

The Prophet

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561 10TH AVE, 25H
NEW YORK, NY 10036

"When We Were Young"

EXT. PLAYGROUND IN LOWER MANHATTAN- DAY

Dave, Damian, James, and Talel(all 10) sit on a bench at recess.

DAMIAN

Come on, James. Stop being a baby.

JAMES

Why do you want to do this so bad?

TALEL

Mr. Watson is a good teacher.

DAMIAN

Shut up, Talel! He embarrassed me in front of the whole class!

DAVE

Maybe you should have done your homework. James, let's do the homework rhyme.

JAMES

Kick the beat, Dave.

Dave beat boxes.

JAMES

Damian/Didn't do his homework/ Now he's acting like Mr. Watson's the jerk
Maybe if he wasn't always trying to flirt/ with Talel and get his hand up her skirt

TALEL

Ewe!

JAMES

We had a paper due/ but Dame acts like he never knew/Now he wants to trash Watson's office/ with a pile of dog doo

DAMIAN

That's right!

JAMES

But I'll stay right here/ with my
main man Dave/ And let Dame go on/
and misbehave/ Cause I got big
plans...

DAMIAN

Shut up, James!

DAVE

Relax, Damian. We're just having
fun.

DAMIAN

Well, I'm gonna take this bag of
dog crap and leave it in his desk.
After I trash his office.

TALEL

No you're not. I'm gonna tell.

DAMIAN

If you tell, I'm going to break
this bag all over your face.

DAVE

No you're not! Damian, why don't
you just go?

DAMIAN

Fine! James, you gonna come with
me or not?

James looks at Dave. Dave stares back at James.

JAMES

No, I'm gonna stay here.

DAMIAN

Fine! You guys stay here and be
little girls like Talel. I'll see
you all later.

Damian runs off.

SUPER- TEN YEARS LATER

"NEW YORK, NEW YORK. A WONDERFUL TOWN"

EXT NEW YORK SKYLINE- SUMMER, DAY

The sun sets over the Brooklyn Bridge. The FDR is packed with outbound traffic as the business day draws to a close.

New Yorkers bustle on the streets. Businessmen and women in suits walk past the Ground Zero sight, now in reconstruction. There is a steel cross still on a cement block on the North end of the site.

INT SUBWAY STATION- DAY

The doors of the N train open. Feet shuffle in and out of the cars. A man collecting money yells as he holds his hand out.

MAN

I was a motha fuckin crack head.
And then I found Jesus!

EXT. WS ACROSS 59TH STREET- DAY

Men and woman leave department stores and boutiques. In Columbus Circle, young runners stretch, put on their headphones and start to jog. Tourists stare at the globe in front of the Trump building.

In Central Park, joggers run, taxis and horse drawn carriages wait in a row on the East end of the park on 59th Street. On Central Park West, a dog walker walks 5 well-groomed dogs at once.

In Harlem, people hang out in the streets, play basketball, talk on steps and wipe the sweat off of their brow.

On the West end, there is a small café in the 90's. People sit and watch the sun go down. At the Intrepid, there are young soldiers walking off of the ship, pointing at some of the older jets and fighter planes.

EXT HELL'S KITCHEN-DAY

A window has a Hell's Kitchen T-shirt in it.

EXT 42ND STREET- DAY

The M42 bus pulling away from Port Authority. The Bus is packed with commuters. They all look uncomfortable. One young guy has his I-Pod on. His music is blaring. A woman talks loudly on her cell and the person next to her is annoyed. The bus driver takes the microphone from the hook.

BUS DRIVER
Next Stop, Broadway, Times Square.

EXT. THE TIMES SQUARE CRAZIES- DAY

1. The Naked Cowboy plays his guitar.
2. A man dressed like Spider Man drives a bike built for 5 extra passengers.
3. The lights flash and people are out buying things and strolling around, looking up at all of the billboards.
4. A man gets pick pocketed and does not even notice.

EXT. TIMES SQUARE POLICE STATION- DAY

There is a small memorial for police officers killed in the 9/11 attacks. The police officers look proud. Taxis honk.

EXT. BRYANT PARK- DAY

Young and old people sit at the small park tables and on blankets in the grass. Shot of the New York Public Library at dusk.

EXT. UNION SQUARE- DAY

Young guys and girls break, pop and lock. Some kids are on skateboards.

EXT. THE NEW SCHOOL, NYC- DAY

A young man and a young girl carry a heavy case together, each holding a handle.

TALEL

Call a cab.

DAVE

We're close. We can walk it from here. I'll be aight if it's too heavy.

TALEL

It's OK.

DAVE

You gotta hear this new track I cut. James is gonna blow over this hook.

TALEL

Your lucky you went to school so close to home.

DAVE

And why is that?

TALEL

Um, hello.

DAVE

Oh yeah, it's nice having someone to help carry my shit around.

Dave smiles with sarcasm. Talel looks at him, waiting to hear a better answer.

DAVE

And James and I can build the demo every day.

TALEL

You really know how to get a girl. You're flattering me.

DAVE

Since when did I start trying to "get" you.

TALEL

Oh please. You've been trying to get with me since the first grade.

Dave changes the subject.

DAVE
Thank you for helping me.

TALEL
You know you're trying to get me.

Talel and Dave put down the bag at Dave's front door

DAVE
Come in for dinner.

TALEL
Nah, that's OK.

DAVE
My dad is going to be disappointed.

TALEL
I can't, my mom is waiting for me.

DAVE
I'll call you later.

Dave unlocks the door and enters.

DAVE
Hello?

Dave's Mom, Amanda(42) yells down.

AMANDA
Hi sweetie. We'll be right down!
Put your keyboard in the other
room. Don't leave it by the steps.

DAVE
OK.

Dave drags the bag to the side room. He walks into the kitchen and opens the fridge. He grabs some juice and pours a glass. He looks inside of a bowl with tin foil over it and gets excited.

He takes the bowl out, grabs a fork from the drawer and puts the bowl on the counter. He pokes into a fork full of pasta. His mother walks in and stands in the doorway with her arms crossed.

AMANDA

The macaroni and cheese is in the oven. That's leftover pasta. Wait for Dad.

Enter Dave's father(43), Matt. He looks upset. He walks toward Dave, grabbing him and giving him a hug.

MATT

Hey buddy.

DAVE

What's up, Pop? You ok? Is mom pissed at you for eating the cold pasta too?

MATT

I'm fine. I was taking a nap. How are classes going?

DAVE

Cool. (Beat) The New School just bought all this audio equipment. It's called MIDI and you can make any instrument sound you want through a computer that feeds into the keyboard. I made this phat beat yesterday.

AMANDA(JOKINGLY)

"This fat beat." That's what your learning in college? What makes a beat fat?

MATT

Phat. Like cool, awesome, rad.

DAVE

Easy with rad. I said that in eighth grade, Dad.

MATT

Whatever. Your supposed to be impressed that I know words like "phat." That's pretty phat.

DAVE

Yeah, phat.

They both laugh. Amanda smiles and rolls her eyes.

AMANDA

Are you going out with your friends tonight?

DAVE

No, James and I are going to work on some music for a little. Damian is at his pool hall.

MATT

Explain to me how Damian has money to run a business and he's 20?

DAVE

I guess he's just smart like that.

AMANDA

Yeah, well if that was my son, I'd think he was selling drugs.

DAVE

Relax, Mom.

AMANDA

I'm relaxed. He's not my son. Just make sure your not around him if he is.

DAVE

I'm not around him. I'm in college and he's working all the time. I hardly ever see him anymore, unless I'm hanging out with James.

MATT

Look out for James. He's easily persuaded. You're the best friend he has. Friends for life are hard to come by.

DAVE

Jesus. Will you guys take it easy. I've only been home for five minutes.

INT. DAVE'S BEDROOM- NIGHT

He is listening to his headphones in bed. He plays something he and James worked on together.

He presses stop and flips the tape over to the other side.
Dave listens to his parents' conversation.

MATT

I can't do it, babe. I can't deal
with this!

AMANDA

Matt, we don't have a choice. This
isn't just about you!

MATT

Then who the fuck is it about?!

AMANDA

Will you lower your voice. David
will hear you.

MATT

The chemo, the radiation. That
shit can kill you before the cancer
does. You guys will be well taken
care of, I promise.

AMANDA

It's not about the money. I need
you. WE need you.

Dave's face is upset. His eyes well up.

"PAGING DR. FISK"

INT HOSPITAL- NIGHT

Dave sits in a waiting room, looking out of the Hospital
window, overlooking the east side of Manhattan. He's wearing
a Yankee hat, low, so you can hardly see his eyes. He has a
heavy North Face coat on and baggy jeans.

Dave sorts through songs on his I-Pod and presses play. Dave
looks much tougher; emotionless. He's lost his soft side.

The nurse makes an announcement over the intercom.

NURSE

Dr. Fisk, please call Oncology.
Dr. Fisk.

AMANDA

Dad wants to see you. They're not
sure if he's going to make it
through the night.

Amanda leans forward, anticipating a hug for consolation but
Dave walks passed her to his father's room.

INT. MATT'S HOSPITAL ROOM- NIGHT

Dave enters. His dad is a little delusional. The nurse,
Betty finishes giving Dave's father an injection through a
semi- permanent tube that's been implanted in his chest. She
looks up at Dave with sympathy.

BETTY

How you doing, Dave? You hanging in
there?

DAVE:

Not really, Betty.

BETTY:

Well, tell your father to stop
scratching or he's going to make
his rashes bleed.

The nurse puts her hand on Dave's shoulder as she walks out.
Dave hesitantly sits down in a chair next to the bed.

Matt has lost most of his hair. He can barely open eyes that
sit deep inside dark hollows. He begins to scratch.

DAVE

Dad, you heard Betty. You're gonna
make it worse.

MATT(ALMOST CRYING)

Just let me itch. It, it hurts.

Dave tries to take a hold of his father's hand. His dad pulls back and continues to scratch.

DAVE
It will be all right, Daddy.
You're OK.

MATT
David, just let me die. Just let
me die so you can live.

His father starts to cry and Dave clenches his teeth. He holds back his tears as hard as he can but one drops from his eyelash and rolls down his cheek.

DAVE
You're going to be all right.

"A COLD WINTER"

EXT CEMETERY- DAY

A car door opens and a foot with a dress shoe steps out.

A long line of cars pull to a stop. In unison, their doors open and dozens of mourners soon file solemnly around the burial plot. Dave stands next to Amanda. She is in total shock and despair.

The Rabbi says Yitzkah, a prayer for the dead. Dave shovels dirt into the grave sight. The service ends and everyone is walking back to their cars. Dave is emotionless. He looks almost angry. Talel and James give him a hug.

DAVE
Where's Damian?

TALEL
He couldn't make it, Dave.

DAVE
Figures.

INT DAVE'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

He sits watching the TV while Amanda is on the phone in the kitchen. The door buzzer rings and Dave stands up and buzzes the visitor in. He looks angry. There is very strong tension in the air, displayed by static coloring.

AMANDA
Who's here?

DAVE
I don't know.

AMANDA
Are you just buzzing anyone in?

DAVE
Ma, it's probably someone coming to visit with another cake or some shit.

AMANDA
Enough with the cursing!

Dave's mother goes back to her phone conversation. The door knocks and Dave opens it. Enter James.

JAMES
Yo, kid. What's up?

DAVE
Chilling.

JAMES
You all right?

DAVE(TALKING VERY SOFTLY)
Not really, man. I want to puff an L so bad right now.

JAMES
I got you, I got chronic. Let's go.

EXT. DAVE'S APT. BUILDING- NIGHT

Dave and James come out of the front door. Their friend Damian is leaning against the hood of a car.

DAVE
Damn, you smelled it from that far
away?

Damian shrugs his shoulders and looks at James.

DAMIAN
What the fuck was that for?

James makes light of it.

JAMES
Let's go.

All three boys start walking. James hands Dave a blunt and Dave lights it.

DAMIAN
Yo, D. Sorry I couldn't make it
last week, son. Mad shit was going
on around the way. I got this cat
to buy a whole sack of those
knocking pills I showed you. He
was only going to be in town for a
couple of hours. We had set it up
months in advance. I made ten G's
son. Check this out.

He pulls a small bag with a few pills from his pocket. He also holds up a wad of cash.

DAMIAN
That's all I got left from 500
pills.

DAVE
You should have been at my father's
funeral, dick head. You owe me one
of those.

Damian rolls his eyes and hands Dave a pill.

DAVE
I called Talel. She said we should
pick her up. She didn't feel like
coming out, but she will.

JAMES
Aight, cool.

The boys walk down the street, slowly and blazed. With that,
a police siren goes off and Dave tosses the lit blunt onto
the sidewalk. Damian sticks the bag of pills in his pocket.

DAVE
Oh shit!

JAMES
Damn, son.

DAMIAN
Be cool, be cool!

POLICE OFFICER
Hello, gentleman.

JAMES
Hello, sir. Can I help you with
something?

POLICE OFFICER
As a matter of fact, you can. Put
your hands on the hood.

All three boys are spread against the police car.

DAMIAN
Is there a problem, sir?

POLICE OFFICER
Is there a problem? I don't know,
that depends on what I find when I
pull out what you just stuffed in
your pocket.

The cop pats them down. The three boys look at each other.
Damian looks very nervous. Police Officer 2 pulls a pill from
Dave's pocket.

POLICE OFFICER 2
Looks like we got something here.

POLICE OFFICER 1
And what would that be?

Dave looks very scared. Police Officer 2 holds up a pill. Police Officer 1, smiling devilishly, pulls a bag of ecstasy from Damian's pocket.

DAVE

Sir, I just lost my father. He's been sick for months. I'm just letting off some stea...

POLICE OFFICER 1

Shut the fuck up! Now you speak when I speak to you. Whose is this?

The three boys are silent. Dave looks at Damian with a hard stare.

POLICE OFFICER 2

OK, this is how it's gonna work. If it's one of yours, the other one of you are going home tonight. If it's both of your's, then you're both coming in now. Whose is this?

No one speaks. Dave stares at Damian.

POLICE OFFICER 2

Ok, have it your way. You guys are under arrest. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of.....

As the boys are getting their rights read to them, Dave is looking at Damian with an angry hard stare. Talel comes around the corner.

TALEL

What's happening? What did you do?

DAVE:

Relax. We'll be OK. James, take her home.

TALEL

Officers, he's just been through a traumatic experience...

POLICE OFFICER 2(TO JAMES):

Why don't you do what your friend here says and take her home?

TALEL

Dave!

DAVE

Talel, it's OK. Go home. I'll call you when I get out, OK? Don't call my mom. I'll be fine.

JAMES (TO TALEL):

Come on.

James walks Talel down the street. She looks back as they walk back toward Talel's apartment. Dave looks through the police car window as they drive away. He looks scared.

INT JAIL- NIGHT

Dave is sitting in a jail cell. He is sitting on a seat next to two other people. One guy is yelling out of the cell while the other sits quietly next to Dave.

JAIL MATE 1

Eh, yo! Don't I get a motha fuckin hamburger or some shit!? What the fuck!?

JAIL MATE 2

Yo, son. Move the fuck over.

Dave wakes up and slides over. He looks timid and a little scared. Nothing like the two men who are in the cell with him. Dave keeps his head down and does not say anything.

JAIL MATE 2

You don't understand English, homey? I said move the fuck over!

With that, a guard walks over to the cell door.

GUARD

Bender! Your out of here.

Dave gets up and waits for the guard to open the door. The guard turns the key and leads Dave from the cell. Dave looks confused.

JAIL MATE 2

Oh shit. The boy from the hill is sprung. That took a long time, Zack Morris. Where's Screech at? Shit.

Dave's uncle approaches him. In the Court House/ Jail lobby.

DAVE

Hey, Uncle Marc. Thanks for coming to get me. Those guys in there are a bunch of fucking nuts.

MARC

Watch your mouth! Your lucky I know the judge. Don't even talk to me right now. Let's go.

Uncle Marc and Dave cross to the other side of the street at the Court House. Dave takes out a pack of cigarettes.

MARC

Since when did you start smoking? What the fuck is wrong with you? Give me those.

His uncle snags the pack away and looks at them. He looks at Dave. He taps a cigarette from the pack and pulls it out with his mouth. Dave smiles and lights the cigarette for his uncle. Then he lights his own. Marc takes a long hard pull off of the cigarette.

EXT PARKED CAR- NIGHT

The car pulls away from the curb.

DAVE

Does mom know?

MARC

No, your mom doesn't know. Don't you think your mom has been through enough?

DAVE:

Uncle Marc, that stuff wasn't mine.

The car comes to a stop at a light.

MARC

Dave, how would you like to get away for a while? Get away from this mess and go study abroad?

Their light turns green again and they start to drive.

MARC

Mom is going to need to stay with me and Aunt Jackie for a while, so you don't have to worry about her. I talked to her about you and she says you're not yourself, that you're fucking up. This is your chance to go learn and get out of this city for a while.

DAVE

I don't know, Uncle Marc. I don't know if I can just leave right now. I won't even have a chance to say goodbye?

MARC

Kid, there's nothing here for you right now except more trouble. You left college when you found out your father was sick. You never went back. Now we don't have the money to send you and your sittin' around on your lazy ass.

(BEAT)

MARC

Your mom told me some of the shit you've been getting yourself involved in around here. And I think after this, I've seen enough.

Dave is about to defend himself and his uncle cuts him off. The car pulls up to the apartment.

MARC

I'm not asking you, kid. I'm politely telling you. There's nothing here for you right now except a a trip to jail. And you'll be lucky if that's all that happens to you.

(BEAT)

Dave sits silent.

MARC

I cleared things up and the judge is doing me a favor. We've known each other since high school. He got you in a program to work and study. He's a few years older and I worked for him when I was in law school. Since you only had one pill on you, he's going to throw the charges out.

DAVE

What about Damian?

MARC

Damian is going to spend a few months in the can.

(BEAT)

DAVE

Damn.

MARC

He won't get slapped with any heavy charges because he didn't have enough on him. I told the judge that I was going to get you help. It's all arranged. Your flight leaves tomorrow. So make this your last smoke and get your things packed. I'll pick you up at 8 AM.

Marc takes a long hard stare at Dave and smiles.

DAVE

What?

MARC

You look just like he did when we were young.

DAVE

I know, that's what everyone says.

Marc takes out his wallet and pulls a picture from it. He takes a long hard look at it and gets chocked up. It is a picture of Dave's dad in his early twenties.

MARC
Here, kid. Take this.

DAVE:
Uncle Marc. Keep this. Come on, I
have pictures of dad and I
together.

MARC
No, you keep it. You look at this
picture and see how happy your dad
was at your age. You go away and
you find that happiness. You look
at this picture when you feel like
you got nothing. And think about
what he gave you.

Marc pats Dave on the arm. Dave gets out of the car and
closes the door. He bends down and looks inside of the car.

DAVE
What did he give me?

MARC
Life. I'll see you Friday at 8.

DAVE
Where am I going?!

MARC
Home.

Dave watches the car pull away. His breath fogs from the
cold air. He puts his hands in his pocket and arches his
back. He looks defeated and dirty. Dave turns toward his
apartment building. He walks in and the door slams behind
him.

INT DAVE'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Dave enters and searches the quiet apartment. He walks
quietly into his room.

He closes the door and immediately strips out of his clothes.
He looks disgusted as he throws them into the laundry basket
across the room.

INT APARTMENT SHOWER- NIGHT

He scrubs himself down and wipes away the filth from the jail cell he had been in for hours. He dries himself and throws a dry towel around his upper body.

INT DAVE'S ROOM- NIGHT

Amanda peaks from her room. She looks to make sure the bathroom door is shut. She walks into Dave's room.

Amanda picks up his jeans from the laundry basket and checks the pockets. She smells his T-shirt as if she expects it to smell like smoke. She is frantic and visibly upset. Dave walks in the room.

DAVE

What are you doing Mom?

AMANDA

I wanna know where you've been David.

DAVE

What are you talking about, where I've been? Out.

AMANDA

You can't just walk in and out of here like it's a hotel! Are you doing drugs?

DAVE

What?

AMANDA

You think I don't know what you're doing? Do you think I am blind? I can't smell you when you come into this house like you just put out a joint?

DAVE

You know what? Fuck this.

AMANDA

Hey!

DAVE
No, fuck this! You've been at the hospital every night and what do you think I've been doing?

AMANDA
Oh, don't you dare!

DAVE
I have nowhere to go.

AMANDA
I know that, but don't you blame me for not being here!

DAVE
I'm not!

AMANDA
What did I do wrong? What did I do wrong to make you think it's OK to be out all night and not give a shit that I'm home freaking out. Daddy's been gone two weeks now. Don't you think you should be here?

Dave continues to be expressionless and somewhat unaffected.

AMANDA
When Uncle Marc came by here before, he told me he was sending you away for a while. So go! Go away and leave your attitude and your drugs and everything that is not you, there!

Amanda starts to cry. Dave stands still. He is not crying or comforting his mother. She goes to hug him and he gives her a half-hearted hug back.

AMANDA
I love you David. Right now, it seems like you don't love anything though. I'm sorry you had to grow up so fast. I'm sorry I can't take your pain away. I hope you can love again soon. Because I miss the real you.

EXT TEL AVIV, ISRAEL- DAY

The planes land and take off at the Tel Aviv airport.

INT AIRPORT- BAGGAGE CLAIM

The conveyer belt spins around and a tag on one of the bags reads "Bender." A hand picks up a bag and the camera follows from mid-body range as Dave walks out of the airport. He hails a cab and tries to speak to a cab driver.

DAVE

I need to get to this Kibbutz.

Dave points to a piece of paper with an address on it.

DRIVER

Kibbutz Gezer. Ah, OK.

INT A SMALL, MODEST LIVING QUARTERS

It is sweltering hot and Dave rolls over, uncomfortable and scared.

The door swings open and an old man stands over Dave. The old man is the RABBI.

RABBI (IN BROKEN ENGLISH)

Break-fast.

INT KITCHEN

Dave sits down in front of a modest plate of sliced tomatoes, humus and pita bread.

RABBI

Eat. Tomatoes were picked today.
Humus is fresh chick pea and olive
oil I make from our olive trees.

DAVE

"Our" olive trees?

RABBI

Yes, this is a Kibbutz. We live as
a small community and share our
possessions.

DAVE

Thanks but you don't have to do
this. I can take care of myself.

RABBI

From what your family says, you are lost, emotionless.

DAVE

What? You don't know anything about me.

RABBI

Please relax.

DAVE

Don't tell me what to do. Everybody expects me to take care of myself. Why am I being told I have problems from a stranger? I don't need this shit.

RABBI

The Kibbutz is a community. A community of people who trust. If you can not learn to respect certain guidelines, you can not stay here.

DAVE

Fuck this! How's that for emotion.

Dave bursts from his seat and storms out of the room.

EXT EARLY MORNING, JERUSALEM

The sun rises over the city. Dave runs along a cobblestone road and into a quiet neighborhood. He wears a hooded sweatshirt to keep him warm while jogging in the cool parts of the road that sun has yet to hit.

Dave notices large crowds walking down a flight of steps. He can not see what is down below from where he stands across the street. Dave comes to the top of a long flight of steps and looks at something below. He jogs down the steps, weaving between tourists and locals.

EXT WAILING WALL- JERUSALEM

Dave is in awe at the immense size of the wall. Many religious men pray there. Some sing with passion as they say the prayer words. Others are silent. Dave comes into frame, behind a group of them. He looks curious but also borderline dismissive.

EXT WAILING WALL- LATER IN THE DAY

In a fast forward time elapse, we see Dave still standing and sitting by the wall, sort of pacing. He observes, trying to make himself feel that inspired feeling everyone else has. Half of him seems intrigued, the other half mocks them. You can see the conflict in his body language. Dave turns and walks away.

EXT CITY STREETS, DAY

The activity is busy in the streets. Dave walks slowly and checks everything out. He returns to the entrance of the Kibbutz. A small temple is on the property.

INT TEMPLE

Dave enters the temple. He looks around and approaches cautiously. No one is there. He walks to the Bima and approaches the ark. He pulls the curtain back to reveal the Torah, covered in bright platinum crowns and an embroidered cloth cover. The Rabbi speaks in Hebrew and startles Dave.

RABBI

Do you like what you see? (In Hebrew).

Dave shrugs his shoulders. He doesn't understand.

RABBI

Do you like what you see?

DAVE

It's beautiful.

RABBI

You stand before the most powerful words of G-d.

DAVE

Why so powerful?

RABBI

Because it is the story of a people, our people. A people of struggle, a people who have risen above the struggle. A people of weakness, a people of kindness and a people of fault.

RABBI(cont'd)

But most importantly, we are survivors. Just like you.

DAVE

I'm not a survivor. I exist.

RABBI

To find the right path, first you must seek it.

DAVE

Sometimes I feel like it's too late. I've looked for his help but He didn't listen.

Dave gestures to the sky.

RABBI

He listened and He is helping you now. You just have to read the signs.

The Rabbi pulls the Torah from the ark.

RABBI

Would you like to learn from the Torah?

DAVE

Not really.

The Rabbi sighs with patience. He motions for Dave to pull the crowns and cover off of the scrolls. Dave takes them and places them on a table. The Rabbi puts the Torah down on the table, undoes the clasp and unrolls both handles to reveal the writing.

RABBI

To understand our past, you must be progressive in the present.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. BENYAHUDA STREET-MARKETS AND BUSINESSES

Dave is walking around, checking out the shops of this marketplace. He looks up at a sign above one shop window. It says something in Hebrew. In small letters below that, it reads "Book Store."

INT BOOK STORE, DAY

Dave walks around the store, not seeing anything that grabs his interest. He seems to be looking for something in specific. The store owner peers at Dave from the book end.

DAVE

What?!

Taken back, the store owner walks to the register. Dave looks around to see if anyone else is watching him. His eyes fix on what he was looking for- a prayer book.

Dave looks at the outside cover and runs his hands across it. Then he slyly slips it into his pocket. The aisle he is in has a clear shot to the front door and Dave makes a go for it.

Just as he reaches the door, a fist stops Dave right in his tracks and grabs his shirt as he falls backward. A muscular guy, EDAN pulls the prayer book from Dave's pocket.

EDAN (IN HEBREW)

Never mess with another man's dad,
you got that?

Dave does not understand hebrew and completely misses the irony in what the man has just said.

EDAN (IN HEBREW)

You want me to call the police,
Aba?

Dave seems to understand two words- Aba (father) and police.

STORE OWNER (IN HEBREW)

I don't know, Edan. He is young,
let him go.

DAVE (SCARED)

Please, please. I'm sorry.

EDAN

American?

A smile cracks on Edan's face.

Dave's feet dangle. Only the tips of his toes are touching the ground. Edan still has hold of him.

EDAN

You like basketball?

DAVE
Uh, yeah. Basketball. Michael
Jordan, T Mac...

EDAN
You know Deron Sheffer? NBA from
Israel.

Dave tries to break free and run. Edan holds Dave's shirt
and Dave runs in place.

EDAN (IN HEBREW)
Aba, what do you want to do with
this kid.

He shakes his head.

EDAN
Pfff. T Mac. Deron Sheffer,
pussy!

STORE OWNER
Let go of him, Edan!

He looks over at Dave and takes a deep breath. Dave still
looks scared for his fate.

STORE OWNER
Want to buy book? To steal holy
book is sin.

DAVE
I'm sorry. I, I have no money. I
will work for it.

STORE OWNER
OK. Tomorrow. 10 o'clock in
morning. You work 4 hours, I give
you 2 books, OK.

DAVE
OK. I am sorry. Thank you.

Dave looks up at Edan. Edan shakes his head, still in
disbelief that Dave doesn't know who Deron Sheffer is. Dave
walks carefully passed him as he goes to exit.

DAVE
Sorry. Sorry.

Dave gets past Edan and makes a run for it.

STORE OWNER (IN HEBREW)
Great. Now you have scared him,
Edan! He will never show up.

INT DAVE'S LIVING QUARTERS

It is Friday night, Shabbos. Dave is listening to his I-Pod. We hear a piece of a song he and James wrote blaring from his headphones. Enter Rabbi.

RABBI
Dahveed, it is almost Shabbos.

The Rabbi does not notice that Dave has his earphones on. He realizes and motions to Dave to grab his attention.

RABBI
Hello?

DAVE
What?

RABBI
We are all preparing for Shabbos
and the sun is almost down. I
would like you to put away your
music and come join us.

Dave doesn't respond.

RABBI
Will you come?

DAVE
Whatever.

Dave puts his headphones back on. The Rabbi sighs and leaves the room.

EXT KIBBUTZ- NIGHT

A communal meal, live music, dancing- an all around good time.

Dave is dancing and laughing with many other young families and their kids under the stars.

A beautiful, young Israeli woman stares at him. She admires his nature. Dave is oblivious to this.

Dave whisks a little girl off of her feet and swings her around. When he puts her down and stands up, he is face to face with the woman. She is smiling.

MIRI(IN HEBREW)
I think she likes you.

The little girl grabs the woman's leg. Dave looks confused. He speaks, embarrassed.

DAVE
I'm very sorry but I don't understand Hebrew.

MIRI
I think she likes you.

DAVE
I think I've got a crush on her. Is this your sister?

MIRI
No, this is my daughter, Perach.

Dave looks surprised for a moment and quickly regains composure.

DAVE
Perach. What a pretty name. What does it mean.

PERACH
It means flower.

Dave crouches, eye level with Perach.

DAVE
She fits the name well. I'm Dave.

Dave rises and gives Miri a flirtatious smile.

MIRI
Where are you from Dave?

DAVE
New York City.

Miri looks impressed and seems even more attracted- he is a city boy from America.

PERACH
Nice to meet you Dave.

Perach runs off to play with her friends. Dave and Miri smile at Perach with admiration.

DAVE

I wish I were her age again. Those were the best years of my life. Does she have a daddy?

MIRI

She did. But he was a soldier in the Israeli army and was killed on the border of The West Bank.

DAVE

I'm very sorry.

MIRI

New York, yes? The center of the world.

DAVE

The city that never sleeps.

MIRI

And what are you doing here?

DAVE (WITTY)

I needed some.

Miri looks shocked.

MIRI

Needed some what?

DAVE

Uh...sleep.

Miri laughs.

DAVE

Have you lived here long?

MIRI

My whole life.

DAVE

Oh good. Perach and yourself can show me around.

MIRI (HAPPY AND SURPRISED)

Oh we can, can we?

The two stand and overlook the people dancing. There is an uncomfortable moment of silence.

DAVE
Would you like to dance?

Before Miri answers, Dave pulls her on to the dance floor.

Perach runs up to them and dances between them. They all laugh. Dave and Miri realize that they've let down their guards a little too much. They both step back a bit, awkwardly.

Miri picks up Perach.

MIRI (IN HEBREW)
Time for bed, my little flower.

PERACH
No, Ima.

MIRI (MOCKINGLY)
Yes, daughter.

DAVE
Well, it was nice meeting you both.

MIRI
It was nice to meet you too,
Dahveed.

Before Dave can think of anything else to say, Miri and Perach are off.

She turns back to Dave and smiles.

INT BOOK STORE, DAY

The door chime rings as Dave enters the store.

STORE OWNER
Ah, so you return, eh?

DAVE (ANNOYED)
A promise is a promise.

STORE OWNER
Promise is a promise. What does
this mean?

DAVE

It means I am here. What do you want me to do?

Dave is facing the counter as Edan enters and sneaks up behind him.

Edan picks Dave up, arms around his chest...

EDAN

Hey, Michael Jordan! How you call it, Front runner, eh?

Dave snickers but barely shows a smile. He tries to hide his soft side.

DAVE

It's the Eh family, eh?

STORE OWNER

There is cart of books in aisle over there. You can put in order by first letter on shelves, OK?

Dave does not answer. He heads right for the cart and starts sorting through them. He places them in alphabetical order and comes across another book that grabs his attention. He stares at it for a moment and opens to the first page. He smiles when...

STORE OWNER

You read or you work?

DAVE

Sorry. This was my father's favorite book.

STORE OWNER

Was his favorite book?

DAVE

Yeah. My dad. He died.

STORE OWNER

Ah, OK. I sense something troubling you.

DAVE

I don't talk about it much.

STORE OWNER

Talk keeps him alive in the mind, eh?

DAVE

I guess.

STORE OWNER

Edan is good son. He is big, but really small inside. He is like teddy bear. He makes me proud.

DAVE

He is very protective of you.

STORE OWNER

Yes, protective. So in hour, you go and take this book and the Siddur you try to steal yesterday, eh?

DAVE

I'm sorry about that. I...

STORE OWNER

Is OK. You remember to make father proud. He is watching.

The store owner motions to the sky. What he has said has a visible effect on Dave. You can see a subtle, yet distinct change in him.

EXT KIBBUTZ GEZER- DAY

Dave helps to farm the crop on the Kibbutz. He drops a basket of fruit and gets frustrated. Perach laughs.

DAVE(SMILING AFTER SEEING HER)

What are you laughing at? Come here.

He puts down the basket and chases her as she screams and laughs.

EXT. DESERT- DAY

Dave hikes in the desert with Miri and Perach. They walk through small rivers in canyons.

Dave and the girls sit on a camel. He smiles and the camel makes a weird noise and drools. The experience is finally breaking through to Dave.

EXT. DEAD SEA- DAY

Dave floats in the Dead Sea and basks in the sun on the beach. Perach plays in the sand by the water's edge.

EXT BEDOIN TENT- NIGHT

Dave sips tea with a group of friendly Arabs and Miri. They smoke a Shisha with tobacco and marijauna. Everyone is very relaxed. A arab man plays a sitar and another man sings ancient songs.

INT DAVE'S TENT- NIGHT

Dave settles in for the night. The entrance curtain pulls back. Enter Miri.

MIRI
Dahveed? Can I come in?

DAVE
Yes.

She lays down next to him, face to face. Dave looks a little taken a back but not entirely surprised.

DAVE
Where is Perach?

MIRI
She is sleeping.

There is a short silence that feels like an eternity to them both. Suddenly, they kiss deeply and passionate. At this moment, they both need each other so bad, you can feel it radiate from them. Dave starts to take off Miri's shirt. She lifts her arms and helps him slip it over her head. Her skin is bronze and her body is incredible. She lurches forward and grabs Dave again, kissing him with everything she has.

EXT TENT- NIGHT

A silhouette of Miri and Dave making love. Fade to black.

INT SYNAGOGUE- DAY

Dave is studying again with the Rabbi. Now, his beard has begun to grow. The Rabbi bends to show Dave how to Davin properly. Dave tries to follow and bumps his head on the pew of the synagogue. They both laugh. The Rabbi whispers something to Dave and he smiles.

INT RABBI'S HOUSE- NIGHT

Dave celebrates Shabbat dinner with the Rabbi's family.

RABBI

Dave, would you like to say Kaddish for your father tomorrow?

DAVE

What do you mean?

RABBI

When we say a prayer for the dead, we call it Kaddish. It's what we call, a mitzvah. Your saying a blessing for a loved one who has passed and at the same time, you are doing a good deed, a mitzvah.

Dave pauses and thinks.

DAVE

I would love to.

INT. SMALL STUDY AREA- NIGHT

Dave puts a koofi on and enters. He looks up. The Rabbi is there with nine other men who he has worked with and gotten to know on the Kibbutz.

DAVE (IN HEBREW)

Is there a party you forgot to tell me about?

RABBI

Come. When you say Kaddish, you do it with a minion. Ten men. We all pray together. I will lead us, follow along and repeat after me.

Dave looks nervous.

RABBI

Don't worry, we are here.

Dave looks at the Rabbi with love.

DAVE(V.O)

"When you are joyous, look deep
into your heart and you shall find
it is only that which has given you
sorrow that is giving you joy."

Dave lies in bed in his shoebox apartment. Dave has made this modest room his home. He sits on the edge of his bed and lets the floor fan blow up at him. He opens his sock drawer and takes out pictures of his family, together. One after the other, happy. Then Dave flips to a picture of himself and his father, Matt who is bald from chemo. His eyes well up with tears but Dave swallows his thoughts. He turns to the next picture of himself and Talel sitting on his lap. He runs his thumb over the picture and thinks...

EXT. MIRI'S HOUSE- DAY

Dave bangs hard on Miri's door. Miri comes to the door with a sad look on her face.

DAVE

We need to talk.

MIRI

Your leaving, aren't you?

DAVE

I want you to come with me.

MIRI

There is no place for me there,
Dahveed. No place for Perach.

DAVE

What are you talking about? I
thought you loved me.

MIRI

I do love you. But I love my child
first.

DAVE

But I want her to come.

MIRI
And do what?! Live with your
mother?

DAVE
Just for a little whil...

MIRI
Dahveed, I can't do that to her.
She is 7 years old. Her family is
here. Her friends are here. Our
life is in Israel.

DAVE
Miri, don't do this.

MIRI
Dave, you must go. Your heart is
in New York.

Dave puts his head down. Miri cries.

MIRI
You will be better off, Dahveed

DAVE
What are you talking about?

MIRI
I know you loved her deeply, Dave.
This feeling does not disappear.

Dave pauses and pretends for a moment like he doesn't know
who Miri is speaking of.

DAVE
Talel? She's dating one of my a
kid I know.

MIRI
And when you return?

Dave says nothing.

MIRI
Dahveed, don't make this any
harder. I knew when I met you that
we were meant to help one another.
And I knew some day, our wounds
would heal and the pain would go
away. And you would return home.

DAVE
 What about Perach? Do I get to say
 goodbye?

MIRI
 Just go. She has had enough
 disappointment in her life.

DAVE
 I can call you. We can talk to
 each other every night.

MIRI
 I don't want to confuse Perach.
 Please, Dave.

Dave stops speaking again and walks up the two steps to her. They hold one another. Miri cries. Her nose is red and puffy.

DAVE
 Thank you.

MIRI
 We must thank each other. You
 helped me move on to a new stage of
 life.

Dave is thinking about what she has just said. He knows that he is returning to New York and phase of his life he has grown away from. Dave's mind is elsewhere as he hugs Miri.

INT. TEMPLE- DAY

Dave Davins in prayer before the open ark. He cries as he sings the prayers. He cries out the words as if he is calling for someone.

After Dave finishes his prayer, he closes the prayer book. The Rabbi appears behind Dave.

RABBI
 Are you ready to go?

DAVE
 I think so.

RABBI
 Do you know so?

DAVE
 As much as I am going to know.

RABBI

You can never know enough. There is always something new to learn. Remember that.

DAVE

Rabbi, I don't know how to thank you for all that you have done. You have taught me how to love and live again. For that, I will always be grateful.

RABBI

I showed you the path, Dahveed. You walked it.

Dave hesitates for a moment.

DAVE

Rabbi, I'm scared.

RABBI

Scared of what?

DAVE

My friends aren't like me. They are very caught up with city life and all of its temptations.- drugs, alcohol, cheating, stealing...

RABBI

And you are afraid that you will be tempted to fall back to your old ways.

DAVE

Yes....Well, No.

RABBI

That is not possible. You have found who you really are and the strength that you possess. It is a gift. A gift you will share with others until there is no breath left in your lungs. Do you remember what I said to you when we first met? To understand the present, you have to begin with the past. Go back to your past life and re-create the present

(BEAT).

RABBI

The Wailing Wall is a Holy site
here in Israel.

INT. WAILING WALL- NIGHT

RABBI(C.O)

It represents the one wall that
remained standing when the Holiest
temple in Jerusalem was destroyed
by the Romans in war. The battle
was tough and the Jewish people
were unable to keep the Romans from
crushing the temple and all of its
glory. The Western Wall of the
temple, the one that remained was
renamed The Whaling Wall, meaning
"cried there" for all of those who
had after that horrible event.
Now, we as Jews go and pray at this
wall, to cry for our sins, pray for
good things. This wall is strong.
As you must be. It teaches us to
remain humble, as you must teach
others to do so. And it is
grounded, unmoved by war and the
constant flow of life around it.

EXT. WAILING WALL- NIGHT

Dave stands before the Wailing Wall. He looks proudly at it.
He walks to the wall. He smiles. He leans his arms against
the stone wall. His eyes close. Tears drop from his closed
eyes and he whimpers.

EXT. HILL- DAY

Dave is reading from The Prophet, overlooking the Dome On The
Rock. This is he golden dome shaped building in the heart of
Jerusalem. The sun's reflection off of the dome's roof
illuminates Dave's bearded face. He breaths a real sigh of
ease.

DAVE (V.O.)

And in the twelfth year, on the seventh day of Ielool, the month of reaping, he climbed the hill without the city walls and looked seaward; and he beheld his ship coming in the mist. Then the gates of his heart were flung open, and his joy flew far over the sea. And he closed his eyes and prayed in the silence of his soul. But as he descended the hill, a sadness came upon him, and he thought in his heart: How shall I go in peace and without sorrow? Nay, not without a wound in the spirit shall I leave this city.

INT. AIRPORT BAGGAGE CLAIM- DAY

A loud beep comes from the luggage conveyer belt.

A light flashes from above the conveyer belt. The digital sign reads "Flight 911- Tel- Aviv to NY." Luggage comes through the rubber flapped door. Bags and suitcases start dumping out on to the belt.

Uncle Marc waits for the luggage to come down from the door. He has grown a mustache. He stand by the belt, looking around for Dave. He flips the tags over on a few bags, looking for Dave's name. A bag turns the corner on the conveyer belt. Marc sees the name tag. It reads "David Bender."

Uncle Marc reaches for the bag. A younger hand comes out of nowhere, with a red string tied around the wrist. The arm of Uncle Marc reads

TITLE CARD- "5 Years Later."

The tan arm grabs the bag. Dave speaks.

DAVE

Let me help you with that, old man.

MARC

Old man, huh?

Dave(25) is golden brown. He looks healthy and happy. He has grown a long beard and he wears a Koofi on his head. He looks mature. He wears a big smile. The two embrace. Uncle Marc lifts him off the ground with a bear hug.

MARC
Welcome back.

EXT. STREETS OF NEW YORK CITY- NIGHT

PETER GABRIEL'S "MERCY STREET" FADES UP.

A foggy night in Manhattan's lower east side.

One dim street light is lit. The street is mostly empty and wet from rain earlier in the night. The city lights reflect off of the concrete. The rain has washed everything away.

Dave walks out of his apartment. He is dressed in a pressed short sleeve button down shirt with titzit (Jewish traditional cloth) hanging from the bottom of the shirt, and wallabies on his feet.

Dave wears a koofi to cover his head. He walks down the side of the empty street toward a main avenue.

DAVE (V.O.)

I grew up on these streets.

Two children run past him laughing. He smiles.

DAVE(V.O.)

I remember the days when life meant playing kickball and running down to the bodega for some sour powers. I remember being out in the streets at night and my mother worried because she knew a car would hit my ass once the sun went down if she let me stay out.

Dave looks up at a window. The light is on and you hear his mother yelling from the window.

AMANDA

Dave! Time to come in!

He looks back down and the light in the window slowly dims.

DAVE (V.O.)

My parents and I sat down to eat as a family. We laughed, we fought and we talked. But whatever the circumstance, we were together.

(BEAT)

It is said "You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth. The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and He bends you with His might that his arrows may go swift and far." I was 16 when I first read this quote. I had no idea that at such a young age, the bow that sent me on my travel would soon break. But not before me, the arrow was shot into the sky, on an infinite path with an unknown future.

(BEAT)

James' father was a hunter and he taught us a trick. He said that if you take an arrow and roll it along the side of it's tip, it should roll smoothly.

INT. TABLE- NIGHT

an arrow head rolls on along the surface.

DAVE

If it dips or curves, it's not a straight arrow.

EXT. STREET- NIGHT

Dave looks both ways to check out the activity.

INT SUBWAY- NIGHT

Dave trots down the steps into the subway. A train pulls into the station. Its doors soon slide open, Dave enters and takes a seat. He sits in a seat and stares through the window.

DAVE(V.O.)

When I was a kid, I did my dirt and got in trouble with my friends.

DAVE(cont'd)

But for the most part, something in the back of my mind always kept me from going too far. And when I did, I couldn't stop thinking about how wrong it was. My parents had instilled this morality, almost a fear inside of me. And if I failed myself, I was failing them. I always wanted to be a straight arrow.

Dave lifts his head. He focuses on something in front of him and he smiles.

Just opposite, a little girl sits on her mother's lap.

The girl(3) is held tight. She peeks at Dave with one eye while her head stays partially buried in her mother's blouse.

MOTHER

I think she likes you.

Dave puts his hands in front of his eyes and then opens them up and makes a funny face at the girl.

DAVE

Peek-a-boo.

The girl giggles.

The doors open. Dave goes up the crowded stairs, holding onto the collar of his jacket so that his breast pocket is not exposed.

EXT. 42ND STREET, TIMES SQUARE- NIGHT

Dave comes up out of the station and onto the street. The Times Square scene represents the crazed life of New York.

He bumps into a pedestrian. The man who has bumped into Dave turns and gives him a dirty look.

DAVE (V.O.)

I believe that life is a set of uncontrollable circumstances. Some take negative events in their life and let it jade their spirit and poison their sole. Others let it eat away at them until there's nothing left to live for.

A woman babbles and yells as she walks by him.

DAVE (V.O.)

You walk by them on the streets everyday. There's little interaction. Sometimes, if you're lucky, people look at you. I always wondered how many of them follow their dream, or even have one.

An elderly mans bumps into Dave on the street.

MAN

Excuse me, sorry.

Dave acknowledges the man.

DAVE (V.O.)

Sometimes, you look into someone's eyes, and see nothing but emptiness.

All the people passing Dave are engrossed in their own thoughts. Some of them look straight ahead while others just look down at the ground.

Dave nods at an old man, the only person who is looking at him. The old man smiles and nods back.

DAVE : (V.O.)

And then there are a few that take the negativity of life's unfortunate events and use it to become stronger individuals. They branch out and want to help others. The people who still take the time to smile back; The ones who see the good and follow their dreams. These are the arrows that fly straight; Even if they've been shot into the wind; The arrow that hits the bull's eye even though they have lost some feathers along the way.

He turns to enter a tall building with a bright neon sign outside. The sign reads "HELL." Dave looks at it, slightly disturbed.

There is a long line of young adults outside of the club. The doorman immediately lets Dave pass.

EXT. CLUB HELL- NIGHT

Dave's hands are above his head and his legs are spread. He is being patted down by a security guard. He smiles at the irony of the situation.

DAVE (V.O.)

I am a product of two lovers; a man
and a woman who loved life, each
other and their child.

Unfazed, Dave allows security to do its job before he's let through. At the pay booth, without looking up, Dave pays the girl. It's Talel. She wears a large bruise on her eye and a shocked expression. Her eyes follow Dave as he walks to the club's main doors.

Dave approaches the two large doors in front of him.

INT. THE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Dave stands as the doors are opened by security.

The doors open and there is a blaring bursts of Techno music. Dave enters the club, focused. He removes his jacket and the camera focuses on a necklace charm on his chest, a chai, the Hebrew symbol of life.

BINT. HELL

A young man to Dave's left sniffs Cocaine. As the man sniffs it, a soft halo of yellow light glows bright around him. Many people are dancing at a fast pace as if they are induced by some sort of speed. A group of girls embrace each other. One of them picks her head up and her eyes are rolling back.

Frustration appears on Dave's face for the first time. Snapper and Danny O, a couple of young thugs, come to greet him.

DANNY O

Yo, what's up Dave?

DAVE

Nothing much. Is James here yet?

SNAPPER

(Sniffing)

Yeah, he heard you were back in town and he was just asking where you were at. Come on, I'll take you upstairs.

Snapper leads Dave up a long flight of white stairs. The stairs lead up to the highest point in the club. A bouncer stands at the top.

BOUNCER

What's up Dave? James has been waiting for you.

The bouncer opens the white door to the performer's V.I.P lounge. Dave enters and the bouncer puts his hand on Danny O's chest to stop him.

DANNY O

(Very doofy and humorous)

Hey yo, Dave what's up with this, man? Can't I get up in here with ya'all?

Dave tries to close the door behind himself in Danny O's face.

JAMES

It's OK Let him in. That's my boy.

Dave looks a little disappointed.

Dave and James embrace.

James is a good looking man (25). He is well-dressed, wearing black jeans, a black shirt w/ cut off sleeves and a long silver chain.

Swirls of smoke fill the air. James hands Dave a blunt. Dave looks tempted, but shakes his head.

JAMES

What up kid? Are people ready for me out there?

DAVE

(Exhaling)

What do you mean?

JAMES
I'm performing here.

Dave smiles.

DAVE
So you're making our dream come
true, huh?

JAMES
No doubt. You were my beat man. I
had the flows. So where's my
fuckin beats at, kid?

DAVE
Damn, man. I'm not used to this
scene. Everyone out there is
looking messed up.

JAMES
True. So go join them, kid.

DAVE :
I know you see above all that. You
want to succeed in this world. You
know that?

JAMES (HALF- HEARTED)
Whoa. Easy there, killer. Come on
man, you know me. I just like to
have a good time, yo.

DAVE
That's fine but you got to keep
your shit straight. You can't be
hanging out with doofy mother
fuckers like that clown over there.

JAMES
He's all right, B. You've known me
since we were like 5. Come on, you
been here five minutes and you're
all wound up. Relax, kid, you're
home!

As they walk down the stairs, they pass a really good-looking
girl on the steps and James puts his hand on her shoulder.

JAMES
Oh, excuse me, beautiful. Can I
ask you a question?

GIRL

Sure.

DAVE

Were your parents retarded?

The girl looks aggravated and gives him a strange glare.

GIRL

Why would you ask me something like that?

DAVE

Cause you're looking kinda special, girl.

With that, Dave, James and the girl all crack up. The girl pushes James in a playful manor.

Dave and James walk down the stairs.

DAVE :

You're just as funny as I remember you.

JAMES

See, kid, I'm just trying to kick it and have fun. I'm only trying to do good. You know that, right?

DAVE

I hope so.

INT. DANCE FLOOR AND STAGE- NIGHT

Dave looks at the stage with admiration. The music cuts off.

The crowd cheers.

DAVE

Man- this crowd is hyped for you. You're gaining status around here, huh?

James smiles.

JAMES

Oh, no doubt. You know how I be. All high VIP.

James grabs the microphone and the beat drops.

James begins to perform. Dave stands next to the stage with his arms crossed, bobbing his head to the music. There is a look of pride on Dave's face.

DAVE (V.O.)

So many thoughts are going through my head; happiness, sadness, sentimentalism... but mostly fear. I fear these people don't know what they are doing to themselves and what they know, they choose to ignore. All this dope, all this meaningless and misdirected energy. I stand here and wonder if these people even hear James' words?

FLASHBACK

EXT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL- DAY.

Dave and James outside of their elementary school. Dave is beat boxing and James is free- styling over it.

INT. STAGE

DAVE (V.O.)

Now, I wonder if James hears his own words.

Dave leans against a wall, deep in thought and into the music that James performs. Talel comes along side of him and whispers in his ear.

TALEL

Hi.

INT. STAGE

JAMES

Yo, it's a struggle, every day to stay humble/It's like seventy percent of the population's soul has crumbled/I hold a door for a woman and all I hear is her mumble...

DAVE (STARTLED)

You scared me. What's up?

TALEL
 Sorry. You looked pretty engrossed
 in thought.

DAVE
 Yeah, well...

TALEL
 (she giggles)
 Stop thinking so much or your brain
 is going to swell up.
 (MORE)

Dave notices the bruise above her eye.

DAVE
 Kinda like that swelled up area on
 your face.

TALEL
 Don't worry about me, I'm fine.

DAVE
 What happened?

TALEL
 He doesn't mean it Dave.

DAVE
 I got a letter from James and he
 told me you started seeing Damian
 after I left.

TALEL
 What was I supposed to do, Dave?
 You didn't even tell me you were
 leaving. All I know is, you get
 taken away in a car and your gone
 the next day. You didn't even say
 goodbye. I thought you weren't
 coming back.

DAVE
 Don't miss the point. You would
 never do anything to deserve this.
 The problem is that you don't see
 the goodness in yourself. What guy
 that really loved you would do...

TALEL
 Stop! Enough! Dave, don't come
 back here with this save the world
 attitude after disappearing from my
 life for years.

TALEL(cont'd)

Everybody isn't always going to see things the way that you do! Damian cares about me. And I don't think that I can do better than him because I don't want to. Shouldn't that be good enough for you?

DAVE

No, it's not. Talel,...

TALEL

Dave, ever since we were young, it's like you disapprove of so many people and their lives. Not everyone grew up with parents who had a relationship like your's, when your dad was still alive. Not everyone can be who you want them to be.

Frustrated and angry, Talel turns and walks away. Dave stands, leaning against a wall, partially listening to James perform and half-engrossed in thought.

The crowd that has been dancing around the stage begins to scream and cheer and it shocks Dave back in to reality. He stands up straight. He walks to the bar and sits down on a stool, signaling the bartender.

DAVE:

Captain and Coke in a tall glass!

James reaches across the crowded bar to grab Dave's shirt. He tugs Dave.

JAMES

Yo, playboy. Where did you go?

DAVE(YELLING BACK TO HIM)

My bad, kid.

Dave gets up and squeezes through a couple of people and out to James.

JAMES

Damian and I were thinking of rollin' down to this spot. They got Mermaids in this fish tank behind the bar. These chicks are swimming with exotic fishes. It's dope.

Dave peers at Talel, talking to Damian across the dance floor.

JAMES

What's your problem? Ah, I see.
Dog, you left town for a long time.
Things change.. .

DAVE

Shut up man. You're the last
person I want to hear it from.
Aside, why are you rollin' with
Damian? AND why do you already have
plans when I just got back to town?

JAMES

I'm saying.

DAVE (JOKINGLY):

Yeah, your saying. I'm all good,
man. I'm exhausted anyway. I
think I'm gonna go home and get
some rest.

Dave looks physically exhausted all of a sudden. He begins to come down off of his natural high.

"IN THE BEDROOM"

INT. DAVE'S BEDROOM- NIGHT

Dave lies in bed face up, with his hands behind his head. He tosses and turns. He slowly closes his eyes and falls into a dream.

DREAM

Dave is sitting in a hospital room next to his mother. His father lies in a bed, separated from them by a plastic curtain. The curtain has two holes in it with rubber gloves at the end on the father's side. Dave's father looks very sick and tired. Dave sticks his hands in the gloves. As he leans to grab his father's hands, he suddenly wakes up.

Sitting up in bed, Dave breathes heavy and looks scared. He leans over and grabs a glass of water. He takes a big gulp and falls back hard onto his pillow.

"BREAKFAST!"

INT DAVE'S BEDROOM- DAY

Dave wakes up and looks deflated. Amanda calls him from the other room.

AMANDA

Dave! Get up, sweetie. I made you breakfast.

INT. KITCHEN- DAY

Dave exits his room with a big smile. He comes over to Amanda and kisses her on the back of the neck. She looks back, surprised.

AMANDA

Well, that was a nice greeting.

DAVE

Nice, huh?

AMANDA

Well, you know. I haven't seen you like this since... It's just nice, that's all.

DAVE

Hey, mom.

She puts the food on a plate for him.

AMANDA

What?

DAVE

You know I love you, right?

Amanda smiles.

AMANDA

I love you too. (BEAT). You all right?

DAVE

Yeah, I'm fine. I just wanted to say sorry for everything I did and...

AMANDA

David, don't apologize. I wasn't around much when Daddy was sick. It was just as much my fault.

DAVE

You're not to blame for what I did. But it's done now. I'm a different person. I've been learning how to grasp control of my soul. I studied with wise men in our homeland.

AMAMNDA(JOKINGLY)

The prophet, huh?

DAVE

For real, ma. I've learned a lot about myself.

AMANDA

It was always there.

DAVE

It was only there because someone gave it to me.

Dave smiles. His mom reaches from across the table and takes his hands.

"THE DINER"

INT. DINER- DAY

Dave sits at a diner booth, drinking a cup of coffee. He has a prayer book on the table and he hums some of the prayers as he waits.

James sits down across from Dave at the booth.

JAMES

What's the deal?

DAVE

Nothing, man. What's good?

JAMES

What's good? I'll tell you what's good. Bitches in sea shell topped bikinis and mermaid fins. That's what's good. The entire wall behind the bar was a fish tank. Yo- that place knows how to sell their mother fucking alcohol. I didn't leave the bar all night. Just sat there, drinking and watching my future wife swim around behind the bar.

DAVE

Dummy.

JAMES

Haha! What's wrong man, you look like you went out alone on the town and got bent?

DAVE

Nah, man. I came straight home from HELL. I was tired but I had some bad dreams and couldn't sleep after that.

The waitress walks over.

WAITRESS

Can I get you boys something?

JAMES

Yeah, I'll have a grilled cheese and fries. And a chocolate shake.

WAITRESS

OK. Anything for you, honey?

DAVE

I'll have a refill. Thank you.

WAITRESS

All right. I'll take these menus from you. Thank you.

JAMES

Yo, the spot was jumping last night, kid.

DAVE :

I know, man. Looks like you got some pretty good publicity.

JAMES

Yeah. Damian told me last night that he can get me in over at Irving Plaza, no doubt.

DAVE

So now Damian is your boss?

JAMES

Chill, man. He's looking out for me.

DAVE

I know how your mind works. I hate that fucking guy and I hate that you and Talel can't see that.

JAMES

See what? Dave, we were young when that whole shit went down.

DAVE

You know what James, why don't you just figure this shit out on your own. When we were young, you trusted my judgement. Now, I gotta preach to you and Talel about who you should hang out with? Fuck this. You're a man. Figure it out!

Dave takes some money out of his pocket and tosses it down in the middle of the table. He gets up.

JAMES

Yo, where you going, man? What did I do?

DAVE

You'll figure it out. I gotta go.

Dave walks away and leaves James at the table.

"CONFRONTING YOUR PROBLEMS"

INT. NYC STREET CORNER- DAY

Dave is at a pay phone. He adds change and dials a number.

OPERATOR
Please deposit an additional 10
cents.

DAVE
Damn.

Dave digs into his pocket.

OPERATOR
Please deposit an additional 10
cents.

DAVE
Hold on! Fuck, lady!

OPERATOR:
Thank you for choosing Verizon.
Goodbye.

DAVE
Shit!

Dave slams down the phone and picks it back up to re- dial.

He deposits 35 cents and dials again. Talel picks up on the
other end.

TALEL
Hello?

DAVE
Since when did a pay phone start
taking more than a quarter for a
local call?

There is a silence at the other end of the phone.

DAVE
Hello?

TALEL (O.C.)
Yeah, I'm here. What's up? Why are
you using a pay phone?

DAVE
I gotta get a cell phone. Listen,
I was hoping... well, I was hoping
you would forgive me.

TALEL (O.C.)
Forgive you for what?

DAVE

For not being there for you. For not saying goodbye. For not letting you live your life how you want.

TALEL (O.C.)

Sigh. Dave, you're too much.

DAVE

I guess I should try and see that you are happy. And try and be happy for you, right?

TALEL (O.C.)

I guess. If I was happy... I guess.

DAVE

What?

TALEL (O.C.)

We broke up, Dave. He came home from that bar he and James went to and...

DAVE

And?

TALEL (O.C.)

It's over, Dave. For good.

EXT. DAVE'S APARTMENT- DAY

Rain begins to drop on a window pane.

In a t-shirt, sweatpants and sneakers, Dave stretches in the shadows of his small living room.

Dave is focused and pumped up. He takes a deep breath through his nose.

Dave walks down the 2 steps. His feet splash in a puddle and the music hits a peak and stays heavy.

EXT. STREET- DAY

Dave runs aggressively. He swings his arms from side to side in time with the music in his headphones. He screams out lines that make him feel power.

He runs on the back streets of downtown Manhattan. The rain falls heavy. He crosses over the West Side Highway and starts running uptown. He runs past Chelsea Piers and the helicopter pad on the River's edge. A helicopter takes off into the fog and blows more wind in Dave's direction.

The train yards and The Empire State Building are to his right. He runs past The Intrepid and looks up at it.

The rain is now heavy and it soaks through his thin, worn out t-shirt. He breathes heavy and looks angry. He stops at 42nd Street, and looks across to the East Side.

The signs and lights down 42nd are pierce the thick mist across town. Dave stares at them. The lights are pulse like a heart beat, in time with the music. He breathes heavy and rain pours on his face. He looks scared.

He bounces up and down in place.

(BEAT)

He turns and runs in the opposite direction.

INT. APARTMENT BATHROOM- DAY

Dave is in the shower. He pushes the water from his face. He looks exhausted. Suddenly, he hears a hard knock on the door. He turns the nozzle of the shower off and gets out, quickly throwing a towel over himself. The knock comes again and this time, harder.

DAVE
Coming! Hold up!

Dave rushes out of the bathroom, still soaking wet and opens the door. It's Damian.

DAMIAN
What's up, man, Sorry to get you at a bad time. Where's your mom? I want to say hello.

DAVE
What do you want, man?

DAMIAN
Damn. I guess your not too happy to see me.

There is a long pause. Dave stares at Damian with a very serious face. Damian smirks back at him.

DAVE

Listen. Is there something you need? Cause I'm in the middle of things here and I don't have time to bullshit with you or to stand around having a pissing contest.

DAMIAN

I've been trying to get in touch with Talel. She won't answer any of my calls.

DAVE

So what do you want from me? Even if I did know where she was, do you think I'd tell you?

DAMIAN

Yo, I'm coming here humble, asking for a favor. What the fuck is your prob...

DAVE

Humble? Don't you ever tell me that you've even got a drop of humbleness in your blood. Turn around, and go home. Stay the fuck away from Talel and James. Do you know what would have happened if my uncle didn't get us off? Your no friend of mine. Don't ever come around here again.

DAMIAN

What's wrong with you man! I'm the one that did the time while you were vacationing in Israel!

Dave slams the door in Damian's face.

INT. HALLWAY/DAVE'S APARTMENT- DAY

Dave immediately turns and walks away. Damian stands facing the closed door with a big grin on his face. Damian's face turns from a smirk to a very hateful look.

Dave sits down and takes a deep breath. He grabs a cigarette from an old hidden pack he had before he left for Israel.

He looks at the pack and takes out a cigarette. He looks for a lighter in a draw in the kitchen. He pushes through a drawer of junk and can't find one. He slams the drawer and squishes the cigarette between his fingers, throwing it in the kitchen garbage.

DAVE (V.O.)

It is said, "Your soul is often times a battlefield, upon which your reason and judgment wage war against your passion and appetite." I could have probably just kept my composure and told Damian I didn't know where she was. But passion and appetite to say what I have been thinking for a long time got the best of me.

"RACE IS A BITCH"

A montage of social status scenes:

1. A group of white kids in their late teens are driving in a car together.

TEEN 1

Fifty Cent and B.I.G my nigga!
Don't try and act like y'all don't
feel us nigga!

2. A group of southern hicks sit on the steps outside of their home.

MAN 2

I asked that nigger gardener to go
on and trim them hedges, I don't
know why he hasn't gotten to them
yet.

3. Two African American men sitting on a flight of steps in Brooklyn, talking to one another.

MAN 1

Can you believe that nigga did
that?

MAN 2

Damn.

James comes out of the front door at the top of the stairs. The two men move their legs so that he can get by.

JAMES
Thank you.

DAVE
What up?

JAMES(SMILING)
My nigga. Ha ha!

DAVE (V.O.):
Nigga...Nigger. These are two very different ways of saying a bad word. If a black guy says it to a white guy, that white guy must be pretty fucking cool, or he's in some deep shit. And when a white man says it to another white man...well they want really hard to be part of something they're not.

MAN 1
What did you just say?

James turns around and before he has an opportunity to say anything, he is knocked to the floor by the man.

DAVE
What the fuck?

Dave grabs James and pulls him onto his feet and out to the road. Dave and James look back at the screaming man.

JAMES
I didn't mean nothin' by that man!
Damn, yo.

Man 2 stands behind Man 1 with his arms crossed. Dave is pulling James away and trying to get him down the block.

MAN 1
Son, you ain't no fuckin' nigga.

JAMES
Yeah, man. I guess your right.
But you are, motha fucka.

DAVE (TO JAMES)
What the hell is wrong with you man?

MAN 1
What the fuck did you just say to me?

The two black men run towards James and Dave punches Man 2 in the side of the head. The man drops to the ground immediately Dave looks upset. With that, James pulls out a gun and points it at Man 1, who is about to attack him.

JAMES

What, you piece of shit? Now what are you gonna do? You're so fucking hard. Like anyone was talking to you, man. I got more black friends than you probably got, man.

James is visibly shaken. His gun is shaking in his hand.

MAN 1

Aight, man. Aight. I didn't mean nothing. Put the gun down, aight.

DAVE

James, man. Let's get out of here!

James and Dave run down the block together and around the corner. Man 1 runs over to Man 2 who is still disoriented.

MAN 1

You aight, man?

MAN 2 (SUCKING HIS TEETH)

Yeah, nigga. I'm aight.

Dave and James run around another corner. They both stop and lean against the wall. They are out of breath but James smiles.

DAVE

What are you smiling at man?

JAMES

You see the look on his face, man? He was shook.

DAVE

OK, big dog. I guess you don't remember how much you were just shaking while he just stood there with a gun in his face.

JAMES

Chill, kid. I had the sick adrenaline rush. Yeah! Just like old times, kid. Just me and you!

JAMES(cont'd)

We can take on anyone together,
kid! Fuck the world, don't ask me
for shit!

DAVE

Yo- what are you doing with a gun?
You got a cash business you didn't
tell me about?

JAMES

Chill, son.

DAVE

Chill? Fuck this, man. Where did
you get the gun?

JAMES

Damian gave it to me. We were out
at this spot the other night and
this kid tried to stick me for my
chain. So, I asked Damian if he
knew a spot to get one.

DAVE

James, listen. We've been friends
for a long time, man.

JAMES

Kid, we're not friends, we're
brothers.

DAVE

I know. That's why I gotta be
honest with you. You know how I
feel about Damian.

JAMES

Aw, shit. Here we go again.

DAVE

Just listen, man. You gotta live
your life. And I don't want you to
start hating me for speaking up all
the time. I'm going in another
direction now, man. I found myself
out there. Away from all this.
Over in Israel, people are dying
every day. Innocent people. And
then the Israeli army goes and gets
revenge. It's gotta stop. I'm not
ready to get back into a war. I
just left the most peaceful place
on earth and there is war there
every day.

JAMES

Nah, man.

DAVE

Just shut the fuck up and listen for once, man! We've been through a lot. But I can't do it anymore, kid. I can't keep standing around, watching you make these bad moves. So, I gotta let you do you....And I gotta go ahead and do me.

JAMES

What are you saying, man? You don't want to be my friend anymore?

DAVE

What I'm saying is that I'll always be there for you. My pops made me promise to look out for you. But you gotta go ahead and make your own mistakes right now. I want the best for you. But I guess you and I are going in separate directions. I love you, kid. I gotta go though.

Dave gives James a big hug and walks away.

JAMES (SMILING)

C'mon, Dave. Where you going?

Dave puts his hand up and continues to walk.

JAMES

Aight, kid. So I'll see you at the gig tonight, aight?! Yo, Dave!

Dave walks to a subway stop and runs down the steps.

James leans against the brick wall. He is out of breath.

He looks embarrassed and doesn't know what to do with himself.

EXT. SOHO- DAY

Dave walks and cries. He is pushing through people and is obviously upset. He looks angry and every time he is bumped into, it looks like he is getting punched in the chest.

DAVE (V.O.)

"When you part from a friend, you
grieve not; For that which you love
most in him may be clearer in his
absence, as the mountain to the
climber is clearer from the plain."

INT. DAVE'S APARTMENT- DAY

He walks in and slams the door behind him, punching it after
it shuts. He throws his keys across the room.

DAVE

Fuck!

A soft red glow pulsates around his body. There is a knock
at the door. Dave snaps his head toward the door and the red
glow gets stronger.

DAVE

What!!?

There is a second knock.

Dave unlocks the top lock and pulls the door open quick.
It's Talel. The red glow around Dave turns pink. The angry
expression on his face goes soft.

TALEL

Hey

DAVE:

What's up? In the neighborhood or
something?

Talel has a smile on her face and a glow in her eye.

TALEL (FLIRTING)

No.

JAMES (HALF SMILING)

So what's u....

Before Dave can finish his sentence, Talel kisses him. She
pulls back and Dave looks shocked.

DAVE

What was that for?

TALEL

I heard Damian came to see you. He came by and was trying to get at me. He told me he was looking all over for me and even went to you.

DAVE

Fuck Damian.

TALEL

Dave. I don't want Damian. I want you. I always have, since we were little. You were always so sweet to me. After everything with your family, it was like you weren't the same person anymore. I know that's why you take things to heart, because of your past. But I promise you that if you can trust anyone, it's me.

DAVE

Why are you saying all of this?

TALEL

Because you need to hear it from somebody. And I've needed to say it for a long time.

DAVE

Right now, Talel, I feel like so much is going on; like life kicked into high gear the second I stepped off the plane.

There is a long pause and Talel looks like she really wants to say something.

TALEL

What did you do while you were away? What was it like in Israel?

DAVE

It was the closest to heaven I'll ever be. Beautiful valley's with rivers pouring down; mountains overlooking the desert. I had to hike at 4 in the morning because once the sun came up, it's so hot, that you'd pass out if you were exposed for too long. The people are friendly, the water is clean. It's a different kind of life.

TALEL

Sounds different. It sounds nice.
The farthest I've been from home is
my grandma's in Florida.

They sit in silence for a few seconds.

TALEL

I wish I could have been with you,
Dave.

Dave sits and contemplates for a few moments.

DAVE

You were.

With that, she kisses him. At first, it's just a light kiss.
Then they kiss passionately but slow.

"YOU BETTER PRAY"

EXT. A CENTRAL PARK BRIDGE- THE GREAT LAWN- DAY

Dave is Davening. His eyes are closed and he hums and sings
the prayer.

As he stands there with his eyes closed, he envisions himself
at the Whaling Wall in Jerusalem. He smiles.

He sings and waves his hands with the prayer book bobbing up
and down.

The tafilin (traditional garb) is wrapped around his arm. He
strokes his beard and titzit.

DAVE (V.O.)

"Is not religion all deeds and all
reflection, And that which is
neither deed nor reflection, but a
wonder and a surprise ever
springing in the soul...?" When I
was away, I learned to get closer
to my father and in turn, closer to
G-d. I know my father sees me and
would be proud.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK LAWN- DAY

Dave relaxes in Sheep's Meadow in Central Park. He eats an apple. He is totally relaxed.

He watches as groups of friends hang out in the park. Two frat guys are throwing a football around and being jocks. The football bounces in front of Dave. He stops it with his hand, guarding his prayer book and talis bag. He goes to pick up the football and toss it back, but a girl's foot steps on it.

It is Talel. She leans over.

She picks up the ball and throws it to the frat boy. Cut to Dave looking impressed.

One frat boy, John catches the ball and tosses it back to his friend.

JOHN

Thanks. Sorry. Bill, look out!

TALEL

What's up?

DAVE:

Hey, you found me. I thought it would be like finding a needle in a hay stack.

TALEL

You are one, right?

DAVE:

Very cute.

TALEL

Nice to be back in the park?

DAVE:

Yeah. I've been here since the sun came up.

TALEL

That was like six hours ago. What were you doing all that time?

DAVE

Praying, thinking, just hanging out.

TALEL

What were you praying for?

DAVE

A lot of things.

TALEL

Did you pray I won the lotto? I could use a little extra something.

She digs him in the side as a tease.

DAVE

You're a comedian today. You think your funny, huh?

He grabs her closely and they lay under the tree together.

TALEL

Tell me. For real. I want to know what you pray for.

DAVE

Why do you want to know so bad?

TALEL

Because you're a part of my life and I want to understand your hobbies better.

DAVE

Well, praying is not a hobby. That's the first thing. It's a way of life.

TALEL

OK.

DAVE

When I pray, it's not always for one thing. Sometimes it's a whole bunch of things. Sometimes I don't ask for anything at all. Some prayers are just to say that you are in the eyes of G-d. The Torah says that everything you do, you do not for yourself, but for G-d. So when I pray, I am at his mercy.

TALEL

Ew...his? G-d can't be a her?

Dave just rolls his eyes and smiles.

TALEL

But if you don't do things for yourself, how are you supposed to make yourself a stronger person?

DAVE

You become stronger when you realize that you are at the mercy of destiny.

TALEL

What?

DAVE:

As a Jewish man, I pray to G-d. There is a phrase... "Henanee" which means I am here. You call out to G-d and speak in mind, body and spirit. He doesn't always answer the way that you want. G-d gives you what you need.

TALEL

Well, why when I pray do I feel like no one is listening? I don't feel like I am getting what I need.

Dave pauses. He thinks and rubs his face. He looks like he wants to say something but the words do not come right away. He pauses again and his eyes raise.

DAVE

I said that once. To my teacher in Israel. And he said to me, "Let me answer that question with a story..."

Dave smiles in a reflective manner.

DAVE

Two men walk in a field overlooking the Black Sea. The grass is long and the trees are flush. The sky is red and orange as the sun sets. Everything is perfect. In the distance, they see a temple. The two men decide to go pray before the sun sets and the Sabbath begins. One man wanted to make sure that he had no food in his mouth so he would not indulge while praying.

(BEAT)

He picked a twig from a bush by the temple and used it to clean his teeth. He thought, that twig must have been meant for him. G-d put it there. For that purpose at that time." So basically, what he was saying is that G-d gives you what you need at that time. Your life is as full as you make it. G-d has no answers for you. I never looked for one.

TALEL

Dave, you gotta stop blaming yourself for what happened to you then.

DAVE

I never should have trusted Damian with that shit. I never should have asked you to come be around that.

TALEL

I never should have let Damian hit me. But I did. And now I remember what I need. So be proud of what you know now, not what you didn't know then.

DAVE (SMILING)

And what did you decide that you need?

TALEL (TEASINGLY)

Someone who wears funny little caps on their head and thinks too much for his own good.

She pins Dave's arms down and gets on top of him. Dave laughs and looks over at a group of kids at his side.

Dave's face gets serious. Sees Danny O.

Danny O mumbles to his friend.

DANNY O

Yo, check this shit right here.

Danny O gets up and walks over. Talel and Dave sit up, a little awkward.

DANNY O
What's the deal, Dave. How you?

DAVE
I'm all right, man.

DANNY O
What up Talel?

TALEL
Hey.

DANNY O(SARCASTICALLY):
Isn't this perfect. Your man James is just about to come through here and meet me. I'm sure he'd love to see you both together.

Dave and Talel get up and start getting their stuff together.

DAVE
Well, have fun with him then. He's all yours, Danny.

Dave and Talel stand up and James is standing about 30 feet away.

James walks toward them. His pace gets quickens. He breaks into a run and punches Dave right in the face. Snapper grabs James and hold him back. The people in the park are looking.

TALEL
What the fuck are you doing, James?
What's wrong with you?

JAMES
Shut the fuck up, bitch! What?
You got two boyfriends now?

TALEL
James, Damian and I haven't spoken in weeks.

JAMES
(In a sarcastic tone)
It took you a long time to get over that relationship. While your at it, you want to give me head too?

Dave comes to his senses and takes James out from the legs. The frat boys playing football come over to break up the fight.

JOHN
That's enough! Chill! Chill!

John holds Dave back and the second guy, Bill, Holds James.

DAVE
What's wrong with you, man?

JAMES
What's wrong with me? You came back here as a real snake bitch.

DAVE
What the fuck are you talking about?

JAMES
Look at you, man. You just take your man's girl?

DAVE
You gotta wake up, man. This isn't about Damian. You want one of your life long friends being hit and hurt?

James pulls his arms free from Snapper.

JAMES
Fuck off me Snapper! Dave, man. You changed.

DAVE
James, I'm trying to change with you. I've changed in a good way..

JAMES
Nah, man. I don't see it that way. You turned your back on me.

(BEAT)

I guess you were right. I gotta live my life now too. I'm out.

James walks off. Dave goes after him.

DAVE
James.

Talel grabs Dave by the arm.

TALEL

Let him go, Dave. Let him go.

"JOKER'S HIGH"

INT. DAMIAN'S POOL HALL- NIGHT

Damian, James, Danny O and Snapper sit at a round table, playing Spades. A young girl, Alicia fawns for Damian's attention. James is with a Puerto Rican girl, Candice. Snapper has a girl as well. Danny O is alone.

The three girls look like they could be strippers. Candice gets a drink at the bar in the corner.

Damian and James are partners. Danny O and Snapper are partners. The hand is almost played out.

Damian passes the blunt to James. Alicia does a line of cocaine and passes the small mirror tray to Candice.

DAMIAN

All right. Who's got the mother
fucking Big Joker?

Danny O looks devilish. He moves spastically. He can hardly contain his good hand. He shifts the cards and mentally counts how many Spades he has.

DAMIAN

Someone is sand bagging.

James throws an Ace of Hearts.

Danny O laughs and throws a 3 of Spades.

Damian slaps down a 10 of Spades.

Damian wins and quickly passes the pile of four cards to James. Damian keeps great self control.

JAMES

Books made. It's on you G.

DAMIAN

Get em'out boys.

Damian throws a Big Joker.

Snapper throws a Little Joker. James throws a low heart and Danny O throws a low Spade. Damian wins the hand again with the highest card.

DAMIAN

Sucka.

Damian throws a 3 of Spades and Danny O throws a Ace of Spades.

JAMES

Put them out. What you got.

James throws down two crappy cards. As does Snapper. Danny O has won a hand and is now loosing points for underbidding. Danny O throws down two Spades to show his last cards. He wins both hands but loses for overbidding.

DANNY O

Damn!

DAMIAN

Yeah, man. You guys pick up those two extra bags. You didn't play your hand right. Did you?

DANNY O

Come on man, stop rubbing it in. Your deal.

JAMES (TO DANNY O)

You just got bitched.

DANNY O

Shut up, James.

James stands up and smacks Danny O in the face. Danny O falls off of his chair. Damian and Snapper crack up laughing. James points his finger and starts to laugh hysterically as well.

DANNY O

Funny, bro. That's very funny.

JAMES

Shut up before I smack you again.

With that, they all start to laugh again. Danny O runs out. James looks at Snapper.

JAMES

Yo, man. You ever watch Dave Chapelle?

SNAPPER

No.

JAMES

Well, then. What did the five fingers say to the face?

SNAPPER

Huh...?

JAMES

Slap!

James slaps Snapper. Everyone breaks into hysterics. Snapper looks completely embarrassed.

ALICIA

Awwe, come on. Take it easy on the poor baby.

JAMES

I'm James Rick, Bitches!

DAMIAN

James Rick?!

Damian bursts into laughter.

DAMIAN (TO SNAPPER)

Get the fuck up and get out of here, you slob.

Snapper gets up and leaves. James sits down on the couch and looks at few lines of coke on the counter. He hesitates.

JAMES (V.O.)

Bad ide.....

James snorts it up his nose very hard and leans his head back.

JAMES (V.O)

Too late.

DAMIAN

Freestyle for the ladies, kid.

JAMES

Nah, not right now.

CANDICE

Oh, come on, baby. That shit turns me on.

She grabs his dick.

JAMES

I'm numb OK, whatever.
 Yo/ A breeze blows through me/ the
 powder done moved me/I'm doofy till
 I get to smoke the next dooby
 Dame, roll the grass and pass the
 stash/ Snacking like I'm
 Scooby/Before you knew me/ I only
 rocked to the Brand Nubi/I like my
 girls laced up in the finest
 jewelry.

Candice is pushing on him. She looks very attracted.

CANDICE

You gonna buy me some jewelry when
 you get some money, honey?

DAMIAN

James, come here.

INT. POOL HALL BALCONY- NIGHT

They look over the balcony and down at the pool tables below.
 Damian sips a dark rum on the rocks. James takes a pull off
 of the blunt.

DAMIAN

When we were little, I was always
 envious of you and Dave.

JAMES

Me and Dave?

DAMIAN

We used to sit after school and you
 guys used to do all that flowing
 shit. I could never do all that.
 I was hustling a store owner to get
 a quarter water for 15 cents.

James laughs.

DAMIAN

You know what I'm saying, right? I
 mean, I always had the business
 sense. Even when I started out
 selling.

DAMIAN(cont'd)

I got the best prices, knew all the right people. I might not have gone to college but I opened up this spot about 5 months after high school. Now I own part of Hell too.

JAMES

Yeah, man. They're dope spots.

DAMIAN

Over time, one thing lead to another. You keep building. I'm thinking about my next investment already.

JAMES

You should look into getting some property. Fix it up and flip it. My boy was telling me about this guy who...

DAMIAN

I'm not talking about that kind of shit.

JAMES

What kind of shit? You going to cut me into this investment?

DAMIAN

That's exactly what I want to do. All you gotta do is record and make hits.

JAMES

How am I gonna do all that?

DAMIAN

My friend Dacan owns this studio uptown.

James get excited. He gives Damian a pound and hugs him.

JAMES

That's what's up!

DAMIAN

All you gotta do is say the word and we're down. I can manage you and the whole nines.

James looks a little concerned.

DAMIAN

What?

JAMES

That's hard, man. Dave and I were supposed to do this together, man.

DAMIAN

Where the fuck has Dave been then?

JAMES

He isn't going to be coming around here any more.

DAMIAN

After he acted like a dick when I went by his place, he can eat a dick as far as I'm concerned. He acts like he's better than us. Fuck him...

(BEAT)

Listen James, I know Dave's "be a great man" speech but if you're trying to make it in the rap game, you gotta be ready to go after it at any means necessary.

JAMES

What is that supposed to mean? You think I don't go after what I want? I pack HELL out every weekend.

DAMIAN

HELL? How many professionally recorded tracks you have? Not the shit you record in the closet you use as a sound filter. How many demo tapes you send out? How much money you putting in your pocket after a night at HELL?

JAMES

Why you gotta talk down to me? Like I'm not doing nothing?

DAMIAN

I'm not talking down to you! I'm trying to get you to see that you gotta make bigger moves for yourself! Dave is always telling you that you're the shit. That ain't enough though, James.

James looks very sulky. He feels stupid. Damian notices and immediately changes his tone.

DAMIAN

Yo, I'm sorry James. I'm not trying to say your not dope. I'm just saying I can help make you better.

JAMES

I know. I can't believe I'm sitting here worried about Dave when....

James puts his head down and stops talking.

DAMIAN

When what?

JAMES

Yo. If we're gonna be working together, we gotta be honest about shit.

DAMIAN

Why are you worried about not being honest with me? You wanna tell me something?

JAMES

Damian, Talel and Dave have been hooking up or some shit.

Damian doesn't say anything. He looks at his friends and the two girls who are sitting around on the couches behind them. The girls stop giggling and look up.

ALICIA

Baby, come take a bump of this shit.

She gets up and walks over to Damian. She Whispers in his ear.

ALICIA

It will make you fuck harder.

By the look on his face and the way his eyes squint, you can tell that she is grabbing his crotch.

DAMIAN

Get the fuck out.

ALICIA (WITH AN ATTITUDE)

What?

DAMIAN

I said get the fuck out! All of
you, get out!

FRIEND

Dame, relax, man.

Damian pulls out his gun and points it at his friend.

DAMIAN

If I ask you to get the fuck out
again, someone is going to be
carrying you out.

The girls and his friends grow silent. They get up and
quietly walk out.

ALICIA

Call me later, later, ok baby?

Damian snickers and then grows angry again.

DAMIAN

What the fuck is wrong with you?
Go!

ALICIA

Ok, Ok. Damn.

Damian turns back to James.

DAMIAN

How do you know?

JAMES

I saw them in the park. Together.

DAMIAN

Together, together?

JAMES

Together, together.

DAMIAN

So what happened?

JAMES

I punched him dead in the face.
What do you think happened?

DAMIAN (SMILING AND EXCITED)
Yeah, nigga! That's my man.

James looks more sad as the conversation goes on.

DAMIAN
This shit is for real now!

JAMES
Chill, Dame. I thought you said we
needed to focus on this rap game?

Damian pauses for a minute and takes his tone and attitude
down a notch.

DAMIAN
True. Your right. So, what are
you trying to say? You ready to
partner up and start making some
cream?

James is slumped and upset. He speaks as if he is not even
paying attention to his words.

JAMES
I'm with you kid.

Damian stands in the background. The blue in James' eyes goes
dull for the first time. The blue portrays his solemn mood.

James' eyes fade into a blue sky.

FLASHBACK

James, Dave and Dave's father at a Yankees game. They all
laugh and are having a great time. He blinks.

JAMES(V.O.)
"Accept the seasons of your heart,
even as you have always accepted
the seasons that pass over your
fields. As you would watch the
serenity through the winters of
your grief. Much of your pain is
self chosen."

"A WOMEN'S WORK AND A MAN'S DOWNFALL BEGINS"

INT. TALEL'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Two female hands reach over a sink. The hands take a goblet-looking cup with two handles off of the sink and fill the cup, leaving the water running.

She dumps the water on one hand three times, dries that hand and washes the other one three times, never letting the water stop flowing as she dumps the goblet. She dries that hand and turns the spout off.

INT. JAMES' APARTMENT

Two male hands reach into a huge bag and sift through two hands full of weed. He pulls out two big nuggs and taps them together.

INT. TALEL'S APARTMENT

Talel (woman) sits down at a table. She uncovers a Challah (loaf of bread) and says the prayer over the food. She stumbles over the words. Dave sits across the table and helps her through the prayers.

INT. JAMES'- NIGHT

James (man) sits at a table and moves a newspaper, which uncovers a Dutch Master blunt. He breaks it down the middle and dumps the tobacco out. He fills it with the weed that he broke up and starts to roll it. He is rehearsing his lyrics off of a piece of paper next to him. Damian sits across the table and smiles at him and counts money.

INT. TALEL'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Talel prays at temple with women, looking down from the top level as Dave and the men pray below. She smiles at Dave as she watches him Daven (prayer, bowing back and forth).

INT. HELL- NIGHT

James performs on stage as Damian stands on the back of the stage, smiling at James as the crowd cheers.

INT. TALEL'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Talel tries on a wrap to cover her head. She looks at herself in the mirror and tries to get comfortable with the look.

INT. JAMES' APARTMENT- NIGHT

James tries on an expensive chain at a jewelry store in and looks at himself very confidently.

INT. TALEL'S APARTMENT

Talel prepares for the Shabbas. She dresses herself in beautiful, orthodox clothing and walks toward the camera as she enters her kitchen. The kitchen table is prepared for four. There is a beautiful meal prepared and on the table.

INT. JAMES' APARTMENT

James steps out of the shower with a towel around his waste. He walks into his kitchen and pours himself a stiff Captain and Coke and takes a big sip. His face cringes. He ties his shoelace, grabs his leather coat, switches the lights off and leaves his apartment. The doors slams.

INT. LOUD CLUB- NIGHT

Damian, James and a few friends sit in the VIP section. There are bottles on the table in front of them. The two girls from the other night are with them.

DAMIAN

Look at that one over there.

They both look over at a gorgeous girl.

JAMES

Yeah yeah!

The girl with Damian grabs the side of his face.

ALICIA

Look at what?

DAMIAN

Hey, take it easy baby. That's why I don't have a girlfriend. So I don't have to hear that shit.

The girls sucks her teeth and gets up.

ALICIA
Fuck you then. Come on Candice.

The second girl stands up.

CANDICE
Um, we'll be right back.
(MORE)

Damian looks at James and pats him on the chest.

DAMIAN
Take your drink. Let's go get some
ass.

CUT TO INT DAVE'S APARTMENT

CUT TO TALEL

She smiles and wipes her lips with her napkin. Cut to Amanda and Uncle Marc also sitting at the table. They both look very happy and are watching their manners as not to offend Dave or Talel. WS on the four sitting across the way from one another.

TALEL
I'll clean up.

AMANDA
I'll help. Let's put everything in
the dishwasher.

DAVE
No, not tonight. If you want to
clean, you have to wash them in the
sink.

TALEL
Why? It's going to take forever.

DAVE
It's OK I'll help.

AMANDA
David- are you serious?

DAVE
What? Ladies, on Shabbat we do not
use household appliances.

DAVE(cont'd)

We don't drive cars, we don't take public transportation. We are together and we enjoy each other's company.

AMANDA

Look at you, my religious boy.

TALEL

He's been teaching me so much. He's so patient.

MARC

And this is the same kid who got kicked off of the JCC basketball team for breaking into the kitchen and starting a grape juice fight.

Talel does not look surprised. She starts laughing.

AMANDA

The same kid who spent Chanukah in Hebrew School melting all of the candles on the radiator.

DAVE

And Dad almost fought the coach because he didn't believe I did it.

MARC

You and James. Always getting into trouble. How is James anyway? Your father always had a thing for him.

Talel and Dave look at each other.

DAVE

We're both kind of doing our own thing right now, mom.

AMANDA

Dave, you have to keep your friends close to you. You two have been friends for too long. I know you're into religion right now, but you can't give up your past.

DAVE

I'm not, mom. James decided to befriend Damian.

AMANDA

I never liked that kid.

DAVE

Yeah, well, need I say more?

MARC

So on another note, what are you doing for work now that you're settling in?

DAVE :

Making an honest living.

MARC

Doing what?

AMANDA

Marc, leave him alone.

MARC

What? All I'm saying is when you go away, some things change and some things stay the same. So if Damian and James are up to no good, it doesn't surprise me. What I need to know is that you are going to stay out of their messes.

DAVE

I'm really worried about James. He doesn't act like he used to. Before, it was innocent. Dad always said to look after him and I said I would. I don't want to break that promise to him or myself.

MARC

You can't save the world.

Dave goes into a trance. Marc takes his plate from the table and brings it into the kitchen. Dave sits with his hands clasped together and his elbows on the table.

DAVE(V.O.)

This is the story of my life. Trying to help people that don't want to be helped. And the biggest dilemma remains; If I do nothing, will I regret it? If I try and help, will I regret it? It's almost like love.

Talel laughs with Amanda in the kitchen. Dave smiles and follows her as she lights the stove and puts up a pot of water to boil.

Dave holds his head. He has a sharp pain.

INT. TALEL'S BEDROOM- NIGHT

Dave and Talel are in bed together.

WS ABOVE THE BED.

Their bodies make the shape of a heart as they face one another.

DAVE(V.O.)

People can be so stubborn and even if they miss you, they won't say a word about it. Because their scared. They're afraid of rejection or being hurt again. But sometimes, it hurts worse to do nothing, than to take the risk.

INT A DIM ROOM- DAY

James is sleeping face down on a couch. He slowly lifts his head and looks around. He is in Damian's pool hall office. He squints his eyes and grabs his forehead. He is very hung over. He glances over at the clock again and sits up very quickly.

JAMES

Shit!

INT. STUDIO- DAY

The door slamming open and James enters.

Cut to Damian sitting in the sound room with the technician.

DAMIAN

Where the fuck have you been, kid?!

Damian smiles and stands up. He comes over and gets behind James, giving him a massage as they walk toward the sound booth.

DAMIAN

So, you get some pussy last night or what?

JAMES

I have no idea, kid. I woke up on your office couch.

DAMIAN

We took those two hot ass girls back there. You trying to tell me you don't know if you got your dick waxed or not?

JAMES

B, I have no idea. I don't even remember going back there with women.

DAMIAN

Damn, son. That pill I dropped on you must have thrown you for a loop.

JAMES

Pill? Dame, I don't do pills, what the fuck are you talking about?

DAMIAN

Chill homey...

James looks very concerned.

DAMIAN

Wait a minute... You don't... Yo, don't even try and blame me. You were asking for that shit. You told me you wanted to roll.

JAMES

Roll? Dame, you know I don't do X! Come on, man. You know better than that!

DAMIAN

So now this is my fault? What are you, a fucking bitch? You're gonna start wining now? I tried to be cool about the fact that you're late. Now, get in that fucking booth and stop wasting my money. Time is money. Let's go. We'll fight about this shit later.

JAMES

Dame, I feel like shit, man.

DAMIAN

Well, then you shouldn't have gone out. We got this time now and I'm paying for it. So get some Gatorade or some shit and pull it together.

JAMES

I can't right now, B. My throat hurts, I'm gonna puke...

DAMIAN

Yo, your fucking hurting my ears. I'm going to tell you this one time. Don't...fuck...with...my...money. I told you I would help you. Help cost money. The studio cost money. Everything we do cost money. You don't see me up in here crying about my head and my stomach.

JAMES

Your right, my bad Dame. I didn't think all this was going to affect me. Don't give me drugs anymore unless it's weed.

James is sulking. He looks very hurt and confused. He feels betrayed.

DAMIAN

Don't ask for it then. Come on, kid. Lets lay this track down. You wanna smoke something first?

James lifts his head in excitement.

JAMES

You got herb? Hells yeah.

INT. ENGINEER'S BOOTH- DAY

A hand rubs out a cigarette in an ashtray full of butts.

Damian is sitting in the booth. He looks at the audio technician and shakes his head. James looks exhausted and worn through.

DAMIAN
(To audio tech)
I guess that's as good as we're
fucking getting tonight.

JAMES
Yo, Dame, you think we got it?

Damian presses a button and talks into a microphone that leads to James' headphones.

DAMIAN
No, I think a G is enough time to
spend on a session that sucks.

James sucks his teeth.

JAMES
Kid, that's the way it always
sounds.

DAMIAN
Like shit?

James tears his headphones off and tosses them onto the microphone stand.

DAMIAN
Where are you going?

JAMES
I'm out. I thought you said we
were done.

DAMIAN
Your out when I say your out.

JAMES
What the fuck, man. You don't own
me.

DAMIAN
I don't own you? I fucking run you
right now. You got dough to cover
this session?

JAMES
Dame, if I knew it was going to be
like this...

Damian comes over to James and gets in his face.

DAMIAN

You gonna turn your back on me too
now?

There is an orange and yellowish burn of tension displayed
between the two of them.

JAMES

Yo, why are you being like this?

DAMIAN

I gotta get a pack of smokes and
cool off. I'll see you in a bit.

Damian leaves the studio and Dave watches from across the
street. James grabs his coat. The audio tech man looks at
him in bewilderment.

JAMES

Fuck this. I'm out.

James leaves the studio shortly after Damian.

He walks up a short flight of steps and on to the sidewalk.
He begins to walk and Dave comes up from behind him.

DAVE

Yo, man.

James turns around very surprised.

JAMES

What the...what the fuck are you doing here, man?

DAVE

I saw you walk down those steps
earlier and I've been waiting for
Damian to leave and you to come
out.

JAMES

I ain't got nothing to say to you
man.

DAVE

Come on, kid. I gotta talk to you.

INT DELI- DAY

The cashier is Japanese.

DAMIAN(TO THE CASHIER)
Give me a pack of reds.

CASHIER
ID please.

DAMIAN
How old does it look like I am?

CASHIER
I..D. ID

DAMIAN
What fucking country are we in?
Can you even read my ID you fucking
jerk off?

CASHIER
ID or no cigarette. OK.

DAMIAN
Here's my fucking ID you gook.

Damian flashes his gun, tucked into the waist of his pants.

DAMIAN
I was going to pay for them too.

Damian swipes the cigarettes off of the counter and grabs a book of matches. The cashier looks scared and steps back from the register.

CASHIER:
Take what want. OK.

DAMIAN
I just did.

He turns around and walks out. He lights a cigarette in front of the store and looks to his left. Talel is picking out flowers from the stand in front of the store.

DAMIAN
This is my fucking day.

Talel looks up and is startled.

DAMIAN
What are you so scared of?

TALEL
I wasn't expecting to see you.

Damian smiles and snickers as he takes a drag off of his cigarette.

DAMIAN

What are you doing uptown?

TALEL

Dave had a friend to meet. I'm just walking around.

(MORE)

DAMIAN

All by yourself?

TALEL

Damian, I gotta go.

DAMIAN

What's wrong, you couldn't wait until we ended things to go fuck Dave?

TALEL

You ended things with me on your own.

DAMIAN

Give me a break.

Damian walks closer to Talel. She backs away.

EXT STUDIO

James and Dave are talking.

JAMES

How could you do that, man.

DAVE

Do what, James?! Damian was beating her. I never had any intentions of going after Talel. Sometimes those feelings don't ever go away though.

JAMES

Man, you had it out for Dame since the day you came home.

DAVE

I'm trying to change my ways, James. I'm not trying to live the way I used to. I'm studying Torah, I'm with my family.

DAVE(cont'd)

I don't want to get involved in all of this static, man. I don't want it in my life.

JAMES

You can't just go away and expect shit to be the same when you come back.

DAVE

I don't expect it to.

(MORE)

JAMES

You fucking do! Your relationship with me, Talel. I feel like shit it's not picking up where it left off.

DAVE

It's not, but it can pick up in a new way.

JAMES

I can't do this. Damian has been hooking me up with studio time, setting up meetings.

DAVE

I want nothing to do with Damian. If you feel that working and hanging around him is best for you, do that. I'm not here to stop you.

JAMES

I can't believe what I'm listening to. You gonna move out to Crown Heights and be one of those Hasids now too?

DAVE

I don't know, maybe I will.

JAMES

This is too much, man. I gotta bounce. Damian is coming back and I'm exhausted.

DAVE

Come one J. Don't let this get between us. Don't go.

JAMES

It's funny, how just a month ago, you were walking away from me.

JAMES(cont'd)

It seems so much harder when you're
the one walking away.

They do a special handshake that they share. Sparks fly from
their hands.

JAMES

Your father would be proud of you.

DAVE

Oh yeah, why is that?

JAMES

Dave, my parents don't give a fuck
about what I do. At least your dad
cared where you were and who you
were. My father wouldn't even know
if I was dead. Shit, I don't know
how much I would miss him if he
was.

DAVE

My father believed in you James.

JAMES

He did?

DAVE

He's the reason I'm here.

JAMES

I used to be so concerned about the
money, the fame. Now I just feel
like I sold out. Guns, drugs...all
this shit ain't gonna get me no
where.

INT DELI- DAY

Damian is scaring Talel and she backs away.

TALEL

I have nothing else to say to you.

DAMIAN

You are a little too refined for me
anyway. You been studying how to
make matzoh?

Damian laughs.

TALEL

We're thinking about moving to Israel.

DAMIAN

You mean your following your bitch who's running away again.

TALEL

Damian, it's over, OK!?

Talel walks inside with the flowers.

TALEL(TO CASHIER)

Can you call the police please?

Damian comes storming back into the store.

DAMIAN

You guys never respected me, did you?!

CASHIER

I call Police. No trouble.

Before the cashier can say anything else, there is a loud blast and the cashier falls to the ground, shot.

TALEL

Oh my G-d.

DAMIAN

I'm out. And when I see your man again, so is he.

Damian flicks down his cigarette and walks away. He tucks his gun back into his belt. He kicks over a potato chip rack as he leaves.

Talel breathes out deeply, releasing the tension in her chest. Orange burst from her chest as it collapses forward.

EXT. STUDIO- DAY

Dave and James stand in silence. Dave starts to beat box. Jmaes stands smiling at first and then starts to rap.

DAVE(V.O.)

"And there are those who have the truth in them, but they tell it not in words. In the bosom of such as these the spirit dwell in rhythmic silence. When you meet your friend on the roadside or in the market place, let the spirit in you move your lips and direct your tongue."

James and Dave laugh and lean on each other.

DAVE

James, I never wanted anything to do with you for your talent.

JAMES

I never thought you did. I lost sight of shit.

DAVE

You have a choice, James.

JAMES

What choice is that? What am I gonna do if I don't make this rap game happen? I'm gonna be out on the street.

DAVE

I will never let that happen to you.

JAMES

I love you, Dave. You're the closest thing I have to family.

DAVE

We are family. We're the only family that we got.

The two men embrace.

James is smiling over Dave's shoulder.

Dave's face- He opens his eyes and his face goes blank. Before he can say anything, a loud bang is heard. Dave's eyes grow wide.

James' eyes tearing up and squinted.

James and Dave are still hugging.

James' body goes limp. Dave keeps him erect. Dave pulls James back and holds him by the shoulders. Dave and James' chests are both covered in blood. Dave looks down at James' chest and realizes James has been shot through the back.

James is expressionless.

Damian stands behind James with a gun pointing at him.

DAVE(CRYING AND WHIMPERING)

No, no... No!

Dave slides to the ground with James and he holds James in his arms, rocking him back and forth. Damian walks toward them.

DAMIAN

Oh shit!

DAVE

What are you doing?

DAMIAN

I lost my head. I didn't mean to hurt him.

DAVE:

He's my best friend. He's supposed to be your's. How could you do this?

DAMIAN

You're going to be OK, J.

DAVE

He's bleeding from his back and stomach. Somebody call an ambulance!

DAMIAN

Don't call the cops.

DAVE

You selfish fuck.

DAMIAN

I'm sorry, James.

Dave's hand grasps the gun in James' belt a bit tighter.

Dave's face very angry.. The tension builds and a yellow halo comes over him. Dave picks up his phone.

DAVE

Hey. Listen, I don't have time to talk. I need you to get over here. Yeah, by the studio. Hurry up.

A woman screams out from a window.

WOMAN

I called 911.

DAMIAN

Man, I always loved you guys. I always wanted to have your family, Dave. And your's and James' talent.

DAVE

He's not breathing!

DAMIAN

You guys and Talel would always hang out and I felt like it didn't matter if I was there or not.

DAVE

You wanted my family? Look at us now. You wanted James' talent and he's laying here in a pool of blood, because of you!

DAMIAN

I didn't want to hurt him.

DAVE (CRYING)

You've hurt all of us!

There is anger in Dave's voice. He looks like is getting ready to explode. Talel runs around the corner.

TALEL

Oh my god! James!

Damian panics and points the gun at Talel.

Talel is startled and freezes. Damian is on edge and gets ready to pull the trigger. Dave begins to draw the gun from James' belt. Before he gets it out, a shot blasts.

Damian shoots himself in the head. He falls to the ground in slow motion.

Dave is startled. Talel screams. Dave, cries on the floor with James, dead in his arms.

An ambulance pulls up and two men jump out. The men grab James from Dave's arms and perform CPR. One of the paramedics runs over to Damian's body. He takes a look at Damian and shakes his head. He presses the button to the walkie talkie on his arm
(MORE)

PARAMEDIC

Unit 3 to dispatch. We're going to need a police officer on the scene.

Dave is covered in blood and Talel holds him in her arms.

DAVE (V.O.)

Damian took two lives that night. He saved mine. And I don't think anyone but me will ever know that. It's funny how love and G-d work. In the blink of an eye, an outside force stopped me from committing the worst crime a man can commit. I've known Damian almost my whole life and he never did anything good until he pulled the trigger to kill himself...and saved me.

EXT. OVER NEW YORK CITY- SUNSET

Little kids (10) play in the park together. Two boys sit in one corner of the park rapping. One kid beat boxes while the other rhymes. A young girl comes over to them and stands admiring them. All of a sudden, a basketball hits one of the boys.

BOY

Owe!

Another kid runs over.

KID

Gimme my basketball! Damn!

Dave watches from a bench. He smiles with reflection.

DAVE (V.O.)

I think about my father every day. And how he told me to look over my friends.

DAVE(cont'd)

I think about James and how he taught me to stand by my friends, even if they stray from you. And how my parent taught me to love. Parents and friends teach you what they have learned and they guide you to make the right choices. But at the fork in the road, the decision is your's to make.

DAVE(V.O. IN SONG)

"Your children are not your children. They are the sons and the daughter of life, longing for itself. They come through you but not from you and though they are with you they belong not to you. You may give them your love but not their thought. For they have their own thoughts. You may house their bodies but not their souls for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams. You may strive to be like them but seek not to make them like you."

INT. LAGUARDIA AIR PORT- DAY

Dave hugs his mother and Uncle. Talel gives her mother a very long hug. Cut to CU of Talel and Dave's hand, both picking up a handle to their bag. They walk together down the Corridor toward the gate.

TALEL

You really know how to get a girl.

DAVE

Since when have I ever tried to "get" you.

TALEL

Oh, please, you've been trying to get me since the first grade.

In the window beside them, airplanes land. The plane that sits closest to the window is an Israeli plane that reads "El Al" in Hebrew on the side. They both look very scared.

Dave puts his free hand on Talel's shoulder and kisses her neck.

DAVE

To get to the future, first you
have to live in the present.

FADE TO BLACK