

MANHOOD

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EXT. MIAMI, FLORIDA: I-195 - NIGHT

MUSIC CUE: "MR. ORGANIK - GARGOYLE G.A.N.G"

Aerial view of traffic on the HIGHWAY. MARCUS a young black man in his early 20s ride in a clean build BMW. Marcus's passes a semi truck missing the cop sitting on the shoulder. He makes a lane change by an FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL CAR while speeding. The officer cuts on his LIGHTS. A BLOODY SHIRT and a GUN shifts on the floor board in the back seat. He fixes his MIRROR and sees the FLASHING LIGHTS from the police car. He moves to the next lane and pulls to the shoulder. He turns down the radio as the POLICE OFFICER walks up to his car. Marcus opening his GLOVE COMPARTMENT as the officer walks up and taps on WINDOW with flashlight. He winds down the window.

POLICE OFFICER
Do you know why I pulled you over.

MARCUS
I was speeding officer.

POLICE OFFICER
So what's the rush tonight?

MARCUS
I'm on the way take my fiance to the hospital. I have a kid on the way.

POLICE OFFICER
Speeding is speeding.

MARCUS
Yes, I know I'm in the wrong. Just trying to get to my pregnant wife.

POLICE OFFICER
Do you have your licenses and registration for the vehicle?

Marcus reaches in his GLOVE COMPARTMENT for his information.

OFFICER'S MICROPHONE (DISPATCHER)
We have a code 6 downtown. I repeat. Shots fired in the downtown area.

OFFICER ON THE MICROPHONE

10-4 dispatch, I'll check on it.

The police officer turns down microphone.

MARCUS
(Hands information)
Here you go sir.

POLICE OFFICER
Sit tight. I'll be right back.

The officer walks back to his PATROL CAR to check Marcus's registration and license. Marcus puts head on the steering wheel.

MARCUS
Shit! Sounds like I'm getting a ticket tonight.

The officer walks up slowly.

POLICE OFFICER
Well I'm gonna let go with a warning but you can't be switching lanes like that, especially at those speeds. I'm giving you serious a break tonight.

MARCUS
Thanks officer! I'll slow it down.

POLICE OFFICER
I have 3 kids of my own.

MARCUS
First kid so I'm a little nervous.

POLICE OFFICER
I understand. You'll make it though.

MARCUS
I keep telling myself that.

Two POLICE CARS wiz by the officer. He turns his head back to Marcus and while handing the information back to Marcus, he notices something on the FLOOR BOARD.

POLICE OFFICER
Before I cut you loose. What's that on the floor board in the backseat?

MARCUS
(Turns around)
That's not my gun sir.

POLICE OFFICER
Well, it's in your car.

MARCUS
I'm not sure how that got there.

POLICE OFFICER
I can only prove that it's in your car. Marcus...You mind stepping out of the car for me?

MARCUS
Look! I know you're just doing your job but you gotta believe me officer.

POLICE OFFICER
You're coming from the downtown area?

MARCUS
Yes, I own a business in that area.

POLICE OFFICER
I've been doing this for over 27 years so I've heard everything under the sun. Work with me and we'll see.

MARCUS
I have nothing to do with whatever happened downtown.

POLICE OFFICER
What I have before me is more than enough to take you to the station.

MARCUS
This is some bullshit.

POLICE OFFICER
Exit the car Marcus. Just cooperate and we'll get this all sorted out.

MARCUS
I can't believe this shit.
(Gets out)

INT. MARCUS HOUSE - NIGHT

CHRISTINA, a young gorgeous woman, very much PREGNANT sips on a GLASS of water in the kitchen and places it on the counter. She rubs on her belly after feeling a kick.

Moments later, the PHONE rings from the counter top. She walks over and hears Marcus on the other line.

INTERCUT:

INT. DADE COUNTY CORRECTIONAL - NIGHT

MARCUS

Hey baby! I have some bad news.

CHRISTINA

Bad news? Where are you?

MARCUS

I'm in county right now. I think I was set me up but I'm not sure.

CHRISTINA

You see what happens...
(Interrupted)

MARCUS

It wasn't my father this time. I told you I was gonna change and put that life behind me for our kid.

CHRISTINA

Keyword Marcus. WAS!

MARCUS

Shit Christina! Stop busting my balls and believe me for once?

CHRISTINA

I told you to stay away from your father and his crazy friends.

MARCUS

Don't do this to me. I need you now more than ever.

CHRISTINA

Why should I give you another chance? I gave you one too many and you continue to prove me wrong.

MARCUS

I'm not perfect but I'm trying to change girl. Believe me baby!

CHRISTINA

But you still keep doing things under the table.

(MORE)

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)
What can I do about you in being in
jail right now?

MARCUS
Just let me know you'll wait for
me.

CHRISTINA
Marcus, I need some space to think
this over.

Marcus SLAMS the phone down and puts it back to his HEAD.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)
Marcus...Are you there?

MARCUS
(Stern)
Stop playing with me Christina.

CHRISTINA
I'll call when I'm ready to talk.

MARCUS
You're supposed to be my woman!

CHRISTINA
I am but I don't want my baby
involved with your father business.

MARCUS
Don't you mean our baby?

CHRISTINA
If you cared. You would've stop
when I told you I was pregnant your
baby.

MARCUS
You know what. Whatever Christina!
You're just like your fuckin'
mother.

Marcus hangs up the PHONE before being escorted back to his cell by the correctional officer. Christina looks at the PHONE SCREEN in shocked before a TEAR rolls down her face. She wipes the tear away and puts the phone on the counter top. She steps in the MASTER BEDROOM to start packing her things. She puts the PICTURES of Marcus and her in the SUITCASE. She books her ticket for a flight in the morning and calls her friend. She wakes up and eats breakfast the next morning with her SUITCASE at the front door. A Uber XL SUV pulls up outside their BEAUTIFUL HOUSE in the Pinecrest Neighborhood.

The driver drops her off at the MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT and helps her with her 2 suitcase and carry-on.

INT. DADE COUNTY CORRECTIONAL: VISITING ROOM - DAY

LAWRENCE walks over to the glass window and takes a seat. On the other side, Marcus is already sitting down at the window waiting to speak to his friend.

LAWRENCE

I came as soon as I got your message.

MARCUS

You're the only person I trust outside of these walls.

LAWRENCE

What's going on?

MARCUS

I need a favor. A huge favor.

LAWRENCE

I'll do anything for you Marcus. As long as it's legal. You know my M.O.

MARCUS

Wouldn't throw you back in the fire.

LAWRENCE

They taking care of you in there?

MARCUS

It's not the dog in the fight, it's the fight in the dog. If I can make it on the streets, prison ain't nothing.

LAWRENCE

(Deep breath)

I hate seeing you like this but what can I do for you Marcus?

MARCUS

I called you down here to see if you can take care of my family. Christina is on her way out west with my son.

LAWRENCE
California?

MARCUS
(Nods)
I have a card in my safe at the house. It's dirty money. But! It's untraceable so take care of them.

LAWRENCE
You save my life so I owe you big time. You know I gotcha back.

MARCUS
I appreciate this.

LAWRENCE
It's the least I can do.

INT. L.A.X INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

The LAX SIGN comes into view. Christina meets her friend AMANDA outside with the baggage helper. The baggage handler loads up the car while Amanda and Christina talk.

AMANDA
(Hugs)
How was the flight?

CHRISTINA
Long but I flew first class.

AMANDA
I'm glad you survived the flight.

CHRISTINA
I had to get out of there.

AMANDA
So what happen?

CHRISTINA
It's a long story girl.

AMANDA
Well let's get you off your feet.

CHRISTINA
This really means a lot to me.

Baggage handler closes the TRUNK. Amanda helps Christina in the car and gets in.

AMANDA
 Marcus still in the business?

CHRISTINA
 Like father, like son.

AMANDA
 I thought Denzel would retire from
 that line of work.

CHRISTINA
 He's the biggest guy in south
 beach. And he wants to pull Marcus
 down too.

AMANDA
 You're safe So what are you gonna
 name him?

CHRISTINA
 Marcus and I were supposed
 brainstorm last night.

EXT. LOS ANGELES: CHRISTINA'S NEW APARTMENT - DAY

Christina looks out the WINDOW as they pull up to her new
 apartment in a fairly decent neighborhood. Kids ride their
 BICYCLE and play JUMP ROPE. Amanda looks over at her.

AMANDA
 You okay?

CHRISTINA
 Just thinking the struggles ahead.

AMANDA
 Things are gonna get better, just
 give it some time. You'll adjust.

CHRISTINA
 I wish I was pass that phase
 already.

AMANDA
 Stressing isn't good for the baby
 sweetie. Stop worrying about that.

CHRISTINA
 No, you're right!

AMANDA

I'm not too far from you so if you need a ride somewhere. Just call me.

CHRISTINA

Good, I might need help getting around.

AMANDA

How's this place for starters?

CHRISTINA

It's not like my house in Miami but it will do for now.

Christina starts to contract in the passenger seat. She makes painful faces and noises as Amanda looks over at her.

AMANDA

You okay?

CHRISTINA

No, I think I need to go.

AMANDA

What? To the bathroom?

CHRISTINA

(Yells)
The baby!

AMANDA

Oh, let's get you to the hospital.

INT. LOS ANGELES MEDICAL CENTER - DAY

Amanda and Christina appear in front of the HOSPITAL. The DOCTOR pulls her stretcher down the HALLWAY to get her to a room. It goes BLACK and comes up with the doctor over her.

DOCTOR

Push!

Christina LABOR SCREAMS.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

You doing great, just keep pushing.

CHRISTINA

How much longer?

DOCTOR
You're almost done, just keep
pushing. Breathe in and out.

Christina BREATHES in & out, PUSHES, and YELLS in pain. The
doctor slowly pulls out the baby to assist with delivery.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Okay, I see the head.
(Pulls out Rashad)
It's a beautiful baby boy!

Christina huffing and squeezing Amanda's HAND. Baby CRIES.

AMANDA
You did it girl!

DOCTOR
I'm gonna clean the up baby and
then call you back in.

AMANDA
Okay!

She walks out. Shortly after, Christina holds her baby with
Amanda over her smiling. Rashad lays there sounds asleep.

CHRISTINA
Damn, I didn't know birth was so
damn hard.

AMANDA
He so cute.

CHRISTINA
Looks like his daddy!

AMANDA
As long as he doesn't act like him.

The NURSE opens the DOOR and peeks inside the room.