

INT. ROOM - DAY

A black man is in a red room and is wearing all white and crying.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. ROOM - DAY

Cary wakes up heavily breathing and grabs her inhaler and turns to the right side staring at the picture of the man she saw in the dream and starts sobbing.

She sits up.

A beat.

CARY
God, why do I keep having this same dream?

A beat.

CARY (ANGRILY) (CONT'D)
I'm tired of the silent treatment,
God.

Her facial expression softens.

She sighs.

CARY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry Lord. I'm just tired.

She stares at the picture again and grips it tightly.

She goes to the bathroom and stares at herself in the mirror for a few moments.

CARY (CONT'D)
C'mon girl. You can get through
the day.

She puts on a weak smile. Then it turns to a larger smile. She washes her face and brushes her teeth.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

She then enters the living room and steps on a video game controller.

CARY (SIGHING)
Dante Javon Thomas, how many times
do I have to tell you not to leave
your things laying on the ground?

She gets closer and sees him looking out the window. He
doesn't say anything. His face is emotionless.

CARY (STOPS WALKING) (CONT'D)
What's wrong sweetheart?

A beat.

DANTE (STILL LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW)
Is it true he's in hell?

CARY(LOOKS AWAY, AND EYES WATER)
Only God knows son.

She wipes her tears and turns around. She begins to hug him
and his emotionless face turns to a sad expression and he
begins sobbing.

A beat.

DANTE (LOUDLY THROUGH TEARS)
I miss him! I miss him so dang bad!

CARY
Calm down and breathe baby! 'Fore
you end up like me on that inhaler!

A beat.

CARY (VOICE SOFTER) (CONT'D)
I don't want you that way ok?

He takes some deep breaths and wipes his tears away.

She places a hand on his shoulder.

A long beat.

CARY (CONT'D)
You ready for school?

He's still at first, and doesn't look at her right away. He
then nods.

CARY (CONT'D)
Be good ok? And we gotta make sure
you catch up on the work you missed
because you've been falling behind
ever since -

She looks away.

DANTE
I know mom. I will.

A beat

She tries to give him a kiss but he playfully pushes her
away.

CARY (PLAYFULLY)
I see you too grown for my kisses
now.

DANTE (CROSSING HIS ARMS PLAYFULLY)
Yeah, I'm not a baby anymore.

CARY
Well in that case, no more peach
cobbler. That's only for my baby.

DANTE
Well, we don't have to take it
that far mom.

CARY (LAUGHING)
You the one who said you ain't a
baby no more.

Dante laughs too and soon they're laughing together.
Afterward, he kisses her cheek.

She reaches out her hand and he holds it. They both smile.

CARY (CONT'D)
Let's go.

INT. CAR - DAY

Cary is parked outside her worked place.

She grabs her phone and dials a number and waits.

JAMES
Hello Cary, how are you?

A beat.

CARY
Hey James. I'm alright.

CARY (CONT'D)
How are you?

JAMES
I'm ok. How's little man?

Cary looks out the window.

CARY
He's ok now, but he -

She looks down.

CARY (QUIETLY) (CONT'D)
He asked me if Miciah is in hell.

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)
And I didn't know how to answer.

JAMES
So sorry that happened Cary. I
wouldn't know what to say either.

A beat.

JAMES (CONT'D)
And it's unfortunate he has to have
that constant memory of his dad.

FLASHBACK

INT. DANTE'S ROOM - DAY

Dante wakes up in the morning and yawns.

He gets up and stretches.

He's about to grab his iPad but then he looks out the window.

A look of confusion forms on his face.

He begins walking outside.

He keeps walking and when he gets closer he sees a note under
the tree.

Yards away, his dad's body.

On his dad's chest is dried blood and there's a handgun besides him.

Dante stands still for a few moments.

Then he begins to scream.

He runs into the house crying.

INT. HOME - DAY

He wakes up his mom.

DANTE
Mom - dad -

He's struggling to speak as he's crying.

CARY (SITS UPRIGHT QUICKLY)
I don't understand, what's wrong?

A beat.

DANTE
Mom - dad is -

CARY (BECOMES VISIBLY ALARMED)
Speak up son!

DANTE (LOUDLY)
Dad's dead!

Cary tries to remain calm but is visibly shaking.

Dante says nothing but runs outside and she runs after him.

CARY (SHOUTING)
Dante, wait up!

A beat.

EXT. OUTSIDE - DAY

CARY
Why are you -

She stops as she sees the body and is suddenly gasping for air.

BACK TO THE PRESENT

INT. CAR - DAY

Cary is gasping for air in her car.

JAMES (LOUDLY)
Cary, you ok?

Cary pulls out her inhaler.

Tears begin to stream down her face.

CARY
I don't want to keep talking about
him.

JAMES
I'm so sorry Cary.

CARY
It's ok, not your fault.

A beat.

She wipes her eyes.

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)
Will you be able to pick him up
from school at three today? Or are
you busy?

JAMES
I'll pick him up.

A beat.

CARY
Talk to you later James.

JAMES
Take care Cary.

She hangs up.

INT. WORKPLACE - MORNING

Cary walks into the workplace.

CARY (V.O.)
Miciah and James go way back.

FLASHBACK

INT. ROSALYN'S HOME - DAY

Young Miciah and James are in the house drinking lemonade.

ROSALYN
You boys enjoying the lemonade? I
know y'all sweating from all that
time outside.

BOYS
Yes ma'am!

They both look at each other and laugh.

A beat.

ROSALYN
Do you boys want some gumbo?

They grin from ear to ear.

BOYS
Yes!

She walks to the fridge to get the gumbo.

She then warms it up.

DISSOLVE TO:

The boys are sitting at the table chatting, laughing and eating.

A beat.

ROSALYN
Do you boys know what time it is?

Boys sigh.

ROSALYN (CONT'D)
You know it! We'll be talking about
what we read yesterday.

A beat.

ROSALYN (CONT'D)
Who can tell me about who we read
about yesterday?

JAMES
Cain and -

MICIAH
Abel!

ROSALYN
That's right boys. And who were
they?

MICIAH
Brothers.

ROSALYN
Like you two.

A look of confusion comes around the two boys faces.

JAMES
But we're just friends.

ROSALYN
In the spirit family don't need to
be blood related. It's the blood of
Jesus that make us family.

A beat.

ROSALYN (CONT'D)
What did Cain do to his brother?

MICIAH
He killed him.

ROSALYN
Why?

JAMES
Because he was jealous God accepted
what Abel gave and not him.

ROSALYN
And what did he say when God asked
where his brother was?

MICIAH
Am I my brother's keeper?

ROSALYN
Yes.

A beat.

ROSALYN (CONT'D)
What can we learn?

MICIAH
That we are our brother's keeper?

ROSALYN (SMILING)
That's right, and you are to watch
over each other always.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

INT. WORKPLACE - DAY

She goes behind the cashier and starts sorting out the money.

She whisper-counts.

Janine comes from the back door.

CARY
Hey Janine.

JANINE
Hey. What's up?

CARY
Nothing much. You?

JANINE
Diary of a single mother.

CARY
Add my entry.

They both laugh.

CARY (WIPING THE COUNTERS) (CONT'D)
Speaking of that, how's Moses?

JANINE (SWEEPING)
He's coping.

CARY

I know it's hard Janine. If you
ever need to tend to him I can help
with your hours.

Suddenly, a man walks in.

Both women turn in his direction.

CARY (CONT'D)

Hey Charles. What's good?

CHARLES

Nothing much. What's up with you?
How's Dante?

CARY(SMILING)

We're good.

A beat.

CHARLES

I can see beyond that smile Cary. I
know the real you. What's up?

Cary clears her throat.

CARY

Nothing's wrong.

There's a pause.

CHARLES

We miss you at church.

There's another pause.

CARY (LOOKING DOWN, SAYING QUIETLY)

Have a nice day Charles.

CHARLES

Is this about - ?

CARY (QUIETLY AND SLOWLY)

I hope you all miss him as much as
you do me.

CHARLES

C'mon Cary, it's not like that.

CARY

Not like what? Not like he's in
hell?

CHARLES

C'mon Cary, the scripture say what
it say.

CARY

Yes.

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)

The customer is always right. Have
a good day Charles.

CHARLES

Let me explain Cary -

CARY

Bye Charles.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. HOME - NIGHT

Cary sees Dante laying besides James and they're both snoring
loudly with half colored sheets sprawled on the table.

Cary gently wakes up Dante.

She holds his hand and carries him to his room.

She returns, and afterward gently taps James.

He wakes up and is shocked to see Cary.

JAMES

Oh shoot Cary, I'm so sorry!

CARY (LAUGHING)

It's ok James. Things happen.
Besides, I appreciate you helping
with him.

JAMES

It's the least I can do.

CARY

I don't know what I'd do without
you.

JAMES

Crash out.

They both laugh.

A beat.

CARY
Well take care James.

JAMES
You too Cary. Good bye.

INT. HOME - DAY

Cary wakes up.

She stares at Miciah's picture with sadness in her eyes.

After staring for a while she gets out of bed to get ready.

FADE

Cary enters the living room.

Dante is dressed for school.

CARY
Good morning baby.

DANTE.
Good morning mom.

She gives him a kiss on the cheek.

CARY
I'll be picking you up today
because my shift ends early, ok?

DANTE
Ok mom.

INT. CAR - DAY

Cary is in her car outside of Dante's school.

She waits for him.

Dante enters the car.

CARY
Hey son.

DANTE

Hey mom!

He puts his seatbelt on and she puts on hers.

CARY

How was school?

DANTE

It was good, I made a new friend.
Her name is Zoe.

Cary smiles widely.

CARY

Do you like her?

DANTE

Mom!

Cary laughs.

CARY

Just playing, son. What is she
like?

DANTE

Mom, she's so awesome! Her dad's
the president of the whole world.

CARY (LAUGHING)

That's nice son!

DANTE

Mom, can we go to the park today?
Zoe and my other friends will be
there.

CARY

Sure baby.

DANTE

Yes!

EXT. PARK - DAY

Dante runs to play with Zoe from school and some other kids.

Meanwhile, Cary sits down next to a man that has what looks
like sun glasses.

He turns his head in her direction.

OMARION

Hey.

CARY (SLOWLY AND HESITANT)

Hey.

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, do you need anything?

OMARION

No. Just striking up conversation.

He laughs.

OMARION (CONT'D)

How are you?

CARY (QUIETLY, AND LOOKING DOWN)

I'm ok. Thank you.

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)

How are you?

OMARION

Life has handed me the most sour of lemons but I've managed to make some orange juice.

He laughs.

He points to the cane under him and he laughs again.

CARY

Are you...?

OMARION (IN A SERIOUS TONE)

No, actually I just have this cane because I use it to dance.

CARY

Really?

OMARION

No!

He starts laughing and Cary hesitates but starts laughing too.

A beat.

OMARION (CONT'D)
What's your name anyway?

CARY (SLIGHTLY MORE RELAXED)
Cary. What's yours?

OMARION
Omarion but people call me Mario.
Like the game.

He pretends he's playing the game and laughs again.

Cary laughs too.

A beat.

OMARION (CONT'D)
Do you have kids?

A beat.

CARY
Yes. I have a son. Do you?

OMARION
Yes. I have three. My wife thinks
that's enough but I want a village,
you know?

He laughs again.

Cary laughs too.

CARY
You men don't understand the pain
do y'all?

OMARION
Trust me I do. I used to be a
boxer.

He does punching motions in the air and starts laughing
again.

Cary does too.

A beat.

OMARION (SMILING) (CONT'D)
It's actually how I lost my sight.

CARY
What happened?

OMARION
One of the guys didn't like me very much because I knew how to actually throw punches. Better than him. Two violent hits to my eyes and you know the rest.

CARY
I'm sorry to hear that.

OMARION (SMILING)
No need to feel sorry for me. I can do that all by myself.

A beat.

OMARION (CONT'D)
I feel sorry for him because he couldn't see with his other eyes.

A beat.

Suddenly, his phone rings.

OMARION (CONT'D)
I'm sorry but I have to take this.

Omarion grabs his cane.

He gets up to walk near a tree to talk.

CARY (V.O.)
So full of life. Reminds me of...

FLASHBACK

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Cary and Miciah are at restaurant late at night.

MICIAH
Baby you look so good tonight.

CARY
Baby you don't look too bad yourself.

They smile and give each other a short kiss.

MICIAH
When I look into your eyes I see...

He pauses and gets closer.

MICIAH (CONT'D)
I see my handsome face.

He starts laughing and Cary gently hits him.

CARY
Boy you ain't funny.

MICIAH (SMILING)
C'mon you gotta admit that was a
little good.

They both laugh.

A beat.

MICIAH (CONT'D)
What you gonna order, baby?

CARY
Spaghetti and egg rolls. You?

MICIAH
I'll have what you having.

A beat.

MICIAH (SMILING WIDE) (CONT'D)
Wanna see who can eat the fastest?

CARY
Boy no. And besides, no need. I
already know you'll finish your
food in a heartbeat.

They both laugh.

The waiter comes by.

WAITER
Hello! What will you and the lovely
lady be having?

MICIAH
Spaghetti and egg rolls please.

The waiter writes down the order.

WAITER (LOOKING UP)
And what will you guys have to
drink?

MICIAH
Lemonade.

CARY
Orange juice.

WAITER
All right. Your meal will be here
soon.

The waiter smiles and walks away.

MICIAH
You enjoying yourself, baby?

CARY
With you, every time.

They both smile.

CARY (CONT'D)
I love you.

MICIAH (SMILES AND SINGS)
I'm so in love with you
Whatever you want to do
Is all right with me
'Cause you make me feel so brand
new
And I want to spend my life with
you

When he's done they smile and kiss again.

CARY (THROUGH TEARS)
You sure got a voice on you.

Miciah hugs her.

CARY (CONT'D)
No problem.

BACK TO THE PRESENT

EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON

Tears fall down Cary's face, yet she's smiling at the same
time.

A beat.

She wipes her tears.

DISSOLVE TO:

CARY
Dante! It's time to go!

DANTE (ON THE MONKEY BARS)
Just two more minutes mom.

CARY
Ok fine baby.

He gets off and runs a race with his friends.

ZOE
Whoever loses is a rotten egg!

KEVIN
3...2...1... Go!

The kids run.

Cary watches and smiles.

Zoe wins.

Some of the parents clap including Cary.

Dante runs over to Cary.

At the same time Omarion comes back.

CARY (SMILING)
It was nice meeting you Mario.

OMARION
You too. Is the boy here you were
calling your son?

CARY
Yes. Dante, this is Omarion.
Omarion, Dante.

Dante waves and smiles.

OMARION (LOOKING IN DANTE'S DIRECTION)
He's so handsome.

DANTE (STARING AT THE CANE)
But how can you tell sir?

OMARION (SMILING)
I can see you with my other eyes.

They all laugh.

A beat.

CARY
Well, we have to go now. It was
nice meeting you.

OMARION
Yeah, same here. See you guys
around.

He waves.

Dante waves too.

INT. CAR - DAY

CARY
You have fun with your friends?

DANTE (SMILING)
Sure did mom. Can we come tomorrow?

CARY
I don't know, son. We'll see.
Maybe.

DANTE
Alright mom.

INT. HOME - NIGHT

Dante and Cary have just entered their home.

DANTE
I can finally be on my iPad!

CARY (SMILING)
Not so fast honey. Go head and wash
up first.

DANTE (SIGHING)
Alright mom.

He walks to the bathroom.

And Cary enters her room.

She takes off her earrings.

DISSOLVE TO:

Dante knocks her door.

CARY
Yes?

DANTE
Mom, I'm done.

CARY
That's good son.

A beat.

DANTE
Mom?

CARY
Yes?

DANTE
Can we have steak and enchiladas
for dinner? I'm having my lady
cravings.

CARY (LAUGHS)
Boy quit playing. But yes I will
make that.

INT. SCENE CON'T - DAY

Cary and Dante are at the table with the food.

CARY
Dante say grace.

DANTE
Dear Lord, thank you for the food
today. May it bring nourishment to
our bodies. In Jesus name, amen.

CARY
Amen.

They eat their food in silence for a few minutes then Cary
speaks.

CARY (CONT'D)
How was your day today sweetie?

DANTE
It was good. How was your day mom?

CARY
It was ok son.

A beat.

DANTE
Do you think I'll catch up in
school mom?

CARY (LOOKING DOWN THEN UP)
Yes son.

She places his chin in her hand.

CARY (CONT'D)
I know it's rough, baby, but you'll
start passing in no time.

DANTE
Yeah. Thanks mom.

CARY
Of course baby. And I want you to
know you're smart no matter what
ok?

He nods.

She reaches out to hug him.

CARY (SMILING) (CONT'D)
Now - you excited for desert soon?

Dante smiles wide.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dante is on the couch watching YouTube and Cary comes out.

CARY
Good morning son.

DANTE
Morning mom.

CARY
Since it's Friday and you don't
have school today and I'm not
working I figured we can go to the
mall.

DANTE
Yay! Can I go on the rides mom?

CARY
Of course sweetheart!

INT. MALL - DAY

They enter the mall and Dante is holding Cary's hand.

DANTE (POINTING)
Mom, can I go on that ride?

CARY
Sure son.

DANTE
Yes!

She walks up to the cashier and pays the money.

DISSOLVE TO:

As Dante's on the ride he screams loudly.

DANTE (CONT'D)
This is awesome!

Cary laughs.

When the ride is over, Dante gives Cary a high-five and they
laugh together.

A beat.

Suddenly Dante's head goes down and he has a saddened
expression.

CARY
What's wrong baby?

Dante says nothing at first but then he points behind her.

She has a confused look at first but when she turns around,
her smile fades.

There's a father flying his son in the air.

The kid is laughing.

FLASHBACK

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

MICIAH
Little man, you ready to fly?

DANTE
Yes sir!

Miciah tickles him and Dante laughs.

MICIAH
You ready now?

DANTE
Yes!

He flies Dante in the air.

DANTE (IN THE AIR) (CONT'D)
Superman on the way!

Miciah puts him down and they laugh together.

A beat.

MICIAH
You want some soda to see who can
burp the loudest?

DANTE
You know it!

BACK TO THE PRESENT

INT. MALL - DAY

CARY
Come here.

She hugs him tightly.

She doesn't let him see her crying.

He's crying too.

INT. CAR - DAY

CARY

I know today was a bit hard so -

She pauses to smile.

CARY (CONT'D)

I'm taking you out for ice - cream.

DANTE

Yay!

CARY

We'll go to Dairy Queen.

DANTE

I love Dairy Queen!

DISSOLVE TO:

A few minutes later they're at the Dairy Queen drive thru.

CASHIER

Hello, welcome to Dairy Queen! How
may I take your order today?

CARY

May I have two oreo milkshakes?

WORKER

Yes ma'am. That'll be \$5.59.

Cary pays the money.

She drives to the second window.

She's handed the ice - cream.

She passes Dante his.

DANTE (SMILING)

Thanks mom.

CARY
No problem son.

FADE TO BLACK - 2 WEEKS LATER

EXT. PARK - DAY

Cary and Dante are at the park again.

Dante is on the play ground with his friends and Cary on a bench.

She's scrolling on her phone.

Some time passes when she sees Omarion again walking towards that bench with the cane in his hand.

He sits down.

CARY (SMILING)
Hey! I remember you from the other day!

Omarion turns to her direction.

OMARION (SMILING)
Cary is that you?

CARY
Yes it's me! How are you?

OMARION
I'm doing alright and you?

CARY
I'm ok.

A long beat.

Omarion begins to look directly in Cary's eyes without saying anything at first.

CARY (CONT'D)
Is everything ok?

A sad expression comes across his face.

OMARION
I see tears rolling down your cheeks.

A beat.

OMARION (CONT'D)

Why?

Cary laughs.

CARY

What are you talking about? I'm not crying, I'm smiling.

OMARION

I see tears. Heavy tears.

A beat.

OMARION (CONT'D)

And you have a rose in your hands.

CARY (LAUGHING)

I don't have anything in my hands. Are you messing with me? You said you saw me crying and now you see something in my hand?

OMARION (WITH A SAD EXPRESSION)

No I'm being serious I see a crushed rose in your hand and there are tears in your eyes.

A beat.

OMARION (VOICE CRACKING) (CONT'D)

And I hear you asking why.

Cary's smile suddenly fades.

CARY (V.O.)

All of a sudden I realize, he's seeing with his other eyes.

Tears fall from her eyes.

CARY

You heard right.

A beat.

OMARION

I know we still strangers but is it ok if I -?

CARY
No it's ok, thank you.

Dante notices and stops.

He runs over.

DANTE
Mom, are you ok? Why are you
crying?

A beat.

Cary quickly wipes her face.

Everyone is quiet for a while.

CARY (TO OMARION)
Thank you.

OMARION (SMILING, POINTING UP)
It's all Him, you know.

Cary smiles.

A beat.

OMARION (CONT'D)
Yo, would you guys be open to
coming to dinner sometime? Cary you
can meet my wife and Dante can have
some playmates. I know they'd look
forward to meeting you guys and
getting to know you both as I am.

A beat.

CARY
That'd be dope. We'd be down to
meet them.

OMARION (SMILING)
Alright cool. Would you like my
wife and I's numbers so we can plan
everything out?

A beat.

CARY
Sure.

He calls out both numbers for her and she gives him his.

Then she calls his number to make sure the numbers are right.

CARY (CONT'D)
Thank you so much. I look forward
to meeting her.

OMARION (WITH A WIDE SMILE)
You'll enjoy her. I promise.

CARY
I bet I will.

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)
Well, see you around and see you
soon Mario.

OMARION
All right now and bye little man.

DANTE (WAVING)
Bye.

FADE TO BLACK - ONE MONTH LATER

INT. CHURCH - DAY

A woman is seen sitting on the edge of the stage.

EVANGELINE
Ladies it's important your love
isn't led by emotions only but love
with your mind also.

She pauses and looks around before speaking again.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
It's important you think because
emotions are unstable.

YOUNG WOMAN
Why you in my business Miss
Johnson?

Some laugh as she says this, including Evangeline.

EVANGELINE (HANDS UP)
Ay ain't nobody business but the
Lord's business.

Some laugh.

Some look bored, others like they don't want to be there.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
But on a serious note, many of you
are here because you've been
through some things.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
Some of you made some choices
because you were led by emotion and
not logic.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
And you made those decisions
because of what you went through.
And the good news is, I'm not here
to shame you but to help you
hopefully turn things around.

SARAH
Ain't nobody care or need your
help.

A few laugh. (Not the people who were laughing with
Evangeline earlier)

A beat.

EVANGELINE (LOOKS DOWN)
I understand.

SARAH
You don't understand jack. Stop
trying front like you do.

EVANGELINE
Oh trust I wasn't always the way I
am. No ma'am. I used to smoke, and
sell my body for money. But I ended
up on the other side.

The girl looks away.

A beat.

Evangeline closes her eyes then nods her head slowly.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)

I see someone in this room battling things they have only told God. You don't have a mother figure and your dad died when you were five. Your uncle raised you for most of your life.

She looks down and is silent for a few moments.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)

If you are comfortable, see me after service.

A beat.

Slow tears begin to flow down Sarah's cheek.

She quickly wipes her face.

No one notices.

MONTAGE:

A. Evangeline continues speaking to the young ladies.

B. Some are seen standing up in their seats and crying as they're telling their stories.

C. Some still look unphased.

END OF MONTAGE.

EVANGELINE (WITH TEARS IN HER EYES) (CONT'D)

It was so beautiful watching you young ladies coming up for healing today.

People start clapping and she stares at all the faces for a while before speaking.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)

Thank you for your time everyone.

People start heading out.

Just as she's about to enter backstage someone comes on stage.

SARAH (WITH TEARS)

It's m-me, I-I was the one you saw.

Evangeline turns around and looks her directly in the eyes.

A beat.

Tears flow from the eyes of Evangeline as well.

A beat.

Evangeline opens her arms and the girl enters right in.

FADE

Evangeline is now backstage with Omarion.

EVANGELINE

Hey baby.

OMARION (WITH TEARS IN HIS EYES AND
CLEARING HIS THROAT, QUIETLY)

Hey sweetheart. You did amazing.

EVANGELINE (SLIGHTLY WHISPERING)

I thank God. It was amazing to see
all those girls come up.

She wipes the tears out of her eyes and she hugs her husband.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Omarion and his wife are silent in the car for a few moments
as the car ride is taking place.

There's old school music playing in the background.

Then Omarion speaks up.

OMARION

Hey baby, there's something I been
wanting to tell you for some days
now.

EVANGELINE

What's up?

OMARION

Well I met a woman at the park. Her
name is Cary.

He pauses and looks out the window.

OMARION (CONT'D)

Lord showed me she has experienced great pain and sadness in her life. I don't know what yet but I saw her crying in the spirit the second time we met up at the park.

EVANGELINE

Wow. Should we invite her to the one of the sessions in the church?

A beat.

OMARION

No not yet. She doesn't need that right now. In the spirit I saw she has spiritual trauma. Something happened. She just needs people to talk to for now - outside of church. I can tell it's still a painful place for her.

A beat.

OMARION (CONT'D)

I invited her to dinner and gave her our numbers.

EVANGELINE

That's amazing baby, I look forward to talking with her and spending time. She got kids?

OMARION

Yes, she has a little boy.

EVANGELINE

How about I call her tomorrow?

OMARION

That would be cool, sure.

They both smile.

A beat.

Then, she lays her hands on top of his.

INT. HOME - DAY

Cary is getting ready for work and to drop Dante off to school.

INT. (EVANGELINE'S HOME) DAY

Evangeline wakes up out of bed.

She looks at her husband who is still sleeping.

EVANGELINE (QUIETLY AND SMILING)
Your snoring self.

She starts praying.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
Dear Lord, I thank you for waking
me up and letting me see another
day. And for your provision. Keep
me and guide my steps today. In
Jesus name, amen.

She heads to the bathroom and washes her face.

She brushes her teeth.

FADE

She's back in her room again. Her clothes are on by now and
she's doing her makeup.

As she's doing it she calls Cary.

The number dials.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
Hello? Is this Cary?

CARY
Yes...?

INT. HOME - DAY

Cary pauses. She looks at the number and realizes she has it
saved.

CARY
Wait! Are you Omarion's wife?

EVANGELINE (DOING EYELINER)
Yes ma'am I am. And you must be
Cary, the one he told me about. He
said he met you at the park?

CARY
Yes!

EVANGELINE
He was talking crazy wasn't he?

CARY
A little.

EVANGELINE
I can only imagine what he put you
through.

They both laugh.

CARY
It's finally nice to meet you -
well not meet you but -

EVANGELINE (LAUGHING)
Girl I get what you mean.

They both laugh again.

A beat.

CARY
What's your name, anyway?

EVANGELINE
Evangeline.

CARY
That's a beautiful name

EVANGELINE
Thank you so much, yours is -

CARY (LAUGHING)
You ain't gotta lie, I know it's a
common name.

INT. EVANGELINE'S HOME - DAY

EVANGELINE (SMILING AND LEANING INTO
THE PHONE, LOWERS HER VOICE)
Not gonna lie, when he called your
name I thought you was a white
girl!

They both laugh at that.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
He said he invited you and your son
to dinner which is why I called.

A beat.

And I'm looking forward to meeting
you both in person.

CARY

I'm excited to meet you as well.

EVANGELINE

Does Saturday next month work?
We'll be busy for the rest of the
month.

CARY

Yes it absolutely does. I'm not
working on that day.

EVANGELINE

Alright then we'll set it up. I'll
send you our address.

She to send the address.

EVANGELINE (SMILING) (CONT'D)

You'll enjoy. I make some mean soul
food.

CARY (SMILING)

That's what's up.

FADE TO BLACK - A FEW WEEKS LATER

INT. HOME - NIGHT

Omarion's son opens the door for Cary and Dante.

JOHN

Hey Miss Cary, it's nice to meet
you.

CARY

It's nice to meet you to sweetie.

He waves to Dante who waves back.

Evangeline comes up behind him and gently places her hands on
her son's shoulders.

EVANGELINE

Cary! This you?

CARY

Yes girl it's me, Cary the white girl!

They both laugh at this and then the laughter dies down.

EVANGELINE

Come on in, Omarion is already at the table.

Dante and Cary enter all the way in.

She walks to the dinner table and sees Omarion and his other children seated.

EVANGELINE (SMILING) (CONT'D)

Honey and kids, our guests are here!

OMARION (SMILING)

It's been a minute. How are y'all?

CARY

We're good, how are you? It's so nice to see your family!

OMARION (smiling)

We're happy to see you too and I'm doing just fine.

A beat.

OMARION

Well time to introduce you to the rest of the family.

Short beat.

OMARION (CONT'D)

The one that opened the door was John the troublemaker.

John smirks and looks at Dante who gives him a high-five.

OMARION (CONT'D)

The only girl child - my baby - is Sally.

Sally has a big smile and does a condescending look to her brothers.

Everyone laughs at this.

OMARION (CONT'D)
The last child is Sammy. He's the
quiet one.

Sammy waves.

FADE

Evangeline comes back from the kitchen and lays out the food.

There is mac and cheese, banana pudding, fried chicken,
cobbler, black - eyed pea and gumbo and more.

EVANGELINE
Help yourselves to whatever you
want guys.

She then proceeds to serve her husband.

DANTE (SEEING HIS FOOD)
I can't wait to dig in!

CARY (GENTLY)
Sweetheart, be polite, say thank
you.

DANTE
Thank you.

CARY
Thank you Evangeline, the food
looks amazing.

EVANGELINE
You're welcome guys.

OMARION (EATING A CHICKEN LEG)
This is why I married you.

Evangeline gives him the look of pretend annoyance.

OMARION (CONT'D)
Uh oh...I may be blind as a bat but I
know that look.

Everyone laughs.

Evangeline then serves herself.

Everyone starts eating their food and smiling but no one says
anything at first.

EVANGELINE

So, Cary, tell me a bit about yourself? I know you and Omarion talked a bit but I wanna get to know you too.

Evangeline pauses to drink her orange juice.

Evangeline puts the cup down and smiles.

A beat.

CARY (LAUGHING)

Hmm.. you're putting me on the spot.

EVANGELINE (SMILING)

You're ok. Take your time.

CARY

I enjoy writing, and I love singing and dancing.

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)

How about you?

EVANGELINE

I like to write as well, I journal a lot.

A beat.

OMARION

Cary you been living here your whole life?

CARY

No ma'm. I used to live in Arkansas.

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)

But we moved for business related reasons.

EVANGELINE

Oh yeah?

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
If you don't mind, can you explain
more about that?

A beat.

CARY (QUIETLY)
No I don't mind, we moved because
of my husb -

Suddenly Evangeline gets a call.

She looks at her phone to see who it is.

EVANGELINE
Cary I'm so sorry but I have to
take this but I'll be right back
guys.

CARY
It's alright

Meanwhile there's a pause at the table.

OMARION
Cary what were you saying?

CARY
Oh shoot I forgot. Something to do
with business.

OMARION
Oh and you said something about a -

SALLY
Dad, can we go play with the nerf
guns in the backyard? We finished
our food.

OMARION
Yes but understand it's not good to
interrupt baby.

SALLY
I'm sorry daddy.

OMARION (SMILING)
Aww it's ok my princess. You know
daddy can't stay mad at you for
long.

A beat.

OMARION (CONT'D)
Y'all enjoy y'all selves out there
but don't go near the road. If you
need anything, call us.

GIRL (SMILING WIDE)
Thank you daddy.

BOYS (WHISPERING, HIGH - FIVING)
I knew he would say yes to her.

Cary and Omarion laugh.

The kids head out.

After a few moments, Evangeline returns.

EVANGELINE
Sorry about that y'all.

OMARION
It's alright baby.

CARY
Yeah, don't sweat.

EVANGELINE (SMILING)
I thank y'all for understanding.

She pauses to look at the empty seats.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
Where are the kids?

OMARION
They went outside.

EVANGELINE
I figured.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
Anyway, what were we talking about
before I got on the phone?

OMARION
About Cary and her moving
situation.

EVANGELINE
Oh yeah! I wanted Cary to explain
more about why she moved.

Cary clears her throat.

OMARION
Take your time now.

The three of them laugh.

Then it dies down.

CARY
We moved because my husband had a
new job offer from a business.

EVANGELINE
Husband? You're married?

She pauses and smiles.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
Wait, why didn't you invite him to
dinner? We would've been happy to
make an extra plate!

A beat.

Cary looks down.

When she looks up her eyes are filled with tears.

CARY (QUIETLY)
He's dead.

INT. HOME - NIGHT

James is smoking a cigarette as he's staring at a picture of
Miciah.

His eyes fill with tears.

JAMES (WHISPERING)
Damn it man, I miss you.

A beat.

JAMES (SMILES) (CONT'D)
Remember when we use to holla at
chicks when we was younger?

A beat.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Then you became holier and thou?
Talking bout I'm saved now?

He laughs and puts the photo down.

He sighs.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I still call your name sometimes,
foolishly thinking you'll answer
bro.

He pauses and walks to stare out the window.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I'm going on a drive.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - NIGHT

James parks the car and stares for a long time at the
graveyard.

He's disassociating before stepping out.

A beat.

He does a sign.

He stares at Miciah's head stone and then speaks.

JAMES (FINALLY RELEASING ALL EMOTION)
You had a future ahead of you man,
a family.

A beat.

JAMES (CONT'D)
But that's all gone now.

INT. HOME - DAY

The children are in their rooms including Dante.

Everyone else is at the dinner table and is silent/

Omarion clears his throat.

OMARION (QUIETLY AND GENTLY)
I send my condolences to you.

A beat.

EVANGELINE
I do too, Cary. It's very
unfortunate the weight you carry on
your shoulders.

CARY (QUIETLY)
Thank you.

EVANGELINE
How long have you carried this?

A beat.

CARY (LAUGHING SLIGHTLY)
Two years but it feels longer than
eternity.

EVANGELINE
Wow, I'm truly sorry.

CARY (QUIETLY)
Thank you.

EVANGELINE (CLEARING HER THROAT)
Cary, would you like to talk about
the good times you had with him?

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
From experience I can say, bringing
up the good memories of the
deceased can be comforting. It can
even make you smile.

Cary looks up. She doesn't say anything at first.

She pauses to drink her juice.

OMARION (SMILING)
But if you really can't think of
anything, that's fine Cary, we can
talk about whatever you want. Or
not talk at all.

She smiles slightly at this.

A beat.

CARY
Something I will never forget is
how we met.

FLASHBACK

INT. HOME - NIGHT

A younger James and Miciah are seen in Miciah's room.

JAMES
Yo man you can't stay in this room
forever.

MICIAH
You seen how that chick did me and
you expect me to just find another
girl after that?

JAMES
I know you down man, but it's many
girls willing to hit your line. You
just gotta get out this room.

James pauses smiling.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I'll tell you what man, me and the
other homies planning on hitting
the bar and we was wondering if
you'd be down.

MICIAH
Man you know I'm still hurt and you
just want me to get over it?

JAMES
Yeah man, that girl wasn't it. She
cheated. That's a deal breaker.

A beat.

MICIAH
Alright fine man I'll go.

JAMES
Ay I knew you would fold!

MICIAH

But I won't be having no fun.

JAMES

Whatever you say man. You going ,
that's all that matters.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

James and Miciah are officially in the bar and they see Charles, Cary and some other homeboys.

JAMES

What's good man?

CHARLES

Nothing man, what's up with you and
bro?

JAMES

He's a little down so I told him we
was finna hit the bar.

CHARLES (SMILING)

That's what's up.

A beat.

JAMES

Who's the girl?

CHARLES

My sister Cary, the one we was
talking about setting up with
Miciah.

JAMES

Yo that's what's up!

Cary shyly waves and looks down.

MICIAH

So the whole time I was heartbroken
y'all was plotting and planning.

A beat.

MICIAH (CONT'D)

Figures.

CARY

I wasn't on board with it either
but they're pretty convincing.

Miciah laughs.

MICIAH
You ain't lying.

She laughs too then looks away.

JAMES (TEASING)
Connecting already I see.

MICIAH
Ay yo watch it man.

JAMES (SMILING)
Relax man, just playing.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Well we'll leave you two, to get to
know each other.

Miciah gives him a look.

James and the rest of the guys walk away.

A beat.

Try a Little Tenderness by Otis Redding starts playing.

Miciah clears his throat and snaps out of the daze he's in as
he's staring at her.

MICIAH
I'm gonna go get us drinks.

CARY
That'll be nice.

MICIAH
What you like?

CARY
Whiskey sours. How about you?

MICIAH (SMILING)
Mimosa.

CARY (SMILING)
Really?

OTIS REDDING
You know she's waiting...

MICIAH

Yes.

OTIS REDDING

Anticipating...

CARY

Something in common already.

MICIAH (STARING IN HER EYES)

Yeah.

OTIS REDDING

But while she there waiting, try a
little tenderness.

He snaps out of it.

MICIAH

Let me go get the drinks.

CARY (LAUGHING)

Yeah you should probably do that.

MICIAH (SMILING)

Ok.

He walks over to get the drinks.

He comes back.

He hands her her drink.

CARY

Thank you.

MICIAH

Ain't no problem.

They both take sips as the song is still playing.

A beat.

They both look down.

OTIS

It's not just sentimental no, no,
no.

This time Cary stares in Miciah's eyes.

OTIS (CONT'D)

She has her grieve and her care,
yeah, yeah, yeah.

OTIS (CONT'D)

But the soft words they are spoke
so gentle, yeah.

Cary and Miciah stare deeper and lean closer.

OTIS (CONT'D)

You won't regret it no, no young
girls, they don't forget it no.

Cary and Miciah lean closer.

OTIS (CONT'D)

Young girls they don't forget it
Love is their whole happiness

They don't kiss. But they reach out their hands.

MICIAH (SMILING)

Let's go dance.

They're on the floor right before the chorus hits.

He spins her around right on the beat drop.

They keep dancing until the rest of the song finishes.

Miciah's homeboys are cheering.

He can't hide his smile anymore.

Cary can't hide hers anymore either.

After the song is over they walk to the guys.

JAMES

Yo! Y'all was killing it!

MICIAH

I was a little rusty.

CHARLES

You kidding man? Y'all was dancing
like it was no tomorrow!

Cary and Miciah laugh at this.

BACK TO THE PRESENT

EVANGELINE (SIPPING HER DRINK SMILING)

Girl I ain't know you had moves
back then! You still got it?

Everyone laughs.

CARY (LAUGHING)
Chile I don't got it no more.

EVANGELINE
Oh c'mon, bet you still got it.

Cary laughs.

OMARION
I call a dance off!

CARY (LAUGHING)
Y'all are making my night I swear.

EVANGELINE
That was the goal!

A beat.

OMARION
Is there anything else you would
like to talk about Cary? We
listening.

EVANGELINE (SMILING)
Yes we can talk about any and
everything. Especially Mario here.

Cary and Evangeline both laugh while Omarion side eyes his wife jokingly.

Everyone laughs.

It dies down.

CARY
Well there was this time he -

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Cary and Dante are in the car.

Dante is sleeping.

Try a Little Tenderness plays in the background.

The car ride is silent except for the music playing.

INT. HOME - NIGHT

CARY
Dante make sure to bathe before
going to sleep.

DANTE
Ugh but I'm tired mom.

CARY
I know sweetie but we been out all
day so you gotta bathe and change.

DANTE
Fine.

CARY
Don't give me no attitude boy.

DANTE
Sorry mom.

CARY
It's ok, just go wash up.

He heads to the bathroom and Cary heads to her room.

INT. HOME - DAY

Cary wakes up.

She stares at Miciah's picture with tears in her eyes.

CARY
You don't know how much I miss your
big head self.

She chuckles at that.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cary's all dressed up for work.

When she enters the living room Dante is ready too and he's
playing a game on the ipad.

CARY
Morning baby.

DANTE (LOOKING UP)
Morning mom.

CARY
Dante I have an early shift today
so James will be driving you too
school ok?

DANTE
Alright mom.

She sits on the couch next to Dante.

Dante is back to playing the game and Cary's looking at
things on her phone.

A beat.

There's a knock on the door.

CARY
Dante go open the door, it's James.

Dante gets up to open the door.

JAMES (SMILING)
Hey little man.

DANTE
Hey uncle.

Cary walks to the door.

CARY
Hey James, c'mon in.

James enters in.

EXT. CAR - DAY

Cary puts on her seatbelt but before turning the wheel, she
pauses.

CARY
Maybe I should call her.

CARY (LAUGHING) (CONT'D)
Nah.

A beat.

CARY (SMILING) (CONT'D)
I'll call her.

She dials Evangeline's number.

The phone rings.

CARY (CONT'D)
Hello?

EVANGELINE
Hey girl!

CARY
Just calling to check on you and to
thank you for the dinner.

EVANGELINE
It was my pleasure, anytime.
Seriously. And I'm doing well.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
How are you?

CARY
Life has given me the most sour of
lemons but I've managed to make
orange juice.

EVANGELINE
Let me guess - Omarion?

They both laugh at this.

EVANGELINE (LAUGHING) (CONT'D)
That man something else I swear.

Cary laughs too.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
What you doing today?

CARY
Bout to head to work. You?

EVANGELINE
Just tending to my garden.

CARY
What you planting?

EVANGELINE
Flowers and fruit.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
You like to garden?

CARY (SMILING)
Yeah, I used to do it all the time.

EVANGELINE
Why'd you stop?

A beat.

CARY
I don't know, I guess I got too
caught up with work.

EVANGELINE
That's understandable.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
You ever want to garden together?
It would be fun, I promise.

CARY (HESITATING)
I- I- mayb -

CARY (LAUGHING) (CONT'D)
Yeah, actually.

EVANGELINE (LAUGHING TOO)
That would be great girl.

The laughter dies down.

CARY
I'm happy at all the stuff I
learned about you. I really want to
get to know you.

CARY (SMILING) (CONT'D)
Same here.

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)
Well, I gotta go clock in. Talk to
you later?

EVANGELINE
Sure. Bye girl!

CARY
Bye!

INT. WORKPLACE - DAY

Cary enters her workplace and grabs a broom.

JANE (WHO'S WIPING THE TABLE TOP)
Hey girl.

CARY
Hey.

JANE
How you doing?

CARY (SWEEPING)
I'm doing good.

JANE
That's good to hear.

CARY (SMILING)
Thanks. How are you?

JANE
I'm ok.

She pauses from wiping the counter and folds her arms and smiles.

Cary looks up.

CARY
What?

JANE
I should be asking you.

CARY
What you mean?

JANE
Who got you smiling like that?

CARY
Just a friend.

JANE
Just a friend? Hmm.

CARY (LAUGHING)
Girl no! I ain't on that type of
time

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)
I seriously made a new friend.

She pauses, giving Jane a fake stern look.

CARY (CONT'D)
A GIRL friend.

JANE (SMILING)
If you say so.

Cary gives her the side eye.

JANE (LAUGHING) (CONT'D)
Ok I'm done playing.

She pauses.

JANE (CONT'D)
That Kool - aid smile tell me
everything I need to know girl

She and Cary laugh.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Cary gets out of the car to pick up Dante.

There's a line of kids waiting to be picked up and puts the
side of her hand on her face to scan for Dante.

When she sees him she smiles and walks over.

CARY (REACHING FOR A HUG)
Hey baby!

DANTE
Hey mom.

They walk over to the car.

CARY
How was school sweetie?

DANTE

Boring.

CARY (PRETENDING TO ROLL HER EYES)

Of course.

INT. HOME - NIGHT

Dante and Cary come home and Dante heads into his room.

Cary heads into the bathroom to clean her makeup.

She starts wiping it off when she receives a call.

She puts the brush down and smiles.

EVANGELINE

Hey girl. Is now a bad time?

CARY

Nah girl, what's up?

EVANGELINE

Just wanted to check on you. How you doing?

CARY

I'm doing good, how are you?

EVANGELINE

I'm fine.

A beat.

CARY

How your day went?

She pauses.

CARY (RELAXING) (CONT'D)

Tell me all about it, I want to know everything.

EVANGELINE

Nosy much?

They both laugh.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)

Nah but for real, my day was pretty chill. First I went on a run -

CARY
Ok track star.

They both laugh again.

EVANGELINE
Then I went to the bank with Mario.

Evangeline pauses to drink her tea.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
How'd your day go?

CARY
Well first I -

MONTAGE:

- A. Cary talking to Evangeline and the background switches between night and day.
- B. Cary calls Evangeline on her breaks at work.
- C. Evangeline calls Cary as she's gardening multiple times.
- D. Evangeline calls Cary some nights.

END OF MONTAGE.

FADE TO BLACK: 3 MONTHS LATER

INT. HOME - DAY

Cary wakes up and stares at Miciah's picture.

She holds it close to her heart.

Tears fill her eyes yet at the same time she's smiling.

CARY (WHISPERING)
I'll always love you.

She gets up and enters the bathroom to get ready.

FADE

There's a knock on the door.

Cary opens.

CARY (CONT'D)
Hey James.

JAMES
Hey Cary, how you doing?

CARY
Good, how are you?

JAMES
I'm good.

CARY
Come on in James.

He steps in.

JAMES
Where's little man?

CARY
He's in his room getting ready.
He's almost done.

JAMES (SITTING ON THE COUCH)
That's whatsup.

Before she can answer Dante comes out.

DANTE (SMILING WIDE)
Hey uncle James.

JAMES (SMILES)
Hey nephew! How are you?

DANTE
Gooooood.

JAMES
I know it's something evil behind
that smile. You been bad?

Cary and Dante laughs.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I knew it.

A beat.

JAMES (CONT'D)
You ready for boys day today?

DANTE
Boys rule the world!

James daps him up and they do fake burps at the same time.

CARY (PRETEND ROLLS HER EYES)
Y'all do too much.

Both of them laugh.

The laughter dies down .

JAMES
Well, we'll see you later Cary,
have fun today!

CARY
Y'all too!

James and Dante walk out the door and Cary watches them through the window until they enter the car and have driven off.

DISSOLVE TO:

As Cary is sitting on the couch, she hears another knock on the door.

She smiles knowing who it is.

She opens the door.

CARY (SMILING) (CONT'D)
Hey girl!

EVANGELINE (SMILING)
Hey girl!

CARY
C'mon in.

Evangeline walks in.

CARY (CONT'D)
You can sit anywhere you want. Make
yourself comfortable.

EVANGELINE
Thank you girl.

They both smile.

Evangeline sits in the living room chair.

CARY (STILL STANDING UP)
I baked some corn bread, cake,
fried some chicken and there's some
iced tea if you would like. If not
there's other things you might
like.

EVANGELINE
I love ice tea and cornbread! Thank
you!

CARY (SMILING)
Perfect.

Cary enters the kitchen.

Cary returns with the food and drinks.

EVANGELINE
It looks good!

Cary smiles.

CARY
Thanks.

They begin to eat.

CARY (CONT'D)
So - how you been doing?

EVANGELINE
I been ok, just a few challenges
here and there. How about you?

CARY
I been aight. And what is some of
those things.

EVANGELINE
Just the challenges of motherhood
you know?

CARY
Yeah, I relate.

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)
Love my son more than life but
sometimes it's hard, without his
dad you know?

Evangeline nods.

EVANGELINE

Yeah.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)

'Marion is very present and is an awesome dad, but it is hard with his disability you know? But really I can't complain cause he still here. I can only imagine only fraction of your pain.

Cary nods.

She looks down.

Evangeline opens her arms.

Cary enters her embrace.

They hug for a few moments.

They separate.

A beat.

CARY (WIPE HER FACE)

You ready to go.

EVANGELINE

Yeah girl. You?

A beat.

CARY (SMILING)

So ready.

EXT. OUTSIDE - DAY

CARY

We taking my car or yours?

EVANGELINE

We can take mine.

A beat.

CARY (STOPS WALKING)

I'm a little embarrassed to admit this but I ain't really done this in a while. I don't know where to start.

EVANGELINE
Ain't nothing to be embarrassed
about.

Cary smiles.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
I know the perfect place to start.

CARY
Where?

EVANGELINE (SMILING)
You like the spa?

INT. SPA - DAY

Cary and Evangeline walk into the spa.

CARY
Hello.

EVANGELINE
Hello.

WOMAN 1
Hey ladies! What would you like?

EVANGELINE
We'd like to get our nails and feet
done.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
Wait hold on. Cary you want both?

CARY (SMILING)
Sure.

WOMAN 1
Ok then, nails and feet it is! What
would you ladies like first?

CARY
Nails please.

EVANGELINE
I'll have the same too.

The woman walks away and comes back with a second woman.

WOMAN 2
I heard you ladies want to do your
fingernails?

EVANGELINE
Yes.

WOAN 2 (GRINNING)
You came to the right place!

Cary and Evangeline look at each other and smile.

WOMAN 1
What color would you like CARY?

CARY (SMILING)
I would like red.

WOMAN 2 (TO EVANGELINE)
What would you like?

EVANGELINE
Pink please.

WOMAN 2
Ooh you're in luck! We just updated
our color palette and got new
versions of different colors so
you'll have lots to choose from.

DISSOLVE TO:

Evangeline sits in one seat and Cary is sitting on the other
waiting for the nails ladies to come back with the things
needed to do the nails.

EVANGELINE
You excited?

CARY
Yes, I haven't been to the spa in
forever.

EVANGELINE
Well now that we're friends we can
go more often.

The ladies return.

WOMAN 1 AND 2
We're back!

The women start off by washing, scrubbing and sanitizing their hands.

Next they put their hands in a warm soak.

EVANGELINE
This feels amazing!

CARY
I know right?

After they're done with the nails they move on to their feet treatment.

WOMAN 1 (SMILING)
Make sure to relax your feet ladies.

They start by soaking Cary and Evangeline's feet.

Then they rinse and dry their feet.

Evangeline and Cary look at each other and just smile.

Afterwards they trim and file their nails.

DISSOLVE TO:

When finished painting Cary and Evangeline examine.

EVANGELINE
Thank you so much!

CARY
Yes thank you, the nails look amazing!

WOMAN 1
No problem it's our pleasure.

WOMAN 2
Plus we get paid.

Everyone laughs.

It dies down.

CARY
How much will it cost?

WOMAN
That will be \$50.

Cary reaches in her bag to pay.

EVANGELINE (SMILING)
You don't gotta do that girl, I got you covered.

CARY
Nah I want to do it, you helped me get out the house so it's the least I can do.

EVANGELINE
You sure girl?

CARY (SMILING)
I'm sure.

INT. CAR - DAY

EVANGELINE (SMILING)
Where you feel like going next?

CARY
How about that one cafe?

EVANGELINE (EYES WIDENING, FINGER POINTING)
Oh girl I know exactly what you talking about!

INT. CAFE - DAY

Cary and Evangeline are inside the cafe.

EVANGELINE
Oh my gosh, them cakes look good!

CARY
I know right? What should we try first?

EVANGELINE
I heard their oreo cake is pretty fire.

CARY
That's whatsup! Oreos me and Dante favorite!

EVANGELINE
Oh for real? Strawberry's mine!

CARY
I like strawberry too but oreo is
so good!

EVANGELINE
Wanna try both?

Cary's smile fades slightly.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
Everything ok?

CARY
You sure? I don't want you to have
to pay for too much.

EVANGELINE (SMILING)
Girl - this our day! Who cares? If
I have the money I pay, ok? You
ain't gonna pay for everything
girl.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
Don't stress. Seriously girl.

CARY (HESITATES BEFORE SLOWLY SMILING)
Alright.

FADE

The two ladies sit at the table with the cakes.

EVANGELINE
The cream and the oreos are so
delicious!

CARY
I love the strawberries and the
icing!

A beat.

EVANGELINE
We need to sample lemon cake next
girl!

CARY (SMILES)
Sure, that sounds good!

EVANGELINE
Before we do, I gotta ask - you
enjoying yourself?

CARY (LAUGHING)
Can't you tell?

EVANGELINE (LAUGHING WITH HER)
Yes girl.

They both start laughing at the same time.

The laughter dies down.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
Say Cary, how you feel about
gardening after this?

CARY
Sure.

EVANGELINE (SMILES)
That would be perfect, I started
growing some new things.

EXT. OUTSIDE - DAY

Cary and Evangeline step outside the car.

They walk to the backyard.

CARY
I said it before but this backyard
is huge!

Evangeline smiles.

EVANGELINE
Thank you girl.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
One day I'll tell you the full
story but for now I'll say, me and
Omarion have come a long way.

CARY
I can only imagine girl, y'all
doing great.

EVANGELINE
Thank you.

CARY
No problem.

EVANGELINE
Ready to see the flowers?

CARY (SMILING)
Yes of course.

They walk closer to the garden.

CARY (CONT'D)
Wow! These are so beautiful!

EVANGELINE
Thank you, it took me forever.

DISSOLVE TO:

They start gardening, and planting seeds.

A long beat.

Cary stops in the middle of gardening and visibly
disassociates.

Evangeline doesn't see her face at first, only that Cary
stopped.

EVANGELINE (NOT LOOKING AT
CARY) (CONT'D)
Why'd you stop? Wanna take a break?

Cary doesn't answer.

Evangeline looks up and sees her face and Evangeline does a
double take and her smile fades.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
What's wrong girl?

A beat.

CARY
Nothing's wrong, I'm ok.

EVANGELINE (CROSSING HER ARMS)
Are you sure?

A beat.

Cary is still not looking directly at Evangeline but in her direction.

CARY
Remember when I told why I stopped gardening?

EVANGELINE (PUTTING THE TOOLS DOWN)
Yes I remember. Why?

A beat.

CARY
What I really meant was, I stopped because it made me think of Miciah too much. We used to garden together all the time.

Cary's eyes water but she doesn't fully cry.

Evangeline reaches out her arms without saying anything.

Cary enters her embrace and begins to sob.

FADE

EVANGELINE
You see those lilies over there?

A beat.

CARY
Yes.

EVANGELINE (SMILING)
They make me think of you.

CARY
Why?

EVANGELINE
Your pain is buried thorns in the ground that will resurrect into a beautiful lily.

Cary's eyes water again but she doesn't sob. She smiles.

Evangeline puts her arm on Cary's shoulder.

They head to the house.

INT. HOME - NIGHT

Evangeline and Cary are inside.

EVANGELINE
What you feel like having for
dinner? I can get you anything.

CARY (LAUGHING)
Clearly you can.

EVANGELINE (LAUGHING)
Don't play.

She and Cary both laugh.

DISSOLVE TO:

Cary and Evangeline sit in the dining room, eating.

CARY (SMILING)
Thank you so much.

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)
For everything.

EVANGELINE (SMILING)
No need to thank me. That's what
friends are for girl.

Cary smiles at her and she smiles back.

Cary starts eating some bread.

CARY
You done put your right foot in
this bread girl.

EVANGELINE (LAUGHING)
I can tell someone's enjoying they
self.

Cary laughs too.

It dies down.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
If you had to pick the one food to
eat for the rest of your life what
would it be?

CARY (SMILES)
Hmmm... gumbo!

EVANGELINE
Ooh I see you're THAT type of gal...
Ok I see you... period.

Cary laughs.

CARY
What about you?

EVANGELINE
Strawberry cake.

CARY
Ooh that's a good one!

MONTAGE:

- A. They laugh.
- B. Evangeline whispers something to Cary and her eyes widen.
They both laugh afterward.
- C. Cary has a serious look on her face as Evangeline speaks.
- D. They hug each other.

END OF MONTAGE.

EXT. OUTSIDE - NIGHT

Evangeline and Cary are outside on the porch watching the sun
set.

EVANGELINE
My grandma used to watch the sunset
with me all the time.

CARY
I used to watch it with my mom.

A beat.

EVANGELINE
It's beautiful isn't it?

CARY
Yes it is. The flowers give it an even prettier view.

EVANGELINE
I know right?

CARY
You ever watch the constellations?

EVANGELINE
Yes often. I love watching the big dipper.

CARY
Ooh that's a good one!

EVANGELINE
Yeah.

A beat.

CARY
You ok with us having another girls day?

EVANGELINE
Yeah that would be dope, I was wondering if you'd be down for another one.

CARY
Yeah of course!

EVANGELINE
That's awesome to hear.

She looks at Cary who looks back at her.

EVANGELINE (SMILING) (CONT'D)
I enjoy your company.

CARY (SMILING BACK)
I enjoy yours too.

EXT. OUTSIDE - NIGHT

Cary and Evangeline start walking toward the car.

EVANGELINE

Today with you was so amazing.

CARY (SMILING)

You don't know how much I wanted
and needed this.

EVANGELINE (SMILING)

Yeah I got you girl.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Evangeline and Cary are in the car talking as she's driving
her home.

(Music plays over them)

INT. HOME - NIGHT

Cary smiles as she heads to her room.

FADE TO BLACK: 3 WEEKS LATER

INT. HOME - DAY

Dante's in his room on his iPad meanwhile Cary's in the
living room watching TV.

Suddenly she gets a call from Evangeline.

EVANGELINE

Hey Cary!

CARY (COMPOSURE VISIBLY CHANGES)

Hey girl! How are you?

EVANGELINE

I'm doing great! How are you?

CARY

Good. What you up to?

EVANGELINE

Just hanging out with Omarion and
the kids, you?

CARY

Just watching TV right now.

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)
How's Omarion?

EVANGELINE
He's doing alright. How's Dante?

CARY
He's doing good too. How the kids?

EVANGELINE
They ok, still hard headed as usual.

Cary and Evangeline laugh.

It dies down.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
Well.. I was calling to ask you when you think our next girls day should be.

CARY
How about next week? I'll be free by then. When you will be free?

EVANGELINE
Uhhh... I got work next week. How about the week after?

CARY
Sounds good.

EVANGELINE
Looks like we have a plan. Well, talk to you later?

CARY
Yes, talk to you later, bye.

EVANGELINE
Bye Cary!

Cary puts the phone down and calls Dante.

CARY
Dante!

DANTE (FROM IN HIS ROOM)
Yes mom?

CARY
Can you please come out?

He comes out.

CARY (CONT'D)
Let's say we go shopping and get
ice - cream today. How would you
like that baby?

DANTE (HE HUGS HIS MOM)
Yay! That would be awesome, thank
you mom.

CARY (FOLDS HER ARMS)
You ain't wanna give me a kiss last
time but now for ice - cream you
wanna give me a hug?

Dante laughs and Cary joins in.

Then it dies down.

CARY (CONT'D)
Go change your clothes ok? We're
heading out after you do. I'm
already dressed.

FADE TO BLACK: THE NEXT DAY

INT. HOME - DAY

Dante is in his room with two of Evangeline's sons: Sammy and John.

Cary is in the laundry room doing the laundry.

She's humming a song as she does it.

After she's done putting the clothes in the machine, she
knocks Dante's door.

DANTE
Yes mom?

He opens the door.

CARY
Just came to check on you boys.
Lunch is gonna be ready soon.

DANTE
Thank you mom.

SAMMY
Thank you.

JOHN
Thank you.

CARY (SMILING)
No problem y'all.

She heads out of his room and into her own room.

She sits on the bed and holds Miciah's picture.

CARY (CONT'D)
You ain't got no business being
gone.

She puts the picture down and walks to look out the window.

She doesn't see anything at first.

Then, after a while, she sees a man and a woman arguing but because the window is closed, she can't make out what they're saying.

She turns around and looks at Miciah's picture.

CARY (CHUCKLING) (CONT'D)
I remember our first argument.

FLASHBACK

INT. OUTSIDE - NIGHT

A younger Cary and Miciah are outside hand in hand smiling.

MICIAH
Baby you ready for the party
tonight?

CARY (TURNING TO HIM)
You know it.

They're about to kiss when he gets a text.

MICIAH
Hold on baby, let me check.

CARY (LAUGHING)
Who is it?

MICIAH (LOOKS DOWN)
Just a friend.

CARY (SMILING)
Which friend? Is it one of the
guys?

MICIAH (CLEARING HIS THROAT)
Yes.

Cary crosses her arms.

CARY
Something ain't right. What's
wrong?

He doesn't answer.

She looks over his shoulder, to see who it is.

MICIAH
Baby you ain't gotta do all that.

CARY (CALMLY)
Why I see another chick in your
phone?

A beat.

She asks again, louder this time.

CARY (CONT'D)
Why I see another chick name in
your phone. And you over here talm
about "just a friend."

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)
What female friend would be texting
you at this time?

This time she's louder.

MICIAH
Baby I can explain.

CARY
Well you best gets to talking!

MICIAH (STUTTERS)
She's - she- baby you'll understand
later.

CARY (LOUDER)
The hell is wrong with you? Speak
up!

MICIAH (SLIGHTLY LOUDER)
Ay I said she's just a friend ok?

Cary looks down.

When she looks up, her eyes are filled with tears.

CARY
I see how it is.

She turns to walk the other way.

MICIAH
Baby I'm sorry, come back!

A beat.

MICIAH (WHISPERING) (CONT'D)
Oh shoot! I messed up!

He runs after her.

She turns around.

CARY (ANGRILY THROUGH TEARS)
Keep texting her and leave me
alone.

MICIAH
Cary it's not what you think! And I
didn't mean to raise my voice I'm
sorry.

A beat.

MICIAH (CONT'D)
I promise I ain't cheating, I just
ain't wanna ruin the surprise.
(MORE)

MICIAH (CONT'D)

I just didn't know want to give it away too early so I got frustrated, not at you but myself.

CARY (LOOKS UP)

What surprise?

He shows her the messages.

Messages about an engagement ring.

MICIAH

She works at the jewelry store baby. I texted her asking if the ring was ready for tomorrow and she was just replying. She works at day time but sometimes at night time.

He pauses.

MICIAH (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry baby. I just wanted to surprise you. I shouldn't have raised my voice though. Here you can look through my whole phone if you want.

Cary breaks down crying.

He opens his arms.

She's in his arms for a while then they separate.

MICIAH (CONT'D)

I love you baby.

CARY

I love you too.

They look in each other's eyes and then she kisses him. He kisses her back.

BACK TO PRESENT

INT. HOME - DAY

CARY (VOICE CRACKING)

I love you deeper than water.

She sighs, wipes her eyes and heads in the kitchen.

INT. HOME - DAY

She goes to prepare lunch in the kitchen.

She grabs the ingredients for tacos and makes it.

DISSOLVE TO:

CARY

Dante! Sammy! John! Lunch is ready!

They come out of the room.

DANTE

Yay! I love tacos!

Sammy nods.

JOHN

Me too.

INT. HOME - DAY

They're now in the dining room.

CARY

You boys have fun today?

DANTE

Yes, we played minecraft and roblox
which was awesome.

TYLER

Also subway surfers.

CARY (SMILES)

That's awesome boys!

CARY (CONT'D)

Y'all work on homework?

DANTE (SMILING FROM EAR TO EAR)

Yes

CARY (LAUGHING)

Boy I know you lying.

Dante and Tyler laugh too. It dies down.

CARY (SMILES) (CONT'D)
Anyway that's ok because the main
reason y'all are together today was
to hang out.

Dante and Tyler smile.

After some time passes Dante and Tyler finish their food.

TYLER
May we be excused?

CARY
Of course.

They go wash their plates in the sink then head to Dante's
room.

FADE TO BLACK - 3 MONTHS LATER

INT. HOME - DAY

Cary knocks Evangeline's door.

EVANGELINE
Hey girl, come on in!

Cary steps in.

CARY
Hey girl, how are you?

EVANGELINE
I'm good, it's so good to see you!
How are you?

CARY
Same here! And I'm good!

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)
How's Omarion?

EVANGELINE
He's great. He's actually sleeping
right now.

CARY
Oh, ok. How the kids?

EVANGELINE
They're alright. How's Dante?

CARY
He's good, he had so much fun with
your kids.

EVANGELINE
I'm beyond happy to hear that, my
kids said they had a good time too.

Both women smile.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
I got biscuits and gravy if you
hungry. If you ain't want that I
got other things.

Cary smiles.

CARY
Thank you. I like that.

EVANGELINE (SMILING BACK)
No problem.

They walk into the dining room and sit down to eat.

CARY (SMILING)
I remember the days I used to eat
this with my mom.

EVANGELINE (SMILING)
I used to eat this with my mom too. She pauses.

EVANGELINE (WITH A BITTERSWEET LOOK)
(CONT'D)
God I miss her.

She doesn't cry but her face remains bittersweet.

Cary reaches out her arms without saying a word.

Evangeline enters her embrace.

They break out of it.

When they do Evangeline smiles.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
Thank you, I needed that.

CARY
No need to thank me, that's what
friends are for, remember?

Evangeline's smile widens.

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)
Wanna talk about her? Like the good
times?

EVANGELINE (SIGHS, RELAXES HER BODY)
Well...

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
My favorite memories with her are
whenever I used to cry she used to
sing to me. Even as I got older.
She had such a beautiful voice.

Cary smiles.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
She even sang at my wedding, and
afterwards she -

EVANGELINE (HER EYES WATER AND SHE
LOOKS DOWN) (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry.

Cary reaches out her arms again. Evangeline enters her
embrace.

CARY
It's alright. I'm here for you too.

Evangeline smiles with tears still in her eyes.

Cary smiles back.

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)
You mentioned your wedding?

EVANGELINE (NO TEARS NOW)
Yes. Why?

CARY
Well I want to know how you and
Omarion met. What was it like?

FLASHBACK

EXT - OUTSIDE - DAY

EVANGELINE (QUIETLY)
This the last time I'm doing this.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (EYES WATERING) (CONT'D)
I'm sick of this stuff.

PIMP (ANGRILY)
You gon keep working for me as long
as I tell you. You make the most
sales.

A beat.

PIMP (CONT'D)
Now go in there, and do what you do
best.

He pauses again.

PIMP (LAUGHING) (CONT'D)
The only thing you know how to do.

Evangeline's eyes is filled with tears.

Her head is bowed down and she's about to walk in when she
decides not to go in and turns around.

PIMP (ANGRILY) (CONT'D)
What the hell you doing stupid hoe?
Go get my damn money!

EVANGELINE
I'm tired of selling something that
can't be bought.

She's about to walk away when he grabs her by the hand
aggressively.

EVANGELINE (YELLING) (CONT'D)

Let me go!

Next he places his hand on her neck.

PIMP

I will choke the living hell out of
you if you don't walk yo ass in
that house and get my goddamn money
hoe!

Evangeline refuses to go and then he presses tighter.

He's about to press even more when suddenly he staggers to
the ground and goes unconscious.

There's a man standing behind and above him holding a shovel:
it's Omarion.

Evangeline gasps.

Slow tears fall down her face.

A beat.

DISSOLVE TO:

OMARION

I wonder, if you don't like this
job, why do you do it?

A beat.

Evangeline looks down.

EVANGELINE

I grew up well off. But Daddy got
sick and was unable to work and
then he died. Momma then struggled
as a single mother.

Evangeline takes a deep breath.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)

She doesn't even know I'm working
this job.

OMARION

I see.

He looks down but back up again.

OMARION (CONT'D)
You wanna know why I had this
shovel?

EVANGELINE
No. Why?

OMARION
I was heading to one of my buddies
to exchange it for another one and
to buy new seeds. And that's when I
saw you and that man.

A beat.

OMARION (CONT'D)
I have a garden in my backyard. How
about you work for me?

A beat.

OMARION (CONT'D)
You won't have to sell yourself
anymore and you'll get paid.

She smiles.

EVANGELINE (EYES WATER AS SHE SMILES)
That'll be amazing.

BACK TO THE PRESENT

INT. HOME - DAY

CARY
Wow!

EVANGELINE
I know right?

A beat.

CARY
Is this what you meant when you
said there was a story behind your
garden?

EVANGELINE
Yes it's exactly what I meant.

She looks down.

EVANGELINE (CHUCKLES) (CONT'D)
We worked on that garden like there
was no tomorrow.

A beat.

CARY
When did y'all start dating?

EVANGELINE (SMILING)
Not until two years later.

A beat.

CARY (SMILING)
Did he always talk crazy?

EVANGELINE
Oh honey that never changed.

They both bust out laughing.

CARY
Just like Miciah.

EVANGELINE (LAUGHING)
That story you told me about him
last time had me in stitches girl.

Cary laughs too.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
Speaking of that Cary, you
absolutely do not have to answer
this if it will trigger you -

CARY
What is it?

A beat.

EVANGELINE
It's about Miciah.

A beat.

CARY (LOOKS DOWN AT FIRST THEN UP)
What about him?

EVANGELINE

Well, have you ever thought about,
dating again?

Cary takes a sip of her drink then puts it down.

CARY

Yeah.

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)

I can get along great with what a
guy but...

EVANGELINE

But what?

CARY

They reach out to hold my hand and
I flinch. They lean in and I back
up.

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)

And when we lay down, my body is in
fight or flight. I-I-I just can't.

CARY (CONT'D)

It feels like I'm cheating.

Evangeline reaches out her arms. Cary enters her embrace.

A long beat.

EVANGELINE

Do you like painting Cary?

CARY

Yeah, I used to paint all the time.

EVANGELINE

Why you stopped?

CARY

Just lost time for it you know?

EVANGELINE

Yeah I get that.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
How you feel about painting right
now?

CARY (SMILES)
That would be nice.

DISSOLVE TO:

Evangeline takes Cary to the basement where there are
canvases and paints.

EVANGELINE
Paint whatever you feel; let it all
out girl.

Cary steps to a blank canvas.

She just stands still at first.

Then she starts painting light colors at first. And she
paints it slowly.

Then slowly, she switches to darker colors.

And she starts to paint faster.

EVANGELINE (PLACES A HAND ON HER
SHOULDER) (CONT'D)
Keep going.

She starts to paint faster.

Then more aggressively.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
Let it all out.

And more aggressively.

CARY (YELLING)
Why did he have to go? Why didn't
God stop him? Why does he have to
be in hell when he was already
living in it?

She stops and breaks down crying.

Evangeline opens her arms and Cary thrusts herself into her
embrace.

A beat.

They break away.

EVANGELINE (GENTLY LOOKING INTO HER EYES)

Cary, I want you to know, God's silence doesn't equate absence. He's always with you, even when you can't feel. He's like air. Sometimes you don't know it's there until you can't breathe anymore.

A beat.

Cary's eyes water again and she looks down.

Evangeline gently lifts up Cary's chin.

CARY

I needed to hear that.

Evangeline opens her arms again.

A beat.

They let go and there's a pause.

EVANGELINE

Cary, if you're comfortable talking about it, why do you think he's in hell?

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)

He sounded like a good man.

A beat.

CARY (QUIETLY)

I don't want to talk about that right now.

EVANGELINE

And that's completely ok girl. If you ARE ready to talk I'm here.

CARY (WIPING HER TEARS)

Thank you so much.

EVANGELINE

Absolutely. And if you ever have any questions about God, religion or spirituality I'm here.

CARY

Ok.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (SMILES)

You ready to get out this house?

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)

Say we go on a walk?

CARY (LOOKS UP AND SMILES)

That would be nice.

EXT. OUTSIDE - DAY

Evangeline and Cary are walking outside and talking.

EVANGELINE

Should we go to the cafe again?

CARY

Yes! I been craving some lemon cake!

EVANGELINE (STOPS WALKING)

Driving or walking?

CARY (SMILING)

We can walk.

EVANGELINE

I see someone's feeling they self.

They both laugh.

INT. CAFE - DAY

They're in the line at the cafe getting ready to buy the cakes and tea.

After some time passes, it's their turn.

EVANGELINE

We would like some lemon cake.

She pauses and turns to Cary.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
You want anything to drink?

CARY
How about their oreo milkshakes?

EVANGELINE (LAUGHS)
You and your oreos ain't nothing to
play with.

Cary laughs too and playfully shoves her which makes
Evangeline laugh.

The cashier smiles as well.

The laughter dies down.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
We would like some lemon cake and
oreo milkshakes please.

CASHIER (SMILING)
That will be \$7.99.

DISSOLVE TO:

EVANGELINE
This cake is so good!

CARY (WAVING HERFORK)
You can say that again!

There's a pause as they drink and eat.

EVANGELINE
Hey Cary?

CARY
Yeah?

EVANGELINE
How you feeling?

Cary looks down at first then up and smiles.

CARY (SINGING NINA SIMONE)
I'm feeling good.

EVANGELINE (LAUGHING)
You say I play too much? Look at
you!

Cary laughs too.

The laughter dies down.

CARY
How are you feeling?

EVANGELINE (SMILING)
I'm ok.

Cary smiles too.

They keep talking as music plays over them.

EXT. OUTSIDE - NIGHT

Evangeline and Cary are walking outside after leaving the
cafe.

EVANGELINE
Say, you ready for the movies?

CARY
Yeah of course! Ain't been there in
a minute.

EVANGELINE
That's what's up. Since we friends
now, we gonna be going to that
theatre a lot.

She pauses and smiles.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
And trust and believe you finna
keep getting out that house!

She and Cary laugh.

INT. THEATRE - NIGHT

As they're watching the movie, they're eating popcorn and
drinking juice and laughing at a particular scene.

EXT. OUTSIDE - NIGHT

Evangeline and Cary are outside about to head in the car.

CARY
That movie was so funny girl!

EVANGELINE (SMILING)
I know right, especially when the
guy slipped like that.

CARY
You know you wrong.

They bust out in laughter.

FADE

INT. HOME - NIGHT

Cary is laying on her bed and staring at her ceiling.

CARY
Lord, I know I don't talk to you
often.

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)
And you know why.

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)
But there's a yearning in my heart
I have for you that I can't
explain.

A beat.

Suddenly her eyes begin to fill with tears.

CARY (CONT'D)
My relationship with you is so
complicated. I get so angry at you
but I still feel drawn to you. I
just don't know if I'll ever be
able to step foot in another church
again.

She pauses to wipe some of her tears.

CARY (CONT'D)
 And it's hurting me because I don't
 fully understand but for some
 reason, I still want to talk to
 you.

She pauses.

CARY (WHISPERING WITH TEARS COMING
 DOWN) (CONT'D)
 You've been fighting for my soul
 for a long time.

She laughs with tears in her eyes, putting hands up of
 pretend surrender.

CARY (CONT'D)
 You win God.

MONTAGE:

- A. Sometimes Cary is at dinner with Evangeline's family.
- B. Sometimes they're at dinner with her and Dante.
- C. Some days Cary is crying as Evangeline holds her.
- D. Some days they're both crying.
- E. Cary prays in her alone time.

END OF MONTAGE.

FADE TO BLACK - MONTHS LATER

INT. HOME - NIGHT

Cary is at Omarion and Evangeline's house for dinner.

OMARION (TO EVANGELINE)
 Baby, please pass me the parmesan.

EVANGELINE
 Sure sweetheart.

She passes it to him.

OMARION (SMILING)
 Thank you baby.

EVANGELINE
 Of course.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
Anybody need anything?

She pauses.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
Cary you good?

CARY (SMILING)
Yes ma'am. Thank you.

EVANGELINE (SMILES BACK)
My pleasure girl.

CARY
How was school kids?

BOYS (IN UNISON)
Lame!

The adults laugh at this.

SALLY
I actually liked it. I got a
cupcake today for being kind.

JOHN
Of course you did, goody two shoes.

The rest of her brothers laugh.

OMARION
Ay don't play with my baby like
that.

The daughter smiles a condescending smile and the brothers
fake roll their eyes.

Dante just smiles.

OMARION (CONT'D)
Say, Dante, how you been doing in
school?

DANTE
Good! I got a B on my test last
week!

Cary smiles widely.

OMARION
Give me five little man!

Dante gives him a high - five.

EVANGELINE
Yeah, that's really good. You must
be proud Cary.

CARY
Yeah I am.

Everyone goes back to eating their food.

While they're eating, Evangeline looks at Cary and stops.

EVANGELINE
Hey Cary, can we talk privately
after dinner?

CARY
Yes, sure.

EVANGELINE
You mind us going to the porch?

CARY
I don't mind.

DISSOLVE TO:

They are at the porch sitting down.

EVANGELINE
Girl what's up?

CARY (SMILING)
I should be asking you, you the one
that called me out here.

They both laugh.

A beat.

EVANGELINE
Fair point. But no - I don't know
it's just that as we were talking
at the table, you had this look in
your eyes.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
It's like you're here with me but
your mind is somewhere else.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
What's on your mind?

CARY (LAUGHING SLIGHTLY)
A lot.

Evangeline reaches out her hands to support Cary who accepts
the gesture.

EVANGELINE
Yeah? Wanna talk about some of it?

A beat.

Cary looks off into the distance.

CARY
I been thinking more about church
and God. Religion.

A beat.

EVANGELINE
What specifically have you been
thinking about?

A beat.

CARY
When Omarion saw what he did at the
park, for the first time in a long
time I felt like God heard me.

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)
But I still feel conflicted about
God...and church... and religion. No
matter how I try to convince
myself. I know he's real but
everytime I think about what the
church said about Miciah I struggle
to move past that.

EVANGELINE
What did they say?

Cary swallows hard and her eyes water but she doesn't release her cry fully.

CARY
That he's in hell for...

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)
For taking his life.

Evangeline's face shifts quickly and her own eyes water.

EVANGELINE
Oh honey...

She opens her arms and Cary enters into her arms.

They sit their in silence for a while before Evangeline speaks.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry you've had to carry
this burden so long.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
I don't know if this will be of
much comfort, but God loves your
husband dearly.

CARY(QUIETLY)
I constantly have thought about
that but if he loved him, why would
he torture him eternally for being
tired?

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)
I genuinely struggle to understand
how a loving God would see a
suffering son and allow him to
experience more pain.

Evangeline looks down.

EVANGELINE (EYES WATER AGAIN)
Sometimes before people pull the
trigger on themselves, grab the
rope or take the pills, society
killed them spiritually first.
(MORE)

EVANGELINE (EYES WATER AGAIN) (CONT'D)
Most are actually victims of a
system Satan created.

She pauses and looks at Cary whose eyes are watery.

CARY
Wow.

A long beat.

EVANGELINE (LOOKS AT CARY)
Cary can I tell you something
personal?

CARY
You can tell me anything.

A beat.

EVANGELINE
Well when I was 12, I was touched
by my older cousin multiple times.

A beat.

Cary places her hand on Evangeline's back.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
And I committed when I was 13 after
my mom took his side.

She looks away and goes silent for a while and finally the
tears pour.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
When I opened my eyes, I seen the
most beautiful houses. I saw colors
not seen on earth. The people there
were smiling and never cried. There
was no hunger and the flowers would
sing. I saw the most beautiful
mockingbirds. I saw lilies and
roses that were beyond beautiful.

She pauses again and looks directly at Cary.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
I saw paradise Cary.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (WHISPERING) (CONT'D)
I saw God.

She pauses and looks at Cary who's fully crying.
She opens her arms and Cary enters her embrace.
The two ladies sit there with tears.
They both wipe their tears now and are hugging.
A longer beat.
They let go.

CARY
Thank you for telling me that.

A beat.

CARY (CONT'D)
But some people say they seen their
loved ones in hell that did it.

Evangeline nods.

She looks down.

EVANGELINE
Cary?

CARY
Yes?

EVANGELINE
I want you to do something.

CARY
What's that?

A beat.

Evangeline looks directly at her.

EVANGELINE
I want you to lay out your son's
clothes. Especially clothes from
when he was younger. But it doesn't
have to be.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
And for each day, I want you to lay
it out and imagine your son was in
so much emotional distress he hurt
himself.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
Then I want you to try to burn the
clothes.

CARY (EYES WIDEN)
Why?

EVANGELINE
Because you're angry at him for
what he did to himself.

CARY
But I can't do that! How could you
even ask me that?

Evangeline doesn't say anything.

Cary gets up.

Evangeline gently places a hand on her shoulder.

EVANGELINE (LOOKING DIRECTLY AT HER)
"Can a woman forget her nursing
child, that she should have no
compassion on the son of her womb?
Even these may forget, yet I will
not forget you."

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
Isaiah 49:15.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
The idea of burning the shirt of
your hurting son hurts you doesn't
it?

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
It's supposed too.

Cary's slowly begins to sob.

EVANGELINE (VOICE BREAKING) (CONT'D)
Cary, I'm not the ultimate judge of
your husband's soul, but in the
bible it says the Lord will have
mercy on whom he will and
compassion on whom he will.

A beat.

EVANGELINE (CONT'D)
That includes suicide.

Cary quickly enters the embrace of Evangeline and they're
both crying.

FADE TO BLACK - 3 YEARS LATER

EXT. OUTSIDE - DAY

Dante and Cary are seen outside of a building. (The building
isn't yet revealed to the audience.

CARY
You ready?

DANTE
I'm kind of nervous mom.

A beat.

DANTE (SMILING) (CONT'D)
But ready.

Cary hugs him.

They hug for a while and tears fall from their eyes.

They let go.

They step closer and suddenly Omarion and Evangeline's church
is revealed.

Evangeline sees Cary step in and Cary and Dante immediately
hug her wordlessly.