any  
food inside and grabs some eggs, he cracks them and pours the  
raw eggs in a cup as if he is about to drink it like a cliché  
boxing montage, but changes his mind and throws the eggs in a  
frying pan and watches it sizzle as he begins to prepare  
breakfast

DISSOLVE TO:



Messiah sits a plate of breakfast on the kitchen table as the 2 brothers sit down to eat. Immediately Alyx plops down in his chair and starts eating, Messiah slaps his head

MESSIAH

What are doing fool, can I say  
grace first

ALYX

dang my bad, you don't have to slap  
me

MESSIAH

I know mama taught you better than  
that

The 2 brothers bow their heads and grab hands around the small kitchen table as Messiah begins to say grace

MESSIAH (CONT'D)

lord...we thank you for the gift of  
this food, which nourishes our  
bodies we thank you for the gift of  
hard work and have faith that all  
our dreams and goals will be  
fulfilled with our perseverance. We  
are thankful for our wealth of  
blessings. Bless this food may it  
nourish our mind, body and souls  
within. Amen

ALYX

Amen!

The 2 brothers grab their forks and chow down on the food when Phoenix walks in the kitchen

PHOENIX

Something smells good what's  
cooking

ALYX

Turkey bacon, Turkey Sausage and  
scrambled eggs sit down and eat  
with us

PHOENIX

nah I cant sit down I gotta run

MESSIAH

Run? Run where? I just heard you  
throwing up your guts in there, you  
need to run to a doctor

PHOENIX

I gotta run to work messiah, and  
like I told your brother, I am fine  
just a little stomach bug probably  
something I ate I feel better now

ALYX

Yeah she's good bro, relax

Phoenix grabs a sausage and takes a bite

PHOENIX

Mmm good...alright boys I'm gone  
see you tonight, oh Alyx can I  
drive your car to work

ALYX

Nope, but here's 2.75 for the train

PHOENIX

What? I get off late tonight and  
you know the train isn't safe at  
night in this neighborhood

Messiah tosses her the keys

ALYX

Return it how you found it

PHOENIX

Thanks babe

She gives Alyx a kiss and runs out the door

MESSIAH

Bro, Phoenix is pregnant

ALYX

What? Get outta here that girl aint  
pregnant you trippin. It's  
literally impossible

MESSIAH

How?

ALYX

I use protection

MESSIAH

SO!

MESSIAH (CONT'D)

Nah man I'm telling you I think  
phoenix is carrying, you don't see  
it? the morning sickness, all the  
weird cravings she's been having  
(beat)

MESSIAH (CONT'D)

I mean last night I came in the  
kitchen and I caught her eating a  
peanut butter and pickle sandwich

ALYX

First of all Peanut butter and  
pickle sandwiches are the bomb  
nigga

MESSIAH

Really?

ALYX

you don't know what you're talking  
about, who do you think you are  
Doctor Oz?

MESSIAH

I know I'm not a doctor but I got  
common sense, but whatever man. do  
you. just better be careful you  
cant afford a kid, can't even take  
care of your damn self

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREETS-MORNING

- quick shots of homeless people, trash in the street and the  
broken neighborhood around them

Messiah jogs down the stairs of his brown stone throwing jabs  
into the wind, shadow boxing down the street. Alyx closes the  
door and walks down the brown stone right behind him

MESSIAH

What are you going to do with  
yourself?

ALYX

What do you mean?

MESSIAH

What do I mean? You just got  
paroled a month ago and you still  
dont have a job you need to figure  
out what you're gonna do with your  
life son

ALYX

I'm jus taking my time, you know  
trying to figure it out...

MESSIAH

Taking your time? Boy that's what  
rich people do, poor people don't  
have the luxury to sit around and  
figure out life we gotta keep our  
feet moving, get out here and get  
it .....idle mind is the devils  
playground

ALYX

I hear you man but honestly I'm  
trying you know the white man  
holding a brother down

MESSIAH

Ah dont use that white man holding  
a brother down card if a black man  
can become president of the united  
states we dont have any excuse not  
to be something, we can anything we  
set our minds to, you feel me?

Messiah throws his arm around Alyx's shoulder as they walk  
and cross the street.

ALYX

I know that bro, that's why I'm  
your manager now, and ya know, I  
think I know what I want to do

MESSIAH

And what is that? Get on my nerves  
every day

ALYX

Nah besides that, I'm going to be a  
fighter like my big bro

As they are walking along the side walk messiah stops walking  
mid conversation and starts dancing and throwing blows in the  
wind

ALYX (CONT'D)

I've been copying your moves in the ring man and I think I can be like you...no scratch that I can be BETTER than you

MESSIAH

No, No, No...listen I fight, so you don't have to, do something with your life start a business, go to college or something

ALYX

Man College? I ain't thinking about no college, none of my homies are goin to college, you talking about college?

MESSIAH

Thats what mom would have wanted, she used to always talk about her boys going to college, at least one of us can make her proud ya know?

ALYX

Yeah I remember that  
(beat)

ALYX (CONT'D)

man I miss her, things are sure going to be different with out her around huh?

MESSIAH

Yeah she's not around to support us, or give us advice, or bell you out of trouble so its time to grow up, we men now

Long shot show them getting on a train, then the doors close takes off

CUT TO:

INT. BOXING GYM-MORNING

Messiah and Alyx walk into the gym and are greeted by messiahs trainer Ozzy Wilson (65 grey haired, wise, old man former boxer)

OZZY

Messiah you're late

MESSIAH

What are you talking about you said  
be here at 9, its 9 we're on time

OZZY

Thats the problem, you're on time  
thats why you're late, you should  
beat me here, do you want to be  
average or do you want to be great?

MESSIAH

I want to be great

OZZY

Well act like it dammit

DISSOLVE TO:

Messiah is in the ring sparring with a partner while his  
brother is cheering him on and Ozzy coaches him up, the two  
opponents go back and forth messiah's opponent is getting the  
best of him, his opponent is exposing his weakness, messiah  
gets knocked down and Ozzy stops the fight

OZZY (CONT'D)

What are you doing messiah, you're  
going to get yourself killed,  
you're trying to brawl, you're not  
a brawler, you're too small you  
gotta use your head. Boxing is like  
chess, you have to out think him,  
pick your punches to take him down,  
head-body. Hit him in the head when  
his hands go up, hit him in the  
body, when he covers his body you  
aim at his head. You're fighting  
like a silver back gorilla

They begin to fight again this time messiah gets the better  
of his opponent

ALYX

Boom! lets go! Lets go!

Thats when Alyx get a call on his cell phone that reads Kayne  
on the caller ID

ALYX (CONT'D)

Hello....cool, aye yo Ill be right  
back

Alyx walks out of the gym and hops in the back seat of a  
black SUV and sits next to Kayne Williams (5'6 Mafia crime  
boss, nice dressed, gangster)

KAYNE

Whats happening my brother?  
Everything good?

ALYX

Yeah everything

KAYNE

Hows the family? Family good? Sorry  
about your moms

ALYX

Its good thank you

KAYNE

Cool, you know we still got  
business though right, you got a  
lot of unpaid debts you know, I  
need you to make a drop for me  
tonight can I trust you

ALYX

Ofcourse I'm your guy

KAYNE

Okay come by my place later, we  
have a meeting so we can handle  
business

KAYNE (CONT'D)

and your brothers a bad boy, won me  
a lot of money the other night

ALYX

Oh yeah he's a bad boy

Kayne reaches in his pocket and pulls out a few hundred  
dollars

KAYNE

Heres something for your trouble,  
lot more coming if you keep working  
for me. Don't tell your brother I  
gave it to you. I Know he dont like  
me too much

ALYX

Thanks

Alyx hops out of the car as he is getting out Messiah is  
leaving the gym and spots him

MESSIAH

What the hell are you doing?

ALYX

Nothing just talking to Kayne

MESSIAH

Kayne is the biggest gangster in the city you aint got nothing to discuss with that guy

ALYX

No he's a good dude we were just chopping it up about this new charity he about to start and look he told me to give you this

MESSIAH

Do i look stupid to you, He aint starting no damn charity Man, and as a matter of fact i dont want you talking with that guy we dont need to be getting mixed up with this dude ight? Remember what I told you keep your nose clean, I'm trusting you

ALYX

Okay, Im good, I promise

MESSIAH

Okay, I'm going to work I'll catch you later

The two brother give dap and go their separate ways

FADE OUT.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK EVENING

Messiah is walking in the park on his freelance photography gig in a sweat suit with a duffle bag around his shoulder the camera shows him strolling through the park taking in the beautiful scenery. bikes ride past him, children play around him, people jogging to and fro,

CUT TO THE 2 GIRLS:

(IVORY JACKSON, 24 AFRICAN AMERICAN 5'4, ELEGANT curly hair, ARTISTIC, WITH A flowery SUNDRESS TALKING WITH HER FRIEND (Journey Simpson, 27 African AMERICAN 5'6, ARTISTIC wearing a pink silk shirt and white bell bottoms)they are at a food cart getting hot dogs they turn and walk towards the nearest bench and have a seat as they enjoy the AMBIANCE



IVORY

God it just feels so good to just  
relax for a little while, I work so  
much sometimes I forget to just..BE

JOURNEY

I know! you need to slow down, get  
out more, i know you're an artist  
but there comes a time when you  
just need to stop creating and  
just.....exist

IVORY

I know I just work so hard, because  
I just...I cant escape this nagging  
feeling that maybe I'm not doing  
enough that I should be further  
along in life, I don't know...

CUT TO ALYX:

Messiah takes out his camera and starts taking pictures  
capturing everything around him. Messiah picks up his camera  
slowly and looks through his lens and spots a beautiful  
vibrant young lady and her friend talking. He becomes  
captivated by her elegance and begins to capture a few photos

ALYX

Wow

CUT TO THE 2 GIRLS:

JOURNEY

That's human instinct we always  
work to achieve more and more and  
we never are satisfied, the best  
solution is to just be content with  
where you are, and stop stressing  
and just live, I mean...when was  
the last time you went on a date.  
for crying out loud

IVORY

I haven't dated since me and Marcus  
broke up

JOURNEY

That was 1 year ago ? Girl there's  
3 million men in New York

IVORY

Okay see first of all calm down  
second of all, thats an anomaly if  
you narrow it down, see a third of  
the men in New York are homeless,  
crazy, married or unemployed

JOURNEY

true

beat of silence as ivory picks up her bag and takes out her  
poetry book and starts to read. she lifts her eyes up  
momentarily, noticing Messiah staring and capturing photos

IVORY

What the? Hey, Is it me or is that  
guy staring at us super hard

JOURNEY

Who? Where?

IVORY

There, with the camera, its just  
rude. let me go talk to him. ill be  
right back, you just have to put  
some people in check

JOURNEY

Girl stop he could be crazy or  
something

IVORY

... ill be right back

JOURNEY

Okay then, you need my pepper  
spray?

IVORY

Girl no

Ivory walks across a patch of grass through a group of people  
sitting in the park looking very annoyed, Messiah see's her  
coming and acts as if he did not see her, continuing to  
capture pictures in a different direction.

IVORY (CONT'D)

Umm excuse me sir what are you  
doing?

MESSIAH

Excuse me?

IVORY

I said what are you doing?

MESSIAH

Ummm nothing just minding my bee's wax

IVORY

Well I just saw quite the contrary

MESSIAH

(Mocking tone)

Well don't get all persnickety with me. I'm out here in this free country, on this beautiful day taking pictures on MY camera, so if you just so happen to be in some of them its not the end the world, I promise

IVORY

Well they are MY pictures and I want you to delete them, Now!

MESSIAH

You've got some nerve, how are you going to tell me what to do with my camera

Ivory folds her arms and stands firm

IVORY

Well i just did and i'm not going anywhere until you delete them, you could be a perve, I don't know who you are or what you're going to do with them

MESSIAH

Yo you're insane

Messiah turns and walks away

(Beat )

(Beat)

IVORY

Well can I atleast see them

(beat)

ALYX

I'm sorry?

IVORY

Let me see the pictures? I wanna  
see the pictures, dang

MESSIAH

Yeah sure

Alyx walks next to Ivory and shows her the photos he took on  
his camera

IVORY

Oh wow! these are really nice,  
insane depth of field

MESSIAH

Thank you, I'm Messiah ....but  
everybody calls me "SY"

IVORY

Ivory....

They gently shake hands

IVORY (CONT'D)

are you like a professional  
photographer?

MESSIAH

Yeah i guess technically, just a  
hobby i picked up, and turned it  
into a side hustle

IVORY

You should consider it as a full  
time career

MESSIAH

So I've been told

IVORY

so what do you actually do?

MESSIAH

I'm uh...I'm self employed

IVORY

ohhh i see, so you don't have a job

MESSIAH

What ever! I have a job, just not  
in the traditional since, And what  
are you?

IVORY

I consider myself an artist, i  
paint, and play piano

Messiah glances down at her book

MESSIAH

Nice! so what are you reading

IVORY

Oh its Mya Angelous greatest poems  
its 'before I die give me drink of  
water', I think its some her best  
work

MESSIAH

Word? I love me some Mya

IVORY

you can never go wrong with Mya I  
love reading her work its sooo  
cathartic, ya know?

MESSIAH

Damn! So You paint, play the piano  
and love poetry, so you're like  
this super sexy badass renaissance  
woman huh?

(BEAT)

IVORY

(sarcastic)

Wow dude, way to sweep me off my  
feet

She turns to walk away from the conversation

MESSIAH

I'm just kidding

IVORY

Yeah okay, well it was nice to meet  
you Messiah . I gotta run, my best  
friend is over there waiting for me  
I wouldn't want her to come pepper  
spray you

MESSIAH

Wait...why don't you atleast let me  
get your number so we can get to  
know each other better, you know  
keep in touch

Ivory stops and turns around and walks toward Messiah, she pulls a pin out of her purse and writes three digits on his hand and walks away

MESSIAH (CONT'D)

Yo hold up this is only three  
numbers wheres the other half?

IVORY

Right! I'll give you the other half  
when I see you again

MESSIAH

When you see me again? this is New  
York, there's like 9 million people  
in this city , I may not ever see  
you again.

(beat)

IVORY

Well, If you never see me again  
then we were never meant to be

She turns around and walks back to be with her friend Journey  
as messiah watches her walk away

CUT TO:CLOSE UP OF MESSIAH

FADE OUT.

EXT. WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK -SUNNY AFTERNOON

Messiah, Ozzy and Alyx are hanging together at Washington square park. Alyx looks on as their eyes are fixed upon an intense chess match between Ozzy and Messiah the scene opens with a close up shot of the chess pieces being moved around the board, the shot cuts back and forth from their eyes to the Chess pieces being moved as the men strategize their next move.

OZZY

Now why would you make that move?  
The goal of the game is to capture  
my king

MESSIAH

Thats the only move I see!

OZZY

The name of the game is patience,  
you're so focused on doing what you  
want to do you don't see the bigger  
picture, take that move back go  
again I see atleast 3 moves you  
could make

Messiah makes a move with his pawn

OZZY (CONT'D)

Check mate

MESSIAH

Damn!

(Beat)

OZZY

Young blood, meet triumph and  
disaster and treat those two  
imposters just the same

ALYX

What the hell does that mean old  
man

MESSIAH

Yeah and why are we out here  
playing chess shouldn't we be  
somewhere lifting weights or doing  
boxing drills

OZZY

Boxing is more than physical its  
mental, I'm showing you how to play  
chess because the game teaches us  
valuable life lessons, lesson one  
being the value of our existence  
isn't weather or not we win or lose  
because victory and defeat are both  
inevitable facets of every mans  
life. When you become more focused  
on winning or losing, you  
inevitably set your self up for  
failure because it aint YOU versus  
your opponent its YOU Versus YOU

ALYX

Damn all that, I want to win  
because there's only two types of  
people in life the winners and the  
losers, the have and the have nots

OZZY

See you young bloods don't get it,  
reset the board, let me break it  
down to ya

OZZY (CONT'D)

Chess is a battle for superiority a  
battle between the blacks versus  
the whites, just like life the game  
of Chess aint fair because the game  
is systematically rigged for the  
white peices to win, statistically  
the white pieces are more likely to  
win in the game, why? because they  
have the privilege of getting the  
first move giving them a head start  
in the game leaving the black  
pieces at a disadvantage. Now that  
doesn't mean that the black piece  
cant win. It just means it has to  
work twice as hard to get a head  
and he cant make as many mistakes  
as the white pieces. If you catch  
my drift.

MESSIAH

Amen my brotha so what you're  
saying is we didn't land on the  
chess board the chess board landed  
on us!

Ozzy begins to touch and move chess pieces while he breaks  
down the game with ease and elegance

OZZY

Now look you have two sides the  
black side verses the white side  
each side gets 16 pieces that  
varies in ability and value. on the  
corner here you have the rooks they  
travel vertically and horizontally,  
next you have the knights they move  
in an L shape here you have your  
bishop you get two of them to cover  
every square inch of the board. The  
queen is the most powerful piece on  
the board she has the combined  
ability of the rook and the bishops  
next you have your king he's the  
most important piece when he is  
captured the game is over, check  
mate.

(MORE)



OZZY (CONT'D)

last but not least you have your pawn the most under rated and under appreciated piece , the under dog, if you will. It can only move forward one space at a time but the pawn has something that the other peices dont have the abilty to transform, transform into something greater than himself all he has to do is to be patient and survive until the end, make it all the way to the other side he may not be fastest or the most powerful but if can endure until the end he can transform into a Knight a queen or a king. As in chess, as in boxing as in life he that endures until the end will be transformed

ALYX

God damn Ozzy dropping some knowledge

MESSIAH

Man I didnt know chess was that deep

OZZY

Young brothas knowledge is power

Messiah looks over Ozzy's shoulder and see's Ivory walking through the park in the distance he is shocked to see her again and becomes exited

MESSIAH

Oh snap, there she is!

ALYX

What? Who?

MESSIAH

Right there! The girl I was telling you about

ALYX

Oh the chick that gave you three digits?

MESSIAH

Yeah I'm about to go step to her

ALYX

Man you better quit while you're  
ahead if she wanted you she  
would've gave you the whole number  
the first time

MESSIAH

Oh she wants me trust that I'm  
about to step, ill be right back  
ozzy

Messiah leaves the table to go speak to Ivory.

ALYX

SY! SY! Come back with more than 3  
digits this time

Cut TO: Messiah as he approaches Ivory, She is walking  
quickly messiah walks quicker dodging people to keep up with  
her pace, he pulls out a piece of paper nervously and reads a  
poem in order to get her attention

MESSIAH

You are my Mona Lisa, even though,  
I cant stroke a masterpiece like  
Van goh, soo, let these words paint  
your picture. I see right through  
you. I read your heart like a  
scripture eyes wide shut as I  
watch you toy with my emotions like  
yo yo on a string, like I dont mean  
anything just here helplessly  
wrapped around your finger, you try  
to put up these smoke screens but I  
breathe it in like a cool breeze in  
June, you lit up the darkness in me  
like the moon, as pure and holy as  
Mother Teresa I cant stroke a  
master piece like Van Gogh so let  
these words paint your picture you  
are my Mona Lisa

IVORY

Wow okay, that was nice who wrote  
that?

MESSIAH

Yours truly, I wrote that for you

IVORY

You wrote that for me? Under the  
pretenses that you would some how  
see me again

MESSIAH

I believe in fate, I knew our paths  
would cross again sooner or later  
and I do believe I recall a certain  
someone saying I would the get rest  
of their number when I see them  
again

IVORY

Ahh a deal is a deal

She takes out a pen and writes the rest of her number down on  
his hand

IVORY (CONT'D)

There you go, now I have to run  
now I need to get back to work im  
on lunch break

MESSIAH

Oh where is work?

IVORY

I'm an art curator down at the  
Jackson museum in soho, call me

MESSIAH

Of course

The two part ways and begin to walk away, The shot cuts to a  
close up of both of them walking away, then back to Ivory  
before Ivory stops and calls messiah,

IVORY

Messiah! Messiah!

He stops and looks at her from somewhat of a distance

I just had a thought, what are you  
doing tomorrow night?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SPEAK EASY - BLACK POETS SOCIETY GATHERING

The opening shots show the room filled with largely people of  
color, 90 % black 20% hispanic 10% other, all dressed in  
black. The event is classy as people are dressed up. there is  
soul music playing in the air, playing at a perfect level not  
too high, not too low as people sip wine and eat cheese, the  
shot then cuts to Ivory who is dressed in a silk black dress  
and black lipstick sitting at a table She talks with her best  
friend journey.

Then Messiah walks through the door and looks around until he  
lock eyes with Ivory. Messiah walks over to Ivory and journey  
at the table they embrace each other with a warm hug

IVORY

Hey journey this Messiah, Messiah  
this my best friend Journey

They shake hands and exchange pleasantries

JOURNEY

Im going to go get another drink  
ill just leave you too alone

IVORY

Ill catch up with you later

Messiah has a seat and puts two fingers up as a waiter comes  
and brings them 2 Champaign glasses full of wine

IVORY (CONT'D)

Thank you so much for coming

MESSIAH

No problem thank you for inviting  
me, so tell more about the function  
i've never seen anything like this

IVORY

Oh this is the black poets society,  
I am the founder and the host, this  
is where all of the talented people  
of color come and gather to express  
them selves and use their voices  
through music and spoken word  
poetry, this is something I started  
because I saw there was a need you  
know, there was so much violence in  
this area and I came up with the  
idea, its been beautiful to see us  
all come together and create and  
vent. I get so many gang members  
and guys that just came out of  
prison that tell me how much it has  
changed their lives.

MESSIAH

Wow thats beautiful

IVORY

It truly is,

She notices a scar on messiahs face and gently rubs her thumb  
on messiahs bruise

IVORY (CONT'D)

What happened here? Did you get  
this from your "job"

MESSIAH

Yeah I did

IVORY

What do you do actually you never  
told me

MESSIAH

I guess you can say im an  
entrepreneur and this is my product

Messiahs holds up his fists, ivory stares at his balled up  
fists for a moment slightly confused

IVORY

You're a hand model?

MESSIAH

No I'm a fighter

IVORY

Like fight club?

Messiah laughs

MESSIAH

No not like fight club, I'm a boxer

IVORY

Nuh uh

MESSIAH

Yes I am why would I lie

IVORY

Really?

MESSIAH

Yes why is that so hard to believe

IVORY

I dont know I just always thought  
of boxers as like these big mean  
Nasty 6 foot 4 guys you just dont  
strike me as a boxer, no offense  
im sure you're good at what you do

MESSIAH

Offense taken

IVORY

Sorry so how does this tough  
fighter become so enamored with the  
art of poetry

MESSIAH

Ive always had these deep rooted  
anger issues and sometimes I would  
get into fights at school so my  
mother encouraged to write down my  
thoughts and feelings so I've been  
writing since I was a kid and my  
father was so abusive sometimes I  
would stay in my room for days  
because I was so afraid of him, I  
would sit In my room and write and  
write.

IVORY

Oh wow, well your poetry is  
beautiful I'm sure your mother is  
proud

MESSIAH

Yeah she would be, she passed away  
recently from cancer

IVORY

Oh I'm deeply sorry, I cant imagine  
your pain

MESSIAH

The grief at fist was a weakness  
but now it is a source of my  
strength her life and memory is  
something that drives me and pushes  
me forward

(beat)

But enough about me, I wanna know  
about you

IVORY

Well I was born in Vancouver island  
which is a thriving arts community,  
my mother is a florist who owns and  
operates her own flower shop, my  
dad is a pianist

MESSIAH

So art has always been in your  
blood is that why you're an art  
curator

IVORY

Its funny you mentioned that  
because I never though I'd be an  
art curator I dreamed of going to  
the WNBA when I was a kid

MESSIAH

What? No?you were a baller?

Yeah I actually went to "The"  
Howard university on a partial  
basketball scholarship I remember  
my very first game I went up for a  
routine lay up in a game against  
Hampton University and came down  
awkwardly and tore my achilles  
tendon, at that moment I realized  
my hoop dreams were over, I  
switched my major to "art history".  
I know boring right? Then I took an  
internship in New York to become a  
art curator 2 years ago and here I  
am

A man summons ivory to the stage she looks over and notices

IVORY

Oh the show is about to start...

CUT TO:

INT. STAGE

Ivory walks onto the stage as the event begins and everyone  
stops and puts all eyes on her as she graces the stage and  
grabs the microphone.

IVORY

Ladies and gentlemen, gentlemen and  
ladies. Mothers and babies, fathers  
and maybes. Welcome to the black  
poets society and you can stop  
askin, yes I am the Ivory Jackson,  
Ivory Jackson. Hot as spice. cold  
as ice with a name so nice you have  
to say it twice.

The crowd begins to go crazy as she dazzles the crowd with  
her Beauty, with her charm, and her word play and her energy.

## IVORY (CONT'D)

So many beautiful souls in the  
 crowd tonight I want to go ahead  
 and get started by bringing out our  
 first spoken word artist he's no  
 stranger to the mic this brother  
 brings down the house everytime he  
 speaks please welcome Micheal  
 spears.

Micheal spears walks to the stage and ivory walks back next  
 to Messiah as he gives her a fist bump fo the way she lit up  
 the stage.

## MICHAEL SPEARS

This piece. Is called the imperfect  
 fabric of America.

The collective cries for justice  
 and equality captured, buried alive  
 and sufficated in the thick folds  
 of thick san garments of America.  
 it's

history woven and stiched in me  
 like rich cotton, the violence the  
 bloodshed, the struggle for  
 equality and how we came to be  
 shall never be forgotten.

The drums of the revolutionary war  
 still ringing distinctively in our  
 ear,

Reminding us of the moments of  
 tragedy that brought us here. The  
 Fabric of America sewn together  
 with needle and thread along with  
 the screams from the unheard,  
 deafening silence from the dead

centuries of racial injustice  
 and the dripping sounds of innocent  
 bloodshed. America dare dons's a  
 coat a fabric that is stained from  
 the blood of my Ancestors as their  
 masters slashed their backs and  
 watched their skin peel. Himmed  
 together by the dreams of martin  
 Luther king and the yelping cries  
 From emit till. They tell us this  
 country was stiched together with  
 the texle of religion, God,  
 Christianity and the foundation of  
 truth. They expect us to  
 believe everything they say

(MORE)



## MICHAEL SPEARS (CONT'D)

when they sport a piece of fabric  
 knitted together with the same  
 cloth worn by the KKK. The cloque  
 of Jim crow bear untold storys of  
 horror the world will  
 never know. The imperfect fabric of  
 America is lauded as sheak and  
 ashy, its dirty patches are the  
 personification of the shunned  
 faces that dare call it tacky  
 wrapped and stiched together with a  
 layer of God's evenecent mercy. The  
 imperfect fabric of America tells  
 the true story of how this nation  
 came to be

The crowd applauds the powerful and explosive poem as he  
 walks off the stage another female walks on stage. With large  
 hoop earrings and a black turbin

## SASHA JONES

Hows every one doing this is poem I  
 wrote about being in a about a  
 toxic relationship I was and how  
 sometimes something so wrong can  
 can feel so right  
 Like a glutton I eat the forbidden  
 fruits of your passion the  
 succulent juices dripping  
 with impiety at the thrown of God.  
 Inexplicable how carnal flesh so  
 beautiful and divine could be  
 deemed impure, yet I consume it  
 like holy that heals me from the  
 disease of loneliness. living our  
 enigmatic lascivious existence  
 accidentally on purpose falling  
 into the  
 filthy temptation, shamefully  
 sacrificing  
 eternal salvation for momentary  
 love and adulation.  
 But you fit perfectly inside my god  
 shaped hole,your body Is the  
 immaculate temple that I lustfully  
 enter and bow at the foot of your  
 Madonna. May God for gives us for  
 being sacrilegious.

The music ensues as a montage of the event plays showing different spoken word artists coming to the stage shots of messiah and ivory as they connect with one another and enjoy the event

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. STAGE-NIGHT

IVORY

The energy in this room, is so powerful. Perfect reminder that the pen is mightier than the sword, I would like to bring up someone that is new to the black poets society. Show some love to messiah rose

Messiah is surprised he is called on to the stage but walks up to the stage and in front of the mic

MESSIAH

Like she said I'm Messiah Rose thank you all for showing so much love its not easy to bare your soul for the world to see this next poem is one that been working on for a while

Messiah says a beautiful poem and the whole room is blown ways

INT. MAFIA MEETING-KAYNES STYLISH LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

Alyx is seated in a chair and is bleeding from the lip and holding his jaw as if he has just been punched, he is in pain while sitting in a chair with two big gangsters with guns to the right and left of him while Kayne the notorious crime boss is standing in the center dressed in a fancy suit fit for a ball, playing a tune on his favorite bright red color guitar, he stands next to a beautiful woman that appears to be his girlfriend and plays a tune. His guitar skills are mediocre but out of fear they all nod as if it sounds good. He finishes his short tune

KAYNE

How was that?

GANGSTER #1

That was good boss

GANGSTER #2

Yeah boss that was tight

Gangster #2 squeezes alyx to indicate he needs to compliment Kayne

ALYX

Oh yeah shit was dope man

Kayne puts down his guitar down and grabs a cuban cigar and lights it up as the smoke begins to soar and create a mist in the room he walks close to alyx

KAYNE

Now let me ask you again alyx,  
where the fuck is my money

ALYX

I told you man, I aint got it

KAYNE

Thats not the answer I'm looking  
for, give me one reason I shouldn't  
kill yo ass

ALYX

C'mon Kayne dont kill me man, if  
you kill me how can I pay you back

KAYNE

Mother fucker thats the best you  
can come up with

The group of gangsters start to lagugh in unison

GANGSTER #1

You're better than me boss I would  
have been put a hole in his scalp  
and called it a night

KAYNE

You right take this mother fucker  
out

The two goons point a gun at alyx's head

ALYX

No Kayne please dont kill man I  
swear ill get you your money please  
dont kill me

Kayne gets angry and starts to yell

KAYNE

See why do cats want to fuck with me, because I promise im not a bad guy alyx I'm not a bad guy but I can't have people out here thinking I'm a pussy, see I might not run a legitimate business but at the end of the day its still a business and thing I've learned in life never come between a man and his money

The tension builds as the big gangster holds the gun to the back of alyx skull

Kayne's girlfriend speaks up

GIZZELE

Let him live babe!

ALYX

Yeah Look my brother has a big fight Friday I got big money on the fight if he wins I can pay you double

GIZZELE

See return on investment, dead men cant make us money

Beat

KAYNE

You willing to bet yo life on that my guy

ALYX

Yeah he's gonna win 100 percent

KAYNE

Ight, let him go, you can thank my baby for saving you life

He kisses her on the cheek

KAYNE (CONT'D)

Aye Lucky...Clean him up and get him out of here

The two big gangsters grab a bucket of water and poor it on alyx

INT. FAMILY HOME LATE NIGHT

Phoenix is in the bathroom, she is holding a pregnancy test she stares at it and is devastated when she see's it is positive. She walks to the living room and sits down as she contemplates what she is going to do cut to a Shot of Alyx pulling up to the house and getting out of a taxi cab and stumbles into his apartment, his shirt and hair are soaking wet shirt is blood stained

PHOENIX  
Where have you been?

Beat

PHOENIX (CONT'D)  
And what the hell happened to you?

Alyx walks over and sits next to phoenix on the chair pulls out a cigarette and lights it

ALYX  
Nothing babe, I slipped and fell in a puddle

PHOENIX  
Dude you're soaking wet and it hasn't rained since last week

She sniffs him

PHOENIX (CONT'D)  
And you smell like shit. Did you go swimming in the sewer or something?

Alyx puffs on his cigarette trying not to respond to phoenix in hopes she will relent but to no avail

PHOENIX (CONT'D)  
So you gonna tell me what happened?

ALYX  
I just got my ass kicked okay phoenix! there you happy

Alyx walks to the freezer and grabs some ice for his head and puts it in a small bag while phoenix follows him

PHOENIX  
You're fucking with those mobsters arnt you

Alyx just stands there, he can't look phoenix in the eye.

Beat

Beat

PHOENIX (CONT'D)  
How much do you owe?

Beat

Beat

PHOENIX  
How much do you owe this time  
Alyx?

ALYX  
11,0000 thousand

PHOENIX  
11,000 thousand?....I'd kick your  
ass too if you owed me 11,000, does  
messiah know?

ALYX  
No and he doesn't need to know  
because i'm going to take care of  
everything

PHOENIX  
Jesus Christ Alyx ! We don't have  
that kind of money.

ALYX  
Dont you think I know that? And  
just chill alright you freaking out  
aint going to help the situation  
we'll be just fine

PHOENIX  
its not fine, We can't live like  
this anymore,

Beat  
Alyx im pregnant....

She hands him a pregnancy test, he stares at it confused

ALYX  
Oh shit, phoenix? Are you sure  
maybe its wrong, you know sometimes  
these things are wro...

PHOENIX

Its true I took it twice they both  
came back positive

Alyx walks to the living room, one hand holding an ice pack  
to his head the other hand gripping the pregnancy test in  
disbelief as he slouches down on the couch

ALYX

I'm gonna be a daddy?

PHOENIX

I may terminate the pregnancy

ALYX

What?

PHOENIX

What other choice do we have, Alyx  
we cant bring a child into this  
world like this, with me working  
part time as waitress and you not  
even having a real job where would  
that leave us?

ALYX

I have a real job

PHOENIX

Alyx hustling and gambling aint a  
real job, the little money you and  
messiah make on fights you wind up  
owing to the bookies.

ALYX

I know I fuck up but I promise I'll  
get a real job and ill do better  
okay

PHOENIX

You've been saying that for two  
years! I'm afraid to bring a child  
into this world right now  
especially not knowing if you're  
going to wind up in jail.... or  
dead

Alyx grabs phoenix and holds her close to him

ALYX

Calm down you're stressed out so  
you're looking at everything  
through a negative lens, trust me  
things will get better, one day  
you'll graduate from med school and  
ill get my life together believe me  
im out here making moves to better  
myself, believe me, have I ever let  
you down?

PHOENIX

Yes everyday and twice on Sundays

They both laugh and break the tension, phoenix begins to calm  
down as alyx continues to hold her closely

ALYX

And we shouldn't be arguing, this  
should be a happy moment you're  
gonna be a mother

PHOENIX

Yeah I guess you're right

ALYX

I know I'm right, and I've had a  
long ass day so lets go get some  
sleep and we'll revisit this  
tomorrow okay, love you

Alyx kisses phoenix on the cheek as he leads her towards the  
bedroom

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREETS -NEAR IVORY'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Messiah and Ivory are walking towards Ivory's midtown  
Manhattan apartment down a dimly lit almost empty street  
after the event

IVORY

appreciate you walking me home

MESSIAH

Oh no problem, had to make sure you  
got home safely, wouldn't want you  
to get attacked by ninjas

IVORY

Ninjas?



Messiah and Ivory arrive at the front door step of Ivory's apartment she walks up the brown stone four steps then takes one step down and turns around to face messiah

IVORY (CONT'D)

Well this is my place, I had fun  
tonight messiah

MESSIAH

Yeah me too I had a good time,  
maybe you know, we could do this  
again sometime

IVORY

Maybe

MESSIAH

Maybe means yes ?

IVORY

No maybe means maybe

They stare at each other awkwardly Messiah's mind is going a million miles a minute. he doesn't know whether to give her a hug, shake her hand, or just walk away. He sticks his hand out and just shakes her hand

MESSIAH

Welp, good night

IVORY

Good night

Ivory walks up the stares and puts the keys into her apartment and unlocks the door, just before she walks in she turns around

IVORY (CONT'D)

You know when I first met you I  
didn't like you very much, but  
you're you're growing on me

walks into her place safe and sound, shot cuts to messiah walking away down the empty street

MESSIAH

(exited)

Im growing

INT. FAMILY HOME-NIGHT

Messiah walks into the family home and goes towards the kitchen he opens the refrigerator door and grabs a water bottle, he sees old vintage photos of his mom, him and alyx together he sits down and begins to flip through the stack of pictures

MESSIAH

Miss you ma

As he is flipping through the photos Phoenix walks into the kitchen grabs pickles and peanut butter and sits down to eat

MESSIAH (CONT'D)

Heeyy

PHOENIX

Hey messiah, want some

He looks at her in disgust

MESSIAH

Nah ill pass

MESSIAH (CONT'D)

Everything okay? why you up so late

PHOENIX

I cant sleep just stressed

MESSIAH

Yeah I figured, so did you tell  
Alyx

PHOENIX

Tell alyx what?

Messiah say nothing but gives her a suggestive look to indicate to her he knows her secret

PHOENIX (CONT'D)

Oh yeah that, yeah I told him, you  
knew the whole time didn't you?

MESSIAH

Yep, I know everything sweet heart

Messiah sips on his water, and continues to flip through the stack of pictures

PHOENIX

But i want to thank you for letting  
me stay here for a while, while I  
finish med school, I know your  
mother is probably rolling over in  
her grave

MESSIAH

Nah she'd understand, you're family  
here, plus alyx really loves you,  
stay here as long as you need, its  
hard out here ya know

PHOENIX

You're a good big brother you know  
that?

MESSIAH

This I know

PHOENIX

Well I'm going to try and get some  
sleep I have class early in the a.m  
goodnight

MESSIAH

Night

Phoenix walks over and kissed messiah on the cheek she leaves  
the peanut butter and pickles on the table, messiah gets  
curious and try's it

MESSIAH (CONT'D)

Damn this is good

FADE OUT/FADE IN

INT: ART MUSEUM EARLY MORNING- SOHO NEW YORK

The camera shows shots of some beautiful paintings then cuts  
to Ivory standing infront of her exhibit admiring her work,  
she stands in full make up and a spaghetti strap white dress  
, her best friend journey walks into the frame holding a  
Coffee tray

JOURNEY

How's my favorite artist

IVORY

Marvelous my dear

Journey stops and stares at her

IVORY (CONT'D)

Why are you looking at me like that?

JOURNEY

Girl you are glowing

IVORY

Really? Well I have on some new mascara...

JOURNEY

Its not your new mascara its your new man, messiah

IVORY

Oh please we went out once, we had a good time, and thats it, he is not my man

JOURNEY

Nu uh girl you're smitten I know you too well

Another eves dropping museum worker intercepts the conversation

MUSEUM WORKER

Ooooh my girl Ivory got the love Jones ?

IVORY

See what you started

CUT TO:

INT. BOXING GYM-EARLY MORNING

The shot opens with a tight shot of messiah in the gym punching the speed bag intensely, he stops punching and the shot widens and Ozzy can be seen standing beside

OZZY

Where is alyx

MESSIAH

I don't know man he was supposed to be here by now

OZZY

Is he every on time?

The two continue to train in the gym a series of quick shots show them show them boxing, doing jump rope, cardio and sparring

INT: BOXING GYM LOCKER ROOM-EARLY MORNING

Messiah has finished his work out he is standing at his locker room getting dressed when Ozzy comes into the frame and stands by his locker

OZZY

Messiah I really need to talk to you about something

MESSIAH

Whats up oz

OZZY

Its your brother, he's not what we need on the team

MESSIAH

What do you mean?

OZZY

Messiah you need to move on from Alyx as your manager, I know he's your brother but he's trouble, he doesn't even show up to work outs and when he does come he's late. And I hear things messiah he's running around with these thugs and crooks, its only a matter of time before it comes back to you, its only going to hold you down. you're a good kid, a special kid, you got a lot goin for you id hate to see you get caught up in his bullshit

MESSIAH

What are you saying Ozzy? You want me fire my own brother? My flesh and blood? He's all I got in this world and I'm going to make sure I protect him

OZZY

You protect children you cant protect a grown damn man

MESSIAH

Before my mom died she told me to  
look after him, right or wrong, hes  
my brother.

OZZY

I understand, just think about what  
I said

Ozzy walks off leaving Messiah to contemplate his words in  
silence

CUT TO:

EXT: ART MUSEUM AFTERNOON-SOHO NEW YORK

Camera shows Messiah is walking down a busy street, he then  
nervously walks into the art museum where Ivory works.

INT. ART MUSEUM AFTERNOON-SOHO NEW YORK

The shot cuts to Ivory writing in a notebook taking inventory  
on her art work the shot shows an OTS of messiah walking up  
to her

MESSIAH

Hey Ivory

Shocked

IVORY

Messiah? Hey? What are you doing  
here?

MESSIAH

Well I was just in the area decided  
to drop by

IVORY

Just in the area? You live on the  
other side of town

MESSIAH

I took the long way, this a  
beautiful museum what do you do  
here?

IVORY

Umm Well if you must know I am head of exhibitions, I specialize in contemporary African art, every piece of art has a story its trying to tell my job as an art curator is to essentially to be the story teller

MESSIAH

exquisite, so who is this? Whats her story?

Messiah points at the art on the wall

IVORY

Oh this is Pamela Phatisimo Sunstrum, she was a young Artist who was born in Botswana now she is in south Africa she was particularly interested in ideas around cosmology and theories of the nature of the universe her practice is quite polyform but also thinking about the laws that govern the universe and trying to turn that into an artistic practice is what I find most interesting about her work

Messiah is very impressed by Ivory's brilliance and elegance in breaking down the art peice

MESSIAH

Nice! interesting how you disect a piece that looks so mundane to the naked eye and find its deeper abstract meaning, see I've always felt artists have a third eye and it breaks down the walls and see's through to the art of what it truly means... finding beauty in a world full of chaos

Ivory is a little surprised by messiahs deep and insightful response

IVORY

Umm yes.....exactly

MESSIAH

And by the way I had such a good time the other night, what are the chance I could take you out for lunch, you said maybe, so i took that as a yes

IVORY

Sorry but very slim chance, I'm very busy I just have so much work to get done....

Journey walks up to her and reveals she has been eves dropping the conversation

JOURNEY

Girl just go out and have fun we'll take care of everything here at the museum, you're going to work yourself to death, go on

IVORY

Will you mind your business

JOURNEY

Just go...

Beat

IVORY

Okay, I cant do lunch but how about dinner I get off at 6

MESSIAH

Cool ill be back at 5:59

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. CENTRAL PARK EVENING

Messiah and Ivory are walking through the park as the Autumn leaves fall the both are walking eating slices of New York style pizza

MESSIAH

Favorite color?

IVORY

Turquoise yours?

MESSIAH

Black



IVORY

Black? Messiah, Black is not a real color

MESSIAH

What? how?

IVORY

Black isn't a color its the absence of light, the color black absorbs all of the colors of the visible spectrum and reflects none of them back to our eyes, duh everybody knows that

MESSIAH

Well excuse me, I dont have a masters degree in art like you

IVORY

Favorite movie?

MESSIAH

Boys n the hood you?

IVORY

Ooh its a tie between The Notebook' and 'how harry met sally'

MESSIAH

How harry met sally? That corny ass movie

IVORY

Whattt? that movie is a classic, my mother use to watch that movie over and over again when I was a little girl, I know every line to the movie word for word my favorite was at the end when sally was like.....

Ivory stops, pauses and does an animated overly dramatic interpretation of the movie scene

IVORY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry harry but I know its New Years eve and I know you feel lonely but you cant just show up and tell me you love me and expect that to make everything alright, that line gets me every time

MESSIAH

See Thats why I dont like romantic movies its unrealistic they all have the same plot, some guy at the end of the movie running after a woman or vis versa going....

Messiah does a very animated dramatic interpretation

MESSIAH (CONT'D)

After an obvious meet-cute set up in act 1 and an hour and 30 minutes of pointless dialogue and endless cliché montages I just now finally realized Im in love with you...the end

IVORY

Oh c'mon...I mean If it doesn't have a cliché romanic montage is it really even a romantic movie

MESSIAH

Thats why i like hood movies, its realistic, speaks the truth. Life isn't a fairytale ya know?

IVORY

I feel attacked

They are walking through the park and they pass a basketball court messiah notices a basket ball resting along side a fence

MESSIAH

Yo you said you use to be a baller right?

IVORY

In my younger days yes why?

MESSIAH

I see a ball and a court I think you know where im headed with this

IVORY

Are you really about to challenge me to a game on a first date? Who are you?

MESSIAH

I'm Messiah Rose, now c'mon

IVORY

No!

MESSIAH

c'mon chicken legs show me how you  
got that partial scholarship

IVORY

Chicken legs? See you're not going  
to talk about my legs, you crossed  
the line pass me the rock

Messiah and Ivory step on to the court Messiah passes Ivory  
the ball extra hard. Ivory takes the ball and shoots a  
jumpshot and swishes her first shot

MESSIAH

Oh lucky

He passes her the ball again she swishes the second shot

IVORY

Varisty back up point guard two  
years in a row average 6.5 points a  
game

MESSIAH

Okay now I see I have to play some  
defense

Messiah comes close to Ivory and plays tight defense, he  
playfully teases her as Ivory bounces the ball and try's to  
move around him

(Dribbling the ball)

IVORY

So any family in New York ?

MESSIAH

A little, most of my family is in  
California here its just me my  
little brother who im taking care  
of making sure he stays on the  
right path and his girlfriend she's  
like my little sister, we all live  
together she moved in right after  
my mom died

IVORY

Aww what are they're names?

MESSIAH

Alyx and Phoenix, if you play your  
cards right you might get to meet  
them

IVORY

Oh if I play my cards right? Hate  
to break it to you but im the catch  
my guy

she makes a sudden move and instantly falls down looking like  
she is in pain

MESSIAH

Oh damn Ivory are you okay?

IVORY

Oh God I think its my Achilles  
again

MESSIAH

Oh im so sorry let me help you up

Messiah helps her up and when she gets to her feet takes off  
and grabs the basketball and does a layup

MESSIAH (CONT'D)

Wow you really got me

Ivory celebrates and show boats

DISSOLVE TO:

Music engulfs the scene as a romantic montage begins  
displaying Messiah and Ivory's relationship and life through  
time, a series of shots shows messiah fighting in the ring  
Messiah and Ivory riding a bike, riding through nyc streets  
on a horse and carriage, Ivory trying to show Messiah how to  
roller skate, Messiah and Ivory slow dancing in a night club

FADE OUT/FADE IN

EXT. NYC ROOFTOP-NIGHT

The shot opens with a beautiful shot of a NYC rooftop at  
night, the moon illuminates the night as the skyscrapers  
sparkle. Messiah and Ivory walk onto the rooftop hand in hand

MESSIAH

Wow man this is madd beautiful,  
I've never seen the city like this

They both stand together and gaze at the people and cars that move at a beautiful synchronicity like blood running through the veins of the city

IVORY

This is my favorite spot on earth,  
I love to come up here to  
disconnect from the city and all of  
the hustle and bustle you know? I  
come here by myself a lot , to cry,  
to laugh, to talk to God, to dream,  
to sing, you can say anything up  
here and nobody can even  
hear....see watch

Ivory stands on the edge of the rooftop takes a deep breathe and sings to top of her lungs, her beautiful voice fills the air like doves soaring in the night sky as she serenades the city with a few short notes

IVORY (CONT'D)

See, I just feel so free

MESSIAH

Damn girl thats not singin', thats  
sangin'

IVORY

You try

Messiah stands on the edge of the roof top and try's to sing but is shunned immediately

RANDOM MAN FROM BELOW

Aye! shut yo bitch ass up!

MESSIAH

I thought you said nobody can  
hear....

Ivory laughs as she draws closer to Messiah

IVORY

sorry

Messiah and Ivory pause momentarily as they stare into each others eyes, illuminated by the pale moon light, perched high above the city like two love birds they share a tender kiss

DISSOLVE TO:

## INT. IVORY'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

The scene opens with shots of candle lights and tantalizing silhouettes followed by a series of shots as Messiah and Ivory kiss and touch one another delicately, body to body, skin to skin, heart to heart, soul to soul, the two become one

FADE OUT/FADE IN

## INT. IVORY'S APARTMENT BEDROOM-NIGHT

Ivory is laying next to Messiah her head lying on his chest as she stares up at the ceiling, deep in thought. her eyes roam around her colorful room looking at her collection of art paintings, some she painted, some she purchased, her eyes finally rest upon an iconic painting of Vincent Van Gogh

IVORY

Messiah?....Messiah?

MESSIAH

Yes?

IVORY

Can I ask you a question?

MESSIAH

Shoot

IVORY

....would you rather be rich...I mean like have all the money in the world and everything in it but as soon as you died you'll be forgotten forever like no one will ever remember you or speak of your name again, or would you rather live a poor, but a meaningful existence and you'll be immortalized and remembered forever

MESSIAH

Hmmm...Good question, why? Whats on your mind Confucius?

IVORY

I was just thinking, 3 am thoughts I guess, I was just thinking about the story of Van Gogh, you know..

(MORE)

IVORY (CONT'D)

the famous painter, they talk about how like his paintings are treated like royalty now, his art is valued at a billion dollars or something but when he was alive nobody even wanted his paintings..they called him a lunatic. shunned by the world, the greatest artist of all time died penniless, he committed suicide, shot his self in the chest thinking he didn't amount to anything in the world, such a sad story, thats why I study art, his story is in all of us, we're all just lost souls searching for a purpose, ya know?

MESSIAH

Damn thats deep

MESSIAH (CONT'D)

Well, a hundred years from now when we're all gone nobody will remember how much money you had or what clothes you wore anyways so all that really matter's is what you left behind, did you write a book, a poem, a symphony, build an empire ..so thats what matters me, I want to leave a legacy, be remembered

IVORY

Is that why you fight? You want to be remembered?

Beat

Beat

MESSIAH

Yeah I want to leave a legacy

IVORY

Thats beautiful....

SLOW FADE TO BLACK.

The screen is still black but a beautiful tune can be heard from a piano. the music intensifies as the scene fades in

INT. IVORYS APARTMENT-LIVING ROOM EARLY MORNING

Scene opens with Ivory sitting alone at her piano in her downstairs living room playing a tune

CUT TO BLACK.

Messiah is laying in bed but is awoken by the beautiful sound of music he gets out of bed and follows the sound of music and finds Ivory singing and playing her piano. Ivory stops when she see's him approach he sits next to her

IVORY

Morning handsome, did I wake you?

MESSIAH

Its fine how'd you learn to play like that

IVORY

My dad, he was a world famous pianist he would travel around the world playing, sometimes I wouldn't see him for weeks at a time. But when he came home he'd play late at night into the early morning. Id wake up to his music, thats how I knew daddy was home. And if you haven't figured it out thats why he named me Ivory, like the keys on a piano

MESSIAH

Wow, Makes sense

IVORY

Im a little rusty I barley have time to play any more

She starts playing again gently Messiah see's a picture of Ivory's loving family in a frame on the piano

MESSIAH

Aww look at this? I wish I had something like this

IVORY

What?

MESSIAH

This! this whole happy family nucleus



IVORY

Yep thats my mom, my dad and my  
little brother

MESSIAH

Lovely, growing up I saw so much  
disfunction, my dad use to come  
home drunk some nights and beat on  
my mom then he'd come after me and  
my brother for no reason

IVORY

I know, you told me, but the way  
you talk your mom she sounds like a  
amazing lady

MESSIAH

Yep, she was a beautiful soul....

FADE OUT.

INT. RESTAURANT-DAY

Alyx and Phoenix are having lunch at a retaurant

PHOENIX

Have you checked in with your  
porole officer

ALYX

Yeah everything is good if all goes  
well Ill be off of probation in a  
year

PHOENIX

Good dont want you going back to  
jail over something stupid

ALYX

I know, So I've been doing some  
thinking about how you've been on  
my ass as about bettering myself so  
I thought you'd be happy to know  
I've been taking classes to get a  
real estate license

PHOENIX

Babe, are you serious? Thats  
fantastic. I'm so proud of you

ALYX

With this kid being on the way I  
know I need to make changes

PHOENIX

You'll find your way, just know  
that what ever path you choose ill  
be right beside you, win or lose

ALYX

Thank you, agape

PHOENIX

What does that mean ? You have it  
tattooed on your arm and you say it  
all the time but what does it mean

ALYX

I got it from my mother, she never  
said I love you, she always said  
agape, its the most beautiful word  
in the English dictionary, its love  
at its highest and purest form, it  
transcends space, it transcends  
time it, transcends our primal  
fears and it transcends death its  
love always and forever.

PHOENIX

Oh wow, well agape, agape now and  
agape forever

The two share a tender kiss at the table

EXT.CONEY ISLAND BEACH EVENING/SUNSET

The scene opens with the site of a beautiful beach as the sun  
light dances on the surface of the ocean, Messiah is there  
working his freelance photography job, taking pictures of a  
happy couple posing on the beach, the session ends and  
Messiah stands at the shore taking practice shots of nature  
and the sky line...from a distance Ivory is approaching from  
behind him and sneaks into one of his photos

IVORY

Whats up baby?!!!

MESSIAH

Girl what are you doing out here

IVORY

(she poses)

I come to check on my mans on his  
photoshoot, now snap me a pic for  
the gram

MESSIAH

Girl you're something else, stand  
here with your face towards the sun  
let me get a few test shots in

Messiah adjusts the camera and takes a few test shots of  
Ivory as she poses along the shore of the beach

MESSIAH (CONT'D)

See the beauty of photography is we  
get to capture all these little  
moments in time, because one day,  
you'll be old and grey and wrickled  
and your titties will be hanging  
and...

IVORY

Okay okay man, I get it, take the  
picture

MESSIAH

But your beauty will last forever,  
frozen in time....reminds us all  
we're more than a bag of bones  
we're entities to be explored

Messiah shows Ivory the shots

IVORY

Amazing

They share a kiss right by the shore as the waves crash at  
their feet

MESSIAH

I have fight a tomorrow night you  
should come, then after you come  
meet my family

IVORY

Tomorrow night aww I cant I have to  
work late and...

MESSIAH

Aww again you're always working,

IVORY

I know baby but maybe some other  
time I could meet them and I mean  
when we started dating you already  
knew how much I love my work, so  
sorry pal this is what you signed  
up for

MESSIAH

Yeah you're right

IVORY

And speaking of my work, guess  
what? I got offered a job in London  
at one the biggest art exhibits in  
the UK

MESSIAH

Wow that's amazing, too bad you  
gotta to turn it down

IVORY

I dont know baby, I was thinking  
what if I took it and maybe you can  
come with me

MESSIAH

Are you serious I cant go to  
London, I don't have a drivers  
licence or a passport and I've  
never been out of New York let  
alone the united states

IVORY

New York is an amazing city but  
Don't you think there's more to see  
than New York

MESSIAH

Yeah but i think i was put here for  
a reason, ill just bloom where i'm  
planted

IVORY

Yeah I knew you wouldnt listen but  
I thought id mention it

MESSIAH

I just need you to promise me you  
wont leave me

Ivory pauses for a few seconds

IVORY

Yeah I promise ill never leave you

MESSIAH

What was that? You paused, why did  
you hesitate

IVORY

What? I didn't....

MESSIAH

Look Ivory if you dont want to be  
with me then just tell me now  
because i dont want to give my  
heart to you and then one day you  
just diddisappear...

IVORY

Relax I never said I was going to  
leave New York or take the job I'm  
not going to leave you I was just  
entertaining the idea that's all

IVORY (CONT'D)

So you can relax

MESSIAH

You promise?

IVORY

I promise

MESSIAH

Okay you didnt hestitate that time,  
i feel better now

(teasing)

IVORY

Good, cry baby

Messiah picks Ivory up and spins her around as they kiss by  
the shore

### **ACT III - MY BROTHERS KEEPER**

INT. BOXING GYM LOCKER ROOM-NEW YORK

The shot opens with a shot of Messiah getting his hands taped  
up by Ozzy for a fight, he jumps up and starts shadow boxing  
to warm up

ALYX

Hey we got a lot riding on this  
man, we need this one. Am I my  
brother keeper?

MESSIAH

Yes I am

ALYX

Am I my brothers keeper

MESSIAH

Yes I am

The two hug each other

ALYX

Love you brotha, you got this, lets  
kick some ass

CUT TO:

INT BOXING RING

The announcer introduces Messiah Rose and his opponent and the crowd swells with adrenaline as the two touch gloves the camera then cuts to his opponent and his opponent is equally intense. the bell rings and the two fighters begin to battle with Messiah being the most aggressive and firing jabs at his opponent and dancing around the ring effortlessly. Messiah's opponent takes jab after jab as he begins to loose his legs. He throws a desparate Hail Mary punch at Messiah as he feels his body failing him. The punch lands and Messiah is knocked off balance slightly. But Messiah recovers and pounces like a shark that smelled blood in the water. His opponents sweat begins to poor like rain as he grabs a hold of Messiah and holds him until the bell rang and both fighters walk to their respective corners. They both get their wounds cleaned

ALYX

Sy! you got him where you want him  
so just finish dont play around  
with this dude, remember we cant  
afford to lose, finish him off so  
we can get our money and go home

MESSIAH

I got him, its over he cant see me

OZZY

Yeah messiah you're getting too  
cocky, you know there's a thing  
called a punchers chance, meaning  
any fighter can beat any fighter  
with just one lucky punch. This guy  
isn't a good fighter but he has a  
strong hook if he happens to  
connect it could be over for you,  
so finish him, lets go

The bell rings and Messiah's opponent walks to the center of the ring as if he is walking in quick sand. Messiah knows he has his opponent where he wants him as he picks up where he left off giving several body shots before messiah's opponent throws a desperate right hook that connects sending Messiah falling to the ground his opponent walks around the ring with a calm presents as the referee starts the count

REFEREE

1,2,3,4

OZZY

Get up Messiah!

REFEREE

5,6,7

ALYX

C'mon Messiah get on your feet

Messiah is on his back looking up at the ceiling dazed but its fighting to get up

REFEREE

8,9,10

The referee rings the bell, the fight is over, Messiah is defeated in the third round

FADE OUT.

INT. BOXING GYM LOCKER ROOM-NEW YORK LATE NIGHT

Messiah, Alyx and Ozzy are in the locker room after the fight, Ozzy is removing Messiahs boxing gloves and messaging his bruised right hand

OZZY

Good news is, It ain't broken but  
its busted pretty bad, ice it get  
some rest and come back stronger

Ozzy exits the room

Beat

Alyx is angry at losing the fight, he punches the locker

ALYX

Dammit ! How could you lose, this  
guy wasn't on your level

MESSIAH

I dont know man I had him he got a  
lucky punch...

ALYX

It doesn't matter, you were  
supposed to win SY, its not  
supposed to go this way, we were  
supposed to be celebrating, 15  
grand richer

ALYX (CONT'D)

Do you know how much money we lost?  
we had the money, \$15,000, all you  
had to do was finish, Fuck! Now we  
owe everybody

Messiah and Alyx grab their belongings and exit the locker  
room

FADE OUT.

INT. IVORY'S BEDROOM-LATE NIGHT

Ivory is sitting on her bed looking over some of her art work  
when she receives a face time call from her father Adam  
Jackson from her laptop

(Ivory answering the call  
Immediately )

IVORY

Hey Daddy

ADAM

Hey baby girl, your mom told me the  
good news Congratulations on your  
new job offer, i wanted to talk to  
you because she told me you were  
thinking about turning it down

IVORY

Thank you dad, but I'm not taking  
that job, me and messiah are  
getting pretty serious sooo..

ADAM

What? I think youre making a big  
mistake this a great opportunity  
for you I would hate for you to  
lose out because of some boy



IVORY

Some boy? Dad Messiah isn't just  
some boy, I love him and i think we  
have a future together

ADAM

Yeah but are you sure he feels the  
same about you, i'd hate to see you  
give up an opportunity you've been  
working for, for so long based on  
some temporary infatuation with  
some boy

IVORY

Listen daddy the decisions I make  
are just that, my decisions, so as  
your daughter i'm asking you to  
support me through good bad and  
indifferent

Beat

ADAM

You're right hun, i'm sorry, i just  
want you to take your time and  
decide because the decisions you  
make today can effect you for the  
next 5-10 years

IVORY

Yeah dad, hear you

ADAM

As your father im only looking out  
for your best interest

QUICK CUT TO

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREETS-EARLY MORNING

Messiah is up running through the city on a long early  
morning jog, still reflecting on his first devastating loss  
from the the previous night. his jog leads him back to his  
home. He arrives at his front door step to an eviction notice  
on the door

MESSIAH

Damn!

CUT TO:

EXT. LANDLORDS APARTMENT-MORNING

Messiah knocks on the door of his landlord house Miguel Castro, the landlord (50 years old hispanic man)

MESSIAH

Hey yo Miguel! I thought you would give me more time. What happened?

MIGUEL

What do you mean what happened? you havn't paid the rent in full in 2 months. paying in bits and peices at a time aint cutting it anymore and i evicted you simple as that, nothing personal, good luck

ALYX

No man I need more time man, just give me more time I'll have it to you

MIGUEL

No! Your time is up, I could sue you for back rent but i'm not going to do that.

ALYX

Just give me until next week i promise ill have your money

MIGUEL

C'mon Alyx thats what you said last week and the week before that, and the week before that, at this point man I gotta do what I gotta do, I cant even trust you anymore

MESSIAH

Yo please man, my mom had been living in this same house for 30 years I cant lose this house now I can get you the money I promise

MIGUEL

From where? One your boxing matches? Please, Look man I'm sorry about your mom she was a sweet lady God rest her soul but look around you, we in new york city, everybody got problems, I got problems, you got problems, all Gods children got problems.

(MORE)

MIGUEL (CONT'D)

If I get into everybody problems  
I'll be out on the street too.  
Understand? I'm a land lord not a  
social worker. I think the city  
helps people with rent go talk to  
them or go to a homeless shelter

MESSIAH

I'm not going to no Damn homeless  
shelter man have a heart, all my  
mother did for you and how she  
helped this community

Beat

MIGUEL

Okay you got two weeks, to get me  
the money 5,000 dollars in back  
rent and late fees I want it all no  
less or you're out, got me!

MESSIAH

thank you!

Messiah leaves and is walking back to his apartment

MIGUEL

And Messiah...why don't you give up  
boxing, do something with your life  
you aint ever gonna make it

The comment hurts Messiahs pride but he says nothing, just  
turns and walks away;

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREETS AFTERNOON

Alyx and Phoenix are walking back to their home with food as  
they went out to grab something to eat, they arrive back to  
the front steps Alyx is about to unlock the door

PHOENIX

Hurry up i have to pee

ALYX

Yo hold on don't rush me you  
shouldn't of drunk that big gulp on  
the train told you to wait

PHOENIX

I was thirsty...Alyx stop...look

Phoenix points to the eviction notice on the door, Alyx grabs the eviction note posted on the door

ALYX

Aw shit

Alyx unlocks the door and walks in with Phoenix to find the house disorganized and Messiah searching for something. He is flipping over couches turning over furniture and looking under every nook and cranny.

PHOENIX

What the hell?

ALYX

SY? Whats going on?

MESSIAH

We're being evicted thats what's happening, if we don't come up with the money in the next two weeks we're going to lose moms house I'm looking for the Money

ALYX

What money?

PHOENIX

Yeah what money? Messiah you're buggin out

MESSIAH

I aint buggin, Alyx knows exactly what I'm talking about mom's insurance money that kicked back to us a month ago, it was \$6,000 we put it away under the cushion and we swore we wouldn't touch it unless we have an emergency now its gone. Theres three of us living in this house and I know I didn't take it or else I wouldn't be looking for it.

Messiah stares at Phoenix

PHOENIX

Don't look at me I didn't take it, I didn't even know anything about it

Beat

ALYX

Alright...I took it

MESSIAH

Why in the hell would you do that  
give it back man we need it c'mon

ALYX

I can't do that SY

PHOENIX

Why not? Alyx did you not hear what  
he said, we're going to lose  
everything

ALYX

I lost it all I'm sorry, I payed  
back some debts and put the rest up  
on the fight, I thought you would  
win I was gonna put the money back  
I swear

MESSIAH

Wait, you cut a deal with Kayne  
didn't you after I told you not to,  
thats why he was at the fight.

ALYX

Yeah I had to do what I had to do

MESSIAH

How could you be so stupid, Alyx  
that was all the money we had in  
this world. Now we're going to lose  
everything, The house, everything  
mom worked her whole life for down  
the drain because of you, not to  
mention we owe the biggest drug  
dealer in New York putting my life  
in danger, your life in danger her  
life in danger.

ALYX

Im sorry okay I never meant for  
this to happen I was just trying to  
take risks, we dont have shit and  
are never going to have shit if we  
dont take some risks. So at the end  
of the day i made the right  
decision, you can blame yourself  
too if you wouldve just won the  
fight , we wouldn't be in this  
situation, you didn't come through  
bruh, you failed not me

MESSIAH

Now you're turning this whole thing  
around on me, after I went to war  
for you put food on the table  
protected you the best I could now  
its all my fault, you know what  
Alyx im sick of your shit man

Phoenix can feel the tension growing so she steps between  
them

PHOENIX

Hold up guys just calm down  
fighting isn't going to fix  
anything

ALYX

What? no I'm sick of your shit  
thinking you're all high and mighty  
I dont need you to care me I'm a  
grown man I dont need you

MESSIAH

News flash you do need me, moms  
gone now im here stuck cleaning up  
your shit, you're just a screw up

PHOENIX

Woah...cmon now messiah you dont  
mean that

ALYX

What did you say?

MESSIAH

I said you're a screw up...you've  
been screwing up since we were kids  
and I have to pay the price

ALYX

forget you punk

Alyx shoves Messiah and the two brothers get into a scuffle  
throwing blows at each other

PHOENIX

Stop it! Stop it right now

Phoenix finds the strength to separate the two brothers, She  
grabs Alyx and holds him back

PHOENIX (CONT'D)

I said stop! you two are brothers  
you're not supposed to be fighting  
each other. What would your mother  
think right now huh?. So what? the  
world got too tough for you now you  
turning on each other. What  
happened to being "my brothers  
keeper" and all that jazz

ALYX

He ain't my brother as a matter of  
fact im gone

PHOENIX

Where are you going?

ALYX

For a walk or something, anywhere  
but here

MESSIAH

No you stay ill go, stay here with  
your lady we're all about to get  
kicked out anyways I may as well  
leave

PHOENIX

No don't go, stay and work this out  
with your brother

ALYX

No let him go, Good ridence

Messiah storms out the door

CUT TO:

INT. TRAIN-EVENING

Messiah is sitting alone on a long ride on a downtown  
Manhattan 1 train line looking out of the window

CUT TO:

INT. IVORY'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Ivory is in her house painting a picture with candles lit and  
sage burning. She delicately strokes her master piece with  
her brush when she hears a knock on the door

CUT TO:

EXT. IVORY'S HOUSE- EVENING

Messiah is standing at ivory's front door and knocking as he is visibly upset, Ivory comes to the door Messiah doesn't say anything but she can he see he is hurting they don't speak they just hug and embrace each other

FADE OUT/FADE IN

INT. FAMILY HOME-LATE NIGHT

Alyx and Phoenix are laying in the bed sleep next to each other when an anonymous person calls Alyx's phone he wakes up to answer

ALYX

Hello

ANONYMOUS VOICE

Yo you better watch your back  
mother fucker, you're dead meat  
you, your brother and that bitch  
you're laying next to

ALYX

Fuck you I aint running from nobody  
who is this?

The anonymous caller hangs up and Alyx jumps up to grab his gun out of the dresser drawer and peers out the window, phoenix suddenly wakes up and turns on the lamp

PHOENIX

Alyx what the hell is going on?

ALYX

A lot, shits getting too hot.

Beat

ALYX (CONT'D)

I was thinking you should go visit  
your family up in Connecticut for a  
little while

PHOENIX

What? I'm not going anywhere

ALYX

Just for a little while a few weeks  
maybe until I straighten everything  
out



PHOENIX

I'm not going anywhere but back to bed...with you

ALYX

I'm in a lot of trouble babe. I have a lot of people after me, all the shit ive been doing has caught up to me I dont think its safe for you...

Phoenix slaps Alyx across the face

PHOENIX

Dammit Alyx! You promised me you'd change. When are you going to change? Look at you standing there with a gun in the middle of the night like you're Malcom X

ALYX

you think I want to live like this forever, I trying to change, itrying to get out of this shit, im just in too deep

PHOENIX

Im so tired of this, and this life of yours , you come in from out of the gutters bringing shit home every night and now because of you I have to leave I dont deserve that. Why do I love you so much Alyx..I mean my family asks me all the time... what do you see in him why do you love him so much Phoenix and honestly I dont know....and..

In the middle of her anger she turns around realizes alyx is hurting he begins to cry

PHOENIX (CONT'D)

You know what baby im sorry I shouldn't have said that, im here for you I'm not going anywhere we've been together since i was 10 years old and im not going to leave your side we'll get through this okay...

INT. IVORY'S APARTMENT-EARLY MORNING

Messiah is laying in bed asleep Ivory comes in the room and brings Messiah warm tea and gives him a good morning kiss he awakes and drinks the tea

IVORY

How are you feeling?

MESSIAH

Pretty bad, just keep thinking about laying on the canvas while another man looks down on me there's no worse feeling in the world, it steals your pride takes away your man hood sucks the will out of you...

She looks at the bruises on his body and touches them gently

IVORY

Babe look at you, I hate to see you like this, why do you do this to yourself?

MESSIAH

Im a fighter Ivory thats what I've done my whole life, I came from nothing I didn't come from a nice family like you I dont have a college degree or a trust fund or a safety net

He holds up his fists

MESSIAH (CONT'D)

This is my only escape

IVORY

I just wish you could see yourself the way I see you, you have a brilliant mind and I just wish you could understand that your true power doesn't come from these

She holds up his fists

IVORY (CONT'D)

It comes from right here

She points to his head

IVORY (CONT'D)

Thats why, I really want you to  
come with me to London

Messiah starts to get annoyed and stands to his feet

MESSIAH

Again With this London stuff?  
I,thought we squashed that?

MESSIAH (CONT'D)

Why do you keep bringing this up

IVORY

Because Messiah

Beat

MESSIAH

I took the job, in London

MESSIAH (CONT'D)

What? You told me you wouldn't leave  
sooo You lied to me you looked me  
dead in my eyes and you lied to me  
Ivory

IVORY

Messiah this is something I've  
dreamed about my entire life and  
im not leaving you thats why im  
asking you to come with me

MESSIAH

Are you crazy I can't go to London  
I have a life here, I have family,  
friends I have a job ive been here  
my entire life you think I can just  
pick up and go after 23 years  
living here

IVORY

we can start a new life build a  
family and New York isn't going  
anywhere your family will still be  
here. there's a whole new world to  
explore, one day you're going to  
wake up an old man still stuck in  
your little bubble I mean why not  
take a chance?

IVORY (CONT'D)

What are you afraid of? You walk around like some macho guy and i know deep down you're scared of something so lay it all on the table. Lets lay everything out on the table, what are your really afraid of?

MESSIAH

Afraid of one day you'll wake up and realize you dont love me anymore? Im afraid you'll find out how broken I am and you'll realize what a big mistake you made? full of regret and misery And im afraid that youre so perfect in every way

Beat

MESSIAH (CONT'D)

And im afraid that I might not be good enough for you and that terrifies the hell out of me. Im afraid to wake up in some foreign country next to someone that suddenly doesn't love me and be stuck

IVORY

Im scared too Messiah! Im fucking terrified! but I'm ready to jump, with you im standing here with arms wide open telling you, I love you! Im ready to to the chance, What more do you want? Thats all love is, two broken, fucked up people in a crazy world trying to love each other

IVORY (CONT'D)

Do you love me? I mean really love me not the idea of me, not the idea of being on love, but actually love me. Or are you using this as kind some excuse not to commit

MESSIAH

I do, I love you, in fact I love you so much,

MESSIAH (CONT'D)

I'm willing to let you go, I love  
enough not to hold you back, and I  
love you enough to let you move on  
to chase your dreams, with out me

Ivory begins to cry

IVORY

What are you saying? Are you saying  
this is it?

MESSIAH

I guess I am

IVORY

You know youre a liar you dont love  
me, you never did

Messiah puts on his shirt and begins to tear up as he leaves  
the room

IVORY (CONT'D)

And thats what you do every time  
youre afraid? You just run away  
you, youre a coward

IVORY (CONT'D)

And I hate you

Messiah hesitates before he leaves but eventually leaves the  
room

FADE OUT.

INT. BOXING GYM LOCKER ROOM-NEW YORK

Messiah is in the locker putting on his gear when Ozzy walks  
in

OZZY

Whats up champ? You ready to get  
back to work

MESSIAH

Ofcourse I don't have a choice

OZZY

Well good, because I have some good  
news

Ozzy gives messiah some mail and then pulls out a flyer out  
of his pocket

OZZY (CONT'D)

you've been invited to the 'brawl  
for it all' tournament in the boogy  
down bronx only the top fighters in  
the city get the opportunity and  
the grand prize is \$75,000

MESSIAH

Wow man thats dope, 75 G's that  
could change my life

OZZY

I know so the shit that happen the  
other night, just shake it off and  
lets move on because this is chance  
of a life time

MESSIAH

Right

As they are speaking alyx walks in the locker room seemingly  
in a good mood he heads straight for his locker

ALYX

Whats up fellas, oh messiah man I'm  
sorry about all that old stuff we  
had, we should just squash all that  
you know...

He try's to open his locker but it won't open

ALYX (CONT'D)

Whats going on? what happened to my  
locker?

Ozzy and Messiah are silent as they avoid eye contact

ALYX (CONT'D)

Oh damn, I see what's happening,  
I'm not apart of the team anymore

MESSIAH

Sorry bro, we made the decision to  
move on with out you, you've become  
a liability we cant trust you  
anymore, i told you to stay away  
from Kayne and you betrayed me

ALYX

Damn thats cold, but ight cool I  
know where im not wanted

Alyx walks out of the locker room

FADE OUT.

INT BOXING RING

Messiah is in the ring sparring with a partner and by all accounts looks pretty bad and sloppy it becomes embarrassing to watch as he gets pounded by his opponent until Ozzy stops it

OZZY

Hey what the hell is going on with you, you're getting sloppy with your technique make sure your hip and foot pivots when you throw that punch.... like this... out and straight back...out and straight back...understand? You cant come in this ring and just go through the motion. You'll get your self killed

They begin to spar again and messiah gets knocked down

MESSIAH

Dammit!

He gets up and takes off his equipment

OZZY

What are doing? Where you going?

MESSIAH

I'm done

OZZY

Youre quitting? After all I sacrificed for you

MESSIAH

Cant you see, I dont have it, I dont believe in myself anymore

OZZY

Well you may as well go to the  
 Brooklyn bridge and jump right now  
 because a man that doesn't believe  
 in him self is already dead an  
 where does it end Messiah, you quit  
 on yourself now then one day you;;  
 you'll quit on your wife, you'll  
 quit on your kids and youll become  
 just like your father..You.... know  
 what get out of my gym, just leave  
 and don't come back

Messiah takes off his equipment and leaves the gym feeling at  
 his lowest

INT. IVORY'S ARPARTMENT-EVENING

Ivory is sitting on her couch in her pajamas her hair is a  
 mess while eating ice cream crying while watching old  
 romantic movies having a pity party when journey walks into  
 her house.

JOURNEY

Girl,look at you, you look a mess

IVORY

Journey, why is falling in love so  
 damn hard. I mean I get on a train  
 and I see someone that looks like  
 Messiah, I try to go to sleep and I  
 dream about him, im trying to move  
 on but something keeps pulling me  
 back. Everything is just a mess.  
 How did everything so perfect go so  
 wrong

JOURNEY

Ivory falling in love isn't hard,  
 we just make it complicated, you're  
 like a fish trying to swim upstream  
 you're going against the current.  
 The moment you realize youre in  
 love and fall... fearlessly thats  
 when it gets easy

Ivory chugs the last bit of ice cream

IVORY

But its so scary



JOURNEY

I know, its supposed to be, see  
this is your problem

Journey takes Ivory's remote and turns off the romantic movie

JOURNEY (CONT'D)

This is real life, with real flawed  
people not some romantic movie  
where some perfect leading man  
comes along and just sweeps you off  
your feet and you live happily ever  
after

IVORY

So you're saying I should listen to  
my heart

JOURNEY

No, see sometimes your heart will  
lie because it doesn't always know  
what it wants, I'm saying you  
should listen to the universe, the  
universe never lies

Ivory stops and reflects for a second

CUT TO:

NYC LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD BAR

Alyx is sitting alone drinking at a bar he is throwing back  
shot after shot

ALYX

Bartender hit me

BARTENDER

No Alyx I'm cutting you off

ALYX

What c'mon

BARTENDER

No thats it, you're done

Alyx just sits at the bar and chews on ice when suddenly  
another man comes by and bumps him

ALYX

Aye chump what's your problem?  
Bumping into me like you own this  
motherfucker

BAR GOER

Yo my guy you better calm down  
before you get your little skinny  
ass kicked

Everyone in the bar turns and looks at the two

ALYX

Youre going to kick my ass? Kick  
this

Alyx punches the man and knocks him out he then begins to  
kick him suddenly the bartender comes and grabs alyx and  
throws him out of the bar

BARTENDER

Go home Alyx whats wrong with you?

ALYX

Ight im gone

BARTENDER

Give me your keys

ALYX

No im good

BARTENDER

No you're not, you're waisted give  
me your keys

Alyx gives the bartender his car keys and begins to walk down  
the dark empty street alone headed to his home as he is  
walking, there is a dark vehicle slowly creeping behind him

INT. DARK COLORED VEHICLE

PASSENGER

Yo Kayne, that's him right there

DIMES

Just the man I'm looking for, roll  
up on his ass

The four men in the vehicle take out bats, guns and knives as  
they prepare to attack

PASSENGER

You ready to die mother fucker?

The car starts to follow alyx for another block, until alyx becomes suspicious he turns around and notices his enemies following him, Alyx runs through an ally fast as he can, when he thinks he has lost them. so he walks out of the other side when he thinks the coast is clear. He is surprised when the savage mob is waiting to pounce. They all jump out of the car and grab him as he try's to run away and beat him mercilessly in the ally he is stumped and punched and pistol whipped into nearly unconsciousness the mafia leader Kayne watches and smokes his cigar, finally stoping them, Kayne walks and stands over alyx as he is bleeding

KAYNE

Alyx, you broke my heart see in the streets there are rules, dont matter how unfair the rules are there are certan rules you must follow, and you broke the rules now you must pay the price, remember when you joined the family what was the first rule I gave to you?

Kayne pulls out his Glock from his trench coat and points it at Alyx

KAYNE (CONT'D)

Huh what was the number 1 rule? Dont cross Kayne, rule number 2 once you are in the family, the only way out is in a box and you broke them both. I treated you like a son you were apart of the family I should've killed you a long time ago and the wages of sin is death

GANGSTER #2

Light him up boss

Kayne puts his finger on the trigger and is about to fire when Alyx picks his head up, blood pouring from his mouth musters the strength to speak

ALYX

You wanna kill me? Huh? You wanna kill me huh Kayne? Aint scared to die, death cant be worst than the shit ive already seen, pull the trigger I've lost everything and everybody I love already so go ahead, Do it! Aint got nothing to lose! Is that what makes you a man? huh? Killing another black man, then go ahead

Kayne is surprised by Alyx strong words

GANGSTER #2

Take him out

GANGSTER #1

Do it boss! If you don't i will

ALYX

Do It! Pull the trigger

GANGSTER #2

Kill him, what are you waiting for?

Kayne is frozen holding the gun with his finger on the trigger for several seconds while everyone waits for the execution, suddenly police sirens start to ring out as police are arriving near by, as the police sirens get closer Kayne staring down at alyx has an ounce of mercy as he decides to leave before cops arrive

GANGSTER #1

Fuck it, ill do it

KAYNE

Stop! cops around the corner lets  
get the hell out of here

The mafia family leaves Alyx for dead as the family hop into the vehicle and drive off. Alyx is so beat up he can barely walk he starts to get up and immediately collapses down on the pavement unconscious

CUT TO:

INT NYC NEIGHBORHOOD BAR

Messiah is hanging out at the local bar when he receives a phone call

MESSIAH

Hello? what's up phoenix, tell Alyx  
im still not talking to him,  
wait..he what? ... are you  
serious??

He runs out of the bar

CUT TO:

INT NYC HOSPITAL ROOM-LATE NIGHT

Alyx is lying in a hospital bed unconscious clinging to life surviving only by oxygen machine as phoenix stands by his side holding his hand, Messiah bursts through door in confusion

MESSIAH

Oh my God Alyx, my brother who did this? Who did this?

PHOENIX

He's still unconscious they just finished surgery to stop the internal bleeding, they don't know if he's going to make it

MESSIAH

Im so sorry bro. I promised mom I would protect you and I didn't. Come on alyx you gotta fight my brother, I fight for you, this time you gotta fight for me. Its all my fault, its all my fault

Messiah is crying uncontrollably when phoenix hugs him.

PHOENIX

Its not your fault Messiah, its fucked up what they did to him, but its not your fault you've been a good big brother he knows you'd give your life for him its not your fault so okay stop blaming yourself

MESSIAH

Its all my fault...

As Phoenix try's to console Messiah, Messiah and Alyx's father Josiah walks into the hospital room,

MESSIAH (CONT'D)

What the hell are you doing here, the man is almost dead and now you wanna show up, we didn't need you for the last 10 years we dont need you now. Its too late to be a father now

PHOENIX

Messiah I called him here, I think its time for you all to talk and mend some fences just let him speak...

JOSIAH

Look son, I just came to see my son and tell him I love him, regardless of how you feel about me I am still your father, and I love you both, I know I messed up pretty bad and again I wanna say I'm sorry and ask that you forgive me, you dont know how much it hurts knowing all the birthdays and Christmases I missed, those are moments ill never get back. But I want another start. I cant go back and fix the damage it caused I can only move forward....

JOSIAH (CONT'D)

Let me pray for Alyx

Messiah, Phoenix and Josiah stand around Alyx's bed, Josiah holds out his hand for Messiah in which he grabs it as they bow their heads.

FADE OUT.

INT NYC BOXING GYM/ LATE NIGHT

Ozzy is all alone in the gym punching a punching bag as the dust flys from the bag with every punch.

OTS MESSIAH

Damn man you live in this gym huh?

OZZY

What are you doing here. I told you not to come back. This place aint for quitters

MESSIAH

I come to talk to my friend

The two sit down on the edge of the ring

OZZY

Look I heard about your brother. Is he going to make it

MESSIAH

I hope so, i cant stress about what i cant control. Its all in Gods hands

MESSIAH (CONT'D)

But I'm ready to fight again, I  
know I can win the tournament if  
you train me

OZZY

No youre not ready, look I am an  
old man I dont have time to waist  
on wanna be fighters

MESSIAH

Look man, I'm ready. All I ever  
wanted to do is be somebody I may  
go down as the greatest fighter  
that ever lived or the worst  
fighter that ever lived but, god  
dammit when my lungs breathe its  
final breathe and my heart beat its  
final beat this world will remember  
me as a fighter...this one is for  
my brother

Messiah holds his fist out, Ozzy and Messiah fist bump

CUT TO:

MUSIC ENGULFS THE SCENE AS THE JOURNEY TO GREATNESS BEGINS, A  
TRAINING MONTAGE DISPLAYS MESSIAHS JOURNEY

INT. BOXING GYM-EARLY MORNING

Messiah is training intensively in the boxing gym with Ozzy  
And another training pushing him to the limit. He strikes the  
punching bag from all angles

INT BOXING GYM-AFTER NOON

Messiah is doing sit ups and push ups there is pain on his  
face but he pushes on as Ozzy motivates him

OZZY

C'mon 10 more fight through the  
pain push

EXT NYC PARK-EVENING CHESS TABLES

Messiah and ozzy are playing chess Ozzy is teaching messiah  
to mentally prepare for his opponent messiah is focusing hard  
on every move

EXT. NYC STREETS EARLY MORING

Messiah is running hard through the streets of NYC breathing heavy as he goes the distance

NYC GYM AFTERNOON

Messiah is lifting heavy weights, swinging the heavy ropes, dead lifting as his body becomes lean and bulky

NYC GYM / BOXING RING-NIGHT

Messiah is in the boxing ring sparring with a partner  
messiah's skill is impeccable his strength is over whelming  
he moves like a cat his power is like a machine

EXT NYC PARK CHESS TABLE-EVENING

Messiah is in the park playing chess with Ozzy he makes all the right moves and finally beats Ozzy at chess

MESSIAH

Check mate!

Ozzy looks at messiah and smiles

FADE OUT.

EXT NYC STREETS

Messiah is running through the city, he is running through Ivory's neighborhood and decides to pay Ivory a visit before she leaves.

EXT-IVORY'S APARTMENT

Messiah steps to her door and rings the door bell, Ivory comes to the door, Messiah can see her bags are packed he figures she is about to leave soon

IVORY

Messiah? Hey

MESSIAH

Hey, umm...I just stopped by to say  
goodbye, and im sorry about how  
everything ended



IVORY

Yeah well it happened and I'm  
moving on

MESSIAH

When are you leaving?

IVORY

Two days, every things packed up  
just have to sell some things off,  
the stuff I cant take with me you  
know. You look good you been  
working out?

MESSIAH

Yeah, big fight coming up, and uhh  
I tried to write a poem but I had  
writers block, you know how  
sometimes you have so much to say  
and the words come out wrong and  
everything just gets all jumbled up  
so I wrote this, its not that good  
but i read it

IVORY

I'm listening....

MESSIAH

Yeah, I won't hold you or make your  
life more complcated so ill read it  
and be on my way okay?

IVORY

Okay...

He pulls out a crumpled piece of paper from his pocket and  
clears his throat

MESSIAH

Here goes nothing....

To Ivory Mercedes Jackson...Thank  
 you for showing me what true love  
 is,  
 Thank you for showing me its okay  
 to be vulnerable,  
 Thank you for helping me realize my  
 life actually means something and  
 that I'm not just a spec on this  
 planet, after my mom died I hated  
 God, I hated God for a long time  
 but you came along and you showed  
 me he does love me, and he thought  
 enough about me to put you in my  
 path, you became the water to my  
 dieing roots, the gas to my dieing  
 flame, the words to my blank page,  
 and I know every story has its  
 ending so I just wanted to  
 say....Thank you  
 Sincerely.....Messiah Rose

Ivory is moved to tears as he steps to her and hugs her  
 tenderly, he then kisses her cheek

MESSIAH (CONT'D)

Goodbye

He then continues on his run, Ivory walks back into her home  
 still emotional Journey comes to her side

IVORY

Damn Messiah, why are you doing  
 this to me?

IVORY (CONT'D)

What should I do Journey?

JOURNEY

I told you, Listen to the Universe

SLOW FADE TO BLACK.

#### **ACT IV - METANOIA**

INT LARGE ARENA BRONX NEW YORK-NIGHT

It is the night of the spectacular fight between Messiah Rose  
 and raining heavy weight champ Roy Kennedy... The location is  
 the Brox New York the arena is filling to capacity...

Grandly dressed celebrities and wealthy fight fans lower themselves into their ringside seat. People can be seen holding up signs reading "Messiah" and the "chosen one"

INT. LOCKER ROOM-NIGHT

Messiah is getting his hands tapped up by his trainers, he puts on his gloves, they put Vaseline on his skin he then puts on his bright red silk robe that reads "Rose" on the back. He looks in the mirror and starts shadow boxing staring in the mirror for several seconds before Ozzy interrupts him

OZZY

Messiah, someone wants to see you

MESSIAH

Not right now

Beat

Beat

Beat

OZZY

You sure? They said its really important

MESSIAH

Who is is?

Ivory walks into the locker in a beautiful dress and high heels that clicks as she walks, messiah looks up in shock

IVORY

Oh so you're too important to talk to me now

Beat

MESSIAH

Wow. Ivory what are you doing here? Shouldnt you be getting ready to move to London

IVORY

Messiah I'm not going anywhere

MESSIAH

Really? Why not? What aboutr leaving your bubble and chasing your dream?

IVORY

I am chasing my dream, you are my dream

MESSIAH

Are you serious?

The two embrace each other with a hug and a lingering kiss

IVORY

Alright, so i'm going to let you get ready....good luck champ

She turns and is heading out of the locker room and just before she leaves she turns around

IVORY (CONT'D)

Oh and your poem really touched my soul...you're welcome

She exits and ozzy walks in

OZZY

Alright you ready?

CUT TO:

Messiah walking out to the ring in his silk red robe next to his trainers he looks intense as he makes his way into the ring

ANOUNCER

Making his way into the ring is the incoming challenger, 23 year old Messiah Rose, a man who most believe has no shot to beat the champion Roy Kennedy. he hails all the way from the lower east side of Manhattan in place they call alphabet city, a man nicknamed "the chosen one" at 5'9 he has his work cut out against the longer leaner 5'11 frame of Roy Kennedy

INT BOXING RING-NIGHT

The crowd swells with anticipation as the two fighters meet in the center of the ring to touch gloves, Roy Kennedy has no respect for his opponent and does not touch gloves with Messiah

ROY KENNEDY  
You ready to die chump

CUT TO:

INT. RING SIDE

Ivory is cheering for Messiah ring side

IVORY  
C'mon baby you got this!

INT. RING

OZZY  
Remember what I taught you pick  
your shots wisely head-boy, head-  
body, this guy doesn't think you  
deserve to be in the ring with him,  
so he's going to try to knock you  
out early. That means he's going to  
be reaching, leaving his body open.  
so just be patient and don't rush  
your punches lets go!

The referee rings the bell and the men begin to battle with  
Roy Kennedy coming out aggressively throwing hey makers.  
Messiah ducks them and punches him low, Roy steps back  
surprised at the pure speed of Messiah

ROY KENNEDY  
Oh shit you got little speed huh?

Roy Kennedy launches an all out attack on Messiah throwing  
blows left and right knocking Messiah off balance and on the  
ropes. The blows keep coming as messiah becomes over whelmed

OZZY  
Get off the ropes! He's killing you

ROY KENNEDY  
You dont belong in my ring little  
bitch, i'm going to beat you so bad  
yo dead mama's going to feel

MESSIAH  
What the fuck did you just say?

Roy's words angers Messiah and he comes off the ropes  
swinging for his life.

Throwing a fury of blows at Roy sending him flying back to the corner where Messiah unleashes suddenly the referee steps in to break it up as the round is over and both men go to their corner to get cleaned up

ANOUNCER

That was an amazing round of boxing with Roy Kennedy winning that round but Messiah surprisingly sticking right in there

ROY KENNEDY'S TRAINER

Its time to break his will he's never seen a man like you, he's a pee on, a light weight he cant beat you in his dreams. So go out and crack his skull

the bell rings and the two men resume battle with Roy Kennedy proving to be too much for messiah hitting him blow after blow with no answer from Messiah. Messiah is over whelmed by the power of Roy Kennedy as blood pours from messiahs lip and right eye

INT. RING SIDE

IVORY

Oh my God! Stop the fight!

INT. RING

The referee ends the round with Roy Kennedy being the over whelming winner of the second round

OZZY

Look man he's killing you, I'm going to stop the fight, I love you too much to watch you die in the ring

MESSIAH

No dont stop this fight!

OZZY

I got to man

MESSIAH

Dont stop the fucking fight. hes a man hes not machine, he can be beat he takes a piss just like me. as long as im still breathing i got a fighting chance

OZZY

Look man you won! you won! Man you are already a winner in my book look at what you made it through, look at the man you've become. Look man! you came into my life when I was at my lowest, my wife just left me for a younger man, I had nobody but when I met you, and I saw the fire you had, way deep down inside. That bled and fought for something great, and it gave me a reason to live, it gave me reason to keep going, im alive today because of you. Look around at all the lives you touched, they are chanting your name. you're already a champion, Messiah. Its not about winning its about what you become on the journey

MESSIAH

I hear you man, but I can't lose ive come too far,

The bell rings and the two fighters pick up where they left off. Roy Kennedy continues the assault on messiahs body. Roy Kennedy smelling blood in the water goes for the kill shot knocking Messiah on his back

REFEREE

1,2,3

OZZY

Just stay down messiah, its okay man

REFEREE

4,5

Messiah is on the canvas crawling to the ropes, his mind flashes back to the most valuable lessons he learned on his journey from his mother and his trainer....

CUT TO FLASHBACK:

JAQUELINE

Boy, hold your head up! You'll be fine.

(MORE)

JAQUELINE (CONT'D)

You've got greatness in you, my first born child, I knew you were going to be special when you were born, thats why I name you Messiah

CUT TO FLASHBACK:

OZZY

This is the pawn It can only move forward one space at a time but the pawn has something that the other peices dont have the abilty to transform, transform into something greater than himself all he has to do is to be patient and survive until the end, make it all the way to the other side he may not be fastest or the most powerful but if can endure until the end he can transform into a Knight a queen or a king. As in chess, as in boxing, as in life, he that endures until the end will be transformed

CUT TO:RING

REFEREE

6,7,8,9

Before 10 messiah staggers to his feet shocking the arena

ROY KENNEDY

Shit

REFEREE

Are you good?

MESSIAH

I'm good dont stop the fight

Roy Kennedy throws a jab that connects, he throws another jab but messiah dodges and counters, with a head-body, heady-body combination, pining Roy Kennedy in the corner.

OZZY

You got him keep going!

The two men throw blows back and forth until they bathe knock each other down, the two fight come towering to the ground at the same time leaving the referee to count while both men are down fighting to be the first to get up

REFEREE

1,2,3,4,5,6,7



OZZY

Get up you can do it!

IVORY

You can do it baby!

ROY KENNEDY'S TRAINER

Get to your feet Roy lets go

REFEREE

8...

The two men almost at their feet but Messiah manages to regain his balance and stand at his feet while Roy Kennedy so close to rising, with all his might he gets to his feet but his body can no longer with stand the punishment comes cascading back down to the canvas

REFEREE (CONT'D)

9...10...hes out! Ring the bell!

MESSIAH

It over!

Messiah jumps in the air in jubilation he has won the fight the crowd erupts

ANOUNCER

And the champ goes down! How about that! Messiah Rose has done it, not the outcome we all expected but its all over. We have a new champion

Messiah runs to hug his trainer as they all celebrate in the ring

OZZY

You did you man congratulations

MESSIAH

No we did it

In the midst of his Joy holding a belt in his hands, Messiah turns around to find Ivory standing behind him , he runs into her arms...they kiss and embrace one another as messiah lets out all his emotions as he cry on her shoulder...

IVORY

You did! im so proud of you!

MESSIAH

I love you too

IVORY  
I love you too, Champ!

The scene fades out with them hugging each other at center of the ring

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. CHURCH EARLY SUNDAY MORNING-NEW YORK CITY

The scene opens with a beautiful choir singing a hymn, When the pastor of the church Josiah steps to the pulpit and begins to preach to his congregation

JOSIAH  
What a beautiful song by the  
choir, God is good

JOSIAH (CONT'D)  
how many of you all have been  
through something?

The church begins to clap and raise their hands

JOSIAH (CONT'D)  
Let me ask you again church, how  
many of you all have been through  
something? How many of you have  
been through things you thought you  
never make it out of ?...now...  
Didn't you make it out alright?

The church all stand to their feet and cheer on the enthusiastic pastor

JOSIAH (CONT'D)  
Because God said in his word you in  
Isaiah 43:2 when you pass through  
the the waters, I will be with you  
and when you pass through the  
waters I they will not sweep over  
you and the you walk through the  
fire you will not be burned; the  
flames will not set you ablaze

JOSIAH (CONT'D)

Ladies and gentlemen ive been  
through the fire, I ve done things  
im not proud of but, God kept me  
any way....now Im going to open the  
doors of church for someone to get  
the same type of healing I got, the  
doors of the church are wide open  
my arms arm wide open for any one  
lost and looking to come home

A beautiful tune begins to sweep over the church as the  
musicians began to play and the choir begins to sing, Josiah  
wipes the sweat off his forehead

JOSIAH (CONT'D)

The doors are wide open...come on  
home...

Josiah is shocked when he looks to the back and see's his two  
sons Messiah and Alyx, walking through the church doors,  
battered and bruised, Messiah with band aides on his face and  
arm in a sling, and Alyx walking on crutches twords him. The  
whole congregation turns and claps as they make their way to  
the front to embrace their father.

JOSIAH (CONT'D)

Hallelujah! These are my boys!

He steps down off the pulpit with tears in his eyes and hugs  
his sons. The choir and the church congregation sing and  
rejoice as the two men reconcile with their father.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. FAMILY HOME CHRISTMAS MORNING

The scene opens with Messiah, Ivory, Alyx and Phoenix all at  
the family home getting ready to celebrate Alyx's birthday.  
Messiah and Ivory are in the living room standing by the  
brightly lit Christmas tree

MESSIAH

Check this out!

Messiah pulls out a pass port out of his pocket

IVORY

Oh nice I'm happy for you, maybe  
you can finally leave New York for  
once in your life

MESSIAH

Yeah you always encouraged be to  
get out of my bubble and travel and  
I and since you turned down that  
job I felt kind of bad

IVORY

No its fine I'm happy where I am

MESSIAH

I know but still I wanted to make  
it up to you, so I booked a trip to  
London so we can go to together for  
two weeks

IVORY

Are you serious?!

MESSIAH

Yeah just you and me

IVORY

Aww thats amazing

Ivory wraps her arms around messiah and they share a kiss by  
the tree, Alyx and Phoenix walk in the living room

ALYX

Okay man don't man don't eat her  
face

PHOENIX

Yeah and Ivory can you stop playing  
tonsil hockey for a second and help  
me in the kitchen please, I am  
pregnant ya know,

IVORY

Sorry girl be right there

PHOENIX

Thank you

Ivory and phoenix exit and enter the kitchen while messiah  
and alyx talk by the tree

MESSIAH

what's up mr. Real Estate  
Agent, when is the baby  
due?

ALYX

March 24th and we just found out  
its a boy so listen my name ends  
with an X and Phoenix name ends in  
an X so we were thinking of naming  
the baby Matrix

MESSIAH

Matrix?

ALYX

Yeah what do you think?

MESSIAH

I think he's gonna get his ass  
kicked in school, Is what I think

ALYX

What I like it though

MESSIAH

Honestly what ever you name the  
baby I know youre going to be a  
good Father

ALYX

ah man you think you so?

MESSIAH

Yeah man I'm so proud you and the  
man you've become I love you bro

The two share a hug

ALYX

Love you too big bro, and I'm proud  
of you too man leaving New York  
headed to the UK leaving me behind

MESSIAH

Youre going to be okay with out me

ALYX

Yeah I'm good I can hold it down

MESSIAH

You crying?

ALYX

Nah you know Phoenix in there  
chopping onions got my eyes watery

MESSIAH

Dont start crying I don't do all  
that mushy stuff

The two brothers begin to tussle and play fight when Pheonix  
and ivory stop in the room

PHOENIX

Hey will you two cut that out and  
come eat the food is ready

INT. KITCHEN TABLE-MORNING

The food is prepared and Messiah, Alyx, Ivory and phoenix all  
gather around the table to feast.

MESSIAH

Happy birthday Alyx, I guess ill  
start us off with a prayer thats  
what mama always did, you didn't  
sit down at her table with out  
thanking the lord first

They all hold hands and bow their heads

MESSIAH (CONT'D)

Dear Lord...we thank you for the  
gift of this food, which nourishes  
our bodies we thank you for the  
gift of hard work and have faith  
that all our dreams and goals will  
be fulfilled with our perseverance.  
We are thankful for our wealth of  
blessings. Bless this food may it  
nourish our mind, body and souls  
within. Amen

They all begin to feast on the food

FADE OUT.

EXT. CEMETERY-EARLY MORNING-BRIGHT SUNNY DAY

The two brothers walk up to their mothers grave and put two  
bright red bouquets of roses on her grave. Messiah steps up  
to speak,

MESSIAH

Hey ma, I know I haven't by in  
while, just been a lot going on, a  
whole lot.

(MORE)

MESSIAH (CONT'D)

But i just wanted to see you and  
tell you i love you and thank you  
for beliving in me. I told you we  
were going to make you, you proud.  
I told you.

Alyx steps up and speaks to his

ALYX

Whats up ma , jut wanted to let you  
know im staying out a trouble, I  
have a good job and I'm about to be  
a family man and I wish you could  
meet little Matrix

Messiah stares at alyx as hates that name

ALYX (CONT'D)

Oh yeah you wouldnt believe dad is  
a pastor now, he's a good man he  
was just battling some demons, now  
I see what you saw in him.

Beat

ALYX (CONT'D)

Thank you for showing us how live  
the right way, Thank you for  
showing us the way, you ran your  
race now we can take it from here

The two boys turn to walk way and just before they leave Alyx  
turns around

ALYX (CONT'D)

Oh yeah I almost forgot....Agape

The two brothers walk away. The shot follows them into the  
distance together exiting the Cemetery as credits roll

**THE END**