

BACK TO LIFE

an original screenplay by

Edwin Brooks

Edwin Brooks
1040 Helmsdale Road
Cleveland Heights Ohio 44112
(216) 501-9610
Contact@insightnetwork.info

FADE IN:

INT. BRIGGS HOUSE - MORNING

ALVIN a light skin black man sits at the kitchen table drinking coffee, while reading the newspaper. MAX rushes into the kitchen, takes a bowl, and spoon off a rack next to the sink, opens a cabinet, and grabs a box of cereal. He sits the box on the table, opens the refrigerator, grabs a carton of milk, and takes a seat at the table.

MAX

Hey dad could you drop me off at practice, on your way to work?

Alvin lowers the newspaper in his hand, and looks at Max with a frown on his face, while Max pours the cereal, and milk in the bowl.

ALVIN

Why not. I'm at Your service.

Max smiles, and starts to eat.

INT. ALVIN CAR - MORNING

Alvin drives into the school parking lot. Max gather his books' and starts to get out,

ALVIN

Max wait a minute.

Max stops, and looks at Alvin.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

I know I give you the impression that I don't like the ideal of you playing football, and it is not my intention to attempt to run your life, but I've seen so many people throw their life away putting all they got on the line for a chance to make it to the pro's, like Your uncle for an example. Only to have their hopes cut short by injuries, and rejections.

MAX

Is that its dad. I have to go. I don't want to be late.

ALVIN.

O.K. son, all I'm trying to do is getyou to understand, is that a good

(MORE)

ALVIN. (CONT'D)
 education will give you more of a
 solid foundation to secure a decent
 living for the future.

MAX
 I hear you dad. Have a nice day.

Max gets out the car, and rushes up the stairs into the school.

INT. ALVIN OFFICE - DAY

Alvin walks off the elevator down a aisle between a row of cubicles full of people standing, and sitting.

EMPLOYEES
 Good morning Mr. Briggs, Good morning
 Mr. Briggs, Good morning Mr. Briggs.

He nods his head, as he passes by.

ALVIN
 (soft tone of voice)
 Good morning, Good morning, Good
 morning.

Alvin enters his office, sits his briefcase on the side of the desk. He walks over to the window, and opens the blinds, turns, and walks back to his desk, takes off his suit jacket, puts it around his chair, and sits down. He opens a folder sitting on the desk, looks through it, picks up the phone, and pushes a button.

ALVIN (CONT'D)
 Hi Good morning. Could you tell MR.
 BELL, that I would like to see him.

He pauses for a moment.

ALVIN (CONT'D)
 Thank you.

A few minutes later Mr. Bell walks in. Alvin stands up, and shakes his hand.

MR. BELL
 Good morning sir.

ALVIN
 Good morning. Have a seat.

Mr. Bell takes a seat in a chair on the other side of the desk.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

Mr. Bell I am quite pleased with the progress you've made since you have been promoted. Your work ethics have certainly shown by what I've seen in the annual reports, that you have the potential to advance.

MR. BELL

Thank you. That was definitely my intention when I accepted the position.

Alvin looks through some papers on his desk.

ALVIN

I can see by the increase in sales, and in the different departments throughout the company. You certainly have the capability to move up the letter, if you maintain the work ethic, and continue to learn. You are taking the right steps leading to the top of this company. I'll tell you what I'll do. Every second Tuesday of the month I meet with some of the big wigs, and have lunch. The next time we meet I would like you to join us. Is that something that would interest you?

MR. BELL

Yes, Yes sir.

ALVIN

Alright I will call you, and we can take it from there. You have a nice day.

Alvin and Mr. Bell stand up, and shake hands

INT. BRIGGS LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alvin walks in. JACKIE is sitting on the couch reading a letter.

ALVIN

Hi honey, how was your day.

JACKIE

It was just fine until I received a call at work from a teacher asking to meet with me concerning your daughters conduct.

ALVIN

Where is she.

JACKIE

She's upstairs in her room.

Alvin takes his suit jacket off, and heads towards the stairs.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Alvin.

He stops, turns, and looks at her.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

You know the kids are getting older,
and the time you have to spend with
them will soon be gone.

ALVIN

What more could they ask for Jackie.
I give them everything that they
need, and most of the things they
want.

JACKIE

You need to spend more time with
them. Alvin I'm not their mother,
and father. You don't attend no
events, or activities at their school.
I bet they would love to see you
there.

ALVIN

Not now Jackie please, not now.

Alvin walks up the stairs, and knocks on the door.

NINIK

Come in.

INT. NIKI BEDROOM - DAY

Alvin walks in. Niki is lying across the bed looking through
the pages of a magazine. Alvin sits down on the bed.

ALVIN

You want to tell me about it?

NINIK

Miss Adams took me out the class for
talking. She took me to the office,
and told the principal I was
disturbing the class.

ALVIN

Niki the school you are attending is one of the best schools in L.A. and me and your mother pays a pretty good penny for you to be able to attend that school, so that you can get a good education. Now I'll tell you what we going to do. I'm going to take you to school tomorrow, and you are going to apologize to the teacher, and there will be no other problems hence forth. Now is that understood?

NINIK

Yes dad.

Alvin gets up, and walks out the room.

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

Alvin is putting some primer on a china cabinet he made. Surrounded by a room full of furniture. SEDRICK sits in a chair near him.

FRIEND-SEDRICK

Man, you show make some nice pieces of furniture. The bookcase you made for me, and my wife still looks as good as it looked the day we brought it from you, and that was twelve years ago.

ALVIN

Yes, that was around your fifthanniversary.

FRIEND-SEDRICK

You've been making furniture since I moved here, and that's been well over fifteen years ago. You ever thought about going into business full time for yourself. Man, if I had the talent you got I'll be doing just that.

ALVIN

Well I've sold quite a bit. I never thought about it. I guess, because I started out doing it as a hobby, andit have been my get away. Man, I come out here, and shut the world out.

(MORE)

ALVIN (CONT'D)

Now reach inside that refrigerator,
and get a few cold ones out, and let
me enjoy the freedom of Jackie being
gone for the week.

Cedrick get up, walks over to a mini refrigerator, opens it,
and grabs two beers out. He shuts the door, and hands Alvin
a beer.

FRIEND-SEDRICK

Where did she go?

ALVIN

Back to the hometown my friend.

Alvin and Cedrick pop the tops, taps the beer bottles
together, and drinks.

Cedrick takes a seat.

FRIEND-SEDRICK

The hometown huh. Man, I haven't
been there in years. When you hyped
me up to come here after I came to
visit, I packed my bags, and didn't
look back. What led her there, and
why you didn't go? I know it wasn't
the kids, they old enough to look
after themselves.

ALVIN

SPOONIE wife took ill, and she went
to spend time with them. She know
me, and Spoonie don't get along.

FRIEND-SEDRICK

Man I remember by the time we got to
high school Spoonie was known as one
of the best running backs in the
district. His name was ringing all
over the place.

ALVIN

Yes, it was until he suffers an
injury that took him out the game,
and then a year later he got his wife
pregnant, got married, and went to the
service. He returned home a few years
later to become a trash man for the
next thirty years. Man, what a waste.

FRIEND-SEDRICK

Yeah Jean Lockett became the next well-known athlete after Spoonie, but he couldn't fill Spoonie's shoes. Spoonie was something special, but I heard Jean did make it to play at one of the top ten college.

ALVIN

Do you know what he's doing these days?

FRIEND-SETRICK

No, I don't. What's with you, and Spoonie?

ALVIN

He seems to think I'm stuck up, and told Jackie I think I'm better than him.

FRIEND-SEDRICK

Do you?

ALVIN

No. I guess I'm just pissed off at the way he turned out.

For what reason do you have any concern, as to the way he lives his life?

ALVIN (CONT'D)

I never thought about that. Why should I?

FRIEND-SEDRICK

Maybe these palm trees, and the lavish life you live gives what Spoonie said a leg to stand on.

Alvin looks at Cedrick with a slight grin on his face, and continue working. He takes a deep breath, and stops what hisdoing.

ALVIN

I be trying to get it through my son's thick head, to prevent him from ending up like Spoonie. I keep telling him to let the sports go, and get his head into the books

FRIEND-SEDRICK

Alvin you should look at max being in sports as a means that could afford
(MORE)

FRIEND-CEDRICK (CONT'D)
 him the opportunity to get a free pass through college. The odds are much better than it was back then. The kid must be keeping his grades up, or he wouldn't be able to play, and not to mention, who knows, he just may get a shot to go pro.

ALVIN
 That may be true, but that's not always the case.

FRIEND-CEDRICK
 Come on, don't kill his dreams. At least you're not dealing with the problems so many other parents are dealing with, like the ones who kids are dropping out.

ALVIN
 You've got a point there. You want another cold one.

FRIEND-CEDRICK
 No, I'll pass. I'm going to leave you within the comfort zone of your get away cave.

Cedrick drinks the rest his beer, and walks out the garage.

INT. BRIGGS LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Alvin walks in, in a hurry to pick up his phone, as it rings.

INTERCUT:

ALVIN
 (heavy breathing)
 Hello.

JACKIE
 I was calling to let you know she passed away. I'm going to stay another week to attend the funeral. You and the kids want to come here.

ALVIN
 No, just give Spoonie, and the family our condolences, and I will let the kids know.

JACKIE
 O.K. I will talk to you later.

ALVIN
Alright good bye.

Alvin hangs up the phone, and sits down in a chair.

ALVIN (CONT'D)
(loud tone of voice)
Max, Niki come here.

They come into the living room.

MAX
Yes dad.

ALVIN
You and Niki have a seat. I have to
tell you something.

They sit down.

ALVIN (CONT'D)
I just got off the phone with your
mother, and I'm sorry to tell you
that your aunt Maggie has expired.
Your mom will be away for another
week, but I'm sure we'll manage.

They sit in silence for a moment, gets up, and walks out the
living room.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Alvin and Mr. Bell walk over to a table. Two white men
gets up, and shakes their hand. MR. BURNS a tall slender
man, well dressed in a tailor-made suit extends his hand out
towards to empty seats, and they take a seat.

MR. BURNS
Alvin it's good to see that you
couldmake it.

ALVIN
Thank you for the invitation. I
would like to introduce you to the
assistant director of the company.
Mr. Bell.

MR. BURNS
Mr. Bell although I've just met you
it seems as if I already know you by
the upgrade in the company revenue
that I have noticed across the board.
May I ask what is your first name?

MR. BELL

Norman sir.

MR. BURNS

Is it alright if I call you by that name?

MR. BELL

That's fine with me.

MR. BURNS

Norman from what I've seen since you have stepped into the position as the assistant director, have giving me a perception that you may have what it takes to go straight to the top, and it might not take very long, but let me be brutally honest with you, in reaching the place where you are going, you must come to an understanding that you can't please everyone. Which brings me to the point of discussion that is of great concern, as to advancement, and welfare of the company. Now to my knowledge before you was promotion you were head of the committee in the union.

MR. BELL

Yes, sir that is correct.

MR. BURNS

Well Norman I think it's something you could do that could be beneficial for you and me, as well as the company.

MR. BELL

What is that sir.

MR. BURNS

I'm sure you are very much acquainted with the people on the board of the committee in the union, and as you know there's been a nasty dispute between the company, and the employee's about the cut backs that was made, as a means to maintain the companies status, and there's been a buzz going around that the committee is orchestrating a plan to strike, and that could be a major setback, so here's where you come in at.

(MORE)

MR. BURNS (CONT'D)

I need you to make a peace treaty in behalf of the company to resolve the matter.

MR. BELL

And may I ask, will the terms of the agreements of the company be kept

MR. BURNS

That's not of importance. The main objective is to hold them off for the time being until we make the alterations to eliminate the union trouble makers.

MR. BELL

So, all you want me to do is salethem a bunch lies?

Alvin looks at Norman. Slightly kicks his shoe, then covers his mouth, as he clears his throat.

MR. BURNS

I wouldn't put it in those exact words. Less just say what you are doing is no difference from what politician does when he' or she campaigns in pursuit of a seat in office. Listen Norman the few of us that makes it to the top of the letter have to do what's necessary when we are climbing are way to the top. Now are you with us, or not

MR. BELL

Can I take a few days to think about it?

MR. BURNS

(nods his head)
Sure you do that.

"Later"

INT. ALVIN CAR - DAY

Alvin is driving, and Norman is in the passenger seat.

MR. BELL

Man, I don't believe what Mr. Burnsis asking me to do.

(MORE)

MR. BELL (CONT'D)

I have been friends with the people in the union, and on that board of committee for years. We worked side by side to demand what we deserved, and it is by right that they get what's due to them.

ALVIN

Well Norman just like Mr. Burns said, there comes a point of time in your life when you've got to do what's best for you, and the people that depends on you, and it may not be appropriate in the eyes of some, but you've got to look over that towards the bigger picture.

MR. BELL

What about them, and the needs of their family's?

ALVIN

That why Mr. Burns emphasized the factor of not being able to please everyone.

Norman looks at Alvin with a look of discuss, shakes his head, and looks straight ahead.

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

Alvin is standing at his work bench, working on a piece of furniture. Jackie walks in.

JACKIE

Alvin, I have something I need todiscuss with you.

Alvin stops what he's doing, and leans up against the counter.

ALVIN

I'm listening

JACKIE

I called Spoonie the other day, and him, and MYRA haven't been getting alone since Maggie died.

ALVIN

Well Jackie when something that tragic happens to someone that close to you, it tends to leave a devastating effect.

(MORE)

ALVIN (CONT'D)

He losted a wife, and she losted a mother, but time will heal their wombs, or at lease ease the pain to bring them back together, or maybe even closer.

JACKIE

Yes, that might be true Alvin, but I've never heard my brother talk the way he talked the last time we talked, and I'm all he's got.

ALVIN

Jackie there's nothing you can do to ease the pain he's going through.

JACKIE

I know Alvin, but if he is here with me, it may help to ease the pain, by being around someone who loves, and cares for him.

ALVIN

Come on Jackie, we have our hands full with our own obligations.

JACKIE

Like what Alvin?

ALVIN

Like you, me and the kids.

JACKIE

Cut the bull crap Alvin, all your trying to do is use that as an excuse to hide behind the fact that you don't like my brother.

ALVIN

Now that's a bunch of nonsense.

JACKIE

The hell it is. You know Alvin part of the asshole you are is partly my fault because I let you have your way when it came to being the head of the house, but I didn't expect you to end up like the person you are today. I guess I put up with it for so long because I loved you.

ALVIN

What you mean you loved me?

JACKIE
That's exactly what I mean. You
can't keep getting something
you're not giving.

ALVIN
And what do you mean by that?

JACKIE
You figure it out.

Jackie turns, and walks out the garage.

INT. ALVIN OFFICE - DAY

Alvin sits at his desk across from Mr. Burns

MR. BURNS
I haven't heard from Norman concerning
what we discussed.

ALVIN
That was a discussion between the
two of you, so I assumed he would
have reached out to you.

MR. BURNS
Alvin, I assume a problem of mine
tobe a problem of yours, and what
effects one of us affects us all.
Now are we on the same page?

ALVIN
Yes, sir we are.

MR. BURNS
Now here's what I want you to do the
next time you talk to him. I want
you to shake his tree a little, you
know dangle the meat in front of
him.

ALVIN
And exactly how am I supposed to
dothat?

Mr. Burns takes an ink pen out his pocket, and twists it
aroundin his hand.

MR. BURNS
You know as well as I do, when he
was promoted to the position he
forfeited his advantage of being
protected by the union.

(MORE)

MR. BURNS (CONT'D)

So, let's see how he reacts to the threat of losing his main source of income, and that's where you come in at. Good day Alvin.

Mr. Burns gets up out the chair, and walks out Alvin's office. Alvin spins his chair around towards the window, stares out the window for a moment, then spins back around to his desk, and picks up the phone.

ALVIN

Missy order some flowers, and have them sent over to my wife's job. Please. Thank you.

"Later"

INT. JACKIE OFFICE - DAY

Jackie is sitting at her desk. A man comes in, and sits a bouquet of roses on her desk in front of her, and turns, and walks out. PORSHA walks in, and takes a seat. She looks at Jackie with a smile on her face.

JACKIE

What.

PORSHA

What's the occasion?

JACKIE

You are so nosie.

Jackie takes the envelope off the flowers, opens it, reads it, and sits it on the desk.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

It's Alvin trying to make up.

PORSHA

He had to really do something bad to tick you off.

JACKIE

This is something that have built up over time, and I think we done. All that is left for us to do is to take care of the kids, and I've been basically doing that myself.

PORSHA

Hey what you got planned after work?

JACKIE

The usual, go home, cook dinner, and sit around with the kids until bed time.

PORSHA

Why don't you come go with me after work? There's a place I want to take you too. It's very classes. They have this thing they call happy hour where drinks are half price for the people that gets off work to come in, and have a drink, and unwind. There's also live entertainment. You like jazz?

Jackie nods her head.

PORSHA (CONT'D)

O.K. then I'll meet you in the lobby after work.

INT. THE BORDER HOUSE - EVENING

Jackie and Porsha is sitting near the stage drinking wine, listening to a jazz band. RUSSELL walks off the stage, and stands in the aisle. He puts the saxophone up to his mouth, and starts to play Mr. Magic by Grover Washington Jr., while the band plays alone behind him. He plays the groove version, and gets a standing ovation. Russell walked over to Jackie, and Porsha table.

RUSSELL

Good evening ladies. I hope you're enjoying the show. Let me introduce myself. My name is Russell Thompson, and yours.

PORSHA

My name is Porsha, and this is my friend Jackie.

RUSSELL

Jackie huh. Jackie can I buy you ladies a drink?

JACKIE

No thanks this one is good enough for me. In fact, I'm about to leave.

Jackie looks at her watch, then over at Porsha.

RUSSELL

Well we are about to do another number.

Russell reaches into the pocket of his shirt, pulls out a card, and slides it on the table in front of Jackie.

RUSSELL (CONT'D)

Here's my number. You ladies have a nice day.

Russell turns, and walks away.

EXT. THE BORDER HOUSE - EVENING

Jackie and Porsha is standing in the parking lot next to Jackie's car.

PORSHA

Well are you going to call him?

JACKIE

I have no intention, that's why I left his number on the table. Have you forgot, I'm married.

PORSHA

You the one that said you was done.

JACKIE

Yes, but that doesn't mean I'm going to run out, and start dating.

PORSHA

Jackie I'm not trying to persuade you to do anything, but life is short, and sometimes you have to do what makes you feel good,

Porsha holds the card up with Russell number on it. She looks at Jackie with a smile on her face. She puts the card inside the side pocket of Jackie's purse, and walks away.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jackie looks through the cloths hanging in her closet. Alvin walks in the room. He stands there, and looks at her.

ALVIN

Hey did you get the flowers I sent you?

JACKIE

Yes Alvin, I don't know if you know, but the dead receives flowers too.

ALVIN

Why thanks Jackie I'm glad to have learned something new. Now may I ask where have you been all evening? Me, and the kids was beginning to get a bit worried when you didn't come home, or call.

Jackie takes a dress out the closet, and presses it up against her body, as she looks into the mirror.

JACKIE

I think the kids are old enough to take care of themselves, and I'm sure you can see I'm a full-grown woman, capable of taking care of myself.

ALVIN

I know Jackie. I guess I was expecting you to do as you usually do, like come home, and cook dinner.

JACKIE

I know Alvin, that's what you do, you expect everything that you want me to do, and you select the things you want to do.

Jackie closes the closet, and walks pass Alvin out the room.

"Later"

Alvin wakes up in the middle of the night in bed alone. He looks around the room, sits up on the side of the bed, and wipes the sleep out of his eyes. He gets up, walks out the room, down the hall. He passes Max walking down the hall.

ALVIN

Max have you seen your mother?

MAX

She in the quest room.

Alvin walks down the hall, and looks inside the quest room. Jackie is lying in bed sleep.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Alvin sits at the table reading the newspaper, and drinking coffee. Jackie comes down the stairs, picks her car keys up off the counter, and heads for the door.

ALVIN

Wait a minute Jackie how long are you going to carry on with this childish, foolish mess.

She stops, turns, and looks at Alvin.

JACKIE

Childish, and foolish huh. It seems to me that you fit that description better than I do. You see Alvin you are used to getting whatever you want that you can't see any further than yourself.

She turns, and walks out the door.

INT. ALVIN OFFICE - DAY

Alvin is sitting at his desk across from Norman.

ALVIN

Norman, I call you here to see what you were doing in regards to the request made by Mr. Burns.

MR. BELL

I thought about it, and there's no way I could live with myself after selling out the very same people I use to work alongside of, in an effort to make the work conditions better.

ALVIN

Norman you know, as well as I know, it's a dog eat dog world when you paving away for yourself to the top.

MR. BELL

Bull sh-it it's more of a racist world when it comes to a black man working anywhere. They'll tell you, you need to get a good education, or you need to have a degree to qualify to have a fair chance, or get a position at the top, but that's a bunch of bull crap.

ALVIN

Norman I'm sorry you feel that way, and if I could I would respect the way you feel, and leave it at that, but unfortunately the matter is above me. I will give you a few more days to reconsider.

MR. BELL

And then what?

ALVIN

Whatever happens, is out of my hands.

Alvin stands up, shakes Norman's hand, and Norman walks out.

INT. THE BORDER HOUSE - EVENING

Porsha and Jackie are sitting at a table sipping on some wine. Russell walks up to the table.

RUSSELL

And how are you ladies doing this evening?

Jackie looks up at Russell.

JACKIE

Fine, and you?

PORSHA

Hi. Excuse me Jackie I'm going to the lady's room.

Porsha get up, and walks away.

RUSSELL

Jackie it would be my pleasure to have dinner with you, so we can get more acquainted with each other.

"Later Day"

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

There's view of the elegant settings of tables, with people sitting enjoy their meal. A man guides Jackie to one of the tables Russell is sitting at. Russell gets up, as Jackie approach the table, and pulls her chair out.

JACKIE

Thank you.

He nods his head with a smile, as she takes a seat.

"Later"

Jackie, and Russell is eating.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Do you come here often?

RUSSELL

No. Only on special occasions. You like the food?

JACKIE

Yes, the food is good. Russell, I don't know if I should have told you this before, but I'm married.

RUSSELL

It that so, and let me guess. Things are not working out quite well.

JACKIE

You can say that. I don't know, I guess when two people have been together, as long as me and my husband have, one or the other forgets about the joy they once had together.

She takes a deep breath.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

I guess raising kids, and providing for them becomes more important.

RUSSELL

And may I ask, when was the last time you have been giving the time, and attention to feel loved, and cared for?

JACKIE

I don't know exactly when, but it been a long time. So, tell me what's life like in the inside of Russell's story book.

RUSSELL

Well, I was married for ten years, and I wasn't aware of the fact that what you do could come back, and bite you. Anyway, she was a good woman, and I was a cheater that believed I could live a double life. I had become detached from my marriage, and home, and one day it just all fall apart. So, when I finally realized the mess I made, it was too late. She never recovered from the hurt, and pain I caused her, so we split, and moved on.

JACKIE

So, what have you done since then?

RUSSELL

I've tried to live life, and take the pass, as a learning experience. At first, I was in search of something me and my ex had, and then it came down to me just wanting to have a good relationship with someone, Of course, without the mess I was doing in the pass, only to find myself dealing with the same hand I dealt my wife.

JACKIE

So, I guess it's true what they say, when they say what goes around comes around.

RUSSELL

Yes, it certainly is.

Jackie and Russell continue eating.

INT. ALVIN OFFICE - DAY

Alvin's secretary walks in, and take a seat. She opens a notebook with a pen in her hand.

ALVIN

I want you to book me a flight out to Boston tomorrow morning, and make a reservation at a hotel near the airport. I will be staying overnight.

She writes in the notebook. Gets up, and walks out.

INT. SPOONIE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Spoonie is sitting in a chair watching an episode of Sanford and Son. He laughs out loud as a view of the t.v. shows Fred attempting to interrupt a poker game Lamont is playing with friends. The doorbell rings.

Spoonie gets up, and looks out, then opens the door. Alvin walks in.

SPOONIE

My, my, my look who the wind blew in. Man, I haven't seen your face around here since I don't know when, and dam show don't believe for a second, that you brought your snobbish ass all this way to see me, so let's just cut through the chase, and get down to the real reason you here.

ALVIN

First of all, whatever you decide after I tell you, I would appreciate it if you would keep this meeting between us, to yourself. Now upon your sister's return home from your wife's funeral she came to me, and tried to get me to agree to the terms of you coming to L.A. to live with us, and I objected. So, she turned completely against me.

SPOONIE

Well it sounds to me like you put your foot in your mouth, because you should have known I wasn't going to come nowhere near you. Man, how could you be so smart, but yet so dumb? Now exactly what is it that you want from me?

ALVIN

I need you to come live with us for a while until this whole thing me, and your sister going through blows over.

SPOONIE

Man, you done lost your mind to think I would leave my home, and come live with you. Have you ever stopped to think for once, that whatever you, and my sister is going through could be a bigger problem than this disagreement you had about me? Maybe she's just fed up, or just tire of your stuck-up ass.

ALVIN

Listen Spoonie this is just a chance I will have to take. Now just hear me out. Whatever the monthly cost here I'll pay until you return, along with fifty thousand dollars in cash, with all-expense paid to, and from L.A. and all expense paid while your there. You will get half up front, and half before you leave. Is that a deal.

Spoonie sits in silence for a moment.

SPOONIE

Alvin, I know, and you know you've been making a pretty good penny for some time now, so the only way I would consider the deal is if you double that amount.

ALVIN

Dam Spoonie, you really drive a hard bargain, but I guess I'll have to take it.

SPOONIE

But let me make this perfectly clear before we seal the deal. I'm not going to put up with none of your bull crap while I'm there, and if you do cause me any problem the deal will be off.

ALVIN

Deal.

Alvin shakes Spoonie hand, and walks out.

EXT. BRIGGS HOUSE - DAY

Spoonie pulls into the driveway in a gray rusty color van. He turns off the ignition, and the exhaust pipe sounds off with smoke coming out of it. He gets out of the van with a big afro parted down the side of his head, wearing a pair of thick glass with an old dusty pair of work boots, and a pair of blue overalls. Alvin walks out the house with a discussed look on his face.

ALVIN

You drove all the way here in that?

Spoonie looks back at the van, then turns, and looks at Alvin.

SPOONIE

It gets me from point a to b that's all that counts

ALVIN

Come on, let me show you your room.

Alvin takes one of Spoonie's bags, as Spoonie pulls them out the van.

INT. BRIGGS HOUSE - DAY

They enter through the front door of the house. Spoonie sits his bag down, and looks around the house in amazement.

SPOONIE

Man, this is some house you've got.
This look like something from out of
a book. Must have cost you all quite
a bit. Man, if I knew you was living
like this, I would raise that amount a
little higher.

Alvin shakes his head with a frown on his face.

ALVIN

Follow me. You'll be staying in the
down stairs quest room.

INT. QUEST ROOM - DAY

Alvin opens the door, walks inside over to the curtains,
pulls a string, and the curtains slides open revealing a
beautiful view of the patio, and swimming pool. With a path
in the middle, between the swimming pool, and a tree that's
decorated with flowers neatly arranged around the root, and
along the back, and sides of the house laid sections of well-
manicured grass. Spoonie walks into the room, sits his bag
down, and looks out the window in awe.

SPOONIE

Man, oh man this is breath taken.

ALVIN

Yes, that's a nice view. Well make
yourself at home, and your sister,
and the kids should be home shortly.

Alvin walks out the room.

"Later"

INT. BRIGGS LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Jackie walks in, and Max, and Niki is sitting on the couch
looking at Jackie, then back, and forth at each other.

JACKIE

Alright what's up you two?

Spoonie walks into the living room to Jackie, and give her a
hug.

SPOONIE

Hey little sis. I thought I'd
surprise you, and come out here to
see how you living.

(whisper)

Oh, I had a little push from
your husband.

JACKIE

Well you don't say. Why don't you come in the kitchen with me, and talk to me while I get dinner prepared?

Jackie and Spoonie walks out the living room.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Spoonie sits on the bleachers watching the high school football team Max plays on. Max runs the ball, and fumbles twice.

COACH REEVE

Got dam it Briggs. Hit the bench.

"Later"

INT. SPOONIE ROOM - NIGHT

Spoonie and Max walk in. Max takes a seat, and Spoonie goes into the closet. He pulls out a scrap book, and hands it to Max. Max opens the book, and looks at pictures of Spoonie during his years playing football.

MAX

Man, uncle Spoonie you were good in your days.

SPOONIE

Yes, I was the leading running back in the state in my time. I run thirty-five hundred yard in my first season, and I progressed per season. Man was I on a role, and then came the knee injury that ended it all.

MAX

That must have been a heavy blow to know you wasn't going to be able to play anymore.

SPOONIE

Yeah it hurt. I can't deny that, but it comes with the territory. It was just unfortunate that I didn't get far enough to get that scholarship, but I still could have done better if I had worked harder in school, and not got caught up having a kid before I had got myself together.

(MORE)

SPOONIE (CONT'D)

Max you can't put all your eggs in one basket when it comes to playing football. You've got to get a good education in case you have to have something to fall back on.

MAX

My dad be telling me that, but he thinks I should quit playing all together, and work on getting a good education. But uncle Spoonie I'm doing better in school, then I am on the field.

SPOONIE

Max it's good to know that, but if you going to play while you have the chance to play you've got to give it all you've got, and be the best you can be. Now tell me how far are you planning to go playing football?

MAX

I'd like to play in the N.F.L. if I could make it that far.

SPOONIE

Max if that's what you really want to do, you have to be willing to give it all you got, and then some. You've got to decide to take any opposition, and make it work in your favor. You've got to put in the work on your own time to be the best on their time. That's what made me stand out above the rest.

MAX

Could you help me uncle Spoonie.

SPOONIE

We'll see, now go to bed.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

The team is down fourteen points in the fourth quarter with five minutes left in the game. Coach Reeves sends Max on the field. He runs into the huddle, then out of the huddle into the back field. The ball is snapped, and passed to Max. Max starts to run the route of the play, and the hole collapse before he gets through. He turns in another direction, and cuts up field with a clear opening to the end zone. The crowd roars, as he enters, and the other team mate embraces him in

the end zones. The other team runs the ball midway down the field, and is force to kick a field goal. They miss the field goal with a minute, and a half left on the clock. Coach Reeve calls Max, and Max runs over to him. He whispers in Max ear, and Max runs on to the field, they make three attempts to get in, but fails. Which leads them to forth down with last then a minute left on the clock. The quarterback gets in position to receive the ball, but steps back, and looks over at Spoonie. Spoonie Lifts his hand and makes a signal to the quarterback. The ball is hiked, and the quarterback hands the ball off to a halfback, and he throws it to a wide receiver, as he enters the end zone. With only seconds left on the clock they line up for a two-point conversion. The ball is hiked, faked to Max, and giving to another man in the back field. He plows forward behind the offensive front line, and leaps up over the line into the end zone. The crowd roars, as ever one runs on the field.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Coach Reeve stand up surrounded by the players, standing and sitting around. Spoonie stands by the entree of the locker room.

COACH REEVE

I'm glad to see that we have finally come together, as a team. It is a great feeling to get a win at this time of the season, although we still have a way to go, I hope what we've done tonight will bring us to the end of the season with a better record than we have had previously. No other team have looked at us as a threat with the sorry record we have carried in loses over the pass years, so now we have witnessed what we are capable of tonight, and let us draw from that to become a force to be reckoned with.

The teams start to clap, and whistle.

Coach Reeve starts to walk away. He turns back around towards the team, and looks at the quarterback.

COACH REEVE (CONT'D)

Oh, DEN where did the call come from to run the flea flicker on that last down.

The locker room turns silent for a moment. Den lowers his head, and lifts it with his eyes focused in on Coach Reeve.

DEN THE QUARTERBACK

I see that the defense had caught on to the play we was about to run, so I step back to call a timeout, and looked over, and seen Max uncle Spoonie signaling to me to run the flea flicker, and I knew that was something we had worked on, so I ran the played.

Coach Reeve looked over at Spoonie.

COACH REEVE

Good call.

He turns, and walks into his office.

INT. JACKIE OFFICE - DAY

Jackie is sitting at her desk, and Porsha walks in, and takes a seat.

PORSHA

So, what's the latest on you and Russell?

JACKIE

Nothing much. We've been out to dinner, and to a movie, but that's it.

PORSHA

So, when do you plan on letting him test the ride.

JACKIE

What do you mean. What ride?

Porsha looks at Jackie with a seductive look on her face.

PORSHA

Your goodies, and I'm sure you want to see what he's working with, and how he works it. After all you haven't had nothing new in your life, so this is going to blow your hair back.

JACKIE

My plan isn't to start running around sleeping with other men. Russell is gentleman that makes me feel like Alvin once did, but I can't say if, or when anything going to happen between us.

Porsha looks at Jackie with a puzzle look on her face.

PORSHA
Are you, and your husband still
sleeping together?

Jackie looks at Porsha with a frown on her face.

JACKIE
My goodness you want to know a lot.

PORSHA
Are you still sleeping with him?

JACKIE
We still sleep in the same bed, but
we haven't done nothing in a while.
He tried, but I told him
I wasn't in the mood, and to be
honest I'm slowly growing to have
more feeling for Russell.

PORSHA
Well don't wait to late,

Porsha gets up, and walks out of the office.

INT. RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

Alvin takes a seat across from Mr. Burns.

ALVIN
Good Afternoon.

Mr. Burns takes in a fork full of food, sits the fork down,
and wipes his mouth with a napkin.

MR. BURNS
I wish I could say the same Alvin,
but this problem we've been having
seems, as if it's going nowhere,
and time is running out. I gather
you've talked with Norman since the
last time we've met.

ALVIN
I've met with Norman, and he have
expressed his reason for not wanting
to get involved in the union affairs
under the circumstances.

MR. BURNS
Alvin, I assumed you were aware of
what was needed to be done on Norman's
(MORE)

MR. BURNS (CONT'D)
behalf, and it wasn't an option.
There was a clear understanding as
to an ultimatum.

ALVIN
Yes, I understand, but what is being
asked of Norman doesn't consist within
the guidelines of his duties, as an
assistant director sir.

MR. BURNS
And what exactly are the guidelines
according to his position, or yours
for that matter. When you became a
part of this company Alvin, you became
a part of it, as a whole, so there's
no guild lines. Now you go tell
Norman to do what is asked of him,
and if he refuses, you fire him.
Nowthat's an order.

Mr. Burns gets up, and walks away in an angry
manner.EXT. BRIGGS HOUSE - DAY.

Spoonie drives into the driveway, gets out his van, and starts
to walk towards the front of the house. MISS ALEXANDER
quickly walks out the house next door over to a fence that
divides the properties, with a bonnet on her head, and a
house coat on.

MISS ALEXANDER
Excuse me sir, may I ask who are
you.

SPOONIE
I'm Jackie's brother Spoonie. Is
there something I could help you
with?

MISS ALEXANDER
No thanks. We try to look out for
each other as neighbors around here.
(She whispers)
Some kids went into yawl's house.

She nods her head, and walks away. Spoonie walks into the
house.

INT. BACKYARD - DAY

Spoonie steps out on the patio. Max, his friend, and two
girls are running around diving, and playing in the pool.

Max see Spoonie, gets out the pool, and him, and his friend walks over to Spoonie.

SPOONIE

Hey uncle Spoonie this is BRIAN, he's a wide receiver on the football team.

BRIAN

How you doing sir. Max told me how much you have helped him out, and everyone could tell the difference.

SPOONIE

Well I'm fine Brain, you can call me Spoonie, and thanks for the compliment.

Max pushes Brain forward.

BRIAN

Mr. Spoonie I want to know if you would give me a hand at tighten up my skills?

SPOONIE

You can call me Spoonie, and it's not just about tighten up your skills. It's about the attitude, and motivation you apply alone with it, that will make you stand out, but you got to be willing to do what it takes.

BRIAN

I will Spoonie. Please will you?

SPOONIE

Max will let you know the time, and place. You be there, and we'll see.

Spoonie turns, and walks in the house.

INT. GARAGE - EVENING

Alvin is working on a piece of furniture. Cedrick walks in, and take a seat. Alvin stops, folds his arms, and leans up against the counter.

ALVIN

Man, I don't know what the hell'sgoing on.

FRIEND-SEDRICK

What you mean by that?

ALVIN

Jackie been mad at me. We don't even say much to each other anymore. Every time I try to talk to her she cuts the conversation, and walks away. She been coming home late a lot lately.

FRIEND-SEDRICK

Well maybe that is her way of escaping the day by day b.s. like you do when you come in here.

ALVIN

Man, I never thought of it that way. Not to mention the bull sh-it I've been dealing with on the job lately with the people above me.

FRIEND-SEDRICK

What's going there?

ALVIN

I'm just beginning to see how things really are, in regards to what I thought they were. Man, oh man, all this time I thought obtaining a degree gave me the advantage to have an equal opportunity, only to open my eyes to see that I'm nothing more than a puppet on a string.

FRIEND-SEDRICK

Yeah man, in the corporate world, or any other place in the world for that matter. They are quick to let a color man knows who's running things. Unless he's doing his own thing. I trust whatever it is you'll work it out.

Cedrick shakes Alvin's hand, walks out.

INT. COACH REEVE OFFICE - DAY

Max enters the office, and Coach Reeve is sitting at his desk. Brain is sitting across from him.

COACH REEVE

Come in, and have a seat Max.

Max takes a seat next to Brain. Max looks at Brain with a puzzle look on his face.

COACH REEVE (CONT'D)

Max you have been playing better than I've anticipated, so from here on out you will move up to the starting position. You, and Brain have made a great contribution to the team that have put us in a position to finally win some games. Brain tells me that your uncle been working with you all, and he knows his way around the field. It would certainly be a pleasure to meet with him.

MAX

I'll see if I can arrange that sir.

COACH REEVE

You do that son.

Max and Brain gets up, and walks out.

INT. JACKIE OFFICE - DAY

Jackie is sitting at her desk working. Porsha walks in, and takes a seat.

PORSHA

It seems like your glowing. Do you want to talk about it?

JACKIE

I think it's about to happen.

PORSHA

What's about to happen?

JACKIE

You know, me and Russell girl. I'm really feeling him.

PORSHA

Are you falling in love with him?

JACKIE

No, but I feel the need to let him relieve some of this tension I've got, and like you said, I've got to start doing what makes me happy.

PORSHA

Now you talking girl.

JACKIE

I need you to do me a favor, and pick me up this weekend, at my house, that way Alvin won't suspect nothing.

PORSHA

I got you. Just let me know what time, and I'm there.

They look at each other, and bust out laughing. Porsha gets up, and walks out.

INT. ALVIN OFFICE - DAY

Norman storms into the office in an angry manner.

MR. BELL

So that's the way you do your dirt. You send someone to tell me my job have been terminated. That's some low down dirty sh-it. You know I need this job. This is my only source of living. You didn't have to do me like that Mr. Briggs.

ALVIN

You know as well as I do what was asked of you, and you knew once you took the position you were no longer protected by the union. You made the choice not to do it, so the decision was made to let you go. Now I'm going to give you the chance to leave my office before I call security, and have you removed from the premises.

Norman turns, and walks to the door. He slams it behind him.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Spoonie, Coach Reeve, and COACH HEAD the defense coordinator stands on the side line. A play is called, and Spoonie waves it off, and gives the Den a sign to run another play. Coach Reeve yells out, and tells Den to run the play he called. He calls a timeout, and turns to Spoonie.

SPOONIE

You listen to me, and you listen good.

COACH REEVE

Whatever you have done dust far I
let you do, but got dam it, I run
this team, and if you ever pull some
bull sh-it like that again your
service will no longer be needed.

SPOONIE

Man, you can take this whatever you
call it, chump change you are paying
me, and stick it up your ass.

The ball is hiked, and the play folds.

SPOONIE (CONT'D)

You see I wasn't going over your
head boss. I knew the play wasn't
going to work by the way the, defense
had lined up. If you really had the
skills to coach, you wouldn't need
me in the first place. I know you
can tell that from where they were
towhere they are.

Spoonie turns, and walks off the field.

INT. BRIGGS LIVING ROOM - EVENING

The doorbell rings. Jackie goes to the door, and let Porsha
in.

PORSHA

My goodness I didn't know you was
living a lavish style life.

Porsha looks around, and Jackie laughs.

JACKIE

Come in and have a seat, I'll be
ready in a minute.

Jackie starts to walk towards the stairs. Spoonie walks in.

SPOONIE

Hi how are you.

PORSHA

Hi, I'm fine in you?

SPOONIE

I'm o.k. I guess.

Spoonie turns to Jackie.

JACKIE

Spoonie this is my friend, and
coworker Porsha. Porsha this my
brotherSpoonie.

Porsha looks at Spoonie, and swallows.

PORSHA

His quite interesting.

SPOONIE

Excuse me. Jackie can I have a word
with you?

He turns, and walks towards the back door of the patio.

EXT. PATIO - EVENING

Spoonie takes a seat in a chair. Jackie walks out on the
patio, and stands facing him.

SPOONIE

Jackie I can't tell you what to do
with your life, you are my baby
sister, and you are a grown woman,
but there are times in life when you
have to take a step back, and evaluate
what's going on in your life to make
the right decisions.

JACKIE

Spoonie what are you talking about?

SPOONIE

Jackie I'm no dummy. I could see
the difference in your mood swing
when you come in the house from where
ever you've been. To the attitude
you have when you're around Alvin,
and all I'm saying to you is, don't
loweryour standards. It's not what
you
do. It's how you do it, but be sure
it's something that you really want
to do, because you may never retrieve
what you lose, and that could be a
burden you may have to carry with
you for the rest of your life. I
know what it's like cause each day I
wake up I have to live with the love
I losted.

JACKIE

I hear you, and I thank you Spoonie
for your concern.

Jackie walks back into the house.

"Later"

EXT. RUSSELL HOUSE - EVENING

Porsha drives up in front of the house.

JACKIE

Porsha I'm sorry for wasting your time, but I can't do this. It's not that I don't want to, It's just not the right time. I think it's best for me to resolve the situation I'm in before I jump head first into something else.

PORSHA

Maybe your right. It's your life.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Spoonie look over the fence. He See Miss Alexander bent over working in her garden. She looks up, and see him.

MISS ALEXANDER

Is there something I could help you with?

SPOONIE

I was just admiring the view. I mean the garden that is.

MISS ALEXANDER

So, you had your own garden?

SPOONIE

No, my wife had one every year up until she passed away

MISS ALEXANDER

I'm sorry to hear that. How long she been gone?

SPOONIE

Oh, about six months now.

MISS ALEXANDER

I reckon you miss her.

SPOONIE

I must say I do. After all we were together since high school.

MISS ALEXANDER

Did you have any Kids?

SPOONIE

Yes, one daughter, and me and her were close up until her mother passed. I guess when my wife died it took a toll on our relationship.

MISS ALEXANDER

You want to come, and help me weed out my garden?

SPOONIE

Yes I guess an extra pair of handswon't hurt.

MISS ALEXANDER

Come around the back, through the fence, and I'll run in, and get some lemonade.

Spoonie walks around the back, and Miss Alexander goes in the house.

INT. MR. BELL LIVING ROOM - DAY

Norman opens the door. Alvin steps in.

MR. BELL

And what may I ask brings you here?

ALVIN

Norman, I wanted to come, and apologize for what I did, and the way I acted towards you that day. Yes, you were right. I didn't come to you as I should have, believe me you being fired wasn't my call, in fact I did all that I could to prevent it, only to find that the power, and the authority I thought I had didn't even exist, So I'm here to let you know that I will see if I could help you in any way that I can.

Alvin takes a step forward, and slowly extends his hand out. Norman steps forward, and shakes it.

INT. COACH REEVE OFFICE - DAY

Coach Reeve, and Coach Head stands up, as the ADMINISTRATOR of the school walks in. They shake hands, and takes a seat.

ADMINISTRATOR

Gentleman I think we all know why we are here today, so less get right to the point. Now we were at a point in the football season where things were starting to come together, and then all of a sudden everything went downhill. This school has been in a slump for some time before we beganto win this season, so Coach Reeve could you tell me what happen, or better yet, tell me what we have to do to fix this.

COACH REEVE

Well sir, I'm not sure at this time, but I will certainly do all I can to find away.

ADMINISTRATOR

I am certain you will, because if you don't this will be you, and Coach Head's last year coaching here, and with the track record you leave behind, it will be hard if not impossible for you to find another coaching position. Good day gentlemen.

The administrator stands up nods his head, and walks out.
Coach Head turns to Coach Reeves.

COACH HEAD

(Look of concern)

Now what are we going to do. I told you, you made a big mistake when you went off on Max uncle the way you did. With his help we were on a role, and you yelled at him like he wasn't sh-it.

COACH REEVE

Well now you've got to go talk to him, and see if you can persuade him to come back, or were through.

COACH HEAD

No sir buddy that's your mess. You got to clean that up. You're the one that stuck your foot in your mouth, not me.

INT. BRIGGS LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alvin sits in a chair watching t.v., and falls a sleep.

"Dream"

He wakes up, as an old man with a head full of gray hair, and gray beard. Spoonie is standing near him. He stands up, and falls forward onto his knees. Spoonie hands him a Cain. He grabs it in an angry manner, and pulls himself up. He walks around the house, and see that everything is old, and dusty. He walks over to a mirror on the wall, looks into it, and slowly rubs his fingers over the deep creases in his face. Spoonie is standing behind him. He walks over to the door leading out to the patio, and swimming pool. The grass, and yard looks like it hasn't been taking care of for some time. The swimming pool is half full with dirty water with leaves, and branches in it.

ALVIN

What the hell done happen to this house?

SPOONIE

After you, and Jackie got the divorce everything went downhill for you. You loss your job, and went in a state of depression, trying to find a solution to your problems in a bottle.

ALVIN

What happen to the kids?

You didn't spend time with them when you, and Jackie was together, so when yawl split they went with Jackie until they went out on their own. You stop spending time with them, as they grew up, so they don't come around.

"Flashback"

"Montage" - Black and White

1. Alvin, faces Jackie in a black tux, and Jackie stands facing him in her white wedding dress at the altar. He pulls up the veal covering her face, and kisses her.
2. Alvin sits at the table with Niki, and Max, as little kids, eating cereal, playing and laughing.
3. Alvin, Jackie and the kids groups up together to take a family picture.

"Fade Back to Dream"

With tears in his eyes Alvin walks back to the chair. He looks over at Spoonie, and starts to say something, but Spoonie vanish.

Alvin falls back to sleep, and wakes up.

"Back to Present"

Alvin jumps up out the chair, goes into the bathroom, wets a towel, and wipes his face, as he looks at himself in the mirror. He walks out the bathroom, as the phone rings. Niki hands him the phone.

"Intercut"

SGT. GRANT

Hello is this Mr, Briggs

ALVIN

Yes sir, what can I help you with

SGT. GRANT

Your son was brought in, and is about to be released to a Mr. Davis, who said he's his uncle. Is that true?

ALVIN

Yes, that is correct, and why was myson picked up.

SGT. GRANT

Sir he was riding in a stolen vehicle that he apparently knew nothing about. His uncle told me that he plays high school football, so I decide not to press the issue, however I told him to be more careful, as far as the company he keeps.

ALVIN

Thank you, Sgt. Grant. I appreciate that. Good bye.

INT. BRIGGS LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Alvin walks in, while Spoonie is sitting watching t.v. He walks over to the stairs.

ALVIN

Max come down here.

Max comes down, and Alvin looks at Spoonie then Max.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

Is there something either one of you want to tell me?

Spoonie looks at Alvin, then back at the tv. Max looks at Spoonie, then Alvin.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

I'm waiting.

MAX

O.k dad, on my way home a friend of mine picked me up, and the police pulled him over, and the car was stolen.

ALVIN

So, you, and your uncle decided to resolve the matter without me, or your mother's knowledge of it.

MAX

No dad, that wasn't what we were trying to do. I called home, and uncle Spoonie was the only one here.

ALVIN

Well you been home all even, and neither one of you have said a word about it. That's O.k because after this football season is over you will no longer play. But dad. But dad nothing. I don't want to hear nothing you got to say. Now go to your room.

Max walks up the stairs. Alvin looks at Spoonie.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

And you've got the nerve to keep something from me concerning my son, that you should have come, and told me.

SPOONIE

(concern look)

Yes, your right, but he wouldn't have felt the need to call me if he had a good relationship with you, that a son should have with his father.

ALVIN

And who are you to tell me how to raise my son, after all you, and your daughter are not on good terms.

SPOONIE

I'm not telling you how to raise your son by no means. I'm just telling you from what I've seen.

(MORE)

SPOONIE (CONT'D)

That command, and demand approach that you walk around with every day makes Max afraid to come to you when he needs too. I haven't seen you, him, or your daughter conversate much at all. It seems to me that every time they're in your presence, their walking around on egg shells, and the situation with me and my daughter has nothing to do with the way I treat her. In fact, I know I did a good job raising her. The problem arose between us after I refused to accept her invitation to sale my home, and live with her after her mother died.

ALVIN

Listen Spoonie it is not my intention to get into a mud throwing battle with you concerning our kids. However, I think you should at least come to me if there's a problem concerning my kids.

SPOONIE

And I would have if Max had done something wrong, but the only thing he did was accepted a ride from a friend. He had no ideal his friend was breaking the law, and yes it couldhave turned out bad, and he know that now.

Spoonie cuts off the t.v. gets up, and walks out the living room.

INT. MAIN OFFICE - DAY

Spoonie walks into the main office of Max school. He sees Max sitting on the bench against the wall and walks up to the front desk. A lady tells Spoonie to take a seat, and he walks over, and sits next to Max.

SPOONIE

Max I'm telling you now whatever you done got yourself into this time you're going to have to tell your motherand father.Now what's this all about?

Coach Reeve walks in to the office.

COACH REEVE

Max, Spoonie come with me.

EXT. COACH REEVE OFFICE - DAY

They walk into the office. Coach Reeve takes a seat at his desk.

COACH REEVE

Have a seat gentleman.

Max and Spoonie takes a seat.

COACH REEVE (CONT'D)

First of all, I would like to apologize for what I said to you on the field that night. It was totally inappropriate to come at you like I did after all you had done for the team. You know Max, as well as the other young men on the team have stepped their game up to a level they wouldn't have reached without your contribution. In which have put them in a position where they are getting some attention from some the top colleges.

SPOONIE

Now I know you didn't just call me, and my nephew in here to give us this pap talk. What is it that you want?

COACH REEVE

I would like you to come back, and be a part of our Coaching staff.

SPOONIE

Excuse my expression, but I think you done loss your mind if you think I'm going to come back here, and work up under you again.

COACH REEVE

You don't have to work up under me. We can work together, and I will pay you a nice salary.

SPOONIE

Thanks, but no thanks.

COACH REEVE

I need you.

(MORE)

COACH REEVE (CONT'D)

Will you please reconsider. I promise you I'll make it worth your while.

SPOONIE

That respect should have been given from the jump. What you see now, you should have seen then. I gave you what I gave you because of my passion for the game, and my concern for the future of them young men. You see I was once where they are, but the only difference is, I had the will to push myself to be great.

COACH REEVE

O.k forget about me do it for the team.

SPOONIE

You the coach, I'll leave that for you to figure out. Good day.

Spoonie and max gets up, and walks out the office.

INT. BRIGGS LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Spoonie and Jackie is sitting on the couch looking at some photos. Jackie holds a picture in her hand of Spoonie in his football uniform back in the day.

JACKIE

Spoonie I knew you was popular before I got to high school, but I didn't know how popular you were. Everywhere I turned people were talking about you, and the girls would try to hang around me for a chance to get to you, but you never let it go to your head. You were that guy all the boy's hope to be, and you didn't let none of that change who you were. You were always my big brother, and still to this day, you are the same, and I love you for that.

SPOONIE

Why thanks sis. I have always been proud of you. Other than that rock head you picked for a husband

(They laugh)

But for real though. Your actions, to me, have all ways spoke for itself.

(MORE)

SPOONIE (CONT'D)

I think it's something that runs through our blood line. Look at you, you all ways handle yourself quite well. Going to school, becoming a successful business woman.

JACKIE

Spoonie Max told me what happened at the school about the coaching job they offered you.

SPOONIE

Oh, he did huh.

JACKIE

Spoonie if it was just about the job I wouldn't have even spoken on it, but it would be good if you were there. You see Spoonie Max don't get no support from his father, so it's like he's out there on his own, other than the support he gets from me, but I could only do so much. When you came here it seemed like he had obtained something he longed for.

SPOONIE

He'll be alright. He'll be just fine.

Spoonie gets up, Kisses Jackie on the forehead, and walks out the living room.

INT. DINNING ROOM - EVENING

Jackie comes into the house, and slowly walks towards the dining room. She hears I'll write a song for you by EARTH WIND & FIRE. She stops before she enters, and stands there listening.

"Flashback" Black and White

A young version of her, and Alvin dressed up at a dance facing each other, as the song plays. He takes her into his arms. She presses the side of her face into his chest, as he stares off in a shy manner, and they slowly move around to the rhythm of the song.

"Back to Present"

She enters the room. The table is neatly set for dinner with two candles on each side. Alvin walks into the room well groomed. Jackie stands there with a firm look on her face. Alvin begins to sing the song off key.

She burst out laughing, and he starts to laugh while singing. He lowers the music.

ALVIN

Jackie, I woke up a few days ago, looked in the mirror, and I wasn't pleased with who I was looking at, but what I did remember is. That there was a time in my life when my days was full of joy, because I had it in me, so I was able to give it to you and the kids. Now I'm not expecting to snap my finger, and change the way you feel. All I'm asking you to do is have dinner with me tonight.

Alvin walks over to a chair, and pulls it out, and Jackie takes a seat.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alvin walks over to Jackie while she's sitting in front of a mirror combing her hair. He runs his hand across her shoulder, and she gets up, and walks over to the bed, pulls the covers back, gets in bed with her back turned to Alvin. Alvin takes a seat on the bed.

ALVIN

Is there someone else?

JACKIE

There was.

ALVIN

Have you been intimate with him?

JACKIE

No, I didn't get that far.

ALVIN

Do you love him?

JACKIE

No, but he made me feel like I was somebody.

Alvin gets up, and walks out the room.

EXT. PATIO - DAY

Spoonie is sitting in a chair reading the paper. Alvin walks out on the patio, and take s seat.

ALVIN

Thanks, Spoonie for clearing the way for me to have some time with your sister.

Spoonie lowers the paper down from his face.

SPOONIE

You welcome, how did it go?

ALVIN

Well certainly not the way I expected.

SPOONIE

I know you didn't think she was going to fall right into your arms after all the years of bull sh-it that has mounted up.

ALVIN

She told me she had been seeing someone,

SPOONIE

Did she say she was leaving?

ALVIN

No.

SPOONIE

Well it looks like you got some room to work with.

ALVIN

No. I think the best thing for me to do is, to move out, and give her some space to decide what she really wants.

SPOONIE

Man, I don't believe that I'm hearing what you're saying. Here it is, you been around here disregarding everybody's feelings, but your own, and the minute your feelings get shook up, you ready to put your tale between your legs, and run. She took all that mess, and neglect from you, and still haven't left.

ALVIN

Now you wait a minute Spoonie, I've never laid a hand on Jackie, or verbally abused her in anyway.

SPOONIE

There you go justifying what you feel, by looking for a reason to appease yourself. If you don't get your head out your own ass you'll never see the light of day. Can't you see when you stopped treating her the way you treated her, when you were dating her, and building this family together, you lost sight of the most important thing. Mental abuse is just as bad.

ALVIN

I can't change the pass, and there's nothing I can do about the way she feels.

SPOONIE

Maybe not, but you can at least see if there's a chance that you can salvage the relationship before you through it away.

Spoonie closes the newspaper in his hand, gets up, tucks it up under his arm pit, and walks to the door of the house. He stops, and looks back at Alvin.

SPOONIE (CONT'D)

You know Alvin it surprises me that a man of your status would lack such common sense. You know, with your skills, education and degree.

ALVIN

And what exactly are you insinuating?

SPOONIE

You'll figure it out.

Spoonie walks in the house.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jackie is looking through her closet, and turns, and looks at a portrait on the wall up over the bed, of her and Alvin on their wedding day. She looks over, and see Spoonie standing in the doorway.

SPOONIE

Can I come in, and talk to you for a minute?

JACKIE

Yes. What's on your mind.

Spoonie walks in, and takes a seat in a chair by the door.
Jackie sits down on the bed.

SPOONIE

Now Jackie to me Alvin been an ass hole for years, but I didn't care one way, or another, as long as it was what you wanted, and you know I've never been one to pry into personal affairs. However, I noticed how he's making a effort to salvage you all relationship, so I went to him, and asked him if he would kindly accept a trip I had arranged for two, to the Islands for two weeks. I felt this was away I could repay him for this time he has permitted me to come, and spend with you, and the kids.

JACKIE

Spoonie I don't know if it's, going to change anything. You didn't have to do that.

SPOONIE

Just go, and at least by the time you get back you'll know for sure, what you really want to do.

Spoonie gets up, and walks out the room.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Spoonie, Max and Niki walks Alvin, and Jackie to the entree of the gate where they about to board. Jackie, and Alvin hugs the kids, then Alvin turns to Spoonie.

ALVIN

Now Spoonie you will contact me if any problems arrive right?

SPOONIE

Yes sir, you've got my word on that.

Alvin turns to Max, and Niki.

ALVIN

I know you two are old enough to take care of yourself, but if you need anything your uncle Spoonie will be there for you, alright.

MAX

Yes dad.

NIKI

Yes dad.

Jackie, and Alvin boards the plane.

INT. BRIGGS LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The house is packed with kids dancing to loud music. Max works his way through the crowd to Spoonie.

SPOONIE

Unc there's two guys in the bathroom smoking weed, and Miss Alexander said if we don't keep the noise down she's calling the police.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Spoonie opens the door of the bathroom. The two boy's attempts to put the weed away. Spoonie snatches it.

SPOONIE

Have you two done lost your dam mind, coming up in here smoking that mess. Now would you like me to call the police, and let them handle you boy's, or do you want me to give you the chance to get out of here.

THE BOYS

We'll leave sir.

The boy's starts to walk out. Spoonie steps in front of them.

SPOONIE

Let me get the one you've got rolled up inside your hand.

The boy nervously hands it over to Spoonie.

SPOONIE (CONT'D)

Now get out of here.

INT. MISS ALEXANDER LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

There's a knock at the door. Miss Alexander looks out the window, opens the door, and let Spoonie in.

SPOONIE

How you doing Miss Alexander. What's the problem?

MISS ALEXANDER

I know the Mr. and Mrs. can't be over there while all them people over there making all that noise.

SPOONIE

The kids are just having a party while their parents are out of town. Godly Miss Alexander when was the last time you had fun?

"Cut to"

Miss Alexander, and Spoonie is smoking weed laughing.

"Later"

There's a knock at the door. Miss Alexander runs out her bedroom towards the door putting on her robe. Spoonie rushes out behind her with his pants in his hand. She peeks out the door, and looks around at Spoonie.

MISS ALEXANDER

(whispers)

It's your Nephew. They burst out laughing.

SPOONIE

(yells out)

Hold on Max. I'll be right there.

EXT. HOTEL - EVENING

Jackie, and Alvin is sitting on a balcony overlooking a beautiful view of the ocean, and palm trees, with a clear view of the evening sunset, while sipping on a glass of wine.

ALVIN

Jackie, I want to apologize for how selfish, and foolish I've been. All the time I thought I was doing my part, as a husband, and father until I realized I had neglected what was most important to me. It seems like all I thought I was, I wasn't, and it didn't appear to me until my whole world came crashing down.

Alvin turns away from Jackie, as a tear rolls down his face.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

Jackie I've never felt so alone in my life, as I feel today, and I have no one to blame, but myself, and

(MORE)

ALVIN (CONT'D)

maybe I'm just getting a taste of what you, and the kids have felt all alone. Even the white man up over me on the job have opened my eyes to see that I'm nothing, but a black man with a position.

Jackie gets up, and walks over, and stands next to Alvin, placing her hand on his shoulder, as the tears rolls down his face. She takes out a napkin, and hands it to him.

JACKIE

Yes, Alvin your way of thinking may have cause a division between me, you and the kids, but you are just, as intelligent, as any other human being. That was one of the qualities that drew me to you. Now less go get something to eat.

"Montage"

1. Alvin and Jackie are riding some bikes.
2. Alvin and Jackie are riding on a tour bus.
3. Alvin and Jackie enjoy a night of dancing, and entertainment.

Jackie is lying under the covers in bed on Alvin's chest watching t.v.

ALVIN

Jackie I can't stay there much longer.

JACKIE

Stay where?

ALVIN

At the job.

JACKIE

What are you going to do?

Jackie looks up at Alvin, and he looks down at her.

ALVIN

I have an ideal, but I've got to do some research before I execute the plan. Are you with me on this?

JACKIE

Of course, I am. You hold the key to your success. You know it. I know that whatever you choose to do, you're going to make sure it's right.

INT. BRIGGS HOUSE - NIGHT

Spoonie walks back in the party with Max. Niki leads Spoonie over to a punch bowl full of punch, on top of a buffet. Niki pours the punch in a cup, and hands it to Spoonie. Spoonie takes a sip, and frowns. He picks up the bowl, and takes it in the kitchen. He starts pouring it down the drain, and stops, grabs a cup, and drinks two full cups, and pours the rest down the drain.

"Later"

Spoonie is in front of a crowd leading a line dance to Trans Europe Express by Kraftwerk.

"Montage"

1. Spoonie dances down a soul train line down the middle of the floor to Rappers Delight by the Sugar Hill Gang.

2. Spoonie dances in the middle of a crowd with Max, and Niki to Ain't No Stopping Us Now by McFadden & Whitehead.

INT. SPOONIE ROOM - MORNING

Spoonie wakes up, rubs his head, and slowly sits up. He looks at the clock on the dresser, jumps up, runs out the room down the hall.

INT. MAX ROOM - MORNING

He shakes Max.

MAX

Max get up, and go get Niki. We got to clean this house before your mom and dad gets here.

Spoonie, Max and Niki rushes through the house cleaning up.

"Two days Later"

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Alvin, Jackie, Max, Niki, and Spoonie is sitting at the table. Alvin folds his newspaper, takes a sip of coffee, gets up, and puts on his suit jacket, and heads towards the door.

ALVIN

Oh, by the way I hope you all
enjoyed the party while we were away.

Spoonie, Max and Niki look at each other.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

No one snitched. The man up the street
asked me did I enjoy the party we
had.

Alvin walks out the door, and Jackie looks at Spoonie, and
the kids. She smiles, gets up, and walks out the kitchen.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Mr. Burns stands up, as Alvin approaches the table.

MR. BURNS

Hello Alvin.

He shakes Alvin's hand.

ALVIN

Hello Mr. Burns.

Mr. Burns takes a seat, as Alvin pulls out a chair, and takes
a seat across from him.

MR. BURNS

So how was the vacation?

ALVIN

It was nice. Me, and the wife enjoyed
ourselves, and it gave me some time to
clear my head, and think about a few
things.

MR. BURNS

That's good. Now what was it you
wanted to talk about?

ALVIN

You Know Mr. Burns I've put twenty
years of my hard earned time in helping
to build this company, only to find
what I've done doesn't mean a thing.
When you made me fire Mr. Bell, and
threatened me to do so, or my job
would be on the line. It made me
think long and hard, and what came
to mind is, how can a job, or another
person have that kind of authority
over you at this stage in your life.

(MORE)

ALVIN (CONT'D)

You know like within a moment, or second, they have the control to take your source of living away.

MR. BURNS

Hold on Alvin, don't you think you taken this a little bit too far. What is it that you want more money? If that's the case state your price.

ALVIN

You see Mr. Burns that the point I'm trying to make. You think that's all you got to do is dangle some money, or a threat to take it away, to get what you want, but there's no price, or amount you can negotiate when you give a person a ultimatum that deprives them of their integrity, and dignity of self, furthermore, in the time I've be with the company I've seen people come in, and move up in position over me, such, as yourself.

MR. BURNS

Well Alvin human resource place people according to their experience.

ALVIN

That's not true, because I've trained most of them. You know, as well as I do there's still a form of discrimination that clearly exist.

Mr. Burns looks at Alvin in a discussing manner.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

Oh, so now your disappointed cause I've spoke the truth.

Alvin stands up, and pushes his chair in

ALVIN (CONT'D)

I have decided to turn in my resignation. Good day sir.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

Spoonie stands by his van fueling his tank. Coach Head walks over to him.

COACH HEAD

Hey Spoonie how you been.

SPOONIE

Fine, and you?

COACH HEAD

Just taken it one day at a time. Coach Reeve told me he tried to give you an offer to come back, but you refused.

SPOONIE

Yes, I did.

COACH HEAD

Listen Spoonie I've been the defense coordinator for the last couple of years, and it's been a rough journey. We have a team that have had the lowest record of wins in the school district, and that's a bad reflection, not only on the team, but the coaching staff. Now where we are today I have to be honest, and say it's because of you.

SPOONIE

Listen Coach, I don't mean to cut you off, but I'm just not interest in being a part of it any longer.

COACH HEAD

Just hear me out. I can understand how you feel, and when you came to assist us, Coach Reeve looked at you, as nothing more than a black man that he could use on his own terms, and just so happen the bullet done come back, and shot him in the ass, but this is really not about You, or him, or what transpired between you two. This is about the future of those kids, and the integrity of the student that attends the school, to the people in the community that rally behind the school. Right now, we are at a pivotalpoint that could affect us all. Just think about it.

Coach Head turns, and walks away.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The team is running plays. Brain runs a route, and let the ball fly pass him, as he stops, and looks up field towards the side line. Max looks in the direction he's looking in,

and see Spoonie, as he steps onto the field. The team stops what they're doing, walks over to the side line, and makes a circle around Spoonie, and starts to clap, and whistle.

"Cut to"

A view of the calendar with the clock hand turning, rolling from to month to month, as the team runs plays in one game after another, and the people in the stand's cheers.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

The team is standing, and sitting around. Coach Reeve stands in the middle of the floor, and Coach Head, and Spoonie stands behind him.

COACH REEVE

First, I want to say. I would like to commend each, and every player on this team, and the fellow Coaching staff for the unbelievable effort that have got us here today. It is truly a feeling long felt for, and now within minutes we will be headed out on the field to battle the top opposing team in this city for the number one spot, which could lead us to play for the state championship, but we don't even want to think that far ahead. Right now, we are going out there to play for the city championship, and what I want you to do is to take what we have gained in every expect of this journey dust far, and apply the energy on that field, with the mindset, not of being a underdog to the opposing team, nor of any thought of our last season. Today we come with a vision of force to be reckon with, with a will, and determination that cannot be denied.

Coach Head steps up.

COACH HEAD

I would like everyone to bow their head in pray.

Everyone bows their head.

COACH HEAD (CONT'D)

Father we come to you in prayer,
thanking you for letting us be able
(MORE)

COACH HEAD (CONT'D)

to be a part of such a magnificent event. Give each of us the strength to come together, as a team, in love, and respect for one another. Seal us with your love and protection on our way, through the battle, towards victory. Amen.

The team cheers, and jogs out the locker room.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

The opposing team receives the kick off, and runs the ball to mid field. They line up for the first down. The ball is hiked, the defense rushes across the line. The quarterback is sacked, and the crowd cheers. The ball is hiked on the second down. The quarterback, backs up, fakes to throw, dodges a man, scrambles towards the sideline, and throws the ball down field to a receiver that catches it, and runs into the end zone. The ball goes in between the goal post for the extra point.

Max team receive the kick off. The punt receiver catches the ball, fakes a few men, and finds a clear path into the end zone. The ball goes in between the goal post for the extra point. A view of the score board shows number seven on bothsides.

"Cut To"

The opposing team is in the red zone. The ball is hiked, and passed to a running back. He runs the into the end zone. Max team hikes the ball. The ball is passed to Max. He starts to run, gets hit, and fumbles the ball.

A view of the score board flips score, with a view of both of the teams scrambling up and down the team field to the clock winding down to half time with the score seven to twenty eight.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

The players are sitting around in silence. Coach Reeve walks into the middle the floor.

COACH REEVE

Listen to me, and pay close attention to what I'm about to say. I feel a sense of defeat among you young men in here, and if that's the cast, you might as well give up whatever it is you want to achieve from this day forward.

(MORE)

COACH REEVE (CONT'D)

This is not the first time, and it won't be the last time that you will face adversity. It is these times that makes the difference. This is what separates the winner from the losers. We fought to get this far, that's why we are here today. So, you tell me what you want, cause quitters never win.

The team slowly starts to clap, and chant.

THE TEAM

We fight, we fight, we fight, we fight, we fight, we fight, we fight, we fight, we fight, we fight.

COACH REEVE

So, let get out on that field, and make it happen.

The team walks out of the locker room.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Max team received the ball, runs two plays, and goes long to Brain into the end zone. The ball is kick off, and the player is stopped on the ten-yard line the opposing team running back is stopped on second downs, short of the first down. On third down the quarterback runs back, set, and throws the ball up center field, as a player runs across in an attempt to catch the ball. The ball is pick off by the player covering him, and ran into the end zone. A view of the score board flips, as the hand of clock goes around, as a view of the plays, and touch down shows.

"Later"

A view of the score show thirty-six to thirty. There's a minute, and a half left in the game. Max team is down by six. The offense is pressed up against their own ten-yard line. The opposing team snaps the ball, and the ball is handed off to a running back. He gets hit at the twenty yard line. The ball is knocked out of his hand, and recovered by Max team. A time out is call with fifty-nine seconds left on the clock. Coach Reeve signal for a time out. Max team stands around the coaches. The teams run back on the field. The ball is snapped, and the quarter back is sacked on the first down. On the second down, the ball is snapped, thrown, and the pass is missed by Brain. Spoonie, and coach Reeve walks over to Max. Max listens for a moment, and run on the field into the huddle. With twelve seconds left on the clock the ball is snapped. In slow motion the quarter back fakes a hand off, and throws the ball to Max on the right side of

the field. He runs the ball to the one-yard line, and takes a hit, as he dives into the end zone. After the extra point the fans runs on the field.

"Later"

Spoonie, Coach Reeve, and Coach Head stands in front of the team with the trophy, in front of a camera. The camera flashes.

"Cut To"

INT. BRIGGS KITCHEN - MORNING

The picture appears on the front page of the newspaper lying on the table in front of Alvin, with a photo up under it, showing Max diving in the end zone. Alvin picks it up, and looks at the newspaper with a slight smile on his face. He quickly turns the page, as Spoonie walks in.

SPOONIE

You don't have to put up a front with me. It's alright to feel like that, when you look at the newspaper, and see your son on the front page, with the family's name written all through the article I don't know if you read all of it, but they rated him, the second-best high school running back this year in the state.

ALVIN

That may be true, but one play could end it all. I'm sure you know that.

SPOONIE

Yes, I do, and maybe if I had got to where I had been able to make a career from playing your opinion of me, may have been different.

ALVIN

What do you mean by that?

SPOONIE

You know what I mean. You have always acted, as if I didn't meet your standard of living. I may have been a trash man that worked a city job, and I'm not a shame of that. No not one bit. You see Alvin I was happy with my family. Coming home at the end of the day to my wife, and daughter meant the world to me.

(MORE)

SPOONIE (CONT'D)

That boy of your has a 4.0 grade average that makes him more likely to make it through college, so he have a chance on, and off the field.

ALVIN

Well my concerned is for him to get a good education to prepare him for the future.

SPOONIE

You just don't get it. Most parents want the something for their kids, but you can't just look at what you want.

ALVIN

So, in what way should I look at it?

SPOONIE

You need to support him in whatever decision he makes. What you going to do. Throw him away if he doesn't meet your expectation?

ALVIN

No.

SPOONIE

Then acknowledge him, and have some consideration for what he wants, or you won't have to worry because he mayresent you in the years to come.

Spoonie walks over to Alvin with a sincere look on his face.

SPOONIE (CONT'D)

Right now while you're caught up on what you want, your missing out on the major events of his life, that you can't get back once there gone.

Spoonie turns, and walks out the kitchen.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alvin stands looking out the window. Jackie walks in, takes a seat in a chair in front of the mirror. She starts to comb her hair, and stops.

JACKIE

What's wrong Alvin?

He takes a deep breath, shakes his head.

ALVIN

It seems like one day I assumed to have it all together, and now it's becoming more, and more apparent to me that what I thought to be was just a crack of b.s. in my head.

JACKIE

What are you referring too?

ALVIN

Well let me see where do I start. I'm sure you can see that the kids don't particularly like their father, and I'm sure your aware that I've have left the job.

JACKIE

Wait a minute Alvin, I'm not trying to cut you off, and you are right about your kids, but that's something that you've got to deal with. It warms my heart to see that you even acknowledge that, and I know you let the job go, but I have the confidence of knowing that you are planning your next move, that's the Alvin that I've always known. Come on I know for a fact that we are not lacking financially, and I'm here to support you, just how you have done for our family. Now can I get a shoulder massage, and continue to enjoy what we have rekindled.

Alvin walks over to Jackie, as she slides her robe down hershould. Alvin starts to massage her shoulder.

ALVIN

You really took me back in the days when our love was new, when you asked me what's wrong.

JACKIE

It will be okay.

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY

Niki walks on the stage up to the podium. She lays a sheet in front of her.

NIKI

Good afternoon faculty, friends, and student.

She pauses, as she looks over in the audience, and see Alvin take a seat next to Jackie, and then continues.

"Later"

Niki approaches Alvin, and Jackie, outside the audience.

NIKI (CONT'D)
Something wrong?

JACKIE
No, I just told your father, and he decided to come.

MISS BLANCH walks over.

NIKI
Mom, dad this is Miss Blanch she runs the program that assist the honor roll students that prepare them for a career.

JACKIE
Hi. I'm Niki's mother, and this her father.

MISS BLANCH
Hi. You have a bright young daughter, and she very smart.

ALVIN
Yes, it runs in the family, and we, I mean I may not show it, but I'm certainly proud of her.

INT. BRIGGS LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Spoonie sits on the couch watching t.v. Niki walks in, and takes a seat. He looks at her, and back at the t.v. She looks at him, and he looks back at her. He turns down the sound.

SPOONIE
O.k. spill it.

NIKI
Spill what.

SPOONIE
What's ever on my mind.

NIKI
O.k you know I was one of the speakers at an event held at the school, and I
(MORE)

NIKI (CONT'D)
 was expecting mom, but quest who
 showed up.

SPOONIE
 Let me quest.

Spoonie looks around the room, and grabs his head. Niki
 bust out laughing.

SPOONIE (CONT'D)
 Some boy you got a crush on.

NIKI
 No.

SPOONIE
 Your brother.

NIKI
 No. My dad, is something wrong.

SPOONIE
 No. Not at all. Sometimes as they
 get older, Not me, them. They feel
 the need to want to draw closer to
 their kids. After all who else do
 they have.

NIKI
 It just felt a bit strange.

SPOONIE
 I know, believe me I do, but one
 thing you got to realize is you've
 got to cherish the time you have
 with them, so if he's making a effort
 to open up to you, give him a chance.

NIKI
 Well I quest you right. I do remember
 the fun we had with him as kids.

SPOONIE
 And maybe he do too.

She gets up, and rushes up the stairs.

INT. BRIGGS DINNING ROOM - EVENING

Jackie, and Alvin is sitting at the table. Spoonie walks
 in.

SPOONIE

Hey Max said you wanted to see me.
(He smiles)

That boy is so excited about the game coming, and I don't blame him one bit. You know it's rare to get this far,

JACKIE

Spoonie have a seat.

SPOONIE

Is there something wrong? If I've worn out my welcome just let me hang around long enough till after the game, and I promise I will be on my way.

JACKIE

Just have seat, please.

Spoonie pulls out a chair, and takes a seat.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Spoonie your daughter MYRA was in a car accident this morning.

Spoonie pause for a moment, and the tears starts to roll down his face.

SPOONIE

Is she...

No, she isn't dead? But that's all we know. She is in the hospital. They didn't give us much information.

SPOONIE

I have to go.

Spoonie wipes the tears from his eyes, and stands up.

ALVIN

Spoonie whatever you need just say the word. If you need me, or Jackie to come with you we will.

SPOONIE

Thank you. I just need a flight out, to get to my daughter, as quick, as possible.

INT. MAX BED ROOM - EVENING

Max is sitting on his bed, as Spoonie sticks his head in.

SPOONIE

You busy?

MAX

No come-on in.

Max walks over, and takes a seat next to Max.

SPOONIE

I guess you heard.

MAX

Yes, mom told me.

SPOONIE

You know I'm not going to be here
for the game.

MAX

(deep breath)

Yes, I know, and I would be lying if
I said it didn't bother me, but this
is something more important than
that game. This is something that's
effecting your life, and I love you
too much not to understand that.

He looks at Spoonie, and smile.

MAX (CONT'D)

Uncle Spoonie I have enjoyed you a
long with all the things you have
thought me on, and off the field,
and I want to thank you.

Spoonie pets him on the leg. Get up, and walks out the room.

EXT. PLANE - NIGHT

The plane fly's through the sky. The night turns to day.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Spoonie stands in the doorway looking at Myra lying in bed.
He slowly walks in, and grabs hold of her hand.

"Flashback"

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

A younger version of Spoonie walks into the living room. He sits his lunch box down, while Myra, as a little girl hides behind the side of the couch. She peeks out, and Spoonie see her, but acts, as though he doesn't.

SPOONIE

(He smiles)

Now where my little sugar plum.

He looks around, as he walks forward. Myra jumps out, as he gets to the end of the couch. Spoonie grabs her, and lifts her up into his arm. She hugs him.

"Back to Present"

Spoonie sits in a chair by the bed. He starts to nod off. Myra wakes up, and smile, as she looks over at him.

MYRA

Hi dad.

Spoonie quickly awakens, jumps to his feet, and grabs hold of her hand.

MYRA (CONT'D)

(She smiles)

I thought I had gotten rid of you.

SPOONIE

Is that so. I knew you couldn't stay out of trouble without me.

He kisses her on the forehead.

MYRA

What they say?

SPOONIE

A few bumps and bruise, but other than that with a little time you'll be just fine. You know you shook the old man up a little bit.

MYRA

Oh yeah.

SPOONIE

Yes, you did. You get some rest and I'll be around when you wake up. Myra nods her head, and close her eyes. "Later"

Spoonie sits in a chair. Myra walks out the rest room. She sits on the bed.

MYRA

Dad Jackie called to see how I was doing, and she told me that you had helped the high school team Max play for make it to the finals.

SPOONIE

Yes, and he has become quite good at it.

MYRA

She said they have a chance to become number one in the state there.

SPOONIE

Yes, they do.

MYRA

Dad why don't you go and...

SPOONIE

Hey, hey, hey that's not something I'm concern with now. I'm fortunate to have you here. I thank God for that, and I'm going to be here every step of the way with you.

Myra gets up. Walks over to Spoonie, put her arms around his neck, and hugs him.

MYRA

Oh daddy, I love you so much.

SPOONIE

I know. I love you too.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Coach Reeve stands in the middle of the floor surrounded by the team.

COACH REEVE

Listen up fellows. First, I want to inform you that Coach Spoonie had a family emergency, and had to go, and be with his family, so let us keep him in our prayers. it is a blessing to me today to be standing here knowing that in a few minutes we will be headed out on the field to play for the state championship, and

(MORE)

COACH REEVE (CONT'D)

now is the the time for us to realize what we've worked so hard for. We've got sixty minutes to play our best, as a team, and if each and every one of you do that I'll be satisfied. Now less go play ball.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Max team stands on the sideline across the field from the opposing team with their hands across their chest. A man walks on the field with a Microphone in hand.

THE MAN

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light. What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming. Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight. O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming. And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air. Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave. O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The referee stands in the middle of the field between a group of players from each team. The coin was tossed, and the players returned to the sideline. The opposing line up on both sides of the field with a player waiting to receive the ball, as it starts to rain. Max team punts the ball off. The ball is caught.

The clock shows seven minutes into the first quarter, as the players. Plays up, and down the muddy field. The opposing team is on the thirty-yard line in Max team territory. The ball is hiked, and ran into the end zone. A view of the score board appears with seven to zero on it.

The scenes roll through several plays, and punts to both teams, as they play in the rain. The clock shows ten minutes left in the second quarter. The ball is handed off to Max. He's hit, and fumbles the ball. The ball is recovered by the opposing team on the twenty-yard line in Max team territory. The ball is hiked by the opposing team. A pass is thrown, and caught in the end zone. The scoreboard shows fourteen to zero.

The scenes roll through several plays. The clock shows thirty second left till half time. Max team attempts a field goal that is blocked, recovered, and ran into the end zone by the opposing team.

Max team walks towards the locker room, as the rain clears up.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

All the players are sitting around the locker room silent. Coach Reeve walks in, picks up a chair, and throws it across the room into the wall.

COACH REEVE

What in the hell is going on. Do somebody want to tell me, come on somebody say something. The only thing I see out there is a bunch of guys who call themselves a team beating the sh-it out of their own self by thinking the team their playing is a better team than they are. Well got dam it if this is what we came here to do why don't we just forfeit the second half of the game, and get back on the bus, and call it a day.

Brain stands up, and looks over towards the entree of the locker room, as Spoonie walks in with his hair cut, short, neat, and sharply lined up, and a new pair of wire frame glasses with his face shaved clean, wearing a pair of nicely fitted jeans, and T shirt, with a sport jacket the same color, of the school.

SPOONIE

Hold on a minute Coach Reeve. May I say something?

COACH REEVE

(Slight grin)
Go ahead.

SPOONIE

You right they may have froze up under pressure, and it may have taken them out the game, but they got another half to play, so they have a chance to get back to the game plan that have gotten them this far. If it's alright we you Coach Reeve, I got a little game plan.

COACH REEVE

Whatever you do, is fine with me.

Spoonie looks at the team.

SPOONIE

Now are we ready to go out there,
and kick ass, or what?

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Song: Ain't No Stopping us now by Mcfadden & Whitehead plays, Spoonie, Coach Reeve and Coach Head runs out the tunnel with Max team behind them dresses in freshly new clean jerseys. The crowd roars, as the opposing time looks at Max team from across the field. Coach Reeve pulls Spoonie to the side.

COACH REEVE

Listen Spoonie whatever plays you
got we running them.

He hands Spoonie a clip board. The opposing team punts the ball. The ball is caught, and the player is brought down mid field. The ball is hiked, and handed off to Max. He slips away from a few players, runs down field, and brought down at the ten-yard line of the opposing team.

The ball is hiked. The quarterback steps back, and the defense comes charging in. He runs to the right looking to throw. A player grabs hold of his jersey. He slips away, and attempts to run to the left, but stops at the sight of a another player coming towards him. He stops, and runs forward straight up the middle into the end zone.

Several scenes of plays are shown, as the clock turns to five-minute left in the third quarter. The opposing team gets in position to hike the ball on a third down. The ball is hiked, and a flag is thrown. The referee blows the whistle.

REFEREE

Off Side number twenty, ten yard
penalty.Repeat third down.

The quarterback steps up, yells out from left to right, gets into position to receive the ball. He steps back, and signals a timeout. The defense runs over, and forms a circle around Spoonie, and Coach Head. The opposing team lines up. The ball is hiked, and a few of the player rushes in on the quarterback. He scrambles away, and throws the ball towards a player. Before the ball reaches the player it's intercepted, and ran down to the thirty-yard line of the opposing team. The next play the ball is handed to Max coming out the back field. His hit hard at the ten-yard line. He lays there after the play. Spoonie, and the Coaches runs on the field. Spoonie bends down over Max.

SPOONIE

Max can you hear me?

MAX

Yeah, I'm just shook up a little bit.

Spoonie grabs Max by the hand, and Max slowly gets up. He starts to walk over to the sideline, and suddenly stops when he sees Alvin standing on the sideline. Alvin smiles, and nods his head. Max walks over, and takes a seat on the bench.

The next play a running back jumps over the offense line into the end zone. The score board show the twenty-one to fourteen. The ball is punted, and ran back by the opposing team. The score board show the score of twenty-eight to fourteen. A view of several Plays, with the clock showing ten-minute left in the fourth quarter.

The opposing team quarterback throws the ball across the middle. The ball is caught. The ball comes out of the players hand, as he is hit. Max team recovers the ball, and runs it in for a touchdown. A view of several plays, with the clock showing seven-minute left.

The score board flashes twenty-eight to twenty-one. The opposing team punts the ball. The player is bought done mid field. The ball is hiked on the the next play. The quarterback steps back and throws it up field. It is catch, and ran into the end zone.

The score board shows the score even with two minutes left. The opposing team hike the ball on their own twenty-yard line. The ball is passed, and run to mid field. The next play the ball is hiked, the quarterback is shacked, and fumble the ball. Max team recovers it. The score board shows less than a minute left.

Max team steps up on the line with Max in the back field. The ball is hiked, and passed to Max. He's brought down at the thirty-yard line with thirty seconds left on the clock. The next play the ball is knock away, as brain attempts to catch it.

With fifteen seconds left on the clock the punting unit lines up on the field. The ball is kicked. In slow motion it goes up, and in between the goals post. Two of the players runs up behind Coach Reeves with a water cooler, and tosses it on him. Within minutes the field is full of people. The players embrace each other, as the state championship trophy is presented. Coach Reeve walks up to a microphone next to Max with the trophy in his hand.

COACH REEVE

This seems like a dream that I have not yet awaken too. I really wasn't prepared to speak on such an

(MORE)

COACH REEVE (CONT'D)
 achievement that many don't experience
 in a life time.

A tear rolls down his face.

COACH REEVE (CONT'D)
 May I say to the administration,
 students, parents, and people in
 support of this team. We thank you,
 and to the young men who worked so
 hard to get us where we are today.
 Thank you from the bottom of my heart,
 and to Marlow Haze, in whom we know
 as Spoonie. That brought the gift
 of knowledge, and motivation to the
 team, and Coaching staff. We are
 forever grateful for your presents.

He looks over at Spoonie.

COACH REEVE (CONT'D)
 Spoonie will you come and say a few
 words.

Spoonie walks over, and shakes Coach Reeve hand. He pauses
 for a moment.

SPOONIE
 I know the feeling these young men
 are feeling today. There was a time
 in my life where I stood where they
 stand today, and like most of them I
 looked forward to a promising career
 that was abruptly cut short because
 of an injury, and so I say to them,
 and the Coaching staff enjoy this
 present moment, and thank you for
 the opportunity to experience this
 journey with you.

The crowd applause. Spoonie walks over, and whispers in Max
 hear. Max walks on the sideline of the field, and approaches
 Alvin. Alvin extends his hand out, and Max walks pass his
 hand, and hugs him. He grabs the back of Max head, and
 whispers in his ear.

ALVIN
 I'm so proud of you son, and I will
 be with you every step of way from
 this day forth.

Alvin and Max walks over to jackie, and Niki.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Alvin is standing over the grill turning the meat. Jackie, Spoonie, Miss Alexander, Sedrick and his wife is sitting around a picnic table talking. Max walks out the house over to Spoonie, and places his hands over Spoonie's eyes. Niki walks out the house in front of Myra, and her son. Max removes his hands.

SPOONIE

Oh, my goodness.

He gets up, and rushes to meet his grandson, picks him up, and embraces his daughter.

"Later"

Alvin stands in front of the picnic table.

ALVIN

Spoonie will you please come, and stand next to me.

Spoonie gets up, and walks over Alvin. Alvin pulls out two cigars. He gives Spoonie one, and lights them both. He pulls out a envelope.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

Spoonie this is the other half of the money I owe you, with a very hefty bonus.

SPOONIE

Why such generosity. You know it's a bit suspicious coming from a man of your caliber.

He hands Spoonie the envelope.

ALVIN

Spoonie this money is nothing compared to what you have done in helping me regain my life with my family, and thanks to you I'm not the man I once was. You right I was looking down on you, and now I've come to realize you had a better understanding of life, in such a way that I could not see. You made me step outside of what I thought was important, such as the material possessions, and status to see that the real value is all about this.

Alvin looks around the table.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

The love shared, as a family, and I
thank you for that.

SPOONIE

I never thought I would be saying
this, but you are certainly welcome.

Spoonie runs his finger across the money with a grin on his
face. Alvin, and everyone burst into laughter, as Spoonie
puts the envelope inside his pocket, and turns and walks
away.

ALVIN

Spoonie wait a minute.

Spoonie stops, and turns around.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

I know you was thinking of heading
back home to Boston sometime soon,
and I thought that maybe you would
consider a proposition to lend a
hand in helping me launch my own
business.

Let me think about, and get back with you.

EXT. STORE - DAY

Alvin, and Cedrick stands in front of the store looking up
at a sign above the entree that reads BRIGGS CUSTOM MADE
FURNITURE.

FRIEND-SEDRICK

Yes, you did. A hobby you picked up
led you to a business of your own.

Alvin and Cedrick walk into the front door.

ALVIN

Yes, it's certainly a blessing to
fall back on. I would have never
taken the initiative to do
anything for myself if it weren't
for the circumstances that I had
to face.

Alvin walks down the aisle between the furniture on both
sides, while Cedrick stops, and looks at the furniture.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Alvin walks through a door into a office where Noland Bell
is sitting behind a desk.

ALVIN

Hey Noland how are you today?

Noland gets up, and shakes Alvin's hand, and sit down.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

Noland I'm glad you came on board,
and the progress we've made so far
have giving me the capability to
expand to open in another location.
The way you have used your sales and
management skill dust far, believe
me it has been an intricate part in
the progression of the business.
Let's go to lunch, while we talk
over some numbers suitable to keep
you on board.

MR. BELL

Thank you Mr. Briggs. It's definitely
a pleasure to work for a man that
have the manager of his store best
interest at Heart.

Alvin and Noland get up, and walks out.

Fade out. With song by Soul 11 Soul - Back to Life.

