

REPLAY  
"PILOT"

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**TEASER**

**EXT. BROOKLYN APARTMENT BUILDING - BALCONY - DAY (FLASHBACK)**

**SUMMER 2006.** The summer air is thick and the city full of life. Three NEIGHBORHOOD BOYS (10-12, two Black, one Latino) stand on a balcony with water balloons.

AUGUST (V.O.)

It was Summer 2006. Beyoncé had laid off Kelly and Michelle, Lil' Wayne was running the table with "The Carter II", and Whole Foods hadn't colonized the borough yet...

**EXT. BROOKLYN APARTMENT BUILDING - STOOP - DAY (FLASHBACK)**

Below, three NEIGHBORHOOD GIRLS (10-12, Black) dance to Destiny's Child's "Lose My Breath".

NEIGHBORHOOD GIRL #1

No, I'm Beyoncé! She's Kelly, and you're Michelle.

NEIGHBORHOOD GIRL #2

But you were Beyoncé last time! You can't control everything, you know.

NEIGHBORHOOD GIRL #3

And why I always got to be Michelle?

NEIGHBORHOOD GIRL #1

Because you clap on the 1s and 3s.

NEIGHBORHOOD GIRL #3

(clapping offbeat)

No I don't.

NEIGHBORHOOD GIRL #1

Now that that's settled, get in your places before I replace you.

NEIGHBORHOOD GIRL #2

(whispers to Girl #3)

She knows this is pretend, right?

Balloons rain down. As the boys cheer, we pan across as the girls run past--

**EXT. BROOKLYN STREET - DAY - FLASHBACK (CONT'D)**

Brooklyn-born ANDRE GREEN (Black, early 30s) rocks a Black Power tee and walks with his son, YOUNG AUGUST (Black, 12).

YOUNG AUGUST

Seriously, Pop! "Tha Carter II" is fire compared to "College Dropout".

ANDRE

Boogs, I love you, but you can pack your shit and leave my house. Ain't no son of mine going to compare the lyrical wizardry of Kanye West to a talking Black n' Mild soaked in lean.

YOUNG AUGUST

Pop, don't call me Boogs in public!

ANDRE

Why not? It's not my fault you used to eat your little baby boogers.

YOUNG AUGUST

I'm not a baby! I'm almost 12. I'm a man.

ANDRE

OK. My bad "Mr. August Green".

YOUNG AUGUST

Thank you. And as a man, I should be allowed in your show tonight.

ANDRE

A club is no place for an almost 12-year-old. But if you want to check your old man out, you can come to my set on Saturday.

YOUNG AUGUST

You mean the bar mitzvah your DJ'ing? Pass. I prefer real hip hop, not that Kidz Bop stuff.

ANDRE

A real man appreciates honest work. He never looks down on it, especially if it provides for himself and his family. Understand?

August nods affirmatively.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANDRE (cont'd)  
 Good. Now what you know about real  
 Hip Hop anyway?

YOUNG AUGUST  
 I know that like it or not, that  
 'Nawlins rap ain't going away.

The pair reach **Garcia's BK Bodega**, a local corner store.

**INT. GARCIA'S BK BODEGA - FLASHBACK**

Store owner MR. GARCIA (60s, Latino) works the register at  
 the front of the store as the Greens enter.

ANDRE  
 'Nawlins!? Boy this is Brooklyn,  
 not the bayou. You want to listen  
 to trash rhymes and eat gumbo, take  
 your ass below the Mason Dixon.

MR. GARCIA  
 Andre! Boogs! ¡Buenos Dias!

Andre stifles a chuckle as August quietly groans.

ANDRE  
 You're a Hip Hop head Mr. Garcia.  
 Who you got? Wayne or Yeezy?

MR. GARCIA  
 Kanye all day! That "All Falls  
 Down" record? Magical! Reminds me  
 of the love of my life, Lucia.

AUGUST  
 But your wife's name is Magdalena.

MR. GARCIA  
 Stay out of grown folks business,  
 Boogs.

[ "ALL FALLS DOWN" BY KANYE WEST FEAT. SYLEENA JOHNSON PLAYS ]

ANDRE  
 OK... Boog-- August, lets get the  
 groceries before your mom worries.  
 (whispers to August)  
 And before Mrs. Garcia burns this  
 place down. You know she crazy.

**END OF TEASER**

## ACT ONE

## EXT. KID'S BIRTHDAY PARTY - BACK YARD - DAY

**PRESENT DAY.** BENNY THE BOPPING BUNNY is the main attraction at a rambunctious birthday party for a 5-year-old named AJ. Benny, or rather the man in the bunny suit, rocks the mic.

BENNY THE BUNNY

Happy Birthday AJ,  
 What a big boy,  
 I hope your mom and dad get you all  
 the good toys,  
 It's your special day,  
 Eat cake and ice cream too,  
 When Benny Bunny's on the mic,  
 We eat all the party food!

The kids cheer and hug Benny.

## INT. KID'S BIRTHDAY PARTY - KITCHEN - DAY

AUGUST GREEN, now 27 and wearing the Benny Bunny costume, chugs a glass of water. A text from "**Patrice \*kiss emoji\***" pops up on his phone: "**Good luck in your meeting tonight!**"

August smiles. As kids cheer for Benny outside, the stressed out mother of the birthday boy enters.

AJ'S MOM

What are you doing? We have you for  
 20 more minutes. Get out there!

August gives a fake smile. Satisfied, Mom exits.

AUGUST

(to himself)

Honest work, August. Honest work.

With a sigh, August puts on the sweltering bunny head.

## INT. FOOD KING GROCERY - MEAT FREEZER - DAY

FRANCISCO RAMOS (mid-20s), a hunky Guatemalan man whose never met a bad decision he didn't like, is in the throes of sex with his hard-nose manager, MARGO (40s). Their entangled bodies steam as their sweat evaporates into the cold air.

FRANCISCO

(panting)

Can I clock out early? Got a thing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARGO  
Yes! Yes! Oh God, yes!

**INT. FOOD KING GROCERY - MEAT SECTION - DAY**

Margo steps through an "Employees Only" door and into the meat section, readjusting her name tag. Francisco follows. When he exits to the floor, he's stopped by a customer.

GROCERY STORE CUSTOMER  
Excuse me. Can someone unlock the cough medicine for me?

FRANCISCO  
Sure thing. I just need my keys...

Francisco pats himself down, but can't find his keys.

MARGO  
(holding keys)  
Looking for these?  
(to the customer)  
I'll be right over ma'am.

The customer walks away. Margo hands Francisco his keys.

MARGO (cont'd)  
Go restock Dairy. And for the love of God, keep up with your shit. You're worse than my 10-year-old.

Francisco's phone vibrates as he gets a text from August: **"You get the night off?"** Francisco replies, **"Hell yeah"**.

MARGO (O.C.)  
Francisco! No phones on the floor!

**EXT. DANDY DRY CLEANERS - DAY**

Establish Dandy Dry Cleaners in LA's Koreatown district.

**INT. DANDY DRY CLEANERS - BACK AREA - DAY**

South Korean ingenue NARI SEONG (mid-20s) grooves to "Ready or Not" by Fugees in her AirPods, soulfully singing along.

NARI  
"Ready or not, here I come, you can't hide. Gonna find you, and take it slowly. Ready or not--"

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Nari loses an AirPods when she does a spin. She hears a man yelling from the front of the store.

DRY CLEANING CUSTOMER (O.C.)  
Hello? Is anyone here?

Annoyed, Nari takes a swig from a flask and goes up front.

**INT. DANDY DRY CLEANERS - FRONT COUNTER - DAY**

Nari blandly greets a heavysset male DRY CLEANING CUSTOMER.

NARI  
Welcome to Dandy Dry Cleaning. How can I help you have a dandy day?

DRY CLEANING CUSTOMER  
Yes I-- Do I smell alcohol?

NARI  
How. Can. I. Help. You?

DRY CLEANING CUSTOMER  
I picked this shirt up yesterday but there's a button missing.

NARI  
That will be \$3.75 to repair.

DRY CLEANING CUSTOMER  
But you guys lost the button.

Nari points to a wall sign: CHECK ITEMS BEFORE LEAVING. Her phone beeps and she immediately goes to check it.

DRY CLEANING CUSTOMER (cont'd)  
Can I speak to the manager, please?

Text from August: **"Meet at the Savoy at 9pm. Don't be late!"**

NARI  
Unfortunately, that's me today.

DRY CLEANING CUSTOMER  
Well, I'm not paying. I've been a customer here for two years.

NARI  
OK, and? You want a cookie? Because at your glucose level, that's probably gonna cost you a foot.

Rightfully offended, the customer storms off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

APRIL (O.C.)

Wow, Nari.

Nari turns around and finds APRIL (early-20s, Korean), her arrogant, goodie two-shoes little sister, behind her.

APRIL

Wait until Mom and Dad hear about this. But I could be persuaded to overlook-- Have you been drinking?

NARI

What do you want, April?

APRIL

Close the store for me tonight.

NARI

No way. I got plans.

APRIL

What? Rehearsal with your little rap group? Just reschedule.

NARI

It's your turn to close.

APRIL

I can't. Us 1Ls have a test on tort reform this week. My study group's holding an emergency cram session.

NARI

You wanted to go to law school.

APRIL

Yeah, to make something of myself.

NARI

Which is exactly what I'm doing.

APRIL

As what? The Korean Lauryn Hill? How'd that work out the last time?

Nari stares daggers at April, then walks away to the back.

APRIL (cont'd)

Are you closing for me or not?

Without looking back, Nari flips her middle finger at April.



**EXT. SAVOY NIGHT CLUB - FRONT ENTRANCE - NIGHT**

August and Francisco wait outside the packed club. Francisco intensely plays Pokemon on his phone.

AUGUST

Where the hell is Lenny? Our manager should be here when we sign a new production deal.

FRANCISCO

He can't make it. Something about Dante.

AUGUST

Dante? Why the fuck would Lenny be talking to our ex-bandmate? 'Cisco?

FRANCISCO

Fuck! Kicked out another Poké gym.

AUGUST

Pokémon? Now!? What are you, 12?

FRANCISCO

One, you're panicking. Two, fuck Dante! Nari's lead singer now and unlike him, she's loyal. A little violent, but loyal. And three, fuck you! I caught a Rhydon today.

August's face contorts as a curious scent wafts in the air.

AUGUST

Why do you smell like sex?

FRANCISCO

Banged Margo in the meat freezer.

AUGUST

Again? People eat what's in there.

FRANCISCO

So did I.

AUGUST

Gross. I thought you ended things?

FRANCISCO

You said, and I quote, "Do whatever it takes to get the night off."

AUGUST

I didn't mean-- Never mind.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANCISCO

Wow you're uptight. Patrice still not letting you hit? She weirded out about the whole bisexual thing?

AUGUST

No. I mean, yes. I mean, shut up! Besides, Patrice knows sexuality is a spectrum, not binary.

FRANCISCO

Ha! Bi-nary.

An Uber pulls up behind August. Nari exits the car, slams the door, and KICKS it. As the car peels off:

UBER DRIVER

Fucking psycho!

NARI

Suck my dick from the back, bitch!  
(to the guys)  
I hate chatty Uber drivers.

FRANCISCO

You're late.

NARI

And you're lucky I showed.

AUGUST

Can we just go inside? It's time.

August turns and leads the way into the club.

NARI

Why's it smell like ass out here?

**INT. SAVOY NIGHTCLUB - MAIN FLOOR/VIP ENTRANCE - NIGHT**

DUTCH (40s), a Grace Jones acolyte with a Judge Judy temperament, sits behind the velvet rope as two women fawn over her. August & Co. walk up to a bouncer at the rope.

AUGUST

Hi. Grio Soul, here to see Dutch.

The bouncer turns to Dutch. She nods. He lets the trio in.

FRANCISCO

(to the bouncer)  
How much you lift, bro?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AUGUST (O.C.)

'Cisco!

**INT. SAVOY NIGHTCLUB - VIP/DUTCH'S TABLE - NIGHT**

August & Co. sit opposite Dutch and her girls.

AUGUST

Thanks for meeting with us, Dutch.  
Mad Hatter Music is one of the  
hottest production companies in LA.

Dutch holds out her empty glass and a server replaces it.

DUTCH

Y'all got real potential, Boogs. My  
whole crew had your demo on replay.

FRANCISCO

Dope! We're playing the Echo next  
weekend. You should check us out.

DUTCH

I'll check my schedule. You know, I  
thought Grio Soul was done for  
after your boy Dante went solo. And  
right when y'all were in talks with  
a major label? But here you are.  
And with a gorgeous new member too.

NARI

Thank you.

DUTCH

Even if she is a disgraced K-Pop  
star with a drinking problem. Tell  
me, did they kick you out your old  
group before or after you punched  
that awards host on live TV?

NARI

You know about that?

DUTCH

Me and the 84 million other people  
who watched it on YouTube.

One of Dutch's girls uses her phone to show a video of Nari  
punching a Korean host as her girl group watched in horror.

DUTCH (cont'd)

Nice right hook. Anyway, we'd love  
to hone your sound and get Grio

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DUTCH (cont'd)  
Soul signed to a label. All you  
have to do now is change your name.

AUGUST  
Why would we change our name?

DUTCH  
Because you don't own the rights to  
it. According to this letter from  
his lawyers, Dante Carter does. He  
trademarked it behind your back.

Dutch tosses a letter and a glamorous headshot of DANTE (27,  
Black), looking like a Kroger brand Usher, on the table.

FRANCISCO  
Of course he included a headshot.

AUGUST  
Dante stole my-- OUR name!? How!?

FRANCISCO  
Dante left almost two years ago.  
Why is he only sending this now?

DUTCH  
Don't know. Don't care. I had my  
team draft up a few names you can--

AUGUST  
We're not changing our name.

NARI  
Shouldn't we talk about this first?

DUTCH  
Trademark disputes are lengthy and  
I got other acts I can work with.

AUGUST  
But none as good as us. Otherwise  
you wouldn't have invited us here.  
(intently)  
I can fix this, Dutch.

Dutch takes a long, tortuously slow sip of her drink.

DUTCH  
You have until Saturday. 5pm. After  
that, I move on.

**END OF ACT ONE**

## ACT TWO

## INT. LAMBERT TALENT AGENCY - LOBBY - DAY

CU on **Lambert Talent Agency** wall logo. Francisco and Nari sit below it in the rundown lobby. A visibly uncomfortable August stands at the receptionist's desk while smokey-voiced cougar GLADYS (70s, white) eyes him up and down like prey.

GLADYS

Mmmm. Who ordered T-bone for lunch?

AUGUST

Hi, Gladys. We're here for our 3 o'clock with Lenny.

GLADYS

Lenny Schmeny. How about you, me, and my guy Leroy down at the bingo hall have us a threeway instead?

AUGUST

Just... let Lenny know we're here.

GLADYS

Sure, sweetness. Too bad though. I like my steaks like I like my men. Thick, juicy, and well done.

August nervously swallows hard.

NARI

(to Francisco)

Hey, where did the name Grio Soul come from? Why is August so dead set on keeping it?

FRANCISCO

(playing Pokemon)

Something to do with his dad.

NARI

His dad? I don't think I've ever heard August talk about his dad. Where is--

FRANCISCO

Yes! I caught a Voltorb!

Back at the reception desk...

GLADYS

(into phone)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GLADYS (cont'd)  
Sweetie, your 3 o'clock is here.

LENNY (O.C.)  
(through the phone)  
Mom, I told you it's "Mr. Lambert"  
in front of clients!

GLADYS  
Sorry my little love bug.  
(to August)  
Mr. Lambert is ready for you now.

August motions to Francisco and Nari and the group heads to the back. Gladys bites her lip watching August walk away.

**INT. LENNY LAMBERT TALENT AGENCY - LENNY'S OFFICE - DAY**

The group enters the office of LENNY LAMBERT (40s), a "Lou Pearlman meets Jeremy Piven in pretty much any movie" type.

LENNY  
Grio Soul! My biggest clients!

FRANCISCO  
We're your only clients, Lenny.

LENNY  
Not anymore! You're looking at the  
new manager for 'Yoncé!

NARI  
Beyoncé? The Beyoncé?

LENNY  
No. 'Yoncé! 7th runner up on  
Rupaul's Drag Race, season 24. I  
just booked her a cameo in  
"Sharknado 8: Sharks in Space".

NARI  
That actually makes more sense.

LENNY  
Let's get down to business. Dante  
trademarked "Grio Soul" behind our  
backs. I had no idea until his  
attorneys sent that demand letter.  
I for one am shocked he would  
betray our trust like this.

AUGUST  
Says the man who tried to drop us  
so he could manage Dante solo.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LENNY

Who, me? I'd never betray you guys.

AUGUST

You had papers drawn up.

FRANCISCO

And changed your Twitter handle to @DanteCartersManager.

LENNY

Fellas, the past is the past! Let's live in the now. OK, has anyone spoken to Dante at all?

AUGUST

No. He been changed his number.

FRANCISCO

I got it. I can give him a ca--.

AUGUST

You still talk to him!?

FRANCISCO

Just to say hi a few times.

AUGUST

"Hi"!? You, me, and Dante started Grio Soul, only for him to betray us. Twice! He's dead to us. Got it?

FRANCISCO

Yeah, I got it. Damn.

SILENCE. Awkward, tense silence.

LENNY

OK, so I met with Dante's lawyers. He's willing to sell the name back; For \$10,000.

FRANCISCO

\$10,000!? Fuck that!

NARI

That's ridiculous!

AUGUST

We'll do it.

NARI

Are you crazy? We don't have 10k!

AUGUST

I have two grand in savings. I can take another two from credit cards.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

FRANCISCO

All that from dancing in a bunny suit? And you don't have to take your clothes off or nothing? Nice!

LENNY

(checking computer)

Your business account has \$3,537.23 in it. Add that to August's savings and credit cards and that leaves...

FRANCISCO

(without calculator)

\$2,462.77.

Everyone looks at Francisco.

FRANCISCO (cont'd)

What? You know I'm good at math. Now explain why I can't talk to Dante, but we can run him ten Gs.

AUGUST

You know why. Please, Francisco.

August and Francisco have had an entire conversation in those 5 words, something a confused Nari picks up on.

FRANCISCO

Friday's payday, so I'm good for \$900. Margo can spot me \$300 with--  
(swerving hips)  
--some convincing.

NARI

I have like, \$700 saved up. I can ask my parents for an advance on my check. But do we really want to g--

AUGUST

Lenny, tell Dante's lawyers we'll have his money by Saturday.

**INT. AUGUST'S CAR - DRIVER'S SEAT - DAY**

August stops at a red light. He speaks to his new, kinda sorta girlfriend Patrice through his stereo Bluetooth.

PATRICE (O.C.)

Why not change it? You said the group had a different vibe after Nari replaced Dante anyway.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

AUGUST

Our name's too important, babe.

August's eyes follow a shirtless Black male jogger trotting down the sidewalk, his lean frame glistening with sweat. But when a cop pulls up beside him, his lust turns to disgust.

**INT. HOSPITAL CAFETERIA - LUNCH TABLE - DAY**

PATRICE GIBSON (late-20s), a pretty nurse with a Laura Winslow vibe, talks on the phone when her pager beeps.

INTERCUT PATRICE/AUGUST

PATRICE

Shit, Doctor's paging me. Gotta go.

AUGUST

OK. We still meeting up later?

PATRICE

Provided there's no 50-car pile up coming to the ER, I'm all yours.

AUGUST

Do all nurses have such macabre pillow talk, or just you Patrice?

PATRICE

Whatever boy! See you tonight.

Patrice hangs up. August's radio switches on.

RADIO DJ

Next up is a Los Angeleno whose buzz kind of fizzled out last year. But now he's back with some heat. Here's Dante Carter with "Loyalty".

Dante's ad libs flood the car. August slams the radio off.

**EXT. CITY BUS - LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY**

Francisco exits a city bus with a bag of groceries. He walks through the lower-middle class Latino neighborhood.

**EXT. RAMOS FAMILY HOME - FRONT CURB - DAY**

Francisco walks to the front door of a modest one-story home, but can't find his keys. Groaning, he rings the bell. ABEL, Francisco's nerdy 13-year-old brother answers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ABEL

Forgot your keys again? Shouldn't  
the oldest be the responsible one?

**INT. RAMOS FAMILY HOME - FAMILY ROOM - DAY**

Francisco pushes past Abel and heads toward the kitchen.  
Their sister CELIA (13) waves as she walks by on her phone.

FRANCISCO

Shouldn't your balls have dropped  
by now, nerd? Hey, Celia.

Abel heads to his room. Francisco goes to the kitchen.

**INT. RAMOS FAMILY HOME - KITCHEN - DAY**

Francisco's phone rings as he sets the groceries down.

FRANCISCO

Hello?

CARLOS (O.C.)

Francisco?

FRANCISCO

(in Spanish; subtitled)

*Dad! How are you?*

**EXT. GAS STATION - PAY PHONE - DAY**

CARLOS (50s), Francisco's working class dad, stands under  
the hot Guatemalan sun.

CARLOS

*I'm OK. How is your mom? The twins?*

INTERCUT FRANCISCO/CARLOS

FRANCISCO

*Mom's good. Celia aced her math  
quiz and Abel's still annoying.*

Abel returns to sneak a candy bar, but Francisco nabs it.

CARLOS

*Did you drop the weedkiller like I  
asked? I don't want Mrs. Munoz from  
across the street judging my grass.*

Francisco grimaces, having obviously forgotten.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANCISCO

*Yep. Totally didn't forget. Anyway, guess what? We finally got a meeting with your immigration attorney next month.*

CARLOS

*Wonderful! Thanks for moving back home, son. I feel better knowing you're there to protect the family. I hate to ask, but things are tight here in Guatemala. The job I had--*

FRANCISCO

*How much do you need?*

CARLOS

*\$800 US. But only if you have it.*

FRANCISCO

*I'll send it this afternoon.*

CARLOS

*Thanks. I'm sorry I'm not there. If I hadn't gotten picked up at that damned ICE hearing--*

FRANCISCO

*Not your fault. You'll be home with your family soon; where you belong.*

PHONE CARD VOICE

*You have - two minutes - remaining.*

CARLOS

*Listen, I don't care who's in the White House. We can't count on your DACA like we thought. Be careful, son. I love you.*

FRANCISCO

*I love you too, Dad.*

**INT. AUGUST'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT**

August fries fish and boils grits as Patrice grabs dishes.

AUGUST

*Dante didn't even have a decent falsetto when I met him. I taught him how to use his head voice.*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PATRICE

Uh huh.

AUGUST

'Cisco and I wrote all the songs too, even in high school. Dante couldn't write for shit.

PATRICE

Lets forget about Dante tonight.

AUGUST

You're right. I'm sorry. You like cheese in your grits or regular?

PATRICE

Neither. I'm a Cream of Wheat kind of girl.

AUGUST

Excuse me? I can't date a woman who eats Cream of Wheat. What would the ancestors think?

Patrice laughs as August playfully grabs her waist, pulling her close. They tantalizingly gaze into each others eyes.

PATRICE

Oh no! How will I ever make it up to the ancestors?

AUGUST

I've got some ideas.

The pair leans in for a steamy, passionate kiss.

**INT. DANCE STUDIO - MULTICOLORED ROOM - MUSIC VIDEO**

Nari sings alongside four Korean ingenues in bubblegum KPOP group **THE PRETTYS**. Her star power is especially undeniable.

THE PRETTYS

*(singing in Korean)*

*Do you love me? What will it be?*

*(singing in English)*

Love ya so much. Ya drive me crazy!

**INT. SEONG HOUSE - NARI'S ROOM - NIGHT**

ZOOM OUT to find Nari watching her KPOP glory days, sans headphones. April enters and Nari slams her laptop shut. April lovingly pretends not to have heard.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

APRIL  
Dinner's ready.

**INT. SEONG HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT**

Nari's traditional Korean parents, MR. and MRS. SEONG (60s), sit with their daughters at the dinner table.

MRS. SEONG  
How was everyone's day?

APRIL  
Pretty good! I aced my exam on tort reform, despite certain obstacles.

MR. SEONG  
(in Korean; subtitled)  
*My daughter! Such a hard worker!*

MRS. SEONG  
And you, Nari?

NARI  
Just another dandy day at Dandy Dry Cleaning.  
(with trepidation)  
Grio Soul is close to a deal with a production company though.

MR. SEONG  
*How exciting!*

NARI  
There's just this tiny issue about our name being trademarked. But it's totally cool. We just have to pay \$10,000 to get the name back.

MRS. SEONG  
\$10,000? For a name?

NARI  
August is handling most of it. I just need a small advance to--

MRS. SEONG  
No. No advance.

MR. SEONG  
*Your mother is right. You get paid after you work, not before.*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NARI

But we could lose our name!

MRS. SEONG

Why do you insist on wasting your life with this music nonsense!?

MR. SEONG

*That's enough, my darlings.*

NARI

Because that nonsense is my life!

MRS. SEONG

You should've thought of that before you threw your career away and brought shame upon this family!

MR. SEONG

*Enough!*

Time stops. No, FREEZES. After a beat:

MR. SEONG (cont'd)

*You're a good Korean girl, Nari.  
Not some thug rapper.*

NARI

I'm lead singer. And 'Cisco and August are my friends. Not thugs.

MRS. SEONG

Oh please. We know what's going on out there. We've seen "The Wire".

MR. SEONG

Poor, poor Wallace.

**INT. AUGUST'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT**

August and Patrice lay basking in post-coital glow. Until...

PATRICE

So did you and Dante like, date?

AUGUST

Hell no. Why would you ask that?

PATRICE

The way he gets under your skin...  
Have you ever had a boyfriend?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AUGUST

Patrice, what's going on?

PATRICE

I've never dated a bi guy before. I guess I'm just wondering...

Patrice doesn't finish her sentence. She doesn't have to.

AUGUST

I'm not ashamed of who I am, Patrice. And it took me a long time to get here. If that bothers you...

PATRICE

It doesn't. I just-- Forget I said anything. I'm good. We're good.

Patrice lays on August's chest, but doubt rests with them.

**INT. PANN'S RESTAURANT - BOOTH - DAY**

August, Francisco, and Nari enjoy brunch at the iconic 50's themed Pann's restaurant, just outside of Inglewood.

FRANCISCO

Shit, I forgot my wallet in your car. Can I borrow your keys?

August tosses Francisco his keys. Francisco exits. Nari takes a flask from her jacket to top off her coffee.

AUGUST

How did it go with your parents? Did they give you the advance?

NARI

About that... They said no.

AUGUST

Shit! Did they say why?

NARI

Because "The Wire" is fucked up and Wallace deserved better.

August stares in confusion. Francisco returns, but without handing August back his keys.

AUGUST

Nari's folks won't spot her. You and I have to split the difference.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANCISCO

Actually, I'm out too. I had to wire my dad some money and--

AUGUST

Seriously!? Am I the only one that gives a shit about this group!?

Customers turn their heads at August's outburst.

NARI

Let's just change our name. It's not like we're going to have the money by Saturday anyway.

AUGUST

Yes we will. I'll sell my car.

FRANCISCO

You can't not have a car in LA. Trust me, it sucks.

AUGUST

It'll be fine. It's just a... car?

The tires of a black Chevy Malibu screech outside.

AUGUST (cont'd)

Francisco? Where are my keys?

Francisco frantically checks his pockets and comes up empty. August runs outside. Nari and Francisco follow suit.

**EXT. PANN'S RESTAURANT - FRONT DOOR/PARKING LOT**

The Malibu speeds by just as the group makes it outside.

AUGUST

Fuck! Fuuuuuuck!

NARI

(into her phone)

Yes, I'd like to report a stolen vehicle. Pann's restaurant on--

AUGUST

What are you doing? No cops!

August takes Nari's phone and hangs up. She grabs it back.

NARI

Excuse you, asshole!

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

FRANCISCO

OK, glass half full? We can use the insurance money to pay off Dante.

AUGUST

An insurance check isn't gonna be here by Saturday! I'm fucked!

NARI

You mean we're fucked.

AUGUST

What?

NARI

You keep saying "I" like you're the only one in this.

AUGUST

It's my fucking car!

FRANCISCO

She means the group. We care about Grio Soul just as much as you do.

AUGUST

Really, Mr. Pokemon? God, how are you this irresponsible!?

Nari chuckles in agreement and takes a swig from her flask.

AUGUST (cont'd)

I know the alcoholic guzzling vodka since 9am isn't laughing.

NARI

Fuck you, I drink Hennessy! You know what? Screw you and your dick measuring contest. I'm out of here!

FRANCISCO

Me too. Gotta catch 'em all, right?

Francisco and Nari walk off in separate directions, leaving August standing alone. A pissed off Pann's server steps out.

SERVER

I know y'all motherfuckers paying for this food!

**END OF ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

**INT. GARCIA'S BK BODEGA - FLASHBACK (CONT'D)**

**SUMMER 2006.** Andre and Young August shop around the back of the bodega, then making their way to the front to pay.

ANDRE

Alright, Jay Z or Weezy?

YOUNG AUGUST

Wayne's flow is sick, but Hov has better wordplay, just like me.

ANDRE

You hear that, Mr. Garcia? My boy's the next Jay Z.

YOUNG AUGUST

Nah, I'm the next August Green.

ANDRE

Well OK then! Shit, we forgot milk.

YOUNG AUGUST

I'll get it.

August heads back to the refrigerators as a suspicious ROBBER (20s, Black male) in a hoodie enters the store.

ANDRE

And none of that skim shit your momma be making me drink! That mess ain't nothing but water.

The robber pulls a gun, aiming at Andre, then Mr. Garcia.

ROBBER

Hands up! Empty the register!

Mr. Garcia opens the register. Andre commands August to stay hidden with a look, then turns his attention to the robber.

ANDRE

You don't want to do this, brotha.

The robber presses the gun against Andre's forehead.

ROBBER

Nigga, I will paint the floor with your brains! Shut the fuck-- Oh shit, ain't you DJ Griot? Yo, that set you did at Salt Club was fire!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANDRE

...Thanks?

August dips behind an endcap and calls 911 on his cell.

911 OPERATOR (O.C.)

911, what is your emergency?

YOUNG AUGUST

There's a robbery at Garcia's  
Brooklyn Bodega on 19th and Hill.

911 OPERATOR (O.C.)

OK, we're sending units over now.

**INT. AUGUST'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - PRESENT DAY**

It's 3:18 am according to the alarm clock and August is rustling in bed. Patrice groans and turns on a lamp.

PATRICE

For the last time, what's wrong?

AUGUST

Nothing. Go back to sleep.

Patrice turns her light off, but August cuts on his lamp.

AUGUST (cont'd)

If 'Cisco and Nari had done what I told them, we'd have our name back and I'd still have my car.

PATRICE

(to herself)

This is why we sleep at home, girl.

(to August)

August, you are one of the most talented, ambitious people I've ever met. But you're a control freak and a dick to your friends.

AUGUST

Is this supposed to be a pep talk?

PATRICE

What did you expect Nari to do? Rob her parents store?

AUGUST

OK, fine. But Francisco shouldn't have wasted his portion.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PATRICE

Do you hear yourself? How is helping his deported father a waste of money? What if it was your dad?

August suddenly zones out, as if he's somewhere else.

PATRICE (cont'd)

...August?

AUGUST

(snapping to)

We decided as a group.

PATRICE

No, you did. I don't know where this need to be in control comes from, but if you keep it up, Dante won't be the only one who leaves.

(kissing his cheek)

Get some sleep. Nobody ever solved anything at 3:20 in the morning.

August cuts off his lamp. In the dark:

AUGUST

But what about--

Patrice groans LOUDLY.

**INT. AUGUST'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

August, Nari, and Francisco sit around the coffee table.

AUGUST

Thanks for coming over guys.

FRANCISCO

No problem. And again, I'm really sorry about... well everything.

NARI

Me too. I shouldn't have said--

AUGUST

I'm the one who's sorry. 'Cisco, you're my best friend and the dopest musician I know. Nari, you literally saved this group. There's no Grio Soul without either of you.

SHOCK. Nari looks inquisitively into August's eyes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NARI

Are you high? Can I have some?

AUGUST

I'm not high. Just a jerk.

FRANCISCO

Sounds like having your car stolen  
really gave you some perspective.

August cuts a sharp, searing look at Francisco.

FRANCISCO (cont'd)

Or not.

NARI

Where did "Grio Soul" come from?

August looks to Francisco, who nods his support.

AUGUST

It was Summer 2006. Beyoncé had  
laid off Kelly and Michelle, Lil'  
Wayne was running the table with  
"The Carter II", and Whole Foods  
hadn't colonized the borough yet...

**INT. GARCIA'S BK BODEGA - DAY - FLASHBACK (CONT'D)**

**SUMMER 2006.** Mr. Garcia hands the money to the robber and  
the thief runs out. Andre and August run to each other.

ANDRE

You OK, Boogs?

YOUNG AUGUST

Yeah. The cops will be here soon.

MR. GARCIA

In this neighborhood? Yeah, right.

OFFICER #1 (40s, white), a weathered veteran enters ahead of  
OFFICER #2 (20s), a nervous Latina rookie, weapons drawn.

OFFICER #1

We got a call about a robbery.

MR. GARCIA

Well I'll be damned. Yes, officer.  
But the robber escaped.

OFFICER #1

Did you get a good look at him?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. GARCIA  
No. I was too panicked.

Andre walks up the aisle towards the cops. Officer #2 looks up and sees him in the security mirror behind Mr. Garcia.

ANDRE  
Hi officers. I got a look at--

Officer #1 turns and points his gun at Andre.

OFFICER #1  
Show me your hands!

**BANG!** Less than a second after Officer #1's command, he fires a bullet into Andre's chest. Andre falls. August runs to his father's side. He cradles his dad, utterly helpless.

YOUNG AUGUST  
Pop! Pop! Stay with me, Pop!

**INT. AUGUST'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

Nari wipes away tears while Francisco sits STUNNED.

FRANCISCO  
You told me how your dad died, but not that you saw it. Fuck, man.

NARI  
What happened to the cop?

AUGUST  
Cop said he feared for his life; DA declined charges. A year later Mom moved us to LA for a fresh start. I always told Pop I'd make my mark on hip hop. But it's hard to chase a dream while carrying a ghost. So let's do it. Let's change our name.

FRANCISCO  
Really? Any ideas as to what?

NARI  
I got one. Remember what Dutch said about her team playing our demo?

AUGUST  
Yeah, they played it over and over.

Nari writes something on a napkin and slides it across.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NARI

I checked. It's not trademarked.

August and Francisco look at the napkin. And smile.

**INT. ECHO NIGHTCLUB - MAIN STAGE - NIGHT**

August, Francisco, and Nari stand to the side of the stage. Francisco plays Pokemon, but for once, August doesn't mind. The emcee (30s, Black) hops on the mic to address the crowd.

EMCEE

Formerly known as Grio Soul, our next act are the latest signees to Mad Hatter Music and have a new name. But I'll let them reintroduce themselves. Everybody, give it up!

CHEERS as our trio walks on stage. August nods to Dutch at her table, but is shocked by who's next to her: DANTE!

FRANCISCO

Why is Dante sitting with Dutch!?

AUGUST

Good fucking question.

NARI

Were they working together this whole time? What do we do now?

AUGUST

For now? The same thing we always do. Give one hell of a show.

August steps to the mic. He COMMANDS the audience.

AUGUST (cont'd)

What's up, Echo! I'm Boogs, that's 'Cisco, and this lovely lady is Nari. And together, we're REPLAY. Y'all ready to get down tonight!?

The crowd ROARS.

AUGUST (cont'd)

I thought so. DJ? Drop the beat!

**CUT TO BLACK**

**END OF SHOW**