

"MACEO"

49.

"INDICTMENT"

START

ELI (O.C.)

Look, we can't talk about this anymore. You gotta talk to my lawyer.

ASHE

Eli, she's the only thing that makes sense.

Its quiet for a moment, then --

ELI (O.C.)

She matters to me, too.

He hangs up. Ashe breaks. .

INT. TENNESSEE TITANS STADIUM - DAY

Seventy thousand strong. Cheering the gladiators on the field. MACEO TERRY, running back for the Titans, is having a monster game. A beast on the field. Demonstrative, bad-ass.

Preston and Ashe sit on the fifty yard line. Preston moves as his brother moves, seemingly connected, fully engaged. But he doesn't cheer. Ashe is quiet...

INT. UPSCALE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

(SCENE # 1)

Preston, Ashe and Maceo sit in VIP. Champagne bottles are on the table. Maceo rocks an expensive suit. Fills it out with swagger and playfulness. Ashe is on edge. Not shy about drinking. Preston sips on the free water.

MACEO

So are y'all hitting it?

PRESTON

Always classy, Mace.

MACEO

Just want to know how honest I can be.

ASHE

I'm not his type.

MACEO

Didn't think so. Prep school gave him an addiction to white girls.

Ashe chokes on her drink.

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PRESTON

At least I'm selective. You'll screw anything.

MACEO

Just have a big appetite, that's all.

He looks at Ashe.

MACEO (CONT'D)

What about you?

ASHE

I like to eat.

Preston shoots her a look. Maceo grins.

MACEO

You're too pretty to be a cop.

ASHE

You're too pretty to play ball.

Maceo laughs.

MACEO

So what, you dig cuffing brothers?

ASHE

I dig cuffing bad guys. They come in all shades.

MACEO

Why?

ASHE

Cause I'm good at it.

MACEO

Why?

Ashe eyes him. He is sincere. Preston is curious, too.

ASHE

'Cause I respect them. I understand how easy it can happen, going down that other path. I know the mindset, but my moral compass is stronger.

Preston takes this in.

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"INDICTMENT"

" MACEO "

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ASHE (CONT'D)

So y'all are prep school Negroes.

MACEO

Nah. Press went to prep schools.
I'm a hood cat.

PRESTON

You wear that like its a badge.

MACEO

Hell yeah. I fought for everything
I got. Nothing was handed to me.

PRESTON

Trust me, you had it easier.

MACEO

You know where this dude spent his
summers in high school? The Alps.
His best friend's daddy was a
billionaire. I was lucky if I got a
fucking popsicle.

ASHE

How come you didn't go to private
schools, too?

MACEO

Press got the brains. I got the
pretty looks. But its all good.

He picks up a champagne bottle. Re-fills Ashe's glass.

MACEO (CONT'D)

Our parents are living in a house I
bought them.

PRESTON

And what's your shelf life, Mace?
Five years? I'll be running Justice
by then. And just getting started.

MACEO

Yeah, saw you on TV. How is it you
always ending up playing for the
wrong team?

Preston shakes his head. Rises up.

PRESTON

Always good to see you, Maceo.

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" INDICTMENT "

" MACEO "

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MACEO

C'mon, Press. Just jokes.

PRESTON

We've got work to do.

ASHE

We just ordered. I'm not walking away from this fifty dollar steak.

Preston eyes her. Maceo smirks. Preston crosses out...

EXT. RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Preston strides to the rental, pissed. Hates the way his brother makes him feel. He stands there, deep breaths...

EXT. STREETS - LATE NIGHT

A chauffeured SUV rolls though the quiet streets...

INT. SUV - SAME TIME

Maceo eyes Ashe across from him. She eyes him back. Chemistry is crazy.

MACEO

You know he thinks we're fucking right now.

ASHE

So why aren't we?

MACEO

Cause if we do I won't respect you. And I think I like you.

ASHE

Maybe I don't wanna be liked right now.

Maceo smiles. Fights the temptation.

MACEO

You bad as hell, sis. You also got the saddest eyes I ever seen. I don't know, maybe that's why I'm digging you.

Ashe has no comeback.

(SCENE#1 END)

(4/4)

"INDICTMENT"