

(SCENE #1 - START) "CORY"

22.

More laughter. Ashe smiles.

ASHE

Look, we're not police. We're investigating the police.

YOUNG WOMAN

You smell like police.

Preston notices a TEENAGER on a bike rocking a TITANS JERSEY. This is CORY -- Black, 17. Preston approaches. Takes on an edgier persona.

PRESTON

You fuck with the Titans?

CORY

That against the law?

Preston points at the jersey. NUMBER 44. TERRY ON THE BACK. THE SAME ONE THAT HANGS IN HIS FATHER'S HOUSE.

PRESTON

My baby brother.

Cory looks at him.

CORY

Whatever, man.

PRESTON

Check it.

Preston pulls his cell phone, finds a photo of himself standing with a muscular brother with dreads. They favor each other. Cory stares at the photo, stunned. Others lean in for a look. Ashe watches.

CORY

Mace is a beast. That's your fam for real?

Preston nods.

CORY (CONT'D)

How come you're not in the league?

PRESTON

Decided to change the world instead.

CORY

Damn. You fucked up.

1/4

"INDICTMENT"

"CORY"

Preston laughs. Cory cracks up, too. Ashe looks on, impressed by Preston's ability to connect.

PRESTON

So what's this dude Belk like?

CORY

He's alright. Not like the white boys who roll through here knocking heads for nothing.

MAN

He's a sell out.

ASHE

You don't think the neighborhood could use Black cops?

MAN

Yeah. But he ain't hood no more. Moved to the suburbs. Wants to be one of them.

PRESTON

So what went down? Y'all saw something or heard something.

The crowd grows quiet again.

CORY

No one's got answers for you 'cause you're asking the wrong question.

PRESTON

So what's the right question --?

Just then, TWO POLICE CRUISERS turn down the street. They stop, sit idling. Watching. The crowd quickly scatters. Cory eyes them for a moment.

PRESTON (CONT'D)

Talk to us. We can protect you.

Cory laughs. He takes off. Ashe and Preston glance at each other, then down at the cruisers.

(SCENE #1 - END)

ASHE

They trying to intimidate them or us?

They stand there as the police cruisers slowly drive off.

"INDICTMENT"

2/4

"CORY"

35.

PRESTON
I figured you already knew. Being such a good investigator.

ASHE
I know he's playing on Saturday. You taking me?

PRESTON
I told you. I don't piss where I eat.

She looks at him. Beat, then he cracks a smile. An unexpected spark. Preston rises up. Pulls a couple bills, drops them on the bar.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
I have this. You get the coffee tomorrow.

ASHE
You got it. Boss.
(then --)
You believe half the shit you said in your speech?

PRESTON
Half.

He crosses out. Ashe turns in her bar stool. A GUY eyes her. Starts to approach. Ashe shakes her head. He stops. Sits back down. Ashe drinks alone...

EXT. STREET - LATE NIGHT

(SCENE #2)

Most of the street lamps are busted. And no one has bothered to get them fixed. The block is too hot, even at this late hour. YOUNG BROTHERS dot the corner. The occasional car stops briefly, then moves on. A GROUP OF TEENS ride bikes.

Preston pulls up in the rental. Climbs out. The suit is gone. He rocks Harvard sweats and a T-shirt. He glances around. The brothers on the corner eye him.

Cory rides a bike in slow, aimless circles.

PRESTON
Hey.

Cory tenses. Then recognizes him.

CORY
You lost?

3/4

"INDICTMENT"

START

"CORY"

36.

"INDICTMENT"

PRESTON
I'm looking for you.

CORY
I don't talk to cops.

PRESTON
Already told you, I'm not a cop.

CORY
Look man, I got nothing to say.

PRESTON
I'm gonna see my brother this weekend. You want a signed football?

CORY
For real?
(then --)
You're straight bribing me.

PRESTON
You said I wasn't asking the right question. So what do I need to ask?

CORY
(beat, then --)
You need to go ask Miss Campbell.

PRESTON
Who's Miss Campbell?

CORY
This lady in the Houses.

PRESTON
What are the Houses?

Cory looks at him...

EXT. STREETS - SHORT TIME LATER

Cory pedals his bike down the deserted block. The rental car follows behind him. Cory stops in front of a jumble of battered apartment buildings called The Houses. The poverty is suffocating.

Preston pulls over. Climbs out. Looks at Cory.

CORY
5D.

(SCENE 2 - END)

4/4