

WE FALL DOWN

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Opening Credits

EXT. THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA AUTUMN - DAY

VARIOUS AERIAL SHOTS of autumn leaves tumbling on the concrete sidewalks.

Various shots of trees and other green foliage. School children riding to school on a school bus.

Morning commuters getting on a train to work and several scenes of the City and houses decorated with Halloween decor.

INT. SUBWAY PLATFORM - DAY

A group of people and DOMINIQUE DAWSON are waiting on the subway platform as a train pulls into the station.

Dominique and other passengers get on the subway train.

INT. SUBWAY CAR - DAY

The camera follows Dominique as she walks from one car to the next.

Dominique makes sure that her belongings are secure in her shopping cart.

Dominique walks down the aisle pulling her shopping cart.

She is begging a young teenage male for spare change.

DOMINIQUE:

Spare change sir?

The young man has his eyes closed and his headphones on so he doesn't notice Dominique at all.

Dominique asks a female passenger.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

Spare change ma'am?

The lady gives her a dollar.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

Thank you, God bless you ma'am.

LADY ON TRAIN:

No problem.

A man in a business suit is reading a newspaper when Dominique approaches him.

DOMINIQUE:

Can you spare some change sir?

The man in the business suit doesn't put down his paper to acknowledge Dominique.

MAN IN BUSINESS SUIT:

(Behind the newspaper)
Get a damn job.

Dominique stares at the man with the paper for a couple of seconds before moving to the next person.

DOMINIQUE:

Do you have any change sir?

EXT. THE CITY - DAY

Shot #1. The city scenery.

Shot #2. Homeless people in city parks.

Shot #3. In subway tunnels.

Shot #4. On the street then finally on Dominique as she exits the train.

The camera follows Dominique as she walks down the different areas of the city then ending at the Anderson Center.

INT. ANDERSON CENTER- DAY

Dominique enters the Center and greets STACY and MARK who are working in the kitchen.

Other homeless people are at the tables eating and talking.

DOMINIQUE:

Good Morning Stacy, Good Morning
Mark!

STACY & MARK:

Good Morning!

EARL is at the table talking to a friend when he notices Dominique entering the shelter.

DOMINIQUE:

Good Morning Earl!

EARL:

Hey! Good Morning Dominique! How
you doing?

DOMINIQUE:

I'm doing fine. I can't complain.

Dominique walks to the kitchen.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

Where's Miss Rosa?

MARK:

She's in the back as usual.

Dominique removes several layers of clothing then fold them neatly before placing them in her cart and storing the cart under a counter.

MARK: (CONT'D)

You are always so neat with your
things Dominique.

DOMINIQUE:

Well you know what they say
cleanliest is next to Godliest. But
I don't have time to chat I gotta
see what Rosa have for me to do
today.

MARK:

Alright girl, but lunch is on me. I
got the hot dish of the week.

DOMINIQUE & STACY:

OOOOHHHHH!

DOMINIQUE:

You are too much.

Dominique walks to Miss. Rosa's office and then knocks on the
door.

INT. MISS ROSA'S OFFICE - DAY

MISS ROSA is sitting at her desk working at the computer.

MISS ROSA:

Come in.

Dominique enters the office.

DOMINIQUE:

Good morning Rosa. What's on the
agenda for today?

MISS ROSA:

I don't have any work for you today
Dominique. But I tell you what.
Sweep the dinning hall and clean
the tables and if I have anything
available I'll let you know.

DOMINIQUE:

Okay. I'm right on it.

Dominique leaves the office while Miss. Rosa continues working on the computer.

INT. DINNING HALL - DAY

Dominique retrieves a broom from a broom closet. She cleans the dining hall and clean the tables.

Dominique returns the broom and other cleaning supplies back into the closet. Mark enters the dinning hall with a plate of food.

MARK:

Have you eaten this morning
Dominique?

DOMINIQUE:

No. I have not.

Dominique sits at the table.

Mark puts the plate on the table in front of her and sits in a seat across from Dominique.

Dominique scoffs down the meal.

MARK:

Slow down girl before you choke.

Earl strolls into the conversation.

EARL:

Now we don't want that, do we?

DOMINIQUE:

I haven't eaten in a couple of
days, and after I leave here I'm
going job hunting.

MARK & EARL:

Again?

DOMINIQUE:

Yes again. I have to make a living.

EARL:

When are you going to stop all this fooling around and go out with me?

Dominique laughs.

DOMINIQUE:

Earl, you and I together can't put two pennies together. Please. Get your head out of the clouds cause it's not going to happen.

Earl laughs.

EARL:

Well at least I tried.

DOMINIQUE:

Take care of yourself Earl.

EARL:

Will do.

Earl puts on his coat and walks out the door.

MARK:

Earl is a trip.

DOMINIQUE:

Yeah he's something alright.

Dominique wipes her mouth and gets ready to leave.

MARK:

You're serious?

DOMINIQUE:

What?

MARK:

You really going out there to look for a job? No offense. But have you looked at your self lately. Ain't nobody gonna hire some homeless woman off the streets. I mean your head is in the right place but let's get real here.

DOMINIQUE:

(Sadden)

I know, but I have to try. I gotta do something or else...

MARK:

(interrupting)

Or else what? We're living in a messed up world with messed up people living in it. You didn't ask for this, nobody in this shelter ask for this. But that's life Dominique.

Dominique sighs and rests her head on the table while Mark pats her back.

EXT. THE CHURCH - DAY

ARIAL SHOT OF THE CHURCH.

INT. THE CHURCH - DAY

CAMERA PANS the inside of the church finally resting on PASTOR WILLIAMS in the pulpit polishing the wood furniture. When SISTER AGNES walks down the aisle with a large box in her arms.

SISTER AGNES:

Pastor! Pastor Williams!

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Yes Sister Agnes.

SISTER AGNES:

The Bibles are here.

Pastor Williams rest his polishing cloth on the alter and rushes over to help Sister Agnes with the box.

SISTER AGNES: (CONT'D)

Thank you Pastor. This box is heavy.

Pastor takes the box and sits it on the floor.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Glad to help.

SISTER AGNES:

Now we can throw those old bibles away.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

No we won't.

SISTER AGNES:

What are you going to do with them?

Sister Agnes walks over to one of the pews and removes an old bible and walks back to Pastor Williams.

SISTER AGNES: (CONT'D)

Look at this old thing. It's falling apart, pages are missing and look, the cover is gone. What are you going to do with this? Huh?

Pastor Williams examines the book and laughs.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

You got a point there. Well the ones that are salvageable we can donate them. The rest we will throw them away.

SISTER AGNES:

Okay Pastor! You're the boss.

EXT. DINER - DAY

Dominique looking for work. She sees a help wanted sign in the window of a dinner. She walks inside.

INT. DINER - DAY

The customers inside are disgusted by Dominique's odor as she walks into the dinner. A WAITRESS approaches Dominique with her two fingers pinching her nose.

WAITRESS:

(Nasally)
May I help you?

Dominique looks around at the offensive stares she is getting from the customers.

DOMINIQUE:

Yes. My name is Dominique Dawson
and saw the help wanted sign and
I...

WAITRESS:

(Interrupting)
The position has been filled.

DOMINIQUE:

But the sign is still in the
window.

WAITRESS:

Yeah, uhmm no the position was
filled this morning. Yeah sorry.

The waitress dashes to the window and remove the sign.

DOMINIQUE:

Oh, okay sorry to have wasted your
time.

WAITRESS:

MmmHmm. Buy.

Dominique leaves.

EXT. CHINESE FOOD RESTAURANT - DAY.

Dominique picks up a broom in front of a Chinese food
restaurant and begins to sweep but the owner takes the broom
and shoos her away.

CHINESE RESTAURANT OWNER:

Go, go leave! Nothing for you here.

INT. VARIOUS BUSINESSES - DAY.

Scenes of three different people from various businesses
telling Dominique no.

BUSINESS OWNER ONE:

NO.

BUSINESS OWNER TWO:

The position has been filled.

BUSINESS OWNER THREE:

I'm Sorry.

EXT. AFTERNOON CITY STROLL - DAY.

Dominique is seen walking down a busy street.

DOMINIQUE:

(O.S)

Fake smiles, masked feelings and
masked desires broken like
shattered glass. I tried to put the
pieces back together but much
sooner than later I find myself
fading away into the background.

Dominique is watching a couple having a conversation in a
near by cafe window while they laugh and enjoy each others
company.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

(O.S)

I still can't believe that he's
actually gone. I swear I can still
feel his presence.

Through a reflection in a store window JOHN appears behind
Dominique and kisses her on the cheek before vanishing.

She reaches inside her coat pocket and removes a military
PURPLE HEART MEDAL.

She caresses the medal before putting it back into her
pocket.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

(O.S)

Why did you leave me? Why did you
have to go?

EXT. AFTERNOON CITY STROLL - DAY

Dominique walking down the street.

DOMINIQUE:

(O.S)

People try to empathize and lend a
sympathetic ear when actually all I
ever wanted was a chance.

(MORE)

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)
Folks can't possibly know how I
feel unless they walked a mile in
my shoes. Life is hard enough as it
is. Who needs advice from an
amateur therapist who can point out
someone else's flaws but fail to
identify their own problems?

Dominique pan handling as she walks down a busy, crowded
center city street.

The CAMERA FOCUS on the faces of the patrons that walk by.
Some will give her money while others will decline.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

If only I could disappear and avoid
the criticism. Look at them.
Staring at me with the gawk of
shame. How dare they judge me and
render a verdict without hearing my
testimony? Don't I have the right
to tell my side of the story? Oh
God. What have I done to deserve
this?

INT. CHURCH SANCTUARY - DAY.

Dominique enters the church with tears rolling down her face.

She looks around the church for a short moment before running
to the altar.

Dominique stares at the large golden cross above the pulpit
before clasping to her knees.

DOMINIQUE:

Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallow shall be thou name...

CUT TO:

INT. PASTOR WILLIAMS OFFICE - DAY.

The pastor is reading from his Bible and writing his notes in a pad.

When he hears a female's voice in the sanctuary sobbing.

DOMINIQUE:

(O.S. Sobbing)
Thy kingdom come thou will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven...

CUT BACK TO:

INT. CHURCH SANCTUARY - DAY.

Dominique continues to cry when Pastor Williams enters the sanctuary.

He places his hand on Dominique's shoulder.

She looks up.

The pastor pauses for a moment (Dominique is beautiful) before giving her his white handkerchief from his pocket.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

What seems to be troubling you
Miss?

Dominique stares at the fancy initials embroidered on the handkerchief and decides not to use it.

She folds it and gives it back to the pastor.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Oh no you keep it. You might need
it later.

Dominique insists and gives the Pastor the handkerchief.

DOMINIQUE:

No that's okay.

The pastor knells down next to Dominique.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Whatever is bothering you, you are
in the right place.

Dominique responds nonchalantly.

DOMINIQUE:

Oh yeah? Well can the Lord give me
a job?

The pastor laughs.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Wow... As of a matter of fact he
can.

DOMINIQUE:

What?

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Sure. We have been needing someone
to clean and spruce up the place.

DOMINIQUE:

Really?

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

When do you want to start?

DOMINIQUE:

Right now.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Okay, but first. My name is David
Richard Williams Jr. and you?

The pastor extend his right hand.

DOMINIQUE:

Oh, I'm sorry my name is Dominique
Dawson.

Dominique wipes her hand on her coat before shaking the
pastor's hand.

SCENE SEVENTEEN: EXT. ANDERSON CENTER - NIGHT

A long line is formed outside the center. Earl rushes over to
Stacy.

EARL:

Oh come on Stacy you know me.

STACY:

Sorry Earl. But there isn't anymore
beds.

EARL:

I bet you if I was your precious
Dominique you would let me in. Come
on, it's cold.

STACY:

Why you got to go there? Earl you
know it's first come, first serve.
We've been through this.

Earl flags Stacy off before disappearing into the crowd.
Miss. Rosa comes out of the shelter to make an announcement.

MISS ROSA:

Hello! Excuse Me!

Mark comes out of the shelter to control the unruly crowd.

MARK:

Hay! Listen up!

The crowd continue to remain unruly.

MARK: (CONT'D)

YO! SHUT THE HELL UP!

The crowd becomes quiet. Miss Rosa hits Mark over the head with the papers in her hand.

MISS ROSA:

Mark!

MARK:

What?

MISS ROSA:

Your mouth.

MARK:

Hay, you wanted crowd control.

MISS ROSA:

Thank you but no thanks.

Miss Rosa addresses the crowd.

MISS ROSA: (CONT'D)

I'm sorry however we do not have anymore beds in the shelter! All beds are filled!

The crowd sighs, some suck their teeth and grunts over the disappointing news.

The crowd disburse in many different directions.

Dominique stands alone.

DOMINIQUE:

(somber voice)

Are you sure there isn't anymore room? I lost track of time.

MISS ROSA:

No Dominique. You know the rules.

DOMINIQUE:

Okay I'll see you in the morning.

MISS ROSA:

I'll see you later dear.

Dominique secures her belongings in her cart and begin to walk down the street.

She digs into her coat pocket and pulls out two bus tokens.

DOMINIQUE:

(O.S. talking to herself)
I guess I'm going to slumber on the
midnight express tonight.

INT. SUBWAY STATION - NIGHT

Dominique puts a token into the automatic pay booth and walks through the turn style onto the subway plateau.

A train stops at the station and Dominique and other passengers get on.

INT. ON THE SUBWAY TRAIN - NIGHT

The Dominique chooses a seat in the back of the train and secures her belongings under her legs. Dominique begins to drift off to sleep.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE DINER - DAY

Dominique is wearing a beautiful yellow sundress as she enters the diner. When an elderly waitress approaches her.

D.S. WAITRESS:

Go on and take a sit baby and I
will be right with you.

DOMINIQUE:

Yes ma'am.

Dominique takes a seat.

D.S. WAITRESS:

Can I start you off with something to drink before you order?

DOMINIQUE:

Yes ma'am. May I have a glass of ice tea?

D.S. WAITRESS:

Sure honey.

Dominique flips through the menu. Her eyes glance over the various mouth watering selections but settles for something simple.

The waitress comes back with her Ice Tea.

D.S. WAITRESS: (CONT'D)

Are you ready to order?

DOMINIQUE:

Yes I'll have a short stack of pancakes with two eggs scrambled with a side order of turkey bacon please.

The waitress writes Dominique's order down on a small pad.

D.S. WAITRESS:

... and a side order of turkey bacon. Will that be all hon?

DOMINIQUE:

Yes ma'am.

D.S. WAITRESS:

Well done. I'll be back with your order shorty.

DOMINIQUE:

Thank you.

The waitress removes the menu and leaves to fill the order. Dominique takes a few sips of her ice tea when her date enters the diner.

JOHN:

Turkey bacon? Don't tell me you're going Muslim on me.

DOMINIQUE:

John?

JOHN:

Who else could it be?

The waitress re-enters the scene.

D.S. WAITRESS:

Oh you have company. So what can I get for you? Would you like to start with a drink, our peach ice tea is the best in the city.

JOHN:

Yes I'll have the Ice Tea and a plate of your best and smothered chops.

D.S. WAITRESS:

Alright then. I'll be back with your orders momentarily .

JOHN:

I love you Nique.

DOMINIQUE:

I love you to.

JOHN:

Our son is safe with me. You gotta
let go babe.

DOMINIQUE:

Go? Go where? Why? What are you
saying John?

JOHN:

It's not your fault. We love you
babe, you gotta let us go.

Blood drips from John's forehead and O.S. the sound of bombs
and gun fire echo in the distance.

JOHN: (CONT'D)

We love you babe...

INT. ON THE SUBWAY TRAIN - NIGHT

A cop is tapping on Dominique's worn out shoes waking her up.
He's shouting but Dominique can't make out what he is saying.

COP:

You can't sleep here!

DOMINIQUE:

Huh?

COP:

I said you can't sleep here! Get
moving!

Dominique grabs her cart and things and exits the train at
the next station.

SCENE TWENTY: INT. ANDERSON CENTER - NIGHT.

People are on their individual cots sleep.

A little girl is being comforted by her mother as Mark watches over the crowd of slumbering guests.

When Miss Rosa approaches Mark with a bottle of water.

MISS ROSA:

Here's your water.

MARK:

Thanks.

Mark stares blankly and opens the bottle without taking a drink.

MISS ROSA:

What's the matter Hon? What's on your mind?

Mark changes his gaze and focus on Miss Rosa.

MARK:

This whole situation. Dominique, and even these babies. I know half of these people don't deserve my sympathy. Humph, they on drugs and shit. What a waste.

MISS ROSA:

But that's life.

MARK:

That's life?

MISS ROSA:

Yes.

MARK:

No. I mean Dominique is a beautiful human being inside and out. I don't understand how a woman with a heart of gold can end up here.

MISS ROSA:

God...

MARK:

Don't preach to me Miss Rosa I'm not in the mood.

MISS ROSA:

Hold on now, wait one minute. When it comes to my God I will not debate with you or anybody else. God...

MARK:

God.

MISS ROSA:

Yes. My God is a awesome God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your heart and mind through Jesus Christ. Just you wait and see God has a plan for us all.

MARK:

Philippians 4:7

MISS ROSA:

That's my baby. I taught you well, didn't I?

Miss Rosa gives Mark a hug.

MISS ROSA: (CONT'D)

Don't you worry.

EXT. RITTEN-HOUSE SQUARE CITY PARK - NIGHT.

Dominique hides behind a tree while two policemen finish paroling the park area. When the coast is clear she settles on a park bench.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CORPORATE OFFICE - DAY

Workers are in their cubicles working in front of computers , phones are ringing, some collages are at the water cooler chatting.

INT. DOMINIQUE'S OFFICE - DAY

CAMERA CLOSE UP FRAME on Dominique Dawson's name plate on the a door and GRADUALLY PULLS BACK to a lavish modern day office.

SARAH Dominique's assistant walks swiftly to the door and knocks upon entering her office.

DOMINIQUE:

Yes. Sarah.

SARAH:

Mrs. Dawson Mr. Whitman request that you see him immediately.

DOMINIQUE:

Did he give a reason for this urgency?

SARAH:

No ma'am, he just wants to see you.

DOMINIQUE:

Okay.

Camera follows Dominique down the hall to MR. WHITMAN'S Office.

INT. MR. WHITMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Dominique knocks before entering. There are two other older men in business suits are sitting along with Mr. Whitman.

DOMINIQUE:

Yes. Mr. Whitman, Sir. You wanted to see me?

Mr. Whitman retrieves a tan folder from a stack of papers.

MR. WHITMAN:

Is this you signature Mrs. Dawson?

Dominique examines the document in question.

DOMINIQUE:

Yes sir. This is the Anderson Center on (Broad & Arch.)

MR. WHITMAN:

So it's true you went behind our backs to save a building that was sanction to be demolished?

DOMINIQUE:

Demolished? No sir.
(MORE)

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

The building was up for sheriff sale due to unpaid taxes.

MR. WHITMAN:

This building was suppose to have been demolished four weeks ago for a new development.

DOMINIQUE:

But what about the people who depend on the Anderson Center?

MR. WHITMAN:

(Angrily)

Then they should to get up off their lazy bottoms and get a job and stop mooching off of decent tax payers money!

Mr. Whitman slams his fist on the table.

MR. WHITMAN: (CONT'D)

Your Fired Miss Dawson!

DOMINIQUE:

Fired?! I've been working for you for the past ten years and I've made a lot of money for this company.

MR. WHITMAN:

Be as it may. You should have thought of that before you went rogue, frolicking with the city's homeless population .

DOMINIQUE:

Mr. Whitman we must come to a compromise. I'm pregnant and my husband is in Afghanistan.

MR. WHITMAN:

Your life is non of my concern.

DOMINIQUE:

You are a vulture Mr. Whitman.

Mr. Whitman looks to the two gentleman at the table and the pair nods their heads. Mr. Whitman presses a button on his phone and calls for security.

SECURITY OFFICER:

(V.O. Phone speaker)
Yes sir Mr. Whitman.

MR. WHITMAN:

Oh, yes Matthew I need assistance removing a subordinate.

DOMINIQUE:

No Walter. That won't be necessary.
But you will be hearing from my lawyer.

CAMERA follows Dominique out the door and down the hall into her office.

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. RITTEN-HOUSE SQUARE CITY PARK - NIGHT.

Dominique is resting on the bench with her eyes close.

EXT. ACROSS THE STREET FROM RITTEN-HOUSE - NIGHT.

Earl is smoking a cigarette with his accomplice on a near by street corner watching Dominique.

EARL:

Well, well, well what do we have here?

PETER:

Who are you talking about?

Earl points at Dominique who is unaware of their presents.

PETER: (CONT'D)

What about her?

EARL:

Pete do you ever wonder what she got in that cart of her's that she keeps guarding like a safe?

PETER:

To be honest. No.

EARL:

I do.

Earl tosses his lite cigarette onto the ground and scurries across the street. Peter follows behind.

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. RITTEN-HOUSE SQUARE CITY PARK - NIGHT.

Dominique hears a twig being broken under someone's weight.
Dominique opens her eyes.

DOMINIQUE:

Who's there? Show yourself!

Earl approaches Dominique.

EARL:

I didn't mean to disturb you my
queen.

Dominique sighs in relief.

DOMINIQUE:

Oh, Earl? You scared me. What are
you doing here? I thought you would
be at the shelter.

EARL:

Funny. I was thinking the same
thing.

Peter walks over and waves.

DOMINIQUE:

Hi, do I know you? Earl introduce
me to your friend.

EARL:

Why should I? Names are formal when
this experience is anything but.

Dominique laughs uncomfortably.

DOMINIQUE:

What? What do you mean?

Earl grabs Dominique's shopping cart.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

What are you doing Earl! Stop!

Earl and Dominique tussle about. Dominique and the contents of her shopping cart tumble to the ground. Earl straddles Dominique and start hitting her in the face. Peter pushes Earl off Dominique.

PETER:

What the hell are you doing man?

Earl rummage through Dominique's things.

Dominique jumps on Earl's back scratching, kicking and screaming.

Earl tosses Dominique to the concrete like a rage doll.

EARL:

Get the off me bitch!

Earl continues to rummage through the things and withdraws John's Purple Heart Medal from the pile.

EARL:

What is this shit?

He throws the Medal to the grass and continues to rummage through her things but found nothing of value.

EARL:

She ain't got nothing in here but some old baby clothes and a bunch of junk.

Dominique cries and finds a large rock hidden in the grass.

She picks the rock up to hit Earl with it.

Peter tries to console Dominique.

PETER:

I'm sorry Miss. Stay down. Earl's
not himself.

DOMINIQUE:

Junk?! Junk?! That's my life and
you call it junk?!

Dominique staggers to her feet and lunges Earl with the rock.

PETER:

NOOOOO!

Earl turns around. Dominique misses and Earl punches her in
the face Dominique blacks out.

BLACK OUT.

EXT. RITTEN-HOUSE SQUARE CITY PARK, NEXT MORNING - DAY

Dominique belongings are scatted throughout the park. She is
awaken by a paramedic and a crowd of onlookers hovered over
her.

PARAMEDIC:

Hello! What is your name ma'am? How
many fingers am I holding?

The paramedic holds up four fingers.

DOMINIQUE:

Four. What? Wait what happen?

Another paramedic approaches Dominique with a stretcher. Then suddenly Dominique stands.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

I'm, I'm alright. See?

Dominique dances in place to reassure the paramedics that she was okay.

PARAMEDIC:

But what about your face? Let us
tend to your bruises before you
leave.

DOMINIQUE:

No that's okay I'll... I'll be
fine.

Dominique discovers her husband's purple heart is resting in the grass.

She picks it up, stashes it into her coat pocket and scurries off into the distance.

While the onlookers gawk in disbelief.

CUT TO:

INT. ANDERSON CENTER DINNING HALL - DAY

Dominique darts into the shelter trying to conceal the bruises on her face.

Peter is at the table eating breakfast when she walks inside.

He tries to hide his face by pulling his hat over his brow.

Stacy and Mark are in the kitchen serving the people.

STACY:

Good morning Nique!

Dominique doesn't say a word. She walks off mumbling under her breath to the broom closet.

MARK:

Dominique! ... Dominique!

Dominique doesn't utter a word. She begins to sweep the floor.

INT. ANDERSON CENTER KITCHEN - DAY

Stacy is putting toast and butter on a plate.

STACY:

What's wrong with her this morning?
She's late and you know that's not
like her.

MARK:

I know. Can I trust you to serve
these folks without you drifting
off to la la land?

STACY:

Drift off to la, la land?

MARK:

Yes cause you be tripping
sometimes.

STACY:

Don't worry I got this.

Mark removes his latex gloves and apron and place them on the counter and proceeds toward the back of the center to have a word with Dominique.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. ANDERSON CENTER DINNING HALL - DAY

MARK:

Dominique...

Dominique continue to sweep the floor without saying anything.

MARK: (CONT'D)

Dominique sweetie what's the matter? Come on hon. Talk to me.

Mark places his hand on Dominique's shoulder but she shrugs it away while she remain sweeping.

MARK: (CONT'D)

Nique honey I never seen you this way. Please talk to me.

Dominique pauses for a moment. Mutters something to herself and then continues to sweep.

MARK: (CONT'D)

(He sighs.)
I wish you talk to me.

Dominique pauses.

DOMINIQUE:

(Imitating Earl's raspy voice)
What is this shit?
She ain't got nothing in here man
but some old baby clothes. You
Bitch! Get off me Bitch!

Tears start to flow from Dominique's swollen and battered eyes. She breaks down into a sob.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

(between tears)
All I had was in that cart.
(MORE)

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)
 My life and my memories were just a
 pile of shit. What have I done to
 deserve this? Huh!

Dominique turns and notices a very familiar face darting in
 and out of the morning crowd.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

YOU! YOU SON OF A BITCH!

Peter gets up to leave but Dominique is too fast. She leaps
 over the table to attack her abuser. The other patrons
 disburse as the two tussle on the floor.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

Where is he you son of a bitch!

PETER:

I'm sorry miss! I tried to stop
 him!

Mark lifts Dominique off Peter and carries her away.
 Meanwhile Peter is covered in food and embarrass by the
 disapproval stares from the crowd.

MARK:

Come here girly. There will be no
 more of that.

INT. CHURCH PASTOR WILLIAMS OFFICE DAY.

Pastor Williams and his secretary Sister Agnes are going over
 the church's finances.

SISTER AGNES:

Pastor Williams! You have taken the
 initiative to hire that young girl
 to clean this church.

(MORE)

SISTER AGNES: (CONT'D)
But what I want to know is how are
we going to pay her when we can
barely pay this light bill?

Sister Agnes tosses the electric bill onto the Pastors desk.
The Pastor puts on his reading glasses before examining the
bill.

PASTOR:

Well you're the one who said...
(Mimicking Sister Agnes's
voice)
We need some help round here Pastor
Williams.
(regular voice)
So that is what I did. I got you
some help.

SISTER AGNES:

Yeah but not some bum off the
streets.

PASTOR:

Hold on Sister Agnes now that's not
right. Matthew 7:1 says...

SISTER AGNES:

I know... I know... Judge not least
ye be judged. I'm sorry I was
wrong. I should have known that you
would throw the scriptures at me.

PASTOR:

I'm glad we're on the same page.
Now where were we? Oh yeah. This
necessary evil light bill.

Sister Agnes and Pastor Williams laughs...

INT. ANDERSON CENTER BATHROOM - DAY

Mark is dressing Dominique's bruises. Miss. Rosa enters the bathroom curious as to what is going on.

DOMINIQUE:

What have I done to deserve this?
Mark I'm tired. Do you hear me? I'm
tired.

Mark doesn't say a word. He wraps his arms around her.

MISS ROSA:

What's going on?

Miss Rosa sees the nasty bruise on Dominique's face and comes running to her side.

MISS ROSA:

Oh, my goodness Dominique. Who has
done this to you? This is my fault.
I knew I should have saved a bed
for you in the shelter. The streets
aren't safe anymore. Damn!

MARK:

I was going to kick ole boy ass.
But Sistah Souljah here stomped a
mud hole in him. Girl you are a
beast.

MISS ROSA:

I heard you ask Pete, where is he.
Who is he?

DOMINIQUE:

Earl.

MISS ROSA & MARK:

EARL!

MARK:

I knew that niggah was suspect.

Dominique wipes her tears with the cuff of her sleeve.

Miss. Rosa, Dominique and Mark share a group hug. When Stacy enters the room.

STACY:

Nique girl! You tore Pete a new
ass...

The group grabs Stacy and all four share a hug.

STACY:

Oh, my goodness Nique what happen
to your face?

MARK:

Stacy?

STACY:

Yes.

MARK:

Shut up girl.

INT. CHURCH: SAME DAY A FEW HOURS LATER - DAY

The pastor is putting hymn books and Bibles in the pews when Dominique walks in.

DOMINIQUE:

Good afternoon Pastor Williams.

The Pastor notices the bruises and bandages on Dominique's face.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Good afternoon Miss. Dawson. I don't mean to get into your business, however it seems to me that you were involved in a little scuffle. May I ask what happened to you?

DOMINIQUE:

(snickering)
A little scuffle, more like I got my ass whooped...

Dominique gasps and covers her mouth with her hands.

DOMINIQUE:

Oh Pastor I didn't mean to say that. I'm sorry.

The Pastor walks in closer to get a better look.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

That's quite alright we all slip up
from time to time.

Dominique grabs the polish spray can and a fresh new white cloth from a bucket of cleaning supplies the pastor left by the corridor.

Dominique blushes.

The CAMERA PANS overs Pastor Williams arms, neck and last his lips.

DOMINIQUE:

(O.S. Thinking to
herself)
Mmmm... What am I doing? He's a
pastor for Christ sakes.

Dominique shakes her head.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

Well I better get to work then.

She begins to polish the pews when the Pastor interrupts her.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

You never answered my question
Miss. Dawson.

Dominique tries to avoid the question. But she can't lie especially not in church.

DOMINIQUE:

Huh... Oh... hmm... I was mugged.
Okay? Two punks decided to rummage
through my things and take whatever
they wanted.

(MORE)

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)
And when they found out that I didn't have money are anything of value they beat the sh... I mean they beat me up. Okay? Now may I get back to work.

The Pastor holds a sympathetic gaze and stares at Dominique silently.

Dominique's pretty brown eyes captivated him. He quickly dismisses his thoughts.

PASTOR:

I... I didn't mean to pry. I was concerned. Continue working.

Dominique continues to polish the furniture.

INT. ANDERSON CENTER - DAY

Mark and Stacy are setting up the tables for dinner service. Stacy is dancing around making clicking sounds with her tongue.

STACY:

How does a woman like Dominique become homeless?

MARK:

Don't start Stacy.

STACY:

Don't start what? I'm just saying.

MARK:

(frustrated)
Can you please stop making that clicking noise.

STACY:

What noise?

Stacy continues to make the clicking sound.

MARK:

That! That clicking! Stop Please!

Stacy stops making the sound.

STACY:

Oh, my bad. But I'm just saying.
Didn't Nique go to college or
something?

MARK:

Stop right there. Miss Dominique is
the one who put the money up for
this shelter.

She helped a brother out when I was
down on my luck. So don't speak on
things you know nothing about. That
woman is a saint.

STACY:

If she was such a saint then why is
she a bum?

MARK:

I could snatch you up right now!
Set the damn tables. I ain't got
time to be chopping it up with you.

Mark walks away leaving Stacy to set the tables alone. Stacy
continue to making the sound with her tongue.

MARK:

(B.g)
STOP MAKING THAT NOISE!

STACY:

I'm sorry!

MARK:

(B.g.)
SHIT!

STACY:

Sorry.

INT. CHURCH - DAY:

Dominique has finish her work and is marveling over her good handy work when the pastor and Sister Agnes strolls into the sanctuary.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Dominique. I would like to introduce you to my secretary, Sister Agnes. Sister Agnes this is Miss. Dominique Dawson.

Dominique extends her right hand for a proper hand shake. However, Sister Agnes declines her advances.

PASTOR WILLIAMS: (CONT'D)

(in a very low voice)
Matthews 7:1 Sister Agnes.

Sister Agnes grins and only grips the top three fingers of Dominique's hand before retrieving back her hand swiftly.

Dominique notices Sister Agnes staring at her black eye and pulls her bangs over her eye.

DOMINIQUE:

I got to get going. I have another job at the center.

SISTER AGNES:

(Under her breath)
Don't you mean you live at the
shelter.

Pastor Williams nudges Sister Agnes with his elbow.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Well let me see you out.

DOMINIQUE:

That's quite alright Pastor. I'll
be fine.

INT. ANDERSON CENTER - NIGHT.

Mark, Dominique and Stacy are cleaning up after the dinner
rush.

DOMINIQUE:

Mark honey. You truly out did
yourself tonight. That meatloaf was
out of this world.

MARK:

I made it just for you girl. I knew
you would like it.

DOMINIQUE:

Liked it? No baby, I loved it. If
only I could have seconds.

MARK:

Girl I got you. I stored an extra
piece in the fridge for you.

DOMINIQUE:

Thank you. You're so sweet to me.

Mark stops wiping down the table.

MARK:

No Nique. I'm not doing enough.
When my pops threw me out I had no
one. And here you come Miss.
Magical briefcase. You didn't judge
me or turned a blind eye.

STACY:

Why did you dad throw you out?

MARK:

Cause no son of Benjamin Wright is
going to be a queer. But I'm not. I
like girls.

STACY:

Wait. You're not gay? I thought you
were a fag.

DOMINIQUE:

He's not gay. Mark is just a
sensitive guy.

Mark stares at Stacy with animosity. Then turns his
attentions back to Dominique.

MARK:

... That's not why I left. I got
tired of watching my father beat
the hell out of my mother then have
honor of having my mother curse me
out whenever I defend her. The
Wright's household was a one way
ticket hell. I had to get out of
there.

STACY:

So you're really not gay?

DOMINIQUE:

Where did you learn to cook?

Mark smiles.

MARK:

My mom was too banged up to cook so as a kid I use to watch those cooking show and I don't know shit started clicking. The taste, the texture and presentation of food helps me to escape.

DOMINIQUE:

I hear that.

STACY:

You really not gay.

Mark's smile turns into a frown.

MARK:

Shut up. That's your problem, you talk too much. Just when I think you about to make sense you open your mouth.

STACY:

Whatever.

Stacy pouts and storms away. Mark and Dominique are left standing in the dinning hall.

DOMINIQUE:

What's up between you and Stacy? I thought you two were friends.

MARK:

We can't even be that. She's a
dipsy broad. Always running off the
mouth. She talks when she should be
listening.

Dominique shrugs her shoulders and continues to clean the
tables. Miss. Rosa peeps out of her office.

MISS ROSA:

Dominique!

DOMINIQUE:

Yes Miss. Rosa!

MISS ROSA:

Come here please!

INT. MISS ROSA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

There is a blow up bed with brand new sheets and brand new
pajamas neatly folded on top.

MISS ROSA:

I should have done this a long time
ago. If it wasn't for you helping
us when the city wanted to shut us
down. We wouldn't be standing here
today.
Last night should have never
happen.

Rosa fight back tears.

MISS ROSA: (CONT'D)

I should have looked out for you
instead letting you go like that.

Dominique give Miss. Rosa a hug.

DOMINIQUE:

Water under the bridge.

Miss. Rosa picks up a bag with other items.

MISS ROSA:

We...

DOMINIQUE:

We?

MISS ROSA:

Yeah Mark, Stacy and I brought you another pair of clothing, socks, deodorant, a tooth brush, wash cloth, towel, tooth paste and this skin pamper set.

DOMINIQUE:

So you're saying I smell bad?

MISS ROSA:

Well...

DOMINIQUE:

(Laughing)
I'm joking. I have no place to bath except gas station rest rooms, of course I smell bad.

Dominique does a self smell check.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

Oww! You're right I do smell
raunchy. P Funk ain't got nothing
on this.

INT. ANDERSON CENTER FRONT DESK - NIGHT

Stacy is at the front desk pouting. Mark enters the scene.

MARK:

I want to apologize for the way I
snapped at you early.

STACY:

Whatever.

MARK:

Whatever? That's all you have to
say?

STACY:

Yeah, cause I talk too much.
Remember?

MARK:

That's not a lie. You do talk too
much. But you do have some good
qualities.

STACY:

Yeah? And what's that?

MARK:

You're smart. You're beautiful.

Stacy smiles.

STACY:

And...

Mark moves in closer.

MARK:

But everybody has their flaws.

STACY:

Whatever. I figured you were gay because you never looked at me. Not once did you ever show any sign that you were attracted to me or any other female.

MARK:

Why does a man have to approach a woman sexually in order to let her know that he's feeling her? It's called respect Stacy. I respect you and I'm trying to get to know you.

Mark moves closer to Stacy.

STACY:

But that's how men are. When they see something they like, they go for it.

MARK:

That's lust not love.

STACY:

I'm not sure if I know what love is.

MARK:

Come here and I'll show you.

Mark and Stacy share a long passionate kiss.

They are interrupted suddenly when they hear Miss. Rosa's office door open and close.

Dominique rushes to the front desk.

DOMINIQUE:

Thank you, thank you, thank you
Mark for the clothes! And thank you
Stacy for the PJ's. How did you
know that yellow is my favorite
color?

Dominique hugs the two before dashing off to the bathroom.

INT. HOMELESS SHELTER BATHROOM SHOWER - NIGHT:

Dominique's hand turning on the shower.

The camera is focused of the shower head then pulls back.

The main character is in front of the mirror pulling off the several levers of dirty clothes revealing her bare skin.

She rubs the C sectional scar below her belly button.

The camera focus back onto the shower head.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DOMINIQUE'S BATHROOM SHOWER - DAY

Dominique's life before...

Camera on a modern shower head with Jazz music playing in the background.

Dominique is in the shower bathing her pregnant belly.

The phone rings.

DOMINIQUE:

John! John!

JOHN:

(O.S.)
Yeah babe!

DOMINIQUE:

Answer the phone!

JOHN:

(O.S.)
What if I don't wanna!

Dominique giggles.

DOMINIQUE:

Just answer the phone. It might be
a client!

John startles Dominique by pulling back the shower curtain.

John:

Nope. That was your mother. She
wanted to know if you were okay.

DOMINIQUE:

Oh really?

JOHN:

Yes. I need you and my son to make
some room cause daddy's coming in.

John takes off his towel and jumps in the shower with
Dominique. The couple laugh and share a hug and kiss.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DOMINIQUE'S OFFICE - DAY

She grabs a random box and begins to toss her belongings inside, when Sarah enters the office.

SARAH:

What's going on Mrs. Dawson?

Dominique stops packing her belongings enough to address her ex co-worker.

DOMINIQUE:

Sarah, I want to let you know that it has been a pleasure working with you for these past ten years. But unfortunately I must take my leave.

SARAH:

Oh my goodness Mrs. Dawson, no.

Dominique continues to load her items into a box when MATTHEW the security officer enters the office.

MATTHEW:

Let's not make a scene Mrs. Dawson.

DOMINIQUE:

You too Matthew? All I'm doing is collecting my things and I'll be out of your hair.

SARAH:

Matthew this is an all time low even for you. Really?

MATTHEW:

Look I don't want any trouble just let me do my job.

SARAH:

This is ridiculous.

Sarah hugs Dominique, flips Matthew the bird and leaves the office.

Dominique finished packing all her things and pushes Matthew to the side and proceeds to the elevator.

INT. IN THE HALL OF THE CORPORATE BUILDING.

The other workers watch in as the whole drama unfolds. Mr. Whitman and a few other guards are rushing down the hall.

MR. WHITMAN:

Stop her!

MATTHEW:

Come on Mr. Whitman she's leaving peacefully.

MR. WHITMAN:

Search her things!

DOMINIQUE:

For What?!

The two guards empty the box contents on the hard freshly waxed linoleum floor.

DOMINIQUE:

What do you possibly have that I want?

Dominique picks up a Sonogram of her unborn child and photo of her husband and show them to the guards and Mr. Whitman.

DOMINIQUE:

This is a Sonogram you backward
Neanderthal and a picture of my
husband who on any giving day would
knock your old ass back into the
ice age where you belong.

Mr. Whitman is done humiliating his ex employee he calls back his obedient guards. While Dominique sobs Matthew collects her belongings from the floor.

INT. HOMELESS SHELTER, THE NEXT MORNING - DAY

Dominique is awoken by Al Green "Love and Happiness" playing in the background.

She yawns and stretches.

Dominique rubs her eyes and gets of the bed.

She looks down at Miss. Rosa's desk and see her clothes washed pressed and neatly folded on top.

The note reads:

(Good Morning Sunshine,
Since you dedicate your
life serving others. It
time that we serve you.
Sincerely, Anderson
Homeless Shelter Center)

Dominique dresses and proceeds out the door.

On the other side of the door are small colorful post-its with arrows drawn on them guiding her into the dinning hall where a full coarse breakfast and birthday cake awaits her.

DOMINIQUE:

Wow!

Miss ROSA, MARK , & STACY:

(In unison)
Surprise! Happy Birthday!

DOMINIQUE:

Wow! It's November 12th? Where has
the time gone?

STACY:

So how old are you Miss Dominique?

MISS ROSA & Mark :

Stacy!

STACY:

What did I say this time?

MISS ROSA:

You never ask a lady her age.

STACY:

Oh I thought that's what only old
women say.

MISS ROSA & MARK :

(in unison)
Stacy!

STACY:

Alright! I know. Shut up Stacy.

DOMINIQUE:

I'm thirty-eight Stacy.

STACY:

Thirty-eight? But you look so
young.

MISS ROSA:

Stacy!

DOMINIQUE:

I'm still young Stacy. Although I don't feel that way.

MISS ROSA:

Make a wish and blow out your candles.

Dominique closes her eyes and blows out her candles. The small group of friends clap and hug Dominique.

MARK:

Well let's get out of here and let the birthday girl enjoy this fabulous breakfast I prepared for her.

Miss Rosa, Stacy and Mark leaves while Dominique enjoys her meal.

INT. CHURCH PASTOR WILLIAMS OFFICE - DAY:

The pastor is singing hymns and writing in his pad when Sister Agnes enters the office waving some documents.

SISTER AGNES:

Pastor Williams! Pastor Williams!
Look at this.

Sister Agnes shoves the papers into his hands.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Wait, wait Sister Agnes. Can't you say good morning before you start shouting and shoving unknown documents in my face?

SISTER AGNES:

I'm sorry Pastor. Good Morning. Now read it. Read it!!

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Okay, don't get you britches in a knot!

The pastor uses his white handkerchief to wipe his reading glasses then puts them back on and reads the document.

PASTOR WILLIAMS: (CONT'D)

Who gave you this?

SISTER AGNES:

I went to city hall to see about buying more land to expand the church.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Okay. But this says that the Church is sitting on a historical site.

SISTER AGNES:

Apparently the Anderson Center owns both properties. It was once used a resting location for runaway slaves who were traveling up north.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

That's wonderful. But my father inherited this church from his father and his father before that.

SISTER AGNES:

True. But get this. Your great-great grandfather Henry Williams was a runaway who made a deal with Anderson to build this Church for exchange for room and board.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Who is Elijah J. Anderson?

SISTER AGNES:

Elijah Josiah Anderson was a Quaker who kept and breed horses. The Anderson Center was once a horse stable. A Pep-Boys for horses and carriages you might say.

The pastor reads the document once more.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

It say here that my grandfather inherited the church after the death of Elijah J. Anderson. Several years later the Anderson stables were auction off and sold to a wealthy philanthropist by the name of... Felipe Camilo Mendez who allegedly lost his fortune in the Great Depression of 1929.

SISTER AGNES:

Mmmhmm. Then the building was inherited by an Abigail Mendez in 1985 and then sold to M.L Inc in 2005.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Well it seems pretty much cut and dry.

SISTER AGNES:

No you don't understand. M.L Inc is just a name. Even City Hall doubt that the company exist. Pastor they don't even have a phone number.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Where do we fit in this equation?

SISTER AGNES:

The taxes on these properties are due in a couple of months. City Hall has been trying to contact this company but no one has replied. By January of next year the properties will be up for sheriff sale and we should get our bid in before the company gets wise and throw all our butts in the street.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Lord knows we need the money.

SISTER AGNES:

Pastor Williams Mega Church here we come.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Mega church? I don't know about that. But that money could help out the community.

SISTER AGNES:

You need to think big Pastor. Bigger church equals more new members.

Pastor Williams and Sister Agnes smile and then laughs.

INT. CHURCH - DAY:

Dominique enters the church wearing a new coat clean clothes, and a bright smile. The Pastor's office door was open, Dominique assumes that the Pastor is inside. Interrupting the Pastor and Sister Agnes's conversation.

DOMINIQUE:

Good afternoon Pastor Williams,
Good afternoon Sister Agnes.

Sister Agnes sucks her teeth leaves the office abruptly.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

Was it something I said?

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

No. Sister Agnes can be crabby at times. She just need to get use to you that's all.

DOMINIQUE:

How may I be of service today?

The Pastor stares at Dominique lovingly.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

Pastor Williams!?

Dominique's voice knocks the Pastor out of his trance.

PASTOR:

Has anyone told you how beautiful
you are.

DOMINIQUE:

(Blushing)
Oh. Pastor Williams you're too
much. So what do you want me to do
today?

PASTOR:

Have a cup of coffee with me.

DOMINIQUE:

What?

PASTOR:

Coffee? Cream and sugar. Or unless
you prefer tea.

DOMINIQUE:

(unsure)
Umm...

PASTOR:

It's just coffee, nothing more.

DOMINIQUE:

Well... What the heck, today's my
birthday.

PASTOR:

Today's your birthday? Well happy birthday Miss. Dawson.

Dominique and the pastor leave the church with Sister Agnes watching suspiciously behind an enclosed area.

SISTER AGNES:

I've been working under you for the past six years and I don't get as much as wink or and invite to a hotdog stand. But you're falling for some homeless bitch?

EXT. COFFEE CAFE - DAY.

MONTAGE

Shot #1. Pastor Williams and Dominique walking to the coffee cafe.

Shot #2. Every so often Dominique pulls out John's Purple Heart Medal and looks at it.

Shot #3. Dominique trips over a small stone and Pastor Williams catches her in his arms. They stare into each other eye.

Shot #4. Pastor Williams opening the door for Dominique.

Shot #5. The couple placing their order.

Shot #6. The couple chatting and laughing while they sit at a table enjoying their coffee and one another's company.

INT. COFFEE CAFE - DAY

Dominique and Pastor Williams are sitting at a table by the window.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

What is your story? Every so often I notice you pulling out your little fancy medal and I was just curious.

Dominique pulls the medal from her coat pocket.

DOMINIQUE:

This? This Purple Heart of Bravery Medal once belonged to my late husband John Dawson. He met his tragic fate while doing a tour in Afghanistan.

Dominique quickly retrieve the medal back in her coat pocket.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

You don't want to hear about that.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

On the contrary indeed I do. I enjoy a good biography tale.

DOMINIQUE:

Biography tale. You funny. But what makes you think that I have a story.

PASTOR:

Because everyone has a story to tell.

DOMINIQUE:

Well it's a long story and I don't have the time or the energy to tell it so I'll make a long story short. I lost my job, husband and baby in less than three months of each other. My boss has made it impossible for me to get another job with any other company.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

He can't do that?

DOMINIQUE:

I'm quite sure that he can and he did. Anyway...

INT. DOMINIQUE'S HOUSE JULY 4TH /BABY SHOWER - DAY.

Dominique's suburban home is filled with family and friends. A man is at the grill dancing and cooking.

Music is playing in the background with people laughing and conversing.

Gifts for the unborn baby is collected on the dinning room table.

There is a knock at the door.

Little Shandice, Dominique's niece answers the door.

There are two soldiers wearing full army attire waiting by the door.

LITTLE SHANDICE:

Hello? Are you my uncle John's friends? Cause he's in the army to.

SOLDIER #1:

Yes little lady we are. But can you do me a favor and get an adult please so we may speak with them? It's very important.

Shandice invites the two soldiers inside.

The other guest in the household take one look at the soldiers and their happy carefree mood wash away.

EXT. DOMINIQUE'S BACKYARD - DAY

The little Shandice skips out to the backyard where her aunt and other adults were laughing and having a good time.

LITTLE SHANDICE:

Aunt Nique! Uncle John friends are
at the door.

DOMINIQUE:

Friends of John?

LITTLE SHANDICE:

(singing playfully)
Yup they are at the door.

DOMINIQUE:

Excuse me everyone. Let me see what
is going on.

INT. DOMINIQUE'S HOUSE - DAY

Upon entering the house Dominique can see the sad expression on her guest faces.

The music stops playing.

A quiet somber atmosphere consumes the room.

A sadden Sarah places a sympathetic hand on Dominique's shoulder.

The two Army Soldiers approach her with the unfortunate news of John's demise.

A single tear rolls down her cheek when she suddenly collapse into the arms of one of the soldiers.

The family rushes to her aid.

FADE TO WHITE:

INT. DOMINIQUE'S HOUSE - DAY

Scene opens with a camera close up shot on a cigarette burning then gradually pulling back.

Dominique wanders the house carrying a large bottle of liquor.

A disheveled Dominique walks to the front door and opens it.

EXT. MAIL BOX - DAY

Dominique staggers to the mail box, opens it and extract the mail inside.

A FEMALE NEIGHBOR tending to her garden smiles and waves.

Dominique does not responds.

The neighbor's smile vanishes as Dominique walks back into her home.

INT. DOMINIQUE'S HOUSE - DAY

Dominique walks to the kitchen table.

The table is cluttered with collection notices, past due bills and unopened mail.

She put the bottle under the crook of her arm and opens the letter then places the letter on the table.

The letter reads:

"FINAL FORECLOSURE NOTICE - 30 DAYS TO VACATE THE PROPERTY."

CUT BACK TO:

INT. COFFEE CAFE - DAY

Dominique and Pastor Williams are sitting at a table by the window.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

What about family?

DOMINIQUE:

Both parents are deceased.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Sorry to hear that.

DOMINIQUE:

That's quite alright. But now I volunteer at the Anderson Center for room and board and I work at your church for pocket money in the afternoons before I report back to the center in the evenings.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

You have so little but give so much. Beautiful.

DOMINIQUE:

It keeps me busy.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

You are truly God sent.

DOMINIQUE:

I don't know about that. God and I haven't been on speaking terms lately.

Dominique takes a sip of her coffee.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

God has a plan for all of us.

DOMINIQUE:

Well I wish he would have run his plan pass me first. Before he took my husband and child away.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Don't say things like that. Some times he breaks us down to build us back up. Have faith.

DOMINIQUE:

I got a question to ask you?

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Shoot. I'm an open book.

DOMINIQUE:

What's your story?

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

(small chuckle)

It's a long story and I don't have the time or the energy to tell it so I'll make a long story short.

DOMINIQUE:

(Small giggle)

I see you're using my lines on me.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

When I was a teenager I did some dumb things which landed me in prison. And while I was there I learned a valuable lesson.

DOMINIQUE:

So you became a jail house preacher?

Dominique giggles.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

No not exactly. I graduated high school and got my bachelors degree in business. But I didn't start ministering until after I received my masters degree in Theology in 07.

DOMINIQUE:

Masters degree? You could be making good money with those degrees under your belt.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

True, however what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Dominique looks out of the window then back at Pastor Williams.

DOMINIQUE:

Yeah but you could have went into business for your self.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

True again, but what bank do you know would give an ex-con a business loan?

DOMINIQUE:

It sucks doesn't it?
(MORE)

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

The Declaration of Independence say
"Pursuit of Happiness" then again
how can one obtain such happiness
if you are not granted a fair deal?

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Good question. Sometimes its the
roll of the dice.

DOMINIQUE:

Re-shuffle the deck then because
the cards I'm holding are a bust.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

I never leave anything to chance.
You must always have a plan.

DOMINIQUE:

Really? So I planned for this life
of homelessness?

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

No. What I am saying...

Pastor Williams pause for a moment to collect his thoughts.

He gently take Dominique's hand into his and look deeply into
her eyes.

PASTOR WILLIAMS: (CONT'D)

... This isn't chance, it is a
plan. All things work together for
good to them that love God, to them
who are called according to his
purpose.
What made you come into the church
that day?

DOMINIQUE:

I Don't know.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Why are you here right now, at this
present moment with me?

(MORE)

PASTOR WILLIAMS: (CONT'D)
From the very moment I laid my eyes
on you I could not get you out of
my head. No. This is not chance...

Pastor Williams pulls Dominique in closer and kiss her passionately on the lips.

Dominique is surprised but does not resist she slowly closes her eyes.

INT. ANDERSON CENTER MISS ROSA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Rosa is looking through the mail and notice a letter from City Hall. She opens it but suddenly she grabs her chest.

MISS ROSA:

MARK! MARK!

Mail and other file papers cascade to the floor as Miss Rosa tumble down on top of them. Mark runs into the office and discover Miss Rosa on the floor gasping for air and grabbing her chest.

MARK:

Stacy! Stacy!

STACY:

(B.g)
What!

MARK:

You are going to be alright Miss
Rosa. I got you. Stacy! Come quick!
Miss. Rosa is sick!

Stacy rushes to the office and finds Mark performing CPR on Miss. Rosa.

MARK: (CONT'D)

Call an ambulance!

Stacy is shaken however she dials 911 on her cell phone.

OPERATOR:

(V.O. the phone)
911.

STACY:

Hello? Miss Rosa is on the floor.
She's not breathing and my
boyfriend is doing that C.P.P.R
thing on her.

OPERATOR:

(V.O. The phone)
So someone is administering CPR on
Miss Rosa?

STACY:

Yes. Yes that's right CPR.

OPERATOR:

(V.O. The phone)
What is your address?

STACY:

Anderson Center on the corner of
(Broad and Arch)

OPERATOR:

(V.O. The phone)

I am dispatching emergency services
right now I will stay on the line
with you until the paramedics
arrives.

STACY:

Okay.

Mark is performing CPR on Miss Rosa.

Paramedics enters the office with their stretcher and medical
equipment. Mark is sweating and tired when paramedics #3
takes over. (IN SLOW MOTION)The EMT place AED Pads on Miss.
Rosa chest.

PARAMEDIC #3:

Clear!

Rosa's body jolts and relaxes as electricity coursing through her body.

Paramedic #4 check for Rosa's pulse and gives a signal to paramedic #3 to charge Rosa again by nodding his head.

PARAMEDIC #3: (CONT'D)

Clear!

Rosa's body jolts and relaxes as electricity coursing through her body.

Paramedic #4 checks for a pulse.

PARAMEDIC #4:

I got a pulse. Let's get her out of here.

Paramedic #4 address Mark.

PARAMEDIC #4: (CONT'D)

What is her name sir?

MARK:

Mendez, Rosa!

PARAMEDIC #3:

Okay Miss Mendez we are going to take you to the hospital.

Stacy crying in Mark's arms as onlookers collect in the hall.

EMT rushing Rosa into the ambulance.

Dominique witness the commotion from a distance and runs towards the ambulance.

Paramedic #3 stops her but Rosa motions with her hand to allow her to ride along.

Dominique is permitted inside the ambulance.

The EMT shut the back doors from the inside and the vehicle drives off.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Rosa is in the hospital bed sleep with tubes coming from everywhere.

Medical machines beeping and chinning while Dominique rest in an uncomfortable chair. When suddenly Rosa wakes up.

MISS ROSA:

What's going on? Who died?

Dominique is easily awoken. She hurry's over to be by Rosa's bedside.

DOMINIQUE:

You had a heart attack Rosa.

MISS ROSA:

Oh, that's all?

DOMINIQUE:

That's all Rosa? If it wasn't for Mark you would be pushing up daisies.

MISS ROSA:

So those CPR classes did him some good.

DOMINIQUE:

Rosa?

MISS ROSA:

I'm only teasing.

DOMINIQUE:

We almost lost you girl. I don't know what I'll do without you.

MISS ROSA:

Finally get a man.

DOMINIQUE:

Rosa?

MISS ROSA:

I'm joking, stop being such a wet blanket. You're too young and pretty for that. Life doesn't always have to be so serious. Loosen up. Promise me.

Dominique doesn't say a word.

MISS ROSA: (CONT'D)

Promise me.

DOMINIQUE:

Okay. I promise.

MISS ROSA:

You're rich girl.

DOMINIQUE:

Rich? Yeah right. So how much of them drugs are they giving you girl? Scoot over I'm climbing a board.

Dominique climbs onto the bed with Rosa.

INT: ANDERSON CENTER DINNING HALL - DAY

AERIAL SHOT of people eating, conversation. Then zooming into Mark and Stacy serving people and collecting trash.

Mark and Stacy are out numbered in the dinning hall.

HOMELESS MAN #1:

Where's Rosa? I need to talk to Rosa.

MARK:

Miss. Rosa has falling under the weather. She won't be in today.

HOMELESS MAN #2:

What's that you say? Rosa is ill?

MARK:

Yes sir.

HOMELESS MAN #1:

Then where is Dominique?

MARK:

She's taking care of Miss. Rosa.

HOMELESS MAN #2:

What's that you say?
Dominique ill too? Must be that bug that's going around.

HOMELESS MAN #1:

Yup. It must be.

INT. ANDERSON CENTER, MISS ROSA'S OFFICE - DAY

Few hours later...

After the morning rush Mark and Stacy decided to relax in Miss. Rosa's office just when they were about to kiss Dominique enters the office.

DOMINIQUE:

Hey, you two.

The couple are startled and quickly withdraw themselves away from one another.

STACY:

Hey! How you doing?

DOMINIQUE:

What's going on? Why you two acting so strange?

MARK:

Oh. Nothing. Just resting we had a very busy morning. How's Miss Rosa?

STACY:

How's Miss Rosa?

Dominique rummages through a stack of papers but finds nothing.

DOMINIQUE:

Have you two seen a white envelope from City Hall?

STACY:

Nope.

MARK:

There was a bunch of papers on the floor. But I put everything together in a pile on Miss. Rosa's desk.

Dominique and Mark rummage through the papers again and still found nothing.

The camera comes across the desk to the edge of the desk in a crease between the desk and the wall is where the white envelope from City Hall rest.

DOMINIQUE:

I will search more carefully later. Right now we have to prepare for the dinner service.

STACY:

Alright Nique.

Dominique, Stacy and Mark exit the office.

EXT. CHURCH - TWILIGHT

WIDE SHOT - Sister Agnes is getting out of a black shiny Lincoln Town Car. The black tinted windows make it difficult to see who is inside.

SISTER AGNES:

Yes sir I will get right on it.

The audience does not hear what the unknown person in the car is saying.

SISTER AGNES: (CONT'D)

God Bless you sir. Take care.

The car drives away. Sister Agnes looks around to make sure that no one is watching. She doesn't hear MRS. DOUGLAS coming from behind.

MRS. DOUGLAS:

Hello Sister Agnes!

Sister Agnes is startled.

SISTER AGNES:

Good evening Mrs. Douglas, what brings here this evening?

Mrs. Douglas looks down at her watch on her wrist.

MRS. DOUGLAS:

It's six o'clock we have choir rehearsal.

SISTER AGNES:

That's right Mrs. Douglas. Your right.

Sister Agnes is looking around.

MRS. DOUGLAS:

You looking for somebody?

SISTER AGNES:

No ma'am, well you don't want to be late. So don't let me keep you.
Bye.

Sister Agnes hurries off. Mrs. Douglas watches Agnes speed walking down the street. She shrugs her shoulders and walks up the church stairs.

INT. CHURCH - TWILIGHT

THE CHOIR is singing. The CHOIR DIRECTOR stop the choir from singing.

CHOIR DIRECTOR:

Come on, come on we can do better than that. From the top.

Mrs. Douglas enters the church and takes a seat in the front pew.

MRS. DOUGLAS:

Good evening everyone!

CHOIR DIRECTOR:

How are you doing Mrs. Douglas.

THE CHOIR:

(Collective of greetings)

Mrs. Douglas waves.

Pastor Williams and Dominique enters the church. Williams takes hold of Dominique's hand and escorting her down the aisle.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Good evening Saints!.

MRS. DOUGLAS:

Hello Pastor.

THE CHOIR:

(Collective greetings)

MRS. DOUGLAS:

Who is this young lady Pastor?

Williams looks at Dominique and smiles. Dominique smiles bashfully.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

I would like to formally introduce to you all to Miss. Dominique Dawson.

CHOIR MEMBER #1:

Is she your girlfriend Pastor?

The congregation murmurs collectively.

Williams winks at Dominique and lifts her hand and kisses it.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

If she will have me.

Dominique smiles and nods her head yes.

CHOIR MEMBER #2:

About time. I was beginning to worry.

CHOIR MEMBER #3:

I know that's right. She's pretty though.

CHOIR MEMBER #2:

Mmmhmm...

CHOIR DIRECTOR:

Okay everybody stay out of the pastor's business. Let's start from the top.

The choir begins to sing. Williams smiles and kisses Dominique's hand again.

INT. ROSA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Dominique enters the room quietly.

DOMINIQUE:

Hi, Rosa.

Miss Rosa motions for Dominique to come closer.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

I would have come sooner but I was
at church and the choir sung so
beautifully.

Rosa removes her oxygen mask off her face so she may speak.

MISS ROSA:

Did you find a man yet?

DOMINIQUE:

Rosa? Yes, yes I did and his name
is David.

Dominique places the oxygen mask on Rosa face but Rosa
removes it again and nods her head.

MISS ROSA:

Good. I'm so tired Dominique.

DOMINIQUE:

Okay. I'll leave and let you rest
and I'll be back first thing
tomorrow morning.

Rosa grabs Dominique's hand.

MISS ROSA:

I love you.

Dominique caresses Rosa's hand.

DOMINIQUE:

I love you to Hon.

MISS ROSA:

I love all of you.

Rosa closes her eyes and then the heart monitor flat lines.

DOMINIQUE:

Rosa? ROSITA!

(Slow Motion) Medical personnel rush in a nurse presses the code blue button and Dominique is escorted out of the room.

The medical doctor looks onto Rosa's chart.

The chart reads D.N.R (Do Not Resuscitate) The Doctor turn off the code blue signal and leaves the room to inform Dominique who is sitting in the waiting area.

Dominique stands to greet the doctor, the doctor tells her that Rosa has passed.

Dominique slumps down into the chair sobbing.

INT. ANDERSON CENTER DINNING HALL MEMORIAL SERVICE - DAY.

Scene begins with a large photo of Rosa supported by an easel.

The CAMERA PULLS SLOWLY back showing the collections of flowers surrounding the portrait.

Mark is comforting Stacy. The hall is filled with mourners.

INT. MISS ROSA'S OFFICE - DAY

A well dressed Dominique is sitting in Rosa's chair with her head rest on the desk. When there is a knock at the door.

DOMINIQUE:

Come in.

Pastor Williams enters the office carrying a bouquet of flowers. Dominique runs into his arms.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

You okay?

Dominique nods her head yes.

DOMINIQUE:

What am I going to do now? What will happen to the center now that Rosita is gone?

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Why are you asking questions you already have the answers to?

DOMINIQUE:

David I'm not in the mood for riddles. I just lost my best friend.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

I know.

Pastor Williams places a kiss on her frontal lobe.

PASTOR WILLIAMS: (CONT'D)

Sit right here.

Pastor Williams guides Dominique to the chair as she sits.

PASTOR WILLIAMS: (CONT'D)

I'm going to get you some punch and we are going to put our heads together and figure this out.

Pastor Williams leaves the office.

INT. DINNING HALL - DAY

Sister Agnes enters the Hall.

She closes the door with an anti-bacteria wipe.

Agnes reaches inside her bag and retrieves a small bottle of hand sanitizer.

She applies a large amount in her hands and rubs vigorously. A homeless man sneezes, Agnes reach in her bag and pulls out a can on Lysol and spray the man.

The man coughs and Agnes scurries away. She spots Pastor Williams talking to a young man, she rushes over to meet him.

SISTER AGNES:

Hi Pastor Williams!

Pastor William searches the room to address the familiar voice that is greeting him.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Hi Agnes, I didn't know you knew Rosa.

SISTER AGNES:

I don't.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Then what are you doing here? This is a memorial.

Agnes looks around.

SISTER AGNES:

It's hard to tell.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

What are you doing here?

SISTER AGNES:

I came to assess the building. Once we get rid of these undesirables and tear this place down we will have room to expand the church and enough space for a parking lot.

Pastor Williams pulls Agnes over to the side.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

What are you talking about?
(MORE)

PASTOR WILLIAMS: (CONT'D)
These people have lost a good
friend and you are here searching
for quality real estate?

SISTER AGNES:

She wasn't any kin to me. Why do
you care? You barely knew her.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

I think you should leave.

SISTER AGNES:

No.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

No?

SISTER AGNES:

Not without you.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. MISS ROSA'S OFFICE - DAY

Dominique is sitting in the chair waiting for Pastor Williams
to return when there is a knock at the door.

DOMINIQUE:

You don't have to knock David I
know it's you.

Mark and Stacy enters the office instead. Stacy dash into
Dominique's arms.

STACY:

Miss Rosa was like a mother to me.

DOMINIQUE:

I know dear.

STACY:

What are we going to do Nique?

MARK:

Didn't Miss Rosa have some paper
stash somewhere? Like the deed or
something.

DOMINIQUE:

No I search this place from top to
bottom and I couldn't find
anything.

There is a knock at the door.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

Come in David.

Walter Whitman armed with Philadelphia's finest enters the
small office.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

Walter!

MR. WHITMAN:

Seize everything officers!

DOMINIQUE:

Walter!

MR. WHITMAN:

Miss Dominique Dawson. Had any good
job offers lately?

DOMINIQUE:

You animal!

MR. WHITMAN:

Tsk, tsk, tsk you should watch that
temper.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. DINNING HALL - DAY

Pastor Williams and Agnes are having a discussion when Walter Whitman and the police rid the Hall.

Agnes smiles.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Agnes you knew about this?

Agnes shrugs her shoulders playfully while grinning.

Pastor Williams hear loud commotion coming from the office, he pushes Agnes to the side and dash for the office.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. MISS ROSA'S OFFICE - DAY

The police grab Dominique, Stacy falls to the floor.

She sees a white envelope stuck between the wall and Rosa's desk she quickly snatch the envelope from it's tomb and stashed it in her bosom.

A policeman lifts Stacy off the floor and escort her and Mark out of the building.

Cops rid the property removing it's occupants by force.

Agnes exits the building with a large grin on her face.

SISTER AGNES:

It serves you all right.

Pastor Williams exits the building searching for Dominique.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Dominique!

SISTER AGNES:

Isn't this wonderful Pastor? God is truly at work.

Dominique emerge from the crowd that has collected in the street.

DOMINIQUE:

David you knew about this?

SISTER AGNES:

Yes he did, you gutter rat.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Yes but not like this. I didn't know about this.

DOMINIQUE:

David you lied to me. You said God has a plan for all of us. Meanwhile you had plans of your own.

(Optional but it would be a good drama effect) The weather breaks and begins to rain. Dominique walks away. The crowd dissipates and Pastor Williams is left standing alone.

INT. CHURCH PASTOR WILLIAMS OFFICE - DAY

David is sitting at his desk. Agnes strolls inside the office.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Get out Agnes.

Agnes sits on the pastor's desk.

PASTOR WILLIAMS: (CONT'D)

LEAVE!

SISTER AGNES:

I will not leave until you hear what I have to say.

Sister Agnes crosses her legs.

SISTER AGNES: (CONT'D)

For the past six years I waited for you, I worked under you, and served you and what do I get for my troubles? Competition from a street urchin, a dirty disgusting TRAMP! You never asked about anything about myself or how I felt about you. It was always about your CHURCH and precious community. But what about me, huh!?

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

What about you?

STACY:

I was there for you. David you could have it all. A large Mega church with more members than you can comprehend. The next step televangelism. You would become a household name and you would have me as your partner, your lover and your wife. Why would you give all that up for a bum on the street?

Pastor William stares at Agnes.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Are you done?

Agnes folds her arms.

SISTER AGNES:

Yes.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

You have served me for the past six years. It is true, I have taking everything you have done for me for granted and for that I am sorry. As for the Mega church and going on television and being a household name I'm not feeling that.

SISTER AGNES:

Don't be...

The pastor stands.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Hold on, you said you were done. I listened to you, now it is my turn to speak.
Agnes you mess up the only chance I had of happiness. Dominique is RIGHT FOR ME! I don't know what is going on in your little head but you are delusional. That woman has done nothing to you and yet you pour all your energy to destroy her. You seriously need help Agnes and I don't give a damn where you go. But you are going to get the hell out of here.

Agnes wraps her arms around Pastor Williams.

SISTER AGNES:

If you give me a chance I can be a good wife for you.

Pastor Williams unwraps Agnes's arms from around him.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and HIM ONLY SHALT THOU SERVE!

Agnes knells before the pastor crying.

SISTER AGNES:

DAVID I LOVE YOU! Please!

Pastor Williams looks down and looks away.

PASTOR:

Leave before I hurt you woman.

He points at the door. Agnes stands and leaves sobbing.

INT. COFFEE CAFE - DAY

Dominique, Mark and Stacy are sitting at a table sipping coffee.

MARK:

I can't believe they threw us out like that.

STACY:

Like trash.

Dominique remain silent sipping on her coffee.

Stacy studied Dominique's face for a short moment and removes the white envelope from her bosom.

STACY: (CONT'D)

Here Nique.

Dominique peers down at the envelope.

DOMINIQUE:

What is this Stacy?

STACY:

I don't know. I found it in Miss Rosa's office.

Dominique opens the letter and reads it.

DOMINIQUE:

Do you know what this is?

Mark and Stacy stare at Dominique blankly.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

Let's go.

MARK:

Where are we going?

Dominique is half way out the cafe's door.

DOMINIQUE:

City Hall!

INT. CITY HALL - DAY

The trio arrive at the estate office out of breath.

Dominique collect herself before speaking to the receptionist.

She gives the letter to the receptionist.

The receptionist reads the letter.

RECEPTIONIST:

Monique La ruex? We have been expecting you.

INT. MR. WHITMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Walter and a few of his colleagues are having a business meeting when Agnes enters the room.

MR. WHITMAN:

Excuse me Agnes this is a close meeting.

SISTER AGNES:

I overheard you all discussing the new property we just acquired.

Walter and his associates laughs.

MR. WHITMAN:

We? You mean me.

SISTER AGNES:

We had a deal.

MR. WHITMAN:

No my dear I specifically stated if you can get your Pastor to sign the contract then I might consider expanding your church. Nonetheless you failed and besides by January first I will own the entire property including the land your little church sit on.

Walter looks at his associates and laughs.

MR. WHITMAN: (CONT'D)

What are churches worth these days?

SISTER AGNES:

You will be hearing from my lawyer.

Mr. WHITMAN:

It's not like I haven't heard that before.

SISTER AGNES:

What about M.L. Inc.?

MR. WHITMAN:

What about them? They don't exist. What company do you know that does not have a phone number?

SISTER AGNES:

Monster!

MR. WHITMAN:

Good bye Miss Agnes.

Walter laughs. Agnes leaves the office.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. CITY HALL - DAY

Dominique, Mark and Stacy are sitting in a office when two men in business suits enters the room.

NOAH:

Hello my name is NOAH GRANT and I am Miss. Rosita Abigail Mendez's probate lawyer.

Noah formally shakes everyone's hand.

STACY:

Hold on wait. Who's Rosita?

Mark sighs.

MARK:

I'm sorry sir. Rosita, Stacy is Miss. Rosa.

NOAH:

May I continue?

DOMINIQUE:

Yes please.

NOAH:

As I stated before I am Miss Rosita's estate lawyer and to my right is my colleague DANIEL REED.

Daniel also formally shakes everyone's hand.

NOAH: (CONT'D)

My responsibility is to keep track of Miss. Rosita's estate. To be clear this is not a debt. But with a settlement this size we must take proper precautions. I must establish that all parties involve are present. Mr. Mark Alexander Wright.

MARK:

Here.

NOAH:

Miss Stacy Elizabeth Michaels?

Stacy raises her hand like she was a first grader in school.

STACY:

Present!

Mark grabs Stacy's arm and pulls it back down.

NOAH:

And Mrs. Dominique Monique La ruex
Dawson.

Dominique nods her head yes.

NOAH: (CONT'D)

Mrs. Dawson I must address you
first for the simple fact that Ms.
Mendez made you power of attorney.
Is this your signature?

Noah slide a document across the table. Dominique examines
the document and hands it back.

DOMINIQUE:

Yes. I signed these documents many
years ago when I was working for
Whitman Enterprises. Rosita needed
money for overdue taxes on the
center.

NOAH:

That's correct. However the money
transaction was a test.

DOMINIQUE:

A test? For what?

NOAH:

Since Ms. Mendez never married nor
had any children she selected three
honest individuals to inherit her
estate.

MARK:

Estate? Miss Rosa wasn't rich.

(MORE)

MARK: (CONT'D)

She was just a nice woman who ran the center.

NOAH:

On the contrary Mr. Wright Ms. Mendez was a very wealthy woman. Who preferred to live modestly. She dedicated her life helping the less fortunate.

STACY:

That's true she love helping people.

The trio look at one another. Noah removes a folder with a red wax seal.

NOAH:

What I have in my hand is the last will and testament of Rosita Abigail Mendez. May I have your permission to break the seal.

DOMINIQUE:

Yes.

MARK:

Yes.

STACY:

Yes.

Noah breaks the seal and begins to read.

NOAH:

I Rosita Abigail Mendez of sound mind and body relinquish the following.

(SLOW MOTION) Noah continue to read the will Stacy smiles, Dominique smiles and Mark cries.

The camera focus on Noah speaking. The audience does not hear the dialog however they can read his lips.

NOAH: (CONT'D)

And to my dear friend Dominique who has been like a sister to me, I leave you my Grand father Felipe Camilo Mendez's Anderson Center estate and a cash lump sum of fifty million dollars.

The three friends hug one another. Stacy hugs Daniel and Noah. Then she pauses.

STACY:

Wait a minute. Hold on, who's Monique La ruex?

Everyone in the office laughs.

STACY: (CONT'D)

I'm serious.

INT. CHURCH NEXT DAY - DAY

Dominique walks into the church and finds Pastor Williams sitting in the front pew alone.

DOMINIQUE:

Hay.

Pastor Williams looks up and see Dominique standing before him.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Hay.

DOMINIQUE:

Do you want me to start polishing the furniture or washing the windows?

Pastor Williams gets down on his knees and wraps arms around Dominique's waist and burying his face into her stomach and begins to weep.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Forgive me Dominique.

Dominique gently lifts Williams face up with her hands.

PASTOR WILLIAMS: (CONT'D)

I was a fool. Everything my
forefathers worked for, is gone.

DOMINIQUE:

What do you mean gone?

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

I received a letter in the mail
from Whitman Enterprise stating
that the land this church sits on
has been sold we have exactly
thirty days to vacate the property.

Pastor Williams gives Dominique the letter. Dominique reads
the letter and laughs.

PASTOR WILLIAMS: (CONT'D)

How can you laugh in a time like
this? I lost the church. I don't
know how I'm going to tell my
congregation next Sunday.

Dominique continues to laugh.

DOMINIQUE:

Don't worry David God has a plan
for us all.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

I don't understand.

DOMINIQUE:

Don't worry.

Dominique smiles.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

But right now you look like you
need a cup of coffee. Come on.

EXT. ANDERSON CENTER - DAY

Dominique, Mark and Stacy are cleaning the Dinning Hall when Mr. Whitman and a wrecking crew enters the building.

MR. WHITMAN:

What the hell is going on here?
Didn't I throw you vagrants out a
week ago?

DOMINIQUE:

Yes you did. But you were not
authorize to do so.

MR. WHITMAN:

This is my property and I can do as
I see fit.

DOMINIQUE:

Are you sure Walter? Tsk, tsk, tsk
a man your age should watch your
temper.

MR. WHITMAN:

I'm going to contact the proper
authorities.

DOMINIQUE:

Listen to you.
(mimicking Whitman)
I'm going to contact the proper
authorities.
(Normal voice)
Don't bother, I already have.

Dominique's lawyers Noah and Daniel and the police reveal themselves.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

Apparently you have been falsifying
fraudulent documents to obtain
properties which do not belong you.
Altering contractor's manifestos so
you can save money, or as you like
to say " more cost efficient."

Pastor Williams enters the Center.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

Come here dear.

Pastor William walks over to Dominique.

DOMINIQUE: (CONT'D)

You remember Mr. Williams don't
you? Of course you do. You told him
he had thirty days to vacate the
church because the land the church
rest on was sold. But the land
wasn't sold to you was it?
No.
Because I own it.
Officers!

OFFICER #1:

Yes ma'am.

DOMINIQUE:

Arrest him please.

The police officer put a pair of cuffs around Walters wrist.

MR. WHITMAN:

What?! On what grounds?

DOMINIQUE:

For simply being greedy.

MR. WHITMAN:

You'll be hearing from my lawyer.

DOMINIQUE:

It's not like I haven't heard that
before.

Dominique laughs and Pastor Williams gives her a hug.

EXT. CEMETARY VISTING JOHN'S GRAVE - DAY

Dominique walks to John's grave with a bouquet of flowers.

She knells down and place the flowers on the grave.

Dominique removes the medal from her pocket kisses it and place it on the grave as well.

DOMINIQUE:

I'm letting you two go John. Just like you told me. I love you. Take care.

Dominique takes one last look at John's grave and walks away.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Church is in session.

The Congregation applause.

Pastor Williams is at the pulpit in his Sunday's best.

Dominique, Mark and Stacy and sitting in the front pew. Pastor Williams waves at Dominique, she waves back.

PASTOR WILLIAMS:

Hallelujah!

The congregation applause.

PASTOR WILLIAMS: (CONT'D)

Hallelujah! Let the church say Amen.

Collective amen from the congregation.

PASTOR WILLIAMS: (CONT'D)

I want to thank God for waking us up this morning.

The congregation applause.

PASTOR WILLIAMS: (CONT'D)

And secondly I would like to thank God for putting a special lady into my life.

(MORE)

PASTOR WILLIAMS: (CONT'D)
You may or may not have heard but
(name of church) was threaten with
a closure notice by the city.

Collective disavow exclaimers coming from the congregation.
Pastor Williams points to Dominique with an open hand.

PASTOR WILLIAMS: (CONT'D)

This beautiful soul God has place
in my path saved us from closure.

The congregation applause.

PASTOR WILLIAMS: (CONT'D)

I am happy to confess that I love
this woman...

Williams leaves the pulpit and walks down to Dominique. He
pulls out a small jewelry box and gets down on one knee.

PASTOR WILLIAMS: (CONT'D)

Dominique Dawson will you marry me?

Dominique smiles and Williams inserts Dominique's finger into
the ring. The congregation applause and the couple share a
tender embrace and kiss.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Let the church say amen! We will
hear a joyous selection from our
choir.

The congregation applause and the choir stands and sing.
Several shots of the congregation, the choir, Mrs. Douglas.

EXT. ANDERSON CENTER - DAY

CAMERA PANS the Center. FREEZE FRAME.

(Subtitle) *The Anderson Center remains open and continues to
serve the community one meal at a time.*

CUT TO:

INT. ANDERSON CENTER - DAY

CAMERA IS FOCUS on Miss Rosa's portrait then pans to the dinning hall as people are eating and getting served.

Peter is in the kitchen wearing a hair net serving food.
FREEZE FRAME.

(Subtitle) Peter works for Anderson Center full time as a cook while attending night school for his G.E.D.

CUT TO:

INT. JAIL - DAY

CAMERA PHANTOM WALKS down the corridor and settles in a jail cell with Earl and Mr. Whitman inside. First FREEZE FRAME on Walter.

(Subtitle) Walter Whitman has been charged with tax fraud, tax evasion, and a mountain of other charges. Sentence for fifteen years.

CAMERA PANS over to Earl and FREEZE FRAME.

(Subtitle) Earl will be serving seven years behind bars for robbing a neighborhood liquor store by gun point. Fortunately no one was hurt.

CUT TO:

INT. NURSING HOME - DAY

Agnes is feeding a elderly man. The elderly man is trying to cop a feel but she keeps batting his hand away FREEZE FRAME.
(Subtitle) Agnes is currently looking for a husband.

CAMERA GRADUALLY PANS over to the elderly man. FREEZE FRAME.

(Subtitle) Ole George says he's out lived three wives and is not ready to settle down.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. CHURCH - DAY

The choir is still singing and the congregation is rejoicing.

THE CAMERA PANS the church and FREEZE FRAME on Mark and Stacy.

(Subtitle) Mark will be attending Le Cordon Bleu to study Culinary Arts in the spring. Stacy plans to attend cosmetology school in the spring as well. The couple agree to put their relationship on hold until they acquire their respectable careers.

Dominique and David hug each other and smiles FREEZE FRAME.

(Subtitle)

David and Dominique had a private ceremony in the islands. The loving couple are expecting in the fall.

FADE TO BLACK.

END CREDITS.