The Five Steps Of Mr. Washington

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
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By

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ABSTRACT

THE FIVE STEPS OF MR. WASHINGTON

BY

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Master of Arts in Screenwriting

When a successful motivational speaker has the daunting task of finding a wife, because of the goals he put for himself in one of his earlier books. He sets out to try to find his future wife and what he thinks is the perfect woman. However, he is thrown a curve ball when he falls for a woman who is struggling in her own life with three kids.
FADE IN:

INT. HIGH-RISE RESTAURANT - NEW YORK - NIGHT

THEODORE WASHINGTON (38), sits by a huge window overlooking the city. He is a handsome man, wearing a goatee, and sunglasses even though it’s nighttime. He stares at an engagement ring inside a jewelry box. He takes off his sunglasses. He looks perplexed, and closes the jewelry box.

SUPER: SIX MONTHS EARLIER - LOS ANGELES

EXT. PARK TRAIL - DAY

Early morning. Theo in sports attire, runs through the park trail at a fast pace. He’s constantly looking at his watch. He’s fit and looks great.

EXT. THEO’S HOUSE - SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Theo pulls up in his seven series BMW. His house is a spacious Spanish style two story home. He gets out of his car with a towel wrapped around his neck. Strolls up to the front door.

INT. THEO’S HOUSE - SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

He enters. The house is filled with art deco furniture throughout. There are bookshelves with books everywhere. He walks through some double doors.

THEO’S STUDY. Even more books. Charts and diagrams line the walls. Scribbled math equations cover a dry erase board. There are two books on his desk. “Five Steps To A Happy Fruitful Life.” and “Five Steps To Accomplish Your Goals.” Both written by Theodore Washington with pretentious pictures of him on the covers. Post-its stud the pages of the books. He checks his messages on his phone.

DAVID (V.O.)
(Spanish accent)
Hey Theo, it’s David. I’ve booked two book signing’s the second week of February, so have your ass ready. Also, you’re scheduled to be on Larry King next week.
BEEP.

There are pictures of Theo and Tony Robbins, Cornell West, and many other famous motivational speakers on the wall.

He goes to his life chart which is stretched out across the wall. He is super anal, and the chart is the proof. The chart looks like a checker board, with a pyramid of goals all over it. He writes some things from the chart onto a note pad.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Theo has on a suit. He stares in the mirror and straightens his tie.

EXT. KIM’S HOUSE - DAY

A mini-van, pulls into the driveway of a small house in Los Angeles behind an older model Buick. The Buick looks like it hasn’t been driven in years. KIM JONES (38), beautiful but tired-looking, steps out of the mini-van.

KIM

Kids, come on.

LISA (17), XAVIER (7), and CHRISTIAHN (3), all get out of the mini van one by one. Christiahn and Xavier get out of the van pushing each other.

CHRISTIAHN

(screams)
I hate you, Xavier!

XAVIER

(screams)
I hate you!

KIM

Will you two stop it!?

They stop, still mad-dogging each other.

KIM (cont’d)
Lisa, make sure they get something to eat.
LISA
Okay, Mom.

XAVIER
Mom, I miss Daddy.

KIM
Me too, baby.

She gets some bags out of the van. However, she is distracted when an older man walks in front of her house with his dog on a leash. The dog takes a dump on the front grass. He bends down with a plastic bag and paper towel. However, a strong wind blows the plastic bag down the street. The man looks at the poop on the grass, then the bag flying down the street. He plays it off and walks away.

KIM (cont’d)
I’m standing right here, Mr. Walker, I see you. You can tell me you’re going to come back and pick that shit up.

Frustrated, he waves her off.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Kim strolls into the kitchen beat.

KIM
(yells)
You guys hurry up, you’re gonna be late for school!

All of the kids hurry out of their rooms, trying to get something to eat on the go. Kim hands out bagged lunches to the kids. Xavier and Christiahn sit at the table eating cereal. Lisa pours more milk on top of their cereal.

LISA
That’s all the milk, you guys.

They both roll their eyes as they eat. They hear the front door open and close.

XAVIER
Grandma’s here!
Christiahn sticks her tongue out at Xavier.

KIM
Christiahn, stop it.

MARGIE ROBINSON (61), an older version of Kim strolls through the door with bags.

MARGIE
Hey, everyone.

CHRISTIAHN
Grandma!

LISA
Grandma, where were you? We went to Daddy’s burial site.

XAVIER
Yeah, it’s his birthday.

Margie’s thrown off, mouth gaping. She feels terrible.

MARGIE
I’m sorry, I forgot.

KIM
It’s okay Mom. We only stayed a few minutes.

XAVIER
(sad)
We brought him some flowers.

You can see that Xavier is still in pain. Kim sighs.

MARGIE
(to Kim)
Well, next time still call. I would have went with you.

Kim kisses Margie.
KIM
It’s okay, Mom. C’mon, you guys.

Kim grabs her keys and Lisa and Xavier head to the living room. Margie sympathizes with her daughter.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Kim enters, looking for her purse. The television is on, and Theodore Washington is doing an interview on a talk show. She grabs her purse from the chair, and cuts off the TV on the way out.

INT. STUDIO - TV SHOW - “WAKE UP AMERICA” - DAY

Theo does his interview, holding his book in his hand.

THEO
When you follow these steps, it not only puts you on track to be successful in business, but in life. Because it’s not just about making money. People have to stop equating success with money.

INTERVIEWER
Well, we have a surprise for you, from one of your friends in the business. She says she brought your new book, and wants to congratulate you on it.

THEO
Oh?

JORDAN YIKES 31, walks on stage with a cake. Theo smiles, but is not happy.

INTERVIEWER
Some of you may already know Jordan Yikes from her best selling book. Can’t Buy Love.

Jordan shakes the Interviewer’s hand, then kisses Theo on the cheek. Theo continues to smile, knowing this is not a pleasant visit.
JORDAN
So, I just wanted to say congratulations on your new book, and I’m not sure if people know it or not, but this is the tenth anniversary of your first book, the book that started it all.

Jordan and the Interviewer applaud him. Jordan presents him with the cake.

INTERVIEWER
Oh, for a second I thought it was his birthday.

JORDAN
No, that passed already, right Theo?

THEO
Yeah.

JORDAN
I just know how important your steps are, and how you stick to your plans no matter what.

INTERVIEWER
Well, that’s the key element to all your books, that you have to write it down for yourself, and not deviate from it. That’s why your books work.

JORDAN
Exactly.

THEO
Well, that is true.

JORDAN
Yeah, for example, in your first book, you wrote that you will be married by the time you’re thirty-nine.

Theo’s smile drops.

THEO
Well, sometimes you have to take things as they come.
JORDAN
No, you said you should never deviate from your plan. No matter what. It’s in your book. This is the basis for your whole paradigm for a successful life.

She holds up an old book, with a pretentious picture of him on the cover. The Interviewer loves the drama.

Jordan (cont’d)
It’s right in here on page ninety-eight.
(to audience)
Now ladies, are we going to let him off the hook?

The audience screams “NO!”

THEO
But hey, sometimes you have more important things to do. Let me tell you about my next book, I really want to--

INTERVIEWER
No no no, we are not going to let you off the hook that easy.

JORDAN
No we’re not.

THEO
But, the--

JORDAN
Sounds like bullshit to me!

The crowd chants, “Bullshit, bullshit, bullshit!”

INTERVIEWER
So, are you going to be married by your thirty-ninth birthday?
THEO
(a beat)
Yeah, if I wrote it. Absolutely.

Jordan smiles at Theo. Theo smiles back, with a “fuck you” behind it.

INTERVIEWER
Well thank you Jordan for coming by and surprising our guest, and thank you Theodore Washington, for visiting.

Jordan grabs a handful of cake and stuffs it in his mouth, leaving cake all over his face. The Interviewer is surprised.

INTERVIEWER (cont’d)
You can get his new book in stores as of... today.

They all smile for the camera, including Theo with cake on his face.

STAGE MANAGER 47, rubs his head amused.

STAGE MANAGER
That’s a wrap.

Jordan gets up.

JORDAN
Pay back’s a bitch, lover boy.

Jordan stomps off feeling great. Theo looks at the Interviewer who gives a, “yikes” expression.

INT/EXT. BMW - DAY

Theo drives, banging on the steering wheel enraged, talking on the phone. (Intercut) SAM ROSS 42, drives his car banging on his steering wheel, cracking up laughing.

SAM
That’s hilarious!
THEO
It’s not funny. She’s put me in a position where I have to get married.

SAM
Theo, you don’t have to get married.

THEO
Sam, by using my first book as an example, it makes me look bad. Real bad.

SAM
Well, then find a wife.

THEO
This calls for desperate measures. I gotta call my agent. Maybe he’ll know how to spin this whole thing.

SAM
You can always say you’re gay!

Sam laughs, banging his steering wheel.

Theo stares at the LAUGHTER exploding out of the phone, and hangs up.

EXT. USC - DAY

Students mill about the campus heading to class.

INT. CLASS ROOM - DAY

The class is packed with eager students. Theo strolls in dressed in jeans and a sports coat. The class APPLAUDS. Theo smiles.

THEO
Alright everyone, settle down.
   (a beat)
   (MORE)
When I talked to the president of the university, and he asked me what subject I wanted to teach, at first I thought, Trigonometry, havin’ got my masters in math. That’s one of my favorite subjects. But then I thought, how could the students benefit the most from me being here? There are other mathematicians here well equipped to teach that subject.

Students continue to look on with glee.

THEO (cont’d)
So I asked, could I create my own curriculum. And they said yes.

The students applaud.

THEO (cont’d)
One of the perks that come with having been on the Oprah Show, I guess.

The students laugh. Two beautiful girls flirt in the front row, smiling at him.

THEO (cont’d)
So, this class as most of you may already know, is about life organization.

Theo underlines Life Organization on the chalkboard.

THEO (cont’d)
And how to not waste steps on your way to creating a complete and happy life. But instead, learning five essential steps to being anything you want to be. Knowing what you want to do in your career. Knowing whether you want to be married, rich, or just make enough money to be comfortable. Some of you students will be going to law school only to find, that you just want to be a stay-at-home mom... or dad.

Students laugh.
THEO (cont’d)
These are things that you need to know. I have so many friends who go to law school, pass the bar, then want to be a novelist. Or an actor. Which means they end up waiting tables with a hundred thousand dollar student loan.

Students laugh.

THEO (cont’d)
And we all know, you don’t need a law degree to be an actor.

The students laugh, even Theo has to give a chuckle to that one.

THEO (cont’d)
So these are the things that I want you to think about while you’re in my class. How to make each moment count. How to make the most out of your life.

(a beat)
From your goals in your career, to the goals in your own personal life.

(a beat)
So let’s begin. Because the clock is ticking. And, my agent hooked me up with a blind date tonight.

INT. BANQUET HALL - DAY

There are twenty women on one side, and twenty men on the other. Theo stands amongst the men.

THEO
(to himself)
I’m going to kill, David.

They are all nicely dressed. The women all have on beautiful dresses, and the men have on sports coats or suits. SHARON (54), bossy, looks like she was a fox back in her day, but that day has passed and no one’s told her. She stands in the middle of the floor.
SHARON
Alright, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the exclusive, one of a kind, match makers club.

The men and women APPLAUD. Theo is not enthused.

SHARON (cont’d)
Now, as you all know, this is not about hooking up for one night stands. And if that’s what you’re here for, there’s the door. Because this is not about sex. It’s about finding love. True love. To find some one to spend the rest of your life with, and get married!

Everyone CHEERS.

SHARON (cont’d)
Shall we begin?

Speed dating ensues, with men and women all talking at different tables.

Theo sits at a table interviewing WOMAN #1. He has a list of questions on his note pad. She looks at his note pad and rolls her eyes.

THEO
So let me ask you a series of questions?

Woman #1 looks at him oddly.

WOMAN #1
(attitude)
I didn’t know I was being interviewed for a job?

He rolls his eyes.

He sits across from WOMAN #2. She’s pretty, but doesn’t look as polished as some of the other women. He puts the note pad in his lap, out of sight. She looks at him as though she recognizes him.

WOMAN #2
You look familiar?
Theo gives a cordial smile.

THEO
So what do you do?

WOMAN #2
I work in sanitation.

THEO
Mmm.

Theo is not interested. She gives him a dirty look and gets up and walks away.

Theo sits across from WOMAN #3.

THEO (cont’d)
So what do you do?

WOMAN #3
I’m a Doctor.

Theo sits up interested.

THEO
A doctor?

WOMAN #3
Yeah.

THEO
What’s your specialty?

WOMAN #3
I’m a psychologist.

THEO
(sighs)
So, do you like to play head games?

WOMAN #3
I don’t know, do you?
THEO
(irritated)
See, you’re playing head games already.

Theo is not interested. She smirks and gets up.

Theo and different women talk, and Theo is not impressed with any of them.

The function is over. Workers clean up the place moving tables and chairs. Sharon and Theo sit at a table.

SHARON
So how is, David?

THEO
He’s good.

SHARON
Well, make sure you tell him his ban will be up in three weeks.

THEO
(chuckle)
Will do.

SHARON
(sighs)
So look sweetie, you can’t be so picky.

THEO
Hey, I just know what I want. And I don’t have time to waste, I’m on a schedule. I want to be engaged in six months and married in twelve.

SHARON
Slow down, no one is asking you to settle. But nobody is perfect. You understand, no one is perfect. You want to find a wife, right?

THEO
Yes, that’s the plan.
SHARON
Well you have to get to know the person and not worry about their flaws. And get rid of that list, for God sakes.

She takes the note pad out of his hand. She looks at it.

SHARON (cont’d)
Beautiful, funny, bright teeth, nice ass, no kids, no cats. Look, you have to lighten up.
(a beat)
No cats? I love cats.

The list continues on...

THEO
I’m allergic.

SHARON
What was wrong with the woman who worked in sanitation? I liked her for you.

THEO
Well, I just kind of thought we were from two different worlds.

SHARON
Why, because she doesn’t have a Ph.D. in something? Well let me let you in on a little secret. She owns the biggest sanitation company on the West coast, and I’m pretty sure she makes about twenty times more money than you. You have to get past the exterior.

Theo lets it sink in.

EXT. PARK TRAIL - DAY

Theo runs full speed, checking his watch. His eyes show his determination, as he runs to exhaustion.
A random beautiful woman runs the opposite way with the same determination. He’s thrown off by her big boobs bouncing up and down, and runs straight off a ten foot drop down a hill.

THEO

Ahhh!!!!!

There is a moment, then he climbs back up the hill, with dirt and grass stains all over him. He dust himself off embarrassed, and continues to jog.

He runs up to a water fountain, and starts to drink. He drinks for a long moment.

WHITNEY (O.C.)

Excuse me.

Theo turns around with water dripping down his goatee. WHITNEY MANSFIELD (29), beautiful and sophisticated, stands there with her hands on her hips breathing hard, dressed in sports attire that shows off her six pack.

WHITNEY (cont’d)

Are you done?

He looks her up and down. He likes what he sees.

THEO

Well, to be done requires me to remove my lips from the water.

She rolls her eyes, irritated.

WHITNEY

Well please hurry, so I don’t have to pass out, out here.

He steps away from the fountain to let her get a drink. He looks at her butt as she bends over and drinks. She stops.

THEO

So do you always pop out of nowhere like the water police?

She does a double-take.
WHITNEY
Do I know you?

THEO
I don’t think so.

WHITNEY
Wait a minute, you’re Theodore Washington.

He smiles, appreciating the recognition.

THEO
That’s me.

WHITNEY
Yeah, I saw you on the Oprah Show.

THEO
You saw that? I hope I didn’t look too bad.

WHITNEY
Only when you tried to tell Oprah why she wasn’t married.

THEO
Yeah, my manager said that wasn’t the best move. I was just trying to make a point.

WHITNEY
You made a point alright. Never to be on her show again.

She laughs.

THEO
So what’s your name and what do you do?

WHITNEY
I’m Whitney Mansfield, and I’m an attorney.

THEO
A lawyer, huh.
WHITNEY

Yep.

They both stand there smiling at each other. Interested.

INT. KIM’S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kim cooks, while Xavier chases Christiahn around the kitchen arguing. Margie attempts to stop them. Kim’s anger grows. She slams a spoon down on the counter.

KIM
Will you guys stop running in here!

XAVIER
She took my dollar.

CHRISTIAHN
No I didn’t, I found it.

XAVIER
Found it in my dresser drawer. I’m sick of her going through my stuff!

KIM
Stop it! Both of you, just stop it!!

Everyone freezes.

MARGIE
You guys go wash your hands and get ready for dinner!

The kids leave spooked.

MARGIE (cont’d)
Are you okay?

KIM
(a beat)
No Mom, I’m not. I’m losin’ it. I’m drownin’ here.

(MORE)
I got bills that if I even think about make my head hurt. I hate my job. I mean it’s easier when you’re here, but you’re not all the time. I mean Lisa helps, but she has her own life to live.

(a beat)

Why did God take my husband?

Kim breaks down.

MARGIE
Come here, baby.

Margie hugs Kim, while she sobs uncontrollably.

KIM
It’s all just too much. I don’t know what I’m gonna do.

Lisa stands out of view by the doorway listening.

INT. BAR GRILL - NIGHT

Theo and Whitney sit watching a basketball game on TV, while drinking beers.

THEO
Thanks for watching the game with me. The Lakers are my team.

WHITNEY
My team, too.

They cheer at the same time. Theo gives her a look. They both smile.

THEO
Wow. Can I ask you a question?

WHITNEY
(hesitant)
Sure, what is it?

THEO
It’s a serious one.
WHITNEY

Go head.

She looks at him perplexed.

THEO

(playful)

Will you marry me?

She spits out her beer.

WHITNEY

Excuse me.

THEO

Will you marry me?

She cracks up laughing. He laughs as well.

WHITNEY

I just met you.

THEO

Hey, you’re single. I’m single. I figured what the hell.

They both stare at each other for a moment, then laugh.

WHITNEY

You are crazy.

THEO

No I’m not, you’re just that beautiful.

She blushes.

WHITNEY

Well first let me ask you, scholar boy, do you always pick up strange women at parks? Then propose to them on the first date?
THEO
No. Do you always harass people at water fountains?

WHITNEY
Only when they’re trying to break a record like you were.

THEO
I was thirsty.

WHITNEY
So was I.

THEO
Well, my bad, thirsty lady.

She laughs.

WHITNEY
So. Why is a successful, fairly handsome man like yourself not already married?

THEO
Well, I tend to stay really busy. And I’m always jumping on a plane to go somewhere.

WHITNEY
So, when was the last relationship you were in?

THEO
Serious relationship, oh about three years ago. She was an actress.

WHITNEY
An actress?

THEO
I didn’t know she was an actress at first. I accidentally found her head shots under her bed, and broke up with her immediately.
WHITNEY
No, you didn’t.

THEO
Yes, I did, I don’t do actresses.

She laughs.

THEO (cont’d)
Not like that. It’s just that actors tend to not be the most stable people in the world.

WHITNEY
So what about lawyers?

THEO
Lawyers, well the fact that someone can go to law school, pass the bar. You did pass the bar, right?

WHITNEY
(smiles)
Of course.

THEO
See. It shows that they can commit to something.

WHITNEY
You’re funny.

THEO
Well, it’s a gift.

Theo’s CELL PHONE RINGS. He looks at it and cuts it off.

WHITNEY
If that’s one of your ladies, feel free to answer it?

THEO
Well, it’s not, it’s one of my buddies.

They both smile.
WHITNEY
Can I be honest with you?

THEO
Sure.

WHITNEY
I looked you up on the internet.

THEO
You did?

WHITNEY
Yeah. And I have to say. I’m impressed.

THEO
Thank you. So how come you’re not married with kids, with the house and the white picket fence?

WHITNEY
Too busy like you, trying to be partner, I guess. But, those things are definitely in the plan.

THEO
So is that a “yes” to my proposal? Because I’m kind of on a schedule.

WHITNEY
(looks at him strangely)
No.

Whitney smiles, amused. Their attraction to each other is evident.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - LATE NIGHT

Kim walks around empty offices in her custodian uniform, washing windows. She looks tired.
INT. SAM’S HOUSE - DAY

There is a KNOCK on the door. SAM sits on the sofa drinking a beer and watching television. He’s wasted. The KNOCKING continues. He looks at the door. He sighs then gets up and strolls over to answer it. It’s Theo.

THEO
So what’s up?

Sam slurs.

SAM
Don’t you know how to answer your phone?

Theo looks at him funny, noticing how he’s slurring.

THEO
I was on a date. Are you drunk? It’s the middle of the day.

Sam smiles.

SAM
Yes, I am. And for good reason. Did you just say you were on a date?

THEO
Yep.

SAM
With who?

THEO
This beautiful woman I met at the park. Man, she’s perfect.

Sam looks skeptical.

SAM
I thought you were taking a break from women, after that crazy psychotherapist in Houston?
THEO
I was, but now it’s time for me to get married.

SAM
Your anal ass finally ran out of time, ey. Mister, five steps to everything.

THEO
Don’t hate me, because I plan things out.

SAM
That’s your problem, Theo. You think life is just one big ass business plan. Well it’s not, my friend. For example, when I came home and my wife and daughter were gone. Just, left me. And for what. A man that arches his eyebrows, what kind of shit is that. Oh, or when I went to work yesterday, the job where I’ve worked at for thirteen years, and had no idea that, they would be firing my ass!

THEO
(taken aback)
You got fired?

SAM
Yep. Down sized out of the blue. Like the little bitch that could. Can you believe it?

THEO
I’m sorry, man. Are you okay money wise?

SAM
I don’t know.

THEO
Well, how much you need?

SAM
I don’t want any money from you.
THEO
Sam, you’re like my brother. If I got it, you got it.

SAM
Well, if I really need it, I’ll let you know.

THEO
Do me a favor. Let me send your daughter a little something on your behalf.

Sam is touched. His eyes well up.

SAM
I love you, man.

Sam hugs Theo.

THEO
Don’t sweat it. You’ve had my back in the past. Hell, you practically put me up all through college.

Sam pukes on Theo’s shoulder. Theo’s face turns sour.

SAM
I bet you didn’t plan that, did you?

EXT. KIM’S HOUSE - DAY

The kids play out front while Kim and Margie sit on the front porch. Kim stares in a daze.

MARGIE
You okay?

KIM
I’m fine.

MARGIE
Okay.

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KIM
What do you mean okay?

MARGIE
Okay.

Margie sips her glass of tea. Lisa strolls up to them hesitant.

LISA
Mom, can I talk to you?

KIM
Sure, what is it?

LISA
(a beat)
I’ve decided that I’m not going to college right away.

KIM
What!?

LISA
Yeah. I figured I could get a job and help you with some of the bills.

Kim is taken aback. Margie looks on, touched by what Lisa is saying.

KIM
Listen baby. Although I appreciate what you’re trying to do, you have no choice. You are going to college right after you graduate.

LISA
But Mom, I can wait...

KIM
(stern)
No, it’s not up for discussion.

Lisa walks away toward her brothers and sister.
MARGIE
That was really sweet.
   (a beat)
You guys did a great job raising her.

KIM
She’s a good kid.

Lisa stops in her tracks and turns around. She pulls out a letter from her purse, then
marches back to the porch. She stands in front of Margie and Kim holding the letter.

LISA
Look Mom. You know how you always say, that
education is the key to a better job, and ultimately a
better life.

KIM
Yeah.

LISA
Well...

KIM
What did you do, Lisa?

LISA
I’m just tired of hearing you crying at night. Look.
I hope you don’t mind, but I filled out an
application to your old college to see if you could
still get in... And you did, Mom.

KIM
   (baffled)
What?

LISA
They said that you would be able to re-enter as a
Junior, and start where you left off.

Margie and Kim look stunned.
MARGIE
Oh my God Kim, that sounds wonderful.

Lisa hands her mother the letter. On the front of it says in bold letters “ University Of California Los Angeles”. Margie is touched.

MARGIE (cont’d)
Lisa, this is a great idea.

KIM
Mom, please...

LISA
Mom, I can take a couple of years off while you can go to school. Then I’ll go.

KIM
Listen, sweetie. Great idea, but not realistic.

MARGIE
Why not?

KIM
Because, I got two jobs and three kids.

MARGIE
But wait a minute, baby...

KIM
Mom. It’s no way in hell I could go to school, like I’m some teenager with no responsibilities. I don’t have the money, and I definitely don’t have the time.

LISA
You could get financial aid, and loans.

MARGIE
Baby, you can get your degree, and get a better job.
KIM
Look, Lisa is going to Stanford, like she’s been planning to do for the last two years. And she’s going right after graduation.

Margie thinks a bit.

MARGIE
What if I retired early and moved in with you, so you can go back to school?

KIM
No, Mom.

MARGIE
Why not?

KIM
Because, you have bills, too!

Margie thinks a moment.

MARGIE
Yeah, you right.
(a beat)
But I also have a paid off house, that I can rent out.

KIM
Mom...

MARGIE
Kim. Look, when things get better for you, then I’ll move back into my house and get another job.

KIM
But what about your retirement?

MARGIE
Hey, I’ll get what I get.

Kim is touched. She looks at Lisa. Then gets up staring at the kids playing. Her wheels are turning, thinking about her family’s future.
KIM
Mom, that’s too much. I can’t let you do that.

MARGIE
Look baby. I know it sounds like a big sacrifice. But, you’re my baby. And all I’m doing is making the same sacrifice you just made for Lisa. That’s all. That’s what being a mother’s all about. Making the sacrifices that no one in the world will make. Except a mother.

Margie smiles. Kim looks at the letter.

KIM
Classes started last week.

MARGIE
Well, I suggest first thing Monday, you go down there and start fighting to get classes.

Kim stands there not saying a word. She’s choked up.

KIM
I’m so tired of crying.

MARGIE
You’re not crying now.

Kim’s emotions get the best of her, and she smiles brightly through the tears that start to run down her face.

Kim, Lisa, and Margie embrace. The kids out front stare at them.

INT. WHITNEY’S BEVERLY HILLS TOWN HOME - NIGHT

Whitney and Theo enter both dressed to the nines. Her home is beautifully decorated.

THEO
Nice place.
WHITNEY
Thank you. Now that’s what I call a date.

THEO
So I take it you liked the play?

WHITNEY
Absolutely. And the restaurant. I didn’t know you could buy a steak for two hundred dollars.

THEO
I know. I would go more, but I’m not trying to end up broke over a steak.

WHITNEY
Yeah, that must have been some cow. So, do you want something to drink?

THEO
Sure.

She goes to the kitchen cabinets, and pulls out two wine glasses.

WHITNEY (O.C.)
So what do you like, white wine or red wine?

THEO
Red’s fine.

Theo looks around. Her place is clean. He pulls out a small note pad. He checks off “clean house” and “good taste”.

THEO (cont’d)
(to himself)
Not bad.

Theo puts the note pad back into his coat pocket. He looks at some of her framed pictures. He sees in one of them a five year old girl and a two year old boy. He looks a little perplexed. His face goes sour.

THEO (cont’d)
Nice looking kids.
WHITNEY (O.C.)
They’re my niece and nephew.

Theo sighs with relief.

THEO
Oh, cute kids.

She re-enters the room with two glasses of wine.

WHITNEY
Here you go.

THEO
So, how long have you been living here?

WHITNEY
About four years.

THEO
You like living in Beverly Hills?

WHITNEY
Of course.

They CLINK their glasses and drink. They both stare at each other’s lips.

WHITNEY (cont’d)
I think you’re a cool dude, Theo.

THEO
I think you’re cool as well.
(a beat)
And fine, and beautiful, and gorgeous, and sexy...

WHITNEY
Alright already. If you want some I’ll give it to you.

Theo chokes on his wine.
THEO
Excuse me?

WHITNEY
You heard me. If you want it.

Whitney smiles, tickled, while drinking her wine as if she said nothing.

THEO
Oh, I want it.
(a beat)
Well damn, you don’t mess around.

WHITNEY
I’m a lawyer sweetie, it’s not in my nature to.

THEO
Well, I can dig it. No pun intended.

WHITNEY
Eww, you nasty.

They both smile, amused. They stare at each other, not saying a word. Theo finishes his wine. He scoots over next to Whitney and puts his arm around her.

WHITNEY (cont’d)
You have some nice lips.

THEO
Thanks. So do you.

Theo and Whitney’s eyes stay locked, and Theo moves in for a kiss. They kiss passionately.

WHITNEY
Take me to my room. Can you carry me?

THEO
Absolutely.

Theo picks her up, and kisses her. He carries her down the hall and opens up a door and goes in. It’s a walk in closet.
THEO (cont’d)

My bad.

WHITNEY

It’s okay, it’ll do.

They make out wildly, taking off each other’s clothes and throwing them out of the closet.

Their clothes continue to fly out into the hallway, as the CAMERA slowly PULLS back.

INT. THEO’S HOUSE SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Theo enters his home in the same clothes he wore the night before. He looks worn out.

INT. HOME OFFICE - DAY

He walks in and goes to his calendar. He writes on the calendar, “Found My Wife”. He smiles.

INT. CLASS ROOM - DAY

Theo stands in front of his class lecturing. On the chalkboard he has diagrams all over it, showing his methods for success. It looks like a giant math problem.

THEO

(passionate)

So it’s about finding your purpose, and how you want to spend your life. **Claim it.** Don’t just dream about it. Make it happen. So for your homework, I want you to write down five things that you want for yourself. Then write the exact opposite of that right next to it. And really, really, think about it. So that’s your homework. Have a good weekend.

The students get up to leave truly inspired. Kim stands up among the students. She wipes a small tear from the corner of her eye. A student looks at her and smiles.
STUDENT
He’s good, huh?

KIM
I had no idea.

STUDENT
Are you okay?

KIM
Yeah. He just said something that hit a little too close to home, that’s all.

Kim walks up to Theo after class. Theo gets his things together.

KIM (cont’d)
Mr. Washington?

THEO
Yes.

KIM
Hi. I’m Kim Jones.

THEO
How are you doing, Ms. Jones? You enjoying the class?

KIM
Yes, actually it’s my first day, so I’m not technically in it.

THEO
Oh, so you’re trying to crash my course.

KIM
Well, I was hoping I could get in.

THEO
I’m afraid that’s not likely. The class is full...
KIM
Oh, I didn’t know, I just got here this week.
(rambling and emotional)
I haven’t been to this school in sixteen years, and I resubmitted and I got in. I wasn’t gonna come back because I kind of had some personal issues, and my mother...

THEO
(sympathizing)
Ms. Jones, come by my office.
(quietly)
I’ll let you in.

Theo gives Kim a friendly wink and a smile.

THEO (cont’d)
You’re lucky, I’m in a great mood today.

KIM
Thank you.

INT. KIM’S HOUSE - DAY
Kim enters, carrying a bag full of books. Everyone is there except Lisa. Margie has suitcases in the living room.

CHRISTIAHN
Mommy’s here!

Christiahn and Xavier rush her with hugs and kisses.

KIM
Hey, babies.

MARGIE
So, how did it go?

KIM
It went great.
MARGIE
You get all of your classes?

KIM
Yeah. I got a business class. Spanish class, a math class, and a class called “Life Organization.”

MARGIE
“Life Organization?”

KIM
Yeah, I needed an elective. This guy from TV is teaching it. He’s really good.

MARGIE
What’s his name?

KIM
I don’t know his first name, but his last name’s Washington.

The name doesn’t register to Margie.

MARGIE
That’s great baby, I’m so happy for you.

KIM
I am too. I feel like I’m being given a second chance. Thanks to you.

Kim hugs her mother.

MARGIE
Hey, I’m just glad to see you smiling again.

Kim’s smile gets bigger.

KIM
So, what do you guys want for dinner?
XAVIER
Grandma already cooked spaghetti. It was actually better than yours.

KIM
(sarcastically)
Oh. Well good.
(a beat)
You guys, I have a lot of studying to do. Mom, I’m a week behind so I have--

MARGIE
Alright, go. I got this.

KIM
Thanks, Mom.

Kim kisses her mother on the cheek and goes to her room. The kids dumbfounded expressions show they have some adjusting to do. Especially, Xavier.

CHRISTIAHN
Grandma, why does she have to study?

MARGIE
Because baby, she has to finish school so she can get a better job.

XAVIER
I think she should get a job at the bank, they got a lot of money there.

MARGIE
Yes they do baby, yes they do.

Margie smiles and puts her arm around Xavier.

INT. THEO’S HOUSE SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Theo sits in his living room going over his “to do list”, while Whitney is working on her laptop.
WHITNEY
Oh, I think I might be able to help your friend.

THEO
What?

WHITNEY
Your friend. I think I might be able to get him a job at my firm.

THEO
Who, Sam?

WHITNEY
Yeah, you said he was in maintenance, right?

THEO
Yeah.

WHITNEY
Well good. He’s reliable right? Cause I don’t want to vouch for him if he’s a flake?

THEO
Yeah. Sam is extremely dependable. We grew up together.

WHITNEY
Well, good. Tell him to come to my office on Monday.

THEO
I will.

Theo looks at her impressed. He jots down on his note pad “thoughtful.” The doorbell RINGS.

THEO (cont’d)
Ah, hell, that’s my manager, David. Prepare yourself.
WHITNEY
Do you want me to leave, so you can talk business?

THEO
No, no it’s fine.

Theo answers the door. DAVID GONZALES (41), Latino, strolls in. He’s “Mr. Personality.”

DAVID
Theo. How’s it going, brother?

They hug.

THEO
Good. How was your flight?

DAVID
Smooth as always. But there was a whining ass baby in first class that kept me up, that’s got to be against the law.

THEO
Well, babies gotta fly, too.

DAVID
Not in first class they don’t...

He sees Whitney.

DAVID (cont’d)
Oh my goodness.

THEO
David, this is my friend Whitney.

DAVID
(impressed)
Well, very nice to meet you.

David shakes her hand, then kisses it.
WHITNEY
Nice to meet you, as well.

David gives Theo a look. He holds up Whitney’s hand and looks her over. Theo rolls his eyes.

DAVID
(sotto to Theo)
Not bad.

THEO
Behave.

DAVID
I’m just saying.

WHITNEY
So you’re the man behind the man?

DAVID
In the flesh. Yeah, I give him all his great ideas.

THEO
Basically, he books my flights.

DAVID
Anyway. I’m David Gonzales. Manager, extraordinaire.

THEO
Are you done trying to impress?

DAVID
No, I mean yes. Anyway.
(sotto to Theo)
Here’s your plane ticket.
(Whitney chuckles)
We also have a couple of dates that I just added to your schedule.

THEO
Alright.
David
Like I said, we got to hit it hard.

Theo
I know, I know. Hit it hard. You say that all the time.

David
I know I do. And what do we do all the time?

Theo
Hit it hard.

David
Exactly.
(turns to Whitney)
Do you have a sister that looks just like you, or maybe a cousin, cousin by marriage even?

Whitney blushing, and laughs.

Whitney
No, not that I can think of.

David
Well if you think of any, you give me a call immediately. Because you are stunning.

Whitney blushing again. David whips out a card from his coat pocket like a gunslinger. He slowly hands it to her.

Whitney
Thank you--

Theo
Are you done?

David
No. Personally I think you’re too good looking for Theo. But that’s a whole other conversation.
THEO
Are you trying to get thrown out of my house?

DAVID
Hey, I’m just playing.
(to Whitney)
No I’m not.
(to Theo)
You know I am.
(to Whitney)
No I’m not.
(to Theo)
So did Sam get his job back?

Theo looks at him shaking his head. Whitney is amused by him.

EXT. KIM’S HOUSE - DAY

Kim and Margie sit on the front porch while the kids play out front. Kim studies. Lisa plays with the kids, but they keep fighting over the ball. Kim takes a break.

KIM
God, Mom. I feel like my brain is about to explode.
I hope I didn’t overdo it by taking a full load.

MARGIE
You’ll be fine.

KIM
I miss spending time with the kids already.

MARGIE
Don’t worry baby, it’ll all be worth it. You’ll see.

KIM
I hope so.

MARGIE
Did your financial aid go through?
KIM
Yes, thank God.

MARGIE
Good.

KIM
(a beat)
They’re all growing so fast.

MARGIE
That’s the way life is. If you’re not paying
attention, it will pass you right on by.

KIM
Do you think the little ones, understand what I’m
trying to do?

MARGIE
Not fully. But they will.

She looks at the kids. Christiahn approaches Kim.

CHRISTIAHN
Mom, do my hair?

KIM
No baby. I have to study.

CHRISTIAHN
(dejected)
Okay?

MARGIE
Come here Christiahn, I’ll do it.

KIM
Baby, you know Mommy has to study, right?

CHRISTIAHN
Sure. Mom, is daddy ever going to come back.
Margie and Kim exchange a glance.

KIM
No baby. He’s gone forever. But he still lives in here.

Kim points at her heart.

Christiahn sits between Margie’s legs, and Margie goes to work on her hair. Kim feels a little bad. She continues to read her book. She then looks up when Lisa’s boyfriend MALCOLM (17), cocky as ever, pulls up in his car blasting his MUSIC. Kim’s face goes sour, at the sight of him.

INT. WHITNEY’S TOWN HOME - NIGHT

Whitney prepares a dinner for Theo, while SOFT MUSIC plays in the background.

THEO
Sam’s happy.

WHITNEY
So, he told you he got it?

THEO
Yeah. Thank you for that. My man’s got a daughter going to college in the fall. So he really can’t afford to be out of work.

WHITNEY
Glad I could help.

She sits down and they get ready to eat.

THEO
The food looks great.

WHITNEY
One thing my mom taught us, was how to cook.

They both bow their heads for a quick beat, then start eating.
THEO

Wow.

He smiles.

WHITNEY

You like?

THEO

I like.

She gives him a kiss.

THEO (cont’d)

That was nice.

WHITNEY

I know it was.

THEO

Kind of cocky, aren’t you?

WHITNEY

You want another one, don’t you?

THEO

Actually, this corn bread is kind of taking precedence over your kisses right now.

She playfully throws a carrot at him.

THEO (cont’d)

I’m just saying, the cornbread’s good.

They laugh. He takes another big bite out of his corn bread, then gets up and takes her hand. They begin to slow dance to the MUSIC that’s playing. Their eyes smile, then Whitney’s eyes turn sad.

WHITNEY

You know, I have to tell you something.

He sees her eyes.
THEO
Go right ahead.

WHITNEY
You might not like it.

THEO
I’m a big boy. I can handle it.

WHITNEY
I went out with my old boyfriend a couple of days ago.

They stopped dancing.

THEO
Is that right?

WHITNEY
Yeah.

THEO
So what happened?

Whitney’s eyes lower with guilt.

THEO (cont’d)
Wow.

WHITNEY
Look, I just wanted to be straight up with you. I like you and I really want this to work.

THEO
Well then, why?

WHITNEY
I just had to be sure.

Theo is hurt. He tries to mask his pain.
THEO
Why are you telling me this?

WHITNEY
Because, I didn’t want to keep any secrets from you. I don’t do the lying thing. Plus, I felt like you deserved to know.

THEO
Well hey, we’re not married, hell we just met. It’s all good.

He reaches for his jacket, but she stops him.

WHITNEY
Look, don’t do that. I didn’t mean to hurt you. I just wanted to be truthful with you.

They stare at each other.

THEO
(a beat)
So, are you sure?

WHITNEY
Yes. I am.

She gives him a soft kiss on the lips. He doesn’t kiss her back.

WHITNEY (cont’d)
C’mon now. Don’t be like that. I told you, I’m sure.

She kisses him again, until he slowly gives in and kisses her back.

INT. THEO’S SCHOOL OFFICE - DAWN

Theo sits at his desk going over some papers, eating a chicken dinner with corn on the cob. The phone RINGS. (Intercut) with David in his office.
THEO
Hey David, what’s going on?

DAVID
I got a weird call a minute ago.

THEO
Oh yeah?

DAVID
Your publisher wants to have a meeting with you tomorrow.

THEO
For what?

DAVID
They wouldn’t say.

THEO
That’s weird. They just couldn’t tell you over the phone.

DAVID
Nope.

THEO
Okay.

David’s eyes shoot up at the sight of a beautiful woman who enters, dressed in business attire. He smiles. She pulls some handcuffs out of her purse. David’s smile gets bigger.

DAVID
Hey, I gotta handle something. Call you tomorrow.

EXT. USC PARKING LOT - DAWN

Theo walks to his car with his briefcase in hand. He sees Kim in the parking lot looking under the hood of her Buick. He does a double take. He walks over to her. She still has her head under the hood.
THEO
Having problems?

KIM
(head under the hood)
Yeah, I don’t know what it is.

THEO
Here, let me take a look.

She takes her head from under the hood. She’s surprised when she sees it’s Theo.

KIM
Mr. Washington.

THEO
Kim, right?

KIM
Yeah.

THEO
Let me see what’s going on in here.

KIM
I thought it was the battery.

THEO
Well, what happened?

KIM
I don’t know, it just cut off on me.

THEO
So it started up first?

KIM
Yeah. It started up then cut off.

THEO
Eww.
KIM

What?

He checks the cables making sure that nothing’s loose.

THEO

That doesn’t seem like just the battery.

(a beat)

All your wires are connected. Wait a minute, this one’s kind of loose.

He pushes the cable in the socket, then pulls his head out.

THEO (cont’d)

Alright, try it now.

KIM

Well back up, I don’t want it to explode in your face.

Theo laughs her off.

THEO

I’ll be alright.

(he thinks and backs up)

Now give it a try.

She tries to start it and nothing happens.

THEO (cont’d)

Did you pump the gas when it first cut off?

KIM

Yeah.

THEO

A lot?

KIM

Yeah.
THEO
(shakes his head)
I think you flooded it.

KIM
Damn! Oops, I’m sorry.

THEO
Hey, I’m your professor, not your priest.

Kim smiles shaking her head at her predicament.

KIM
Do you have a cell? My cell battery’s dead too.

Theo smiles.

THEO
Sure.

He goes to his hip for his cell, but it’s not there. He remembers it’s in his bag.

KIM
Yeah, my battery runs out if I use it for more than five minutes.

He pulls the cell out of his bag.

THEO
I’ll call Triple A.

KIM
No, I’m gonna call my mom. I got some Triple A issues.

THEO
Well, you can use my card.

KIM
No. I’ll just call for a ride.
THEO
Look, I don’t want to just leave you out here.

KIM
No, it’s okay. I’ll be fine. I have a friend who fixes cars. We’ll get it running tomorrow.

THEO
Are you sure?

KIM
Yeah.

THEO
Okay. It probably is just flooded.

KIM
So do you think I can use your cell to call my mom?

THEO
Oh yeah, here.

He is about to hand it to her.

THEO (cont’d)
Look. How about I just take you home, so you don’t have to be out here in the dark.

She thinks about it for a moment.

KIM
You sure, you don’t mind?

THEO
Yeah, I’m sure. C’mon.

KIM
Okay, if you’re sure?

THEO
It’s not a problem.
Theo closes the hood.

INT/EXT. THEO’S SEVEN SERIES BMW - NIGHT

Theo and Kim ride in the car. Kim looks uncomfortable.

THEO
Are you okay?

KIM
Yeah, I’m fine.

Kim smiles.

KIM (cont’d)
Oh, and thanks again for the ride.

THEO
No problem.
(a beat)
So Kim, what made you decide to go back to school after sixteen years?

KIM
Get a better job and make more money. I’m afraid it’s just that simple.

THEO
That sounds like a good reason to me. People say money doesn’t buy happiness, and they’re right. But having it means that it’s just one less thing to worry about.

Kim looks at the beautiful interior of his car.

KIM
I know that’s the truth. You know when you’re younger, it seems like you got forever to do the things you want to do in life, next thing you know you’re thirty eight, and haven’t accomplished half the goals you thought you would.
THEO
That’s because you have to seize the moment. And it looks like that’s what you’re doing now. And that’s all that matters.

KIM
I’m trying.

THEO
Some people wait until it’s too late. I tell you, people make life more complicated than it has to be.

(a beat)
Life is very simple, you make a plan, and you don’t deviate from that plan.

KIM
Yeah, but what happens when life throws you a curve ball?

THEO
Then you adapt, and work with that curve ball you’ve been thrown.

KIM
Sometimes that’s easier said than done.

THEO
Not if you always have a plan.

KIM
But, sometimes it depends on how big that curve ball is.

Kim thinks about her own curve ball.

THEO
You’d be surprised what God has put in us, to handle even those big curve balls.

As they drive through an intersection, a car RUNS a RED light. Theo SLAMS on the brakes. They SCREAM.
They both are stunned, squeezing each other’s hand, panting.

    KIM
    Damn, you got some good ass brakes.

    THEO
    Where the hell, that car come from?

They realize they are holding hands and quickly let go.

Theo pulls off.

Theo’s navigational system tells him to “make a right turn”. She notices he has a big piece of corn in the side of his teeth. She does a double-take. She looks amused.

    THEO (cont’d)
    Think of it this way. If you want to be something, all you have to do is not quit. That’s it. That’s the whole secret to life right there. Not to quit.

    KIM
    That makes sense. You know I looked you up on the internet.

Theo laughs.

    THEO
    What’s up with the internet? It seems like everyone goes to the internet when they meet me.

    KIM
    Well, people want to know who they’re dealing with. You could be a mad man.

    THEO
    I guess so.

They both laugh.
KIM
But you speak the truth Mr. Washington, and one thing my mom always says, if you’re not telling the truth, you’re just wasting your breath.

THEO
Ooh, that’s a good one. I’m gonna steal that one and put it in my book.
(chuckles)
Your mother sounds like a wise woman.

KIM
She is. That’s my house on the left. The blue one.

Theo turns into the driveway and stops.

KIM (cont’d)
Well, thanks again for the ride.

THEO
No problem.

KIM
I hope I didn’t take you too far out of your way.

THEO
Hey, it was my pleasure.

She smiles, thankful.

THEO (cont’d)
So, I’ll see you in class.

Theo smiles. The corn has moved to his front teeth. She smiles, trying not to laugh.

KIM
See you there. Oh, and you got something in your teeth.

She hops out of the car. He quickly looks in the rearview mirror.
KIM (cont’d)
Bye Mr. Washington.

She closes the door and heads to the house. He spots the big piece of corn on his front teeth. He quickly wipes the corn from his teeth, embarrassed. He looks at Kim walking to the house. He gives a little laugh. He tilts his head to the side, noticing she has a great ass.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

A plane takes off on the runway.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY PUBLISHING DISTRICT - DAY

Theo walks into a building.

INT. BECKS PUBLISHING COMPANY - DAY

Theo waits in the lobby. A beautiful female ASSISTANT walks out.

    ASSISTANT
    Mr. Becks will see you now.

    THEO
    Alright.

Theo follows her into a conference room.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

There are at least ten people sitting around a long oblong table. LARRY BECKS stands at the head of the table.

    LARRY
    How you doing, Theo?

    THEO
    Hey Larry, how’s it going?
LARRY
Unfortunately, not too good.

THEO
Okay.

LARRY
Have a seat.

Theo sits at the table. Larry sits as well.

LARRY (cont’d)
Okay, I think that I should just get to it. I don’t want to beat around the bush. This marriage thing has kind of gotten out of control. Ms. Yikes. Your old girlfriend has caused quite a stir among your fans.

THEO
Look, my fans see through her. She’s just a bitter ex-girlfriend who’s trying to get back at me.

LARRY
Well, bitter or not, she’s creating quite a buzz.

Larry turns on YOU TUBE on the flat screen behind him. Freeze frame of Jordan Yikes yelling at the screen.

LARRY (cont’d)
She’s gotten nine million hits.

Larry presses play.

ON SCREEN
Jordan vents to the screen.

JORDAN
I’ll guarantee he won’t get married, because it’s not in his personality. He’s a phony. He won’t allow himself to get married.

(MORE)
I guarantee he will come up with some excuse not to get married, so for all of you ladies that buy his book, thinking that he believes the stuff that he writes, mark my words, he will not get married!

INT. CONFEERENCE ROOM

Larry pauses the screen with Jordan yelling at the camera. She looks crazy.

LARRY
And you don’t even wanna know how many hits her little ambush on “Wake Up America” got.

THEO
Okay, well what does this have to do with me?

LARRY
She’s affecting your book sales. Your fans think you’re a fraud. You really have to get married.

Theo sighs.

THEO
I’m working on it.

LARRY
Well you better work harder. Or you won’t have a deal with us come fall.

Theo is flabbergasted.

EXT. LOS ANGELES HIGH RISE BUILDING - WILSHIRE DISTRICT - DAY

People hustle in and out of the building, going on with their day.

INT. HIGH RISE OFFICE BUILDING LOBBY - DAY

Theo walks through the lobby, wearing a nice pair of jeans and a sports jacket. He gets on the elevator. Two men are already on it. Theo goes to press the number on the elevator, but it’s already lit.
MAN 1
I’m just going to keep my head down, and do my job.

MAN 2
I hear you. That’s all you can do.

MAN 1
It just pisses me off. Everyone knows she takes credit when it’s her idea. But when it’s my idea, or your idea. She snaps into, “oh it was a team effort. The team, the team”.

MAN 2
Yep. She’s not even that talented. And she knows it. I mean everyone knows that Brad should be running the department, not her.

MAN 1
And she knows it too.

MAN 2
Man, I just want to say to her face so bad. Whitney Mansfield. I know you’re not as talented as me, and you know you’re not as talented as me, so please, please, please, stop being a bitch to everyone around you who could do your job better than you.

Theo gives the two men a quick glance.

MAN 1
And learn how to talk to people. You don’t have to be a bitch to your assistants, and everyone below you just because you can.

DING. The elevator doors slide open. Theo walks out a little bothered by the two guys, but perplexed as well. He strolls to the receptionist desk.
THEO
Hello. Theo Washington here to see Ms. Whitney Mansfield.

RECEPTIONIST
Sure, one moment.

The two men walk by hearing him.

MAN 2
(sotto to Man 1)
Fuck me.

Theo shrugs at them as they both walk by.

She patches through to Whitney.

RECEPTIONIST
Ms. Mansfield, there is a Mr. Washington here... she’ll be out in a moment.

Theo waits. Whitney comes out beaming.

WHITNEY
Oh my God, I thought you weren’t getting back from New York until tomorrow?

THEO
I thought I’d surprise you...

WHITNEY
Well, come on in.

She motions toward her office.

INT. WHITNEY’S OFFICE - DAY

They walk inside and she closes the door. She kisses him.

WHITNEY
So Mr. Washington, what brings you by?
THEO
I thought I would take you out to lunch.

WHITNEY
(a beat)
I missed you.

THEO
I was only gone three days.

WHITNEY
Three days too many.

She kisses him again.

THEO
Is that right.

WHITNEY
That’s right. Let me get my purse.

She gets her purse, while Theo looks at her view overlooking the city.

THEO
So, how’s Sam doing?

WHITNEY
As far as I know, they love him.

THEO
Good.

WHITNEY
Look, I wanna get a room at the “W” down the street for a quickie, work up an appetite, and then get something to eat. Is that okay?

Theo smiles, amused by her candidness.

THEO
That’s, very okay.
INT. RESTAURANT IN LOS ANGELES - DAY

Theo downs his water like he’s dehydrated, while Whitney eats like a refugee.

    WHITNEY
    (mouthful of food)
    I love food after sex.

Theo finishes the glass of water and puts it down next to the three empty glasses in front of him. He looks at her fascinated, as she shovels food in her mouth.

    THEO
    You were something else. You know that?

    WHITNEY
    (mouthful of food)
    I know. You just got to get in shape, that’s all. Especially if you wanna hang with me.

Theo smirks.

    THEO
    Anyway. I’ve been thinking, maybe we should go on a vacation when school is out for me.

    WHITNEY
    Mmm-m, that’s a great idea.

    THEO
    Yeah, maybe Jamaica, or Hawaii. What do you think?

    WHITNEY
    I’ve been to both, so I could go to either one.

    THEO
    Well, in that case. Why don’t we go to Australia, you been there?

    WHITNEY
    No.
THEO
Well, let’s go there?

WHITNEY
Sounds good to me. But I must tell you, I’m not for all that sightseeing. I like to go to a couple of places, have lots of sex in the hotel room, and I’m good.

THEO
Hey, I’m down with a whole bunch of sex in the hotel room. But you just can’t go to Australia, and not see the sites.

WHITNEY
And why not?

THEO
Because you just can’t. You have to plan your trip, so you can see everything they have to offer. Okay, look at it this way, you’ve been to Rome, right?

WHITNEY
Yeah.

THEO
It’s like you not having seen the Sistine Chapel.

WHITNEY
Actually, I didn’t make it there.

Theo looks shocked.

THEO
What do you mean, you didn’t make it there?

WHITNEY
I didn’t make it.

THEO
You’ve got to be kidding me.
WHITNEY
No. But I could tell you about some really great restaurants out there.

THEO
You are kidding me?

WHITNEY
Hey, I’m gonna see it eventually.

THEO
Wow...

WHITNEY
Like I said. I don’t like going on vacation, and burning myself out trying to see everything. I go to relax. Hence, the word “Vacation”.

Theo looks at her like he still can’t get over it.

THEO
But it’s the Sistine Chapel. Michelangelo, man.

WHITNEY
Well, if it makes you feel any better, I’ll look at it tonight on the internet.

Theo looks offended. She continues to eat. She’s amused.

WHITNEY (cont’d)
Okay, next time I get to Rome, I’ll go, okay?

THEO
Hey, it’s all good. Maybe seeing some of the greatest artwork ever done, in the whole wide world is not your thing.

WHITNEY
Will you just shut up, and give me some sugar.

He smiles, and leans over to give her a kiss.
WHITNEY (cont’d)
No, I meant the sugar for my iced tea.

He looks molded, and passes her the sugar. She continues to eat.

THEO
Boy, you can really eat.

WHITNEY
I know. My mom always says, “good thing you workout.”

THEO
I guess so.

Theo stares at her while she pours sugar into her iced tea.

INT. CLASS ROOM - DAY
Theo stands in front of his class lecturing.

THEO
So when you ask yourself, what do you want to become. You also have to think about the life style you want. Do you want to be a family man or woman, or do you just want to make a lot of money? Or maybe you just want to save the world. Hell, I would like to be a rock star. But would I want the lifestyle of one?

MALE STUDENT
Shit yeah!

Everyone laughs.

THEO
(to male student)
Okay, I hear you. You might want to travel around the world, party every night, sex with different women, or men.

(students laugh)

(MORE)
Money. People wanting to take your picture and ask for your autograph everywhere you go.

(a beat) Theo (cont'd)
But then there’s no privacy. Night after night on tour buses, riding down dark roads, hardly ever being able to go home and spend time with your family. So you can forget about getting that father or mother of the year award.

(a beat)
So you have to ask yourself. Is that what you want? You have to think about the lifestyle. If you don’t like to answer to anyone, you might want to be an entrepreneur and own your own business. If you are a people person, maybe you might want to be an event planner or publicist. Homebody, maybe a writer. Do you get where I’m going? So, I want you all to write a five page paper on the lifestyle you want. Not the career. But the lifestyle. Alright, see you next week.

The class gets up to leave. Theo sees Kim getting her things together, then heading out.

Theo (cont’d)
Kim. Could I speak to you for a moment?

Kim walks over to him.

Theo (cont’d)
So how’s that car?

Kim
It started up, no problem.

Theo
Good. I figured it would.

Kim
But seriously, thanks again. It would have taken forever for my mom to pick me up.
THEO
Well, the pleasure was all mine. Hey, when my car breaks down you can return the favor.

KIM
Yeah right. I don’t think your car is going to be breaking down anytime soon.

They both give a little laugh, flirting a little.

KIM (cont’d)
Bye, Mr. Washington...

THEO
Theo.

KIM
Okay. Theo. Oh by the way, I left you something at your office.

She waves smiling as she walks off. He smiles.

INT. THEO’S SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY

Theo walks into his office. He sees a plate wrapped with foil, and a box of toothpicks next to it. Theo looks curious. He pulls back the foil to see two pieces of corn on the cob. He smiles, amused.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY


DAVID
What’s that? Ideas for the new book?

THEO
No.
DAVID
Yes, it is. C’mon Theo, tell me about this new book.

THEO
Not gonna do it.

DAVID
But I’m your fucking manager.

THEO
Exactly, and I don’t want you telling me that I should do it this way, or do it that way, in order to sell more books.

DAVID
(to Sam)
Did he tell you what the book is about?

SAM
Of course.

DAVID
That ain’t right. Is Sam gonna get you on Piers Morgan?

THEO
I don’t know, maybe he will.

SAM
I do know one of the maintenance guys over there.

THEO
See.

DAVID
Get the fuck outta here.

THEO
You got to stop underestimating people.
DAVID
Theo, you don’t deserve me.

They continue to laugh.

THEO
Ease up David, you know we’re just playing with you.

DAVID
Ha ha, very funny. So you are gonna tell me?

THEO
(a beat)
No.

DAVID
Did you really tell Sam?

THEO
Yes.

DAVID
You guys are full of shit. I’m going to get some more coffee.

David gets up in a huff. Theo and Sam laugh as David walks to the cash register, but sees a beautiful woman and redirects himself straight to her.

THEO
You gotta love him.

SAM
He’s a character, alright.

THEO
So things are going good over there at the new job?

SAM
So far so good.
THEO
So, what is it you wanted to ask me?

SAM
Well, look man, I don’t know if I’m over-stepping my boundaries or not.

THEO
What is it?

SAM
Look, I’m only bringing this up because, I know how much of a tight ass you are when it comes to just about everything you do. Including women. And since you’re talking about making someone Ms. Washington. And I’m sure that’s what you’re working on over there. And you probably got some kind of schematic, five point plan to marrying her--

THEO
Spit it out?

SAM
Well, she just don’t seem like your type, that’s all.

THEO
What do you mean not my type?

SAM
As in overbearing, domineering, evil as all hell at times.

THEO
Are we talking about the same woman?

SAM
Hell, yeah.
THEO
(unsure)
Look, the woman I know is sweet, kind, affectionate. Hell, she even got your ass a job.

SAM
I know, and trust me, man, I’m grateful. But--

THEO
But what?

SAM
Man, she is mean as hell. I’ve heard her cussin’ people out left and right. She had one guy crying like a baby. Imagine that, a grown ass man crying like a damn infant.
(a beat)
And she’s always gossiping. She’ll tell a person’s business in the drop of a dime.

THEO
How do you know this?

SAM
Because, I’m the maintenance man, and we get the scoop on everything.

THEO
Is that right?

SAM
That’s right, people get to a certain level and trust me, if you’re cleaning you become invisible.

THEO
Look, she’s an attorney, you have to be a little shrewd in that field to get to the top.

SAM
Okay. I just wanted to pull your coat to it, that’s all.
THEO
It’s pulled.

SAM
By the way, I heard from the ladies in the mail room, that you are an excellent lover.

Sam holds up his coffee cup with a smile.

SAM (cont’d)
That little ear thing you do.

Sam laughs. Theo’s face drops.

INT. KIM’S HOUSE - DAY
Kim sits on the sofa studying her math homework. She looks at her work perplexed. Her frustration grows. Margie reads a gossip magazine to Xavier and Christiahn.

MARGIE
So that’s when Paris Hilton and her sister decided to get hip implants.

XAVIER
Does that mean they can run faster?

MARGIE
No baby, it just means they don’t have to look like boys anymore.

XAVIER AND CHRISTIAHN
Ohhh.

KIM
(frustrated)
I just don’t get it.

MARGIE
Get what, baby?
KIM
This. It’s too hard.

She shows her a complex math formula.

MARGIE
But, you were always good in math.

KIM
I know.

MARGIE
You just have to focus, baby.

KIM
Mom, I know the difference between needing to focus, and not having a clue what I’m doing.

MARGIE
Well, I sure as hell can’t help you, I haven’t taken a math class in forty years.

XAVIER
Was that during the Civil War?

Margie shoots Xavier a look.

MARGIE
Yeah boy, now go clean your room.

Xavier gets up and heads to his room.

KIM
That’s what you get for reading them those old History books, instead of children books.

MARGIE
I like History, and so will they when they get older.

KIM
And gossip magazines too?
MARGIE
Hey, you can’t take life too serious.

KIM
Whatever, anyway, I haven’t had a math class in eighteen years myself.

MARGIE
Well, you better get a tutor.

KIM
Yeah, I think the thrill of being in school is officially over.

MARGIE
Well, I moved out of my house so ain’t no stopping now.

Kim shakes her head, stressed.

MONTAGE:
A. Theo on a plane, reading Kim’s homework assignment. He is impressed. He marks an “A”.

B. Kim continues to study, but falls asleep.

C. Whitney talks on the phone laughing with Theo. They look happy.

D. Theo is at one of his book signings.

E. Whitney is at her job, digging into some of her co-worker’s asses. However, she is getting the job done. Her boss gives her the nod of approval. Sam is working in the background cleaning, watching the play by play.

F. Theo on “Politically Incorrect” with Bill Maher. He makes everyone laugh.

G. Kim watches Theo on TV with her children. She laughs.
INT. CLASSROOM - MATH - NIGHT

Kim sits in class doodling on her note pad. Her math INSTRUCTOR, works on a huge math formula. She’s so out of it, it’s as if he’s on mute. She stares out the window into the night. She looks at the young students taking notes. Some of them also drift off into the night. One male student slips a pretty girl a note. She reads it and blushes. Kim smiles.

INT. THEO’S SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY

Theo sits in his office perusing through papers. There is a KNOCK on the door.

THEO

Come in.

Kim enters looking tired and stressed.

THEO (cont’d)

(surprised)

Kim.

KIM

Hello, Mr. Washington, you busy?

THEO

No, no come in. And call me Theo, for God sakes.

They both give a little laugh.

KIM

Okay, Theo.

THEO

So what’s going on, Kim?

KIM

You were a math instructor for a while, right?

THEO

Yes.
KIM
Because, I could use some help. I tried to talk to
my math instructor, but he just makes it more
difficult than it is. And I signed up for a tutor, but I
have a test tomorrow.

THEO
Okay, let me see what you got.

She goes into her bag and pulls out her work. He looks at the formulas.

THEO (cont’d)
Mmm. Mmm hmm.

KIM
What do you think?

THEO
It’s not that difficult. I’ll show you some short
cuts that give you the same result without all of the
drama. Some of the professors I’m afraid, are a
little old school when it comes to these formulas.

KIM
So you can help me?

THEO
Absolutely.

It’s late and they are working on Kim’s math homework.

THEO (cont’d)
See, it’s all about breaking it down a little bit at a
time. Instead of thinking of them as one big
problem. Think of them as a bunch of little ones.

KIM
(wheels turning)
Yeah.

THEO
Do you got it?
KIM
I think so.

She writes some numbers down.

KIM (cont’d)
How’s that?

Kim smiles as she finishes the formula. She pushes it over to him. He reads it over, and smiles.

THEO
Excellent.

She smiles.

KIM
(elated)
Thank you so much.

THEO
Will you stop thanking me.

KIM
Okay, okay. It’s just first with the ride, and now with this.

THEO
Don’t worry about it.

They look at each other for a nice moment. She breaks eye contact and quickly puts her things in her backpack. They feel the sudden tension between them. She hops up, and all of her things fall out of her bag on to the floor. Theo rushes over to help her. They both are on their knees, picking up her things.

THEO (cont’d)
Can I ask you a question?

KIM
Sure.
THEO
(thinks a moment)
Never mind.

There is another awkward moment between the two of them. Then like a reflex Theo kisses her on the lips. She is surprised, but kisses him back. Suddenly, they stop and realize what they have both done. Theo looks ashamed, and Kim a nervous wreck. She quickly puts the rest of her things inside her bag, and shoots out of the office. Theo gets up slowly.

THEO (cont’d)
(to himself)
Theo, what the hell is wrong with you?

INT. WHITNEY’S HOUSE - NIGHT

Theo eats dinner not saying a word. Whitney’s plate is clean. Whitney senses something’s on his mind.

WHITNEY
Are you okay?

THEO
Yeah, I’m fine.

She gets up and starts to message Theo’s neck and shoulders.

WHITNEY
You got a lot of tension going on back here.

THEO
It’s not that bad.

WHITNEY
(a beat)
Yes it is, I can feel the knots. I know one way to relieve some of that stress.

THEO
Oh yeah. And what way’s that?
WHITNEY
You know.

She kisses him on the neck.

THEO
Oh, that. That’ll do it.

WHITNEY
I know it will, that’s what I just said. Pay attention.

She pops him in the head. He gives a little laugh. She continues to kiss him on the neck.

WHITNEY (cont’d)
(sensual)
I want you to take me back to the room, and do that little ear thing I love.

She kisses him. When their lips detach, Theo looks uninterested.

INT. KIM’S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kim lies in bed, holding a framed family photo of her and her deceased husband with the kids. Her eyes fill up with water.

INT. CLASS ROOM - DAY

Theo teaches the class, while the students hang on his every word.

THEO
So when you find that thing you do, and you pursue it with all your passion, and you feel like you were put on this earth only to do that.
(a beat)
And it doesn’t even feel like work, because you love it so much. That’s when you know you’re in the profession you were meant to be in.
(a beat)
But just don’t forget about your spouse and kids.
(MORE)
That’s the easiest way for your mate to cheat on you, and for your kids to grow up on crack.
(class laughs)

So, you definitely have to find a balance.

Theo gives a quick glance to Kim, who is enthralled in his lecture. Kim eyes run from his.

THEO (cont’d)
Cause life is short. That’s why you have to plan, plan, plan.
(a beat)
And for God sakes separate yourself from the friends that aren’t being productive. People who tell you, you can’t do it, for fear that you just might. Which would just make them feel really shitty about their own lives.
(students laugh)
You have to move on. Because life, and business, is hard enough without the people around you bringing you down.
(a beat)
Alright, see you next week.

Students sporadically applaud, and get up to leave. Theo sees Kim, quickly gather her things and head for the exit door.

THEO (cont’d)
Kim. Can I speak with you for a moment?

Kim stops by the door a couple seconds from freedom. She heads toward him as students filter out of the room.

Theo sits on the edge of his desk. Kim sits in a chair in the front row, as they both watch the last student leave.

THEO (cont’d)
(a beat)
Kim, I just wanted to say how sorry I am.

KIM
It’s okay.
THEO
No, no, it’s not. I don’t know what happened.

KIM
Yeah, me neither.

THEO
Here I am your professor, and you’re my student.

KIM
Well, it’s not like I’m your typical student.

THEO
But there is still no excuse. And also, I just wanted you to know that I have never ever, done that before to one of my students.

KIM
It’s okay.

THEO
You do believe me?

KIM
Of course.

THEO
No hard feelings?

KIM
None at all.

THEO
(a beat)
See you next week.

KIM
Bye.

Kim starts to head out. Theo thinks a moment.
THEO
You hungry? I have a gift card and it expires tonight.

She’s thrown off.

THEO (cont’d)
You like seafood, don’t you?

KIM
Sure.

INT. KIM’S HOUSE - NIGHT
Christiahn and Xavier chase each other all over the house. Lisa crosses the room, arguing on the phone. Margie helps Kim, button up her dress from the back. Kim looks stunning. Her hair is done and she’s wearing makeup.

KIM
Mom, I don’t know what I’m doing. And I feel so bad I didn’t tell him my situation.

MARGIE
And what situation is that?

KIM
That I got four kids, and I’m in debt.

MARGIE
What does that have to do with anything?

KIM
(a beat)
Nothing I guess, but...

MARGIE
Just go out and have a good time. That’s all, just have some fun. You deserve it.
KIM
(looking for confirmation)
Do I?

MARGIE
Absolutely.

KIM
(a beat)
Well hurry up, I told him to call me from around the corner, so I can just meet him outside.

MARGIE
Meet him outside...

KIM
I just didn’t want to, well you know...

Margie nods in agreement. The door bell RINGS. Kim freezes, and so does Margie.

MARGIE
Oh shit.

The door bell RINGS again. Kim opens up the door. Theo stands there in a nice sports coat. Kim squeezes out and shuts the door behind her.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

They can still hear the kids fighting and playing and Margie trying to shut them up. Theo is STUNNED by her beauty. He snaps out of it.

THEO
Sounds like a party in there. You got company?

KIM
No, not exactly.

THEO
Oh...
KIM
I thought you were gonna call me?

THEO
I did. You sure that battery isn’t out again?

Kim looks like it could be. They both look at the door hearing the kids inside playing even louder. The kids BANG into the door. Theo and Kim both look at the door. Kim has something she wants to say.

KIM
Look, I have to be straight with you. You hear all that drama in there.
   (a beat)
Well, those are my kids.

THEO
(disappointed)
Oh, you got kids, that’s cool.

KIM
Three of them.

Theo’s face drops.

THEO
You, you, you said three?

KIM
Yes.

Theo thinks a moments, then laughs.

THEO
You’re just messing with me?

KIM
No, I’m not.
THEO

Oh.
(a beat)
Well, it’s cool.

Theo’s eyes contradict his words.

KIM

You know, we don’t have to go out if you don’t want to?

THEO

Nah, nah, it’s cool, cool.

KIM

Look, you won’t hurt my feelings...

THEO

I know, but it’s cool, let’s go.

She sees in his eyes how thrown off he is about her predicament.

KIM

(a beat)
It’s okay Theo, I think I’m just going to stay home.

THEO

(a beat)
You sure?

She smiles, seeing him give in too easily.

KIM

Yeah I’m...cool. Lord knows I got studying to do.

THEO

Oh, how is that coming?

KIM

It’s coming.
THEO
Good.

KIM
(a beat)
Well, bye, Mr. Washington.

He gives her a look, noticing he’s Mr. Washington again.

THEO
(a beat)
See you in class.

As he walks back to his car he takes another look. Kim sighs, and heads back inside.

INT. KIM’S HOUSE - NIGHT
Margie stands there bewildered.

MARGIE
What happened?

KIM
Nothing. I’m just going to bed.

The doorbell RINGS. Kim stops in her tracks. She goes back to the door, and opens it.

THEO
Since we’re already dressed up, makes no sense letting our gift card go to waste.

He holds up the gift card. Kim stares back at him perplexed.

THEO (cont’d)
I know you’re hungry. You like lobster, don’t you?

KIM
(a beat)
I can do lobster.
THEO
Shall we, Ms. Jones?

She smiles at being called Ms. Jones, and he smiles as well.

INT. RESTAURANT IN LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

They have dinner. The food looks exquisite.

KIM
So then my husband passed, and my finances quickly ran out. So my mom moved in so I could go back to school. So now here I am, right where I left off eighteen years ago.

THEO
Wow, that’s a big ass curve ball. But hey, I have to say, I’m very impressed that you would go back to school after all that.

KIM
Yeah, I mean how crazy does it sound for a woman with three kids, and a night job cleaning windows, to go back to college.

THEO
It doesn’t sound crazy, it sounds smart.

KIM
That’s just because you’re not a mom. It’s different for men.

THEO
How so?

KIM
Well, when most men want to do something they just do it. They don’t have to worry about the repercussions of their actions.
THEO
That’s not true.

KIM
Men all over the country are waking up, and telling their wives and kids that daddy’s got to go do something that doesn’t benefit anyone, but daddy.

THEO
(smiles)
Okay, you might have a point.

Theo sips his drink. They smile at each other.

THEO (cont’d)
So. How is that math class coming?

KIM
It’s going a lot better, thanks to you.

THEO
Well, glad I could help.

KIM
Me too, cause I was drowning.

THEO
You weren’t drowning.

KIM
Yes, I was.

THEO
Well for the last and final time, you’re welcome.

They both laugh.

KIM
(playfully)
Did I tell you my mom thanks you? Oh, and my kids thank you. Well maybe not now, but later they will.
Theo laughs.

KIM (cont’d)
Face it Theo, you’ll forever be thanked.

THEO
Glad I can be of services, now for the love of God.
Stop it!

KIM
Okay, okay.

THEO
So what are your kids names?

Kim lights up.

KIM
Lisa, Xavier, and Christiahn.

THEO
(a beat)
Wow.

Theo sees the passion in her eyes, when she talks about her children. They give a little laugh, then stare at each other.

EXT. SAM’S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Sam cooks some links on the grill, while Theo eats.

SAM
Three kids! And you kissed her!

THEO
It just happened.

SAM
Steppin’ in shit just happens.
THEO
We’re just friends.

Sam laughs as he turns the links.

THEO (CONT’D) (cont’d)
I think for the first time in my life, I was speechless.

SAM
Well damn, who wouldn’t be? Three kids?

THEO
Three.

SAM
Were they all by the same baby daddy?

They both laugh.

THEO
You know you wrong.

SAM
Well, I guess Whitney’s back on the top of your list now...

THEO
No shit. I mean, she never left it.

SAM
Whatever. But I will say, that Whitney is no joke.

THEO
She still kicking ass and taking names?

SAM
With a vengeance.

They both laugh. Theo looks in deep thought.
THEO
I don’t know, it’s something about Kim though. I just can’t put my finger on it. She’s got something.

SAM
Yeah, three kids.

INT. RESTAURANT IN LOS ANGELES - NIGHT
Theo sits at the table bored while Whitney vents about her day. He’s only there in body.

WHITNEY
Everyone knows that my cases were the hardest in the firm. It’s bullshit.

THEO
Yeah.

WHITNEY
And everyone knows he’s the weakest attorney at the firm, and he always gets the easiest cases, so obviously he’s gonna have one of the best records when it comes to case wins.

THEO
Yeah.

WHITNEY
Hell, we get bonuses contingent on our case wins. You think I should talk to the partners?

THEO
Yeah.

WHITNEY
I think you’re right. That’s exactly what I’m going to do. Shoot, I’m trying to make partner by next year.

(a beat)
You know what I’m going to do? Write a memo and send it out to all of the partners.
THEO
Yeah.

Theo stares at her with a blank expression.

EXT. TOWN HOMES IN BRENTWOOD - EARLY MORNING

Theo’s out front in his car. He’s waiting for something. He looks at his watch. Jordan walks out and goes to her car. Theo hurries out of his car and crosses the street. She sees him approaching her.

JORDAN
If this is a hit there’s cameras all around.

THEO
Hey, I come in peace.

JORDAN
Well, what do you want?

THEO
I want you to stop bashing me every chance you get.

JORDAN
I’m just telling the truth.

THEO
You’re doing it out of spite, because I broke up with you.

JORDAN
So what if I am? You hurt me, Theo. And you didn’t give a shit about it.

THEO
I broke up with you, cause I didn’t feel like there was any future in it.

JORDAN
Well, you didn’t give it a chance.
THEO
Jordan, when you know, you know.

Jordan looks hurt, then a malicious smile comes over her face.

JORDAN
Well, who cares about that anymore, I’m over it. Matter of fact, I talk about how I’m over it in my new book, “Step Up, Men.”

(sarcastic)
Which by the way is being published at my new publisher. You might of heard of it... Since it’s your soon to be ex-publisher.

Theo is stunned.

INT/EXT. BMW - DAY

Theo drives talking on the phone to David. (Intercut)

THEO
What the fuck is going on! How could they do this!

David is in bed half asleep.

DAVID
Just calm down, I’ll call today.

THEO
No, call now! And tell them it’s either her or me!

DAVID
Just calm down, I’ll handle it.

David hangs up.

THEO
And tell them...

He realizes David hung up. He stops at a red light. He lets out a huge sigh.
THEO (cont’d)
(to himself)
I’m so screwed.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Theo sits in front of the class working on some papers. The students in the class take a test. Theo looks at the clock on the wall, which reads five o’clock.

THEO
Alright people, time’s up. Drop your test in the drop boxes by the door, and have a good weekend.

Theo and Kim make eye contact as they both gather their things to leave. She looks like she wants him to call her to stay after class, but he doesn’t. She walks over to the drop box and drops her test inside. They give each other a final look, as she exits the classroom.

EXT. KIM’S HOUSE - NIGHT

Kim pulls up in front of her house. She sees Theo’s car.

INT. KIM’S HOUSE - NIGHT

Kim walks in bewildered. She sees Theo playing with Xavier and Christiahn on the floor, while talking to Margie.

CHRISTIAHN
Mommy!

The kids rush Kim with hugs and kisses.

KIM
Hey babies. What are you two doing still up?

XAVIER
Playing. And Theo brought candy.

CHRISTIAHN
Yeah, Grandma said we can stay up.
MARGIE
For a little while. They’ve been napping all day.

KIM
Staying up and eating candy. So that’s why you guys are so happy.

THEO
Hey?

KIM
Hey?

MARGIE
I tried to call you, but you didn’t pick up your phone.

KIM
Battery keeps dying.

Kim and Theo look at each other, at a loss for words.

MARGIE
Well, I’m going to go put the kids to bed. You went to the library afterwards?

KIM
Yeah. Where’s Lisa?

MARGIE
Sleep.

KIM
Thanks, Mom.

THEO
Bye kids. And nice meeting you, Ms. Robinson.

MARGIE
Nice meeting you too, Theo. And call me Margie.

Theo smiles at Kim. Margie takes the kids to their room. Kim is uncomfortable.
THEO
You really do have some adorable kids.

KIM
Thank you.

They both give an awkward laugh.

THEO
Look, Kim. I have to say, I’m more confused now than I’ve ever been in my life. And, I feel really bad about it.

KIM
Why?

THEO
I feel like, man. I’m really digging you.

KIM
I’m kind of digging you too. But hey, I understand. I got three kids...

THEO
Look, I was wondering, can we go out again?

KIM
(a beat)
I don’t think so, Theo. I like you, but I just don’t think it’s a good idea. Hell, we’re in two totally different places in our life right now.

THEO
Is that what you think?

KIM
Yes.

They sit there staring at each other not saying a word.

THEO
Well, I don’t.
KIM
I think you do. You’re just trying to be the nice guy, that’s all.

THEO
Maybe I am and maybe I’m not. To tell you the truth, I don’t know what the hell I’m doing.

They both are nervous.

KIM
Me, neither.

THEO
Well I just wanted to say, “Hey.”

KIM
(a beat)
Hey.

They smile and walk to the door.

THEO
Kim, do you mind if I ask you something?

KIM
No.

THEO
(intensely)
Do you know how beautiful you are?

She’s touched. Margie “GASPS” from the hallway. Kim cringes embarrassed by Margie.

MARGIE (O.C.)
My bad. Just going to bed.

Margie slinks off to her room and closes the bedroom DOOR.

THEO
You don’t, do you?
KIM
(touched)
I appreciate that.

THEO
Well, it’s true.
(a beat)
Bye.

KIM
Bye.

She opens the door, and Theo walks out. She closes the door and leans up against it, letting out a deep sigh. She waits a moment then slowly opens the door to see him off. Theo is right there. He kisses her, and they go at it. They stop, both of their hearts racing. There is a nice moment of them staring into each other’s eyes, giving each other slow sensuous pecks on the lips. They can’t resist each other. She stops him from kissing her.

KIM (cont’d)
(a beat)
Just be quiet though, okay.

Theo zips his lips shut and throws away the key. She smiles. She takes his hand and leads him back inside.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

They stand in front of each other. Slow MUSIC plays in the background. They both take off their shirts, and toss them on the bed. They smile. They both stand there looking at each other. Kim starts to shake, her nerves getting the best of her. Theo hugs her. They hold each other tightly until Kim’s nerves dissipates.

KIM
I’ve only been with one man.

He kisses her on the forehead, then the lips as gentle as possible.

They make love passionately, eyes locked. They try to be quiet, letting out “ohhs” and “ahhs” that are beyond their control. Their expressions show, that whatever is going on between them is magical. A tear rolls down Kim’s face. She quickly wipes it away.
THEO
It’s okay. Don’t wipe them. They’re beautiful.

He stares at her, as tears stream down the sides of her face.

Montage:

A. Theo and Kim walk on the beach. They laugh and kiss.

B. Kim works her night job washing windows, singing with her ear phones on.

C. Theo shows Kim around his house. They hang out in his home office. Theo writes some things down on his calender on the wall. She looks at his two books on his desk with post-its sticking out. She picks up the book that reads “Five Steps To A Happy Fruitful Life”.

D. Theo and Kim play with all of Kim’s kids in the front yard. He likes them. Lisa smiles, seeing her mother happy.

E. Kim and Theo laugh hysterically after class.

F. Kim and Theo are at a Laker game three rows from the floor, cheering their team on singing “Hit The Road Jack”. They taunt one of the players on the visiting team. The player loses it, and goes after them. Theo grabs Kim by the hand and they run.

G. Whitney is at home calling Theo. He doesn’t answer. She hangs up the phone knowing something’s wrong.

INT. LAW PRACTICE - DAY

Sam pushes a broom, listening to his IPOD. Whitney sees him and approaches him. He sees her and takes his ear pieces out of his ears.

WHITNEY
Sam, could I talk to you for a second?

SAM
Yeah, sure, what’s up?

WHITNEY
Well, it’s kind of personal.
SAM
Okay.

WHITNEY
Look. I know Theo is your friend, but is something going on with him?

Sam is taken a little off guard.

SAM
Not that I know of.

WHITNEY
Sam, you’re one of his closest friends, and I know you would be the first person he would talk to if something was wrong.

SAM
Sorry, but I don’t know anything.

WHITNEY
Nothing?

SAM
Nothing.

Sam’s eyes are a little shifty.

WHITNEY
Sam. I’m a lawyer, and a very good one. I can tell by your face that you’re lying, now what’s going on?

SAM
I need to get back to work.

WHITNEY
Look, the only reason you got work to get back to is because of me, so are you going to tell me or not?

SAM
Are we done?
WHITNEY
I don’t know, are we?

SAM
I’m done.

WHITNEY
If you did know something, would you tell me?

SAM
(a beat)
No, I wouldn’t.

WHITNEY
So you do know something?

Sam is amused.

SAM
Hey, I’m not on trial here. And I’m not one of your co-worker's that you can verbally beat up on.

WHITNEY
Are you sure about that?

SAM
Ms. Whitney, I got to get back to work.

Sam heads off with his broom. She’s taken aback by his strength.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Theo is teaching his class. Kim sits there taking notes.

THEO
So, when you’re waking up in the middle of the night because ideas are coming to you constantly. And work, doesn’t seem like work. Then, you got something. If it’s legal, of course.

Everyone laughs. Theo looks at the clock on the wall.
THEO (cont’d)
Alright everyone, see you next week.

They all get up to leave.

THEO (cont’d)
Kim.

Kim walks over to his desk. A couple of girls look at Kim a little jealous.

THEO (cont’d)
Hey, you.

KIM
Hey.

They both flirt a little.

THEO
I have to go to New York this weekend, so I was thinking if you needed any help in math, ask me now before I leave.

KIM
Well, I’m sure I can find something that you can help me with.

They both smile. Out of nowhere Whitney approaches Theo.

THEO
Heyyyy.

WHITNEY
Hey, baby.

Theo and Kim are caught off guard. Whitney kisses him on the lips. She looks at Kim. Kim is crushed.

THEO
(nervous)
Alright, Kim. We’ll work on that math later, okay?
Kim gets the picture.

KIM
Okay, Mr. Washington.

Theo notices her sarcasm. Kim walks away.

WHITNEY
Hey.

Theo sees Kim turn around, and look at them before she exits the class room.

THEO
So, what are you doing here?

WHITNEY
I thought I would take you out for a late lunch.

THEO
A late lunch?

WHITNEY
Yeah, a late lunch, or an early dinner, or whatever you wanna call it.

INT. DELI - IN LOS ANGELES - DAY

They eat, feeling the tension at the table.

WHITNEY
So what’s going on, Theo?

THEO
What do you mean?

WHITNEY
With you. You’ve been really distant.

THEO
No I haven’t.
WHITNEY
Yes, you have.

THEO
Okay, if you say so.

WHITNEY
So is it because, one of those little girls in your class? I saw the way they were all looking at you.

THEO
No.

WHITNEY
Are you sure?

THEO
Yeah, most of them are just kids.

WHITNEY
Not all. Not the one you were talking to after class.

THEO
Look, I’m trying not to have this discussion right now.

She takes her cup of coffee and downs it. She looks at him. Her frustration grows. She picks up a bagel and fires it at him. He dodges it, falling back in his chair KNOCKING over a waitress walking by. The waitress drops a plate, square on his forehead. A few people SCREAM, startled.

THEO (cont’d)
What the hell is wrong with you?

WHITNEY
Are you fucking one of your students?

A woman covers her son’s ears.

THEO
What?
She picks up a water glass. People GASPS, reacting to the water glass. Some ducking.

THEO (cont’d)
Will you put that down!

WHITNEY
Who is she?

THEO
You need to go outside and cool off!?

WHITNEY
Mothafucka I’m a lawyer, you can’t bullshit a bullshitter. Now who is she!?

THEO
(calming)
Kim.

People look at her as if they are scared what she will do next. She grabs a ketchup bottle and cocks it back to throw. Everyone JUMPS. She thinks a moment, then puts it down.

THEO (cont’d)
Will you stop that!

WHITNEY
Kim?

THEO
Look, I want to be with you. She’s just someone I was trying to help with her school work.

WHITNEY
Yeah, I bet.

Theo feels the blood trickling down his forehead.

THEO
You’re crazy, you know that?
WHITNEY
I’m not crazy Theo, I just don’t have time for no man’s games. Like you, I’m on a schedule.

THEO
Well what about you, and your ex-boyfriend? The guy you had to be sure about. What kind of shit is that? And will you put the damn fork down!

Whitney realizes that she now has a fork in her hand. She calmly puts the fork down on the plate.

WHITNEY
I’m done.

She stomps out of the restaurant. There is a sigh of relief from everyone once she exits. Theo sits there outdone.

INT. PORSCHE - AFTERNOON

Theo rides in the car with David. Theo looks pathetic.

DAVID
How are you suppose to go on Piers Morgan’s show, with a big ole egg on your forehead? I want you to put ice on that thing as soon as I get you home.

THEO
Just push it back to next week.

DAVID
Do you really think it’s that easy? Next week he’s got Hugh Hefner talking about a new Viagra he’s been using called Apollo 13.

(chuckles)
He says it’s the rocket ship that won’t come down.

THEO
Are you done...
DAVID
What did you do to her, anyway?

THEO
I told her about Kim.
(a beat)
Well, after she saw me talking to her after class.
And, after she tried to hit me in the head with a bagel. Or was that before?

David laughs.

DAVID
That must of been a hard ass bagel.

David looks at the knot on his forehead.

THEO
I knocked over a waitress and she dropped a plate on my head.

DAVID
Wow, for a professor you sure are stupid? Don’t you know you never talk to the other woman in public. And unless you’re caught on the up stroke, you never confess.

THEO
First thing, it’s the down stroke.

DAVID
Not for me. I go up.

Theo looks at him as if he’s not in the mood.

DAVID (cont’d)
So you like Kim, huh?

THEO
We’re just friends. And nothing’s going to come of it.
DAVID
Only because she’s got three kids.
(laughs)
Holy shit, you trying to be like my cousin Hector.

THEO
No...I’m not.

DAVID
So what are you going to do?

THEO
I don’t know.
(a beat)
I shouldn’t have been messing around in the first place.

DAVID
Hey, you’re not married. I don’t think there’s anything wrong with getting out there and testing the waters.

THEO
(to himself)
What the hell am I doing?

DAVID
Well right now, Bleeding from the head, which you wouldn’t be, if you’d denied everything in the first place. I don’t care how many times she hits your ass in the head with a bagel. Or how many plates drop on your head. You deny that shit. Deny deny deny.

David chuckles then stops. He sees Theo is not in the mood for jokes.

DAVID (cont’d)
Hey, just be with the one that makes you the happiest.
THEO
That’s easier said than done.

DAVID
No it’s not. You just have to stop thinking so much.

THEO
Maybe that’s why you’ve been divorced three times.

DAVID
You’re a cold bastard, you know that?

They share a laugh.

THEO
I’m sorry.

(a beat)
But serious, I got the perfect woman in Whitney. With the exception of a few things. Hell, she was right to dump my ass.

DAVID
Well, at least it was for something that you did. My second wife left me for cheating, and I didn’t even cheat that year.

Theo looks at David while he drives unfazed by his own words.

DAVID (cont’d)
By the way, I talked to your publisher. They’re not going to give you an advance for your new book.

Theo’s head gets tight with disappointment.

DAVID (cont’d)
I’m going to have to sell my house.
INT. KIM’S HOUSE - DAY

Kim sits at home studying, while her kids play disrupting her. Margie comes in after the kids.

MARGIE
Kids, come on, let your mom study.

KIM
It’s okay, Mom.

MARGIE
How’s it going?

KIM
It’s going pretty good.

MARGIE
Are you ready for your finals?

KIM
I think so.

Margie can tell that something’s wrong.

MARGIE
You guys go to your room, so me and your mom can talk.

KIDS
Alright.

The kids go to their room.

MARGIE
Is everything okay?

KIM
Yeah.
MARGIE
With Theo?

KIM
Sure. There’s nothing there. We’re just friends.

Margie can see in her eyes the feelings she has for him.

MARGIE
Well, you just remember, at the end of the day, he’s just a man looking for a good woman.

KIM
I hear you, Mom. But I got...

MARGIE
Kids.

KIM
Yes. Three of them.

MARGIE
And.

KIM
And three kids is too many for any man. Hell, one is too many for most.

MARGIE
Hey, if he’s man enough for the job, it won’t matter.
   (a beat)
   It won’t.

Kim hears her mother, but knows she’s not being realistic.

KIM
   (a beat)
   Good night, Mom.

Margie hugs Kim, and leaves the room. Kim sits there wearing a somber expression.
MONTAGE:

A. Kim takes her tests in different subjects. After taking her test in Theo’s class she gives him a cordial smile, which he politely returns as she exits.

B. Whitney opens her front door. Theo is there. They stand there for a moment, then hug.

C. Kim plays with her kids. She looks happy, but tired. She touches her head feeling a little faint from the kids wild play.

D. Sam and Theo jog in the park. Sam can’t keep up. He’s out of shape.

E. Theo and Whitney double date with David. They all laugh. David has a WOMAN who has huge fake breasts. They jiggle when she laughs. David stares at them with a smile in awe. Theo looks like he would rather be somewhere else.

F. Kim comes out of the doctors office with a puzzled expression. She breaks down crying.

INT. THEO’S HOUSE SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Theo and Sam sit on the sofa watching the game. Theo looks burned out. Sam is into the game. Theo has a legal pad in his lap. On the top it reads “Pro’s and Cons to getting married.” He has a line down the middle with a long list of things on both sides.

THEO
I think I’m going to ask Whitney to marry me.

SAM
You sure about that?

THEO
It’s time.

SAM
You’ve known her for six months.
THEO
When you know. You know. Hell I wrote a whole chapter on it. “When You Know, You Know”.

SAM
Just because you wrote a chapter on it, doesn’t mean you know what the hell you’re talking about.

Theo gives him a look.

SAM (cont’d)
(laughs)
What?

THEO
She’s even dropping hints, talking about her clock is ticking.

SAM
The ole shot clock. I remember those conversations.

THEO
But, I do love her?

SAM
Is that a question?

THEO
Look, I need to step up, right?

SAM
Sure, why not.

THEO
I mean, I don’t want to be one of those guys scared to step up to the plate.

SAM
Yeah.
THEO
I love her, so I need to marry the girl.

SAM
Yeah.

THEO
Besides, that wouldn’t be fair to her if I didn’t.

SAM
Yeah.

Theo looks at him.

THEO
Hell, I don’t know why I’m talking to you, I teach this shit.

SAM
That’s true. But like I said, it doesn’t mean you know what the hell you’re talking about.

THEO
Shut up. I’m going to tell her to fly down to New York for my book signing, and propose down there.

SAM
Hey, if you’re sure.

THEO
She’s beautiful, got a great career. Sweet. She even said she’ll help me keep my house.

SAM
Cool. And no kids.

Theo gives him another look.

THEO
(a beat)
Yeah.
EXT. KIM’S HOUSE - DAY

Theo pulls up in front of Kim’s house. Lisa comes out. Theo quickly pulls off. Lisa sees him just as he turns the corner.

INT. THEO’S HOUSE SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD

Theo packs his bags. There is a KNOCK on the door. He answers it. It’s Lisa. He sighs.

LISA
Why did you even take my Mom out?

THEO
Lisa...

LISA
You came into our lives, you made my Mom smile for the first time in over a year. And then you just, disappeared. Why?

THEO
It’s, complicated.

LISA
Is it because of us?
(a beat)
It’s not her fault my Dad died, and left her with three kids.

Lisa backs away eyes welling up. She heads off with Theo feeling terrible.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Theo sits on the plane in first class, while other passengers get situated for take off. His wheels are turning. He sees a couple with two kids heading back to coach ready to snap. The couple’s lives look chaotic. Theo looks at the stressed out father wrangle his kids to the back of the plane.
THEO  
(to himself)  
And that’s only two. Jeez.

He smiles, knowing he’s doing the right thing.

INT. KIM’S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Kim is in bed in the fetal position crying.

INT. HALLWAY

Margie has her ear pressed to the door.

MARGIE

Kim...

Margie slowly opens up the door.

INT. KIM’S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Margie peeks her head inside.

KIM

Not now, Mom.

MARGIE

Are you okay?

KIM

No, I’m not, but can we talk later?

MARGIE

No. You need to tell me what’s going on. Is it about Theo?

KIM

Mom, please.
MARGIE
Kim, if you don’t tell me why you’re crying...

KIM
I’m pregnant, okay.

MARGIE
Shit!

KIM
Yeah. Shit, is right.

MARGIE
How the hell did you get pregnant?

Kim shoots her a look.

MARGIE (cont’d)
Okay, got that part.

KIM
(a beat)
What’s wrong with me? Why can’t I just have sex without getting pregnant.

MARGIE
Well did you use a...?

KIM
Yes. Hell, yes.

MARGIE
(snaps)
Damn!

KIM
Mom, you’re not helping.

MARGIE
I’m sorry. Well, does he know?
KIM
No.

MARGIE
What are you going to do?

KIM
I don’t know.

MARGIE
Well, you got to tell him.

KIM
I want to so bad, but I just don’t know how. Hell, I can see me in the paper already. “Successful author gets in over his head when he knocks up a woman, who already has three kids.”

Kim sits up on her bed and Margie sits next to her. She puts her arm around Kim.

MARGIE
Baby, look, just call the man and tell him.

KIM
I can’t, at least not right now. I need to do this in my own time.

MARGIE
Oh, baby. I’m so sorry.

Margie hugs Kim.

INT. BOOK STORE - NIGHT

Theo talks on his cell phone, while people sit and wait for him to speak.

THEO
(hurried)
You just touched down. Great... No you don’t need to try to make this.

(MORE)
Just go to the hotel and chill out, then meet me at the restaurant... Alright... Love you too.

Theo hangs up his cell phone, and heads over to the podium. He has his book, Five Steps To Accomplish Your Goals with post its, sticking out. The BOOK STORE MANAGER walks up to him. He looks very rough around the edges, with a lot of piercing’s in his ears and nose.

BOOK STORE MANAGER
(exremely gay)
Are you ready, Mr. Washington?

Theo is thrown off a bit.

THEO
Sure.

BOOK STORE MANAGER
(intensely gay)
All right everyone, introducing Mr. Theodore Washington!

Theo steps up to the podium and opens his book. An index card falls out of the book and on to the floor. Theo picks it up. It has been kissed with lipstick and reads “You are my fifth step! Kim.” He’s touched.

INT. RESTAURANT - NEW YORK - NIGHT

(Back to where we started in the beginning) Theo sits at a table by a window with a city view. The restaurant is beautiful. He holds the ring box in his hand. His sunglasses sit on the table. He’s in deep thought. The WAITRESS approaches. She’s a very happy waitress.

WAITRESS
(giddy)
Alright Mr. Washington, you just let me know if you need anything. And don’t worry everything is set up to perfection.

THEO
Thank you.
Theo sits there, waiting. He puts the ring box in his pocket. There is a nice moment of him just sitting there observing his surroundings. He looks at a few happy couples eating. Then he notices a few couples that don’t look so happy.

Whitney strolls in. She catches Theo’s eyes. She is stunning. Theo acknowledges how beautiful she is with a smile. He gets up out of his seat, and gives her a kiss. He pulls out her chair, and seats her.

WHITNEY
Hey baby. Sorry I’m late. I took a nap.

THEO
It’s okay. You look beautiful.

WHITNEY
Thank you. The food smells good.

THEO
It’s the best restaurant in the city, hands down.

WHITNEY
Well good, because I’m starving.

He looks a little nervous.

THEO
How was your flight?

WHITNEY
It was good.

THEO
Good.

His nerves are getting the best of him.

WHITNEY
I was just working on this case the whole time, so the flight went fast.

He wipes the beads of sweat off of his forehead.
WHITNEY (cont’d)
Are you okay?

THEO
I’m fine.

Theo lets out a huge sigh, almost as if he was preventing himself from passing out. Whitney looks at him strangely. The Waitress approaches wearing a huge smile.

WAITRESS
Hello. You look beautiful. So, would you like something to drink?

WHITNEY
Just water for now.

WAITRESS
Are you sure you don’t want any wine?
(overly dramatic)
Our red wine is to die for.

Whitney looks at her like she’s crazy.

WAITRESS (cont’d)
Okay, no wine.
(baby talk)
But if you change your mind, you, just, let, me, know.

She walks away. Whitney rolls her eyes, and looks at Theo.

WHITNEY
What’s her problem?

THEO
I don’t know, but look, I need to ask you something now. Because my nerves are just getting worse and worse.

He thinks for a bit. Then his eyes start to flutter as he sways back and forth in his chair.
THEO (cont’d)
You know, I got to go to the restroom.

He gets up quickly and heads to the restroom.

INT. RESTROOM

Theo enters. He paces back and forth, then goes to the sink and splashes water in his face. He drinks a little.

THEO
(to himself)
What am I doing? Damn.

He whips out his cell phone, and dials. (Intercut) with Sam.

SAM
Hello.

THEO
Hey man, you busy?

SAM
No, what’s going on?

THEO
I’m in the restaurant about to ask Whitney to marry me.

SAM
And?

THEO
And?

SAM
Well what are you talking to me for?

THEO
I don’t know.
SAM
Isn’t that the whole point of her coming down there?

THEO
Yeah, but I’m not sure anymore.

SAM
Well you better be sure, cause you don’t want to piss her off.

THEO
(a beat)
I just can’t get Kim out of my head.

SAM
Well, bring your ass home and tell her.

THEO
It’s not that simple.

SAM
Why, because she’s got three kids?

THEO
No, that’s not it.

SAM
C’mon man, who you think you foolin’. I know yo’ ass.

He looks at himself in the mirror holding the phone, speechless.

SAM (cont’d)
Look man, just follow your heart, because at the end of the day you’re going to have to live with your choice. Literally. And life is too short to be making mistakes that you know you’re making.

Theo looks into the phone surprised by his words.
THEO
That was good. You mind if I steal that for my new book?

SAM
Sure, it’s yours.

THEO
Thanks.

SAM
Hey, sometimes people just need to hear what they already know.

THEO
Well, thank you very much, Dr. Phil. I have to go.

SAM
Alright, I’ll send you the bill.

Theo hangs up. He smiles amused. He looks at his reflection as if he was trying to look deep within.

INT. RESTAURANT IN MANHATTAN - NIGHT

He walks back to the table. Whitney looks concerned.

WHITNEY
Is everything alright?

He thinks for a moment.

THEO
No, it’s not. I think I’m in love with another woman.

WHITNEY
Excuse me?

THEO
I think I’m in love with another woman.
She stares at him dumbfounded. Then her anger grows. She GRABS the salt shaker, but he grabs her hand stopping her. Everyone in the restaurant stares, hearing the commotion.

THEO (cont’d)
Damn, you really like throwing stuff.

She releases the salt shaker, and he releases her hand.

WHITNEY
Fuck you! You might be the stupidest man I’ve ever met.

THEO
Maybe so. But, I can’t help the way I feel. I’m sorry. I really am.

He heads out of the restaurant. The Waitress approaches Whitney, crushed.

WAITRESS
(emotional)
You could have just said “no.”

WHITNEY
Get your kooky ass out of my face!

Whitney picks up the salt shaker and throws it at her. The Waitress SCREAMS and runs off.

INT. STREETS OF NEW YORK - NIGHT

Theo walks down the crowded streets of New York. He looks tense, then a smile slowly creeps across his face. He starts to run, looking like a man that has just been set FREE.

INT. KIM’S HOUSE - LATE NIGHT

Kim and Lisa sits on the sofa, covered with blankets watching television. The door bell RINGS. They both look concerned. They look at the clock on the wall which reads 12:30 am.
KIM
Now Lisa, that better not be your little boyfriend.

LISA
I’ll get it?

KIM
No. I got it.

Kim goes to the door.

KIM (cont’d)
Who is it?

THEO (O.C.)
Theo.

Kim opens the door slowly.

THEO (cont’d)
I’m sorry it’s so late, but I need to talk to you.

He sees Lisa behind her. He gives her a wave. She waves back.

KIM
Come in.

He enters. Lisa goes back to her room.

THEO
I just had to see you.

KIM
(a beat)
Why?

THEO
(a beat)
So I could tell you, I love you.

KIM
What?
THEO
(a beat)
I said, I love you. And I can’t stop thinking about you.

KIM
Look, you don’t have to...

THEO
Yes, I do. Because if I don’t, I’ll regret it the rest of my life.
(a beat)
You know. I think you are everything I’ve ever wanted in a woman. You’re smart, funny, beautiful, and most of all, precious. And when I’m around you, I feel like I have a purpose. I think you’re perfect. Perfect for me.

Kim looks stunned.

KIM
I don’t know what to say.

Lisa, Xavier, and Christiahn watch, trying not to be seen.

THEO
Say you love me back.

Kim eyes well up. He steps up close to her.

KIM
(a beat)
I love you back.

They share a smile slightly amused by her response. Tears fall from her eyes. She tries to wipe them but he stops her.

KIM (cont’d)
(laughs)
I have to get my eyes checked, because I am crying entirely too much.
THEO
You don’t have to ever wipe your tears around me. They’re beautiful.

Kim stands there tears streaming down her face. She tries to wipe them again as a reflex, but he stops her again. Their eyes are locked. Theo kisses her.

Margie comes from behind the kids, to see what they’re looking at.

Their lips separate.

THEO (cont’d)
(a beat)
Look, I know for a woman with kids, it’s nothing to take lightly. But I’m telling you, if you give me a chance, I’ll prove that I’ll love your three kids just as much as I love you.

KIM
Five kids.

All of the kids are watching, looking at each other confused. Xavier and Christiahn count on their fingers. Margie smiles.

THEO
(baffled)
But, I thought you said you only had three?

KIM
Well, I got five.

THEO
(sighs, confused)
Okay, five. When do I meet them?

KIM
In about seven months.

He still doesn’t get it. She looks at him lovingly and apologetic. She rubs her belly.

THEO
What?
She rubs her belly again with a nervous smile.

THEO (cont’d)
Oh my God...

Theo passes out, and CRASHES into a glass coffee table.

He comes to, lying on the floor amongst broken glass. Margie and the kids fan him with magazines and sofa cushions.

THEO (cont’d)
I’m going to be a daddy?

KIM
Yes. Is that okay?

THEO
Twins...That, wasn’t in my plan, but, but...

A huge smile slowly spreads across Theo’s face.

THEO (cont’d)
That’s more than okay. Come here.

KIM
Are you sure?

THEO
Absofuckinglutely.

They carefully embrace, and kiss passionately amongst the shattered glass.

KIM
I love you.

All of her kids rush to hug both of them. Margie tries to stop them, but gives up shaking her head with a smile.

XAVIER
Absofuckinglutely.

They all laugh.
CHRISTIAHN

Abso...

Lisa covers Christiahn’s mouth.

SIX MONTHS LATER

EXT. THEO’S HOUSE SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD

Cars are packed in front of Theo’s house. There is a FOR SALE sign on the front lawn.

INT. THEO’S SUBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

Lisa runs through the house in a beautiful dress. She peeks her head into a room.

LISA

Xavier, it’s time. They’re about to start.

Xavier is in a tuxedo, looking in the mirror straightening his tie.

LISA (cont’d)

Hurry up.

They scurry down the stairs, where a few family members head out back with them holding Christiahn’s hand. The back doors open to a beautiful garden wedding.

EXT. THEO’S BACKYARD - DAY

People sit in chairs, waiting for the wedding to begin. Margie smiles at the sight of all three kids running out of the house.

Theo, Sam, David, and three other men stand at the alter waiting. David leans over to Sam.

DAVID

(to Sam)

God Damn, that’s a lot of kids.

SAM

Who you telling. And it’ll be five soon.
They chuckle.

THEO
(smiles)
That’s right, five, my favorite number. Now shut the hell up, before I kick both of your asses out of here.

DAVID
Alright alright.

Theo, Sam, and David laugh. People grab their seats.

Music cue: “Here Comes The Bride” comes on. Everyone turns around. Xavier and Christiahn throw rose peddles on the ground walking toward the altar. However, they break out into a fight with each other, and have to be pulled apart.

Kim comes down the ailes with Margie. Her belly is HUGE, and she looks beautiful. Margie leads her up to the alter and hands her over to Theo. Theo and Margie share a smile.

Kim and Theo stand side by side in front of the preacher.

MONTAGE:
The two of them say their vows. Then they exchange wedding rings.

Family and friends look on with glee.

Kim and Theo kiss, making their marriage official.

Everyone CHEERS.

They party at the reception, which is in the backyard.

Kim throws the bouquet. Theo throws the garter belt.

People have a good time dancing.

Most of the people have left, but the family continues to dance to the music as if the reception was in full swing. They have more fun now, with only the family on the dance floor.
Margie, Sam, and David sit at a table watching from afar having a drink. They CLINK glasses.

Theo dances smiling from ear to ear, with his three kids and pregnant wife, happy as hell.

THEO (V.O.)
And that’s what I learned. That although it’s good to have a plan, you have to be ready for whatever curve balls are thrown your way, because you never know where life’s going to take you. And like my man Sam said, you just have to follow your heart, ‘cause life is too short, to make mistakes that you know you’re making.

They continue to celebrate.

FADE OUT
FADE IN
SUPER IMPOSED: TWO MONTHS LATER

EXT. KIM’S HOUSE - DAY

Theo and Kim’s life is chaotic, crammed in the house with kids and now the twins. They have a boy and a girl, and they are both CRYING. Theo helps change one of the babies diapers.

FADE OUT
FADE IN
SUPER IMPOSED: TWO YEARS LATER
EXT. THEO AND KIM’S NEW HOME - DAY

The home resembles Theo’s old home, big and beautiful. Theo pulls up. Lisa has her own car.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Theo’s family enters their home. Margie is there as well. Lisa wears her Stanford University sweater. Kim is wearing her cap and gown. A big banner stretched across the wall reads “Congratulations, Kim!” Kim smiles at the sight of it. They applaud her.

Kim picks up a Writer’s Digest magazine with Theo, his new family, and new book, FIVE STEPS TO FAMILY on the cover.

The CAMERA pushes in on Theo’s college degrees on the wall. Then pans the bank of framed degrees, until Theo’s revealed, putting up Kim’s framed degree, Biology, B. S. degree from UCLA.

FADE OUT.