

AUNT LOUISE

25.

Scene
1

FRANKLIN

No. He come through here at all?

A long look tells us this is as uncomfortable subject.

JEROME

Nah. I'm sure he's good.

FRANKLIN

Yeah.

(re: the weed)

You mind if I bag this up here?

We partying tonight.

Jerome looks off, seemingly reminiscing, then hands Franklin a triple-beam scale and some baggies.

JEROME

A'ight, do your thing. I'll be on the porch.

FRANKLIN

(preoccupied)

Cool.

Jerome takes a last look at Franklin, then walks out. Out of the kitchen enters AUNT LOUISE SAINT (28) local drunk/party girl, eyes glazed, high on PCP.

LOUISE

Is that my nephew?

FRANKLIN

Oh, what's up, Aunt Louie?

We notice his way of talking has reverted back to the sweet boy we first met. She grabs him, hugs him.

LOUISE

Nephew! Look at you, a grown ass man.

FRANKLIN

I saw you two days ago, Auntie L. You high as hell!

LOUISE

I know that. But I remember when you was just a baby, shittin' all over the place.

Snow Falls

Start

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1/5

LOUISE (CONT'D)

You know you used to shit so much that I'd take ya diaper off and put you in Mama Dear's backyard to run around her garden and spray you with the hose after you pooped. You loved it, thought it was fun.

JEROME (O.S.)

Louise, get your sherm-smoking ass back in the kitchen and leave that boy alone!

LOUISE

Kiss my ass, Jerome!

(to Franklin)

He think he tough.

(looks him in the eyes)

Don't you have no babies out here.

She heads back to the kitchen. Franklin bags the weed but looks at his aunt in the kitchen barely registering her surroundings due to her high state.

END

EXT. JEROME'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Franklin leaves, gives Jerome a nod as he walks off. Jerome shakes his head, tells his right hand man SNEAKY, 35, bald head and mean eyes. Jerome curls a fifty-pound barbell.

JEROME

That little nigga gonna be somebody, watch.

EXT. EAST LA HOUSE - NIGHT

Ranchero music serenades us as Pedro and Gustavo sit in Pedro's parked Mercedes.

PEDRO (IN SPANISH)

I work for my uncle Manuel, and this piece of shit Javier owes him money. I've been trying to collect for three months. Nothing. You get the money, we take it to Manuel and get you a job.

Without hesitation, Gustavo exits the car, then walks up to a house with a group of men standing outside.

GUSTAVO (IN SPANISH)

Javier?

2/5

AUNT LOUISE

55.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

Franklin sits by himself, clutching his backpack and staring out the window. No one else on the bus, entering his neighborhood, back to reality. Off the light flares that hit the window, floating over the reflection of his face --

Scene
2

INT. JEROME'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Franklin waits quietly for his uncle while sitting on the couch, backpack by his feet. Aunt Louise smokes a joint, watches TV: *WHAT'S HAPPENING*. ROGER AND RERUN argue.

START

FRANKLIN
Auntie Louie? You ever hear of something called freebase?

LOUISE
(brightening)
Why, you got some?

FRANKLIN
No.

LOUISE
(considers, then)
Don't fuck with that shit, boy.
Ain't nothing good ever come from base, and that's me saying it.

Outside, HEAR a woman shouting:

WOMAN (O.S.)
Jerome! Get your black ass out here and talk to me!

Louise ignores her, but the WOMAN, early twenties, comes up to the door and bangs on the screen.

LOUISE
Jerome! Come get your friend! She out here getting loud and I'm trying to watch my show.

Jerome enters the room.

~~JEROME~~
(to Franklin)
~~One second.~~

He goes to the door.

→
3/5

JEROME

Bitch, you out of your Goddamn
minds coming to my house acting a
fool? You gonna wake up the whole
damn neighborhood!

WE HEAR the laughs of his friends on the front lawn, who
still linger, lifting weights.

LOUISE

I told you not to bang that girl
without me! Now look at you!

WOMAN

~~Jerome, I think you forget about
how much I know about you. I'm the
wrong bitch to mess with.~~

JEROME

~~I know you better take your crazy
ass on someone before you get
dealt with! I've my neighbors
looking sideways over here.~~

The woman screams more at Jerome. He turns around.

JEROME

(to Louise)

Go whip this chick's ass! I ain't
got time for this!

LOUISE

Fine.

She gets up, then explodes out the front door.

THROUGH THE SCREEN, we see Louise PUSH the girl off the
porch, then beat the living shit out of her on the front lawn
while Jerome's boys laugh their asses off.

JEROME

(to Franklin)

Come peep this. Look at your
Auntie. She a wild cat, that's why
I love her! You need a womens like
that to watch your back.

Franklin joins his uncle at the door. They both shake their
heads. Louise throws a final punch that knocks the woman out
cold on the lawn, then hurries back into the house, annoyed.

4/5

LOUISE

That's the last time, Jerome. I ain't gonna be fighting your fights for you forever.

Jerome kisses her lovingly.

JEROME

Thanks, baby.

She sits down just in time for her show to start again. Jerome looks at Franklin, motions towards the kitchen.

END

INT. JEROME'S HOUSE - THE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jerome staring down at the KILO on the table.

JEROME

Boy, you know I'm in the weed and water business. What you doing with this much coke? You rob somebody?

FRANKLIN

I got a new friend.

JEROME

You got a connect? You?! My nephew? Damn! Well shit... lemme meet your friend, tell 'em your uncle wanna be down.

FRANKLIN

Let's just handle this, I got 'till tomorrow to turn this around.

JEROME

Oh, nephew's growing up now, huh? So, you got a connect, and you ain't gonna tell me who it is, but you need me to help you get rid of it? That the score here?

FRANKLIN

If you don't wanna help, I'll figure it out on my own. I'm coming to you first, figure we could split the profits.

JEROME

That's what you figure, huh? Big boy?

5/5