

The Impact Factor

Written By

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EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Hot summer night in the Badlands of North Philadelphia. Row houses, trash, graffiti and abandoned buildings.

BRIANA TAYLOR, 6, comes out of the front door of her rowhouse, notices a penny on the sidewalk. picks it up and flips it high in the air. She catches it in mid-air and slaps it on the back of her other hand. Tails. She turns left onto the sidewalk and we follow as she moves down the street.

BRIANA TAYLOR (V.O.)
 Life is like a penny walk. You are walking one direction, but at every corner you get a choice.

At the corner, Briana flips the coin high into the air and we follow it into a starry sky.

EXT. PHILADELPHIA CITY HALL - NIGHT

Aerial View of the observation deck and William Penn's Statue on the top of Philadelphia City Hall. We fly directly towards the top of the statue.

INT. PHILADELPHIA CITY HALL - TOWER OBSERVATORY - NIGHT

DESTINY DRIFTING, 31, an ambitious, rising political operative for the Mayor of Philadelphia and LLOYD BENSON, her slightly older and wiser aide, look out over the city of Philadelphia. The entire city is laid out in front of them.

LLOYD BENSON
 You okay?

DESTINY DRIFTING
 When you do something for the right reasons, nothing bad happens.

LLOYD BENSON
 This your defining political rule?
 Want me to shoot a few holes in it?

DESTINY DRIFTING
 There could be a few exceptions.

EXT. PHILADELPHIA CITY HALL - NIGHT

Aerial View. We skim over William Penn's Statue perched high on the tower of Philadelphia City Hall and focus on a car headed north from City Hall on Broad Street.

EXT. BROAD STREET - NIGHT

We follow the car along Broad Street into the Badlands.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

ANTONIO PÉREZ, 47, veteran narcotics detective and JUSTIN CANTZ, 24, on the force for two years and brand to the Narcotics Unit, are in the car. Pérez is at the wheel.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

It's only four miles from City Hall to Fairhill, but you've never been there?

JUSTIN CANTZ

One class at Temple. My only taste of North Philly.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Temple's gotta call box on every corner. That's not even close to what you're gonna find in Fairhill. You speak spanish?

JUSTIN CANTZ

No entiendo nada

ANTONIO PÉREZ

That's for sure.

JUSTIN CANTZ

I'm guessing that's why I'm riding with you.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Don't worry rookie. You'll get your education.

Fairhill's in the Badlands. Heroin is the drug of choice. You're gonna see Rocky, Good Luck, Dream Chaser, Batman and Hope hawked on the corners to kids from the suburbs. Now roll down the window so you can hear and make sure you bone up on that Spanish or you're never gonna understand what's comin' for you.

Cantz rolls down his window, eager to please.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Baby faced rookie braves the

(MORE)

ANTONIO PÉREZ (CONT'D)

Badlands! Why you wanna be a narc?

JUSTIN CANTZ

Saw what drugs do to people.

Pérez gives him a look - Don't b.s. me.

JUSTIN CANTZ

Okay, I want to make detective.

Pérez likes his ambition.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Stick with me kid.

EXT. BROAD STREET - CONTINUOUS

Pérez's car makes the transition from postcard Philly to the North Side.

The car moves through wrecks of row-houses. Many have bars over the entire ground level. Some of the row-houses have doors and windows filled with cement by the city to seal out the drug dealers.

Lots of people on the streets. A mix of ages, from every ethnic background. They are standing around on street corners, in vacant lots and sitting on the front steps of the houses. The streets are lined with a mix of shiny new luxury cars and complete junkers.

INT. PÉREZ'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

ANTONIO PÉREZ

So you know nothing.

JUSTIN CANTZ

Still learning and wet behind the ears.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Still standing in an ocean of piss. You're about to drown in it. Just don't expect me to be your life preserver. You sink or you swim on your own in this division. Here's your mission with a time limit. You have exactly one day to prove to me you can cut through the shit. If you can't hack it, it's back to kindercop for you.

JUSTIN CANTZ

Just tell me what you want me to do. I'll make it happen.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

We'll see how long that sweet boy smile lasts in narcotics rookie. One day and you're in OR one day and you're out!

JUSTIN CANTZ

One day and IN is my intention. I'm ready!

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Right. Sure you are.

Through the front window up ahead we see KOMO GREENE, 17, T-shirt and cutoffs standing on a corner next to Briana Taylor.

EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - CONTINUOUS

Briana flips her penny high in the air, catches it and flips it onto the back of her other hand. Heads.

Briana turns right and continues down the side street. Komo stays on the corner, but ...

As Pérez and Cantz approach the corner. Komo sees Pérez and quickly hustles down the side street where Briana went.

INT. PÉREZ'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Pérez spots Komo.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

That's Komo Greene. Works for me. You gotta have eyes everywhere.

JUSTIN CANTZ

Looks to me like he's not too eager to see you. He does this outta the goodness of his heart?

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Shit no. I got an anvil hanging over that kid's head. Somethin' moves and I don't hear about it, he's in a world of hurt.

EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - CONTINUOUS

Pérez and Cantz follow Komo around the corner. They see Briana wandering down the street, but Komo is already half way down the block.

KOMO GREENE
Cop, Cop, Cop

A GROUP OF KIDS scatters everywhere. Pérez doesn't seem to care. He's just pointing out the sights along the way.

ANTONIO PÉREZ
Komo's a lookout. There's usually several and they act as runners if we show up. Scatter all directions and you don't know who to go after. Then there's one guy collecting money, one guy with the drugs and the guys that re-supply them. The guy with the money never has the drugs and the guy with the drugs never has the money.

Pérez spots CAM NEWTOWN, 12, dressed in long, baggy shorts and a plain white t-shirt and his mother, SASHA NEWTOWN, 32, heavy-set, wearing sweatpants, walking together about a block ahead.

INT. PÉREZ'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

ANTONIO PÉREZ
Then there's the customers. Let's get you some practice.

EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - CONTINUOUS

The car slows to a crawl as they observe the pair. The woman ambles, legs wide, as if she has climbed down from a massive horse. Her gait is attention grabbing enough, but she reaches deep down into her baggy sweat pants and starts fishing around in her crotch.

The young man looks more scared than embarrassed.

CAM NEWTOWN
What the fuck are you doing?

He twirls a ballcap furiously in his anxious hands as the woman says nothing and just keeps prying around, her right arm buried up to the elbow in her pants. This goes on for awhile.

The young man starts walking just inches in front of her to block any view of her. This keeps going for a while.

Finally, the young man stops.

CAM NEWTOWN

What the fuck!

On the verge of tears, the woman uses both hands to pull the front of her pants out several inches from her waist. Then she peers down into her crotch and drives one hand into her waistband, her hands shaking and pulls out a big plastic baggie.

SASHA NEWTOWN

I gotta fix it.

She extends the hand holding the bag back into her pants and wiggles it around as if she is adjusting a maxi-pad.

Satisfied, she lets her pants snap back snug around her waist. The young man glares at her angrily, but now she looks happy.

At least she's happy until Pérez and Cantz almost magically appear at their side.

Pérez puts his hands on the young man's shoulders and shoves the young man towards the ground.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Squat down.

JUSTIN CANTZ

Palms on the sidewalk. Look straight ahead.

Pérez faces the woman.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Fork it over, fat girl.

SASHA NEWTOWN

What, sir?

Pérez immediately reaches down inside her crotch and pulls out the bag. The girl lets out a whimper which turns the head of the young man and his hands start to move up from the sidewalk.

JUSTIN CANTZ

Hands on the sidewalk!

The hands move back down as Pérez towers over the woman.

ANTONIO PÉREZ
 Trying to bring this boy up right
 bitch? Are you kidding me?

SASHA NEWTOWN
 I, I, I ...

The woman cringes as Pérez checks every place he can check on her trembling body. Finding nothing more, he pulls the woman close. Face to face.

ANTONIO PÉREZ
 You have no idea what worse luck
 your bad luck has saved you from
 woman.

Pérez turns to the young man leaning over him as he hugs the sidewalk.

ANTONIO PÉREZ
 Son, luck like this only happens
 once. I see you in this
 neighborhood again I'm going to
 slap you across this street. Hear
 me?

The boy seems about to mouth off, but the woman quickly answers for him.

SASHA NEWTOWN
 Yes, sir.

ANTONIO PÉREZ
 Get on that Kensington el stop.
 keep this kid out of here and ...

Pérez laughs and imitates Sasha's walk.

ANTONIO PÉREZ
 ... keep ridin' dirty Waddle Walk.

Pérez taps Cantz on the shoulder.

ANTONIO PÉREZ
 We're done here.

JUSTIN CANTZ
 Done? Don't you ...

Pérez takes Cantz by the arm and they get in the car.

INT. PÉREZ'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Pérez throws the baggie on the seat between them.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

You'll see how useful this stuff
is.

Through the car window we see Briana passing by still walking the streets as the young man and the heavy-set woman move quickly in the other direction.

EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - CONTINUOUS

We follow the Briana. This area is clearly not safe for a six year old, but Briana doesn't seem to notice. She meets several odd characters, each one more threatening looking than the last and we are increasingly uncomfortable even if she doesn't seem to notice. Finally, she finds a friendly face as she walks past her friend and protector, JAYLA WILLIAMS, 16, who is sitting on the steps of one of the rowhouses. Jayla joins Briana as Briana continues her walk.

JAYLA WILLIAMS

Girl, what are you doing out at
this hour? I'll walk you home.

EXT. BRIANA TAYLOR'S ROW HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Holding hands, Jayla and Briana walk through this threatening world until they reach Briana's rowhouse and Jayla gives Briana a parting hug.

JAYLA WILLIAMS

Safe and sound.

BRIANA TAYLOR

Signed, sealed, delivered.

BRIANA AND JAYLA

I'm yours!

Briana goes in.

EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - CONTINUOUS

Jayla continues down the street and stops at a rowhouse. We hear the music pounding inside. Jayla knocks on the door and is let in. SAM JACKSON, 18, a heavy-set thug, is approaching the house. He opens the front door and through the door we see ...

INT. PARTY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jayla is partying and the boy to girl ratio is not in her

favor. A GROUP OF TEENAGED BOYS is hanging around Jayla as Sam Jackson enters the house, pulls out a twenty and hands it to a GREG WILSON, a heavily tattooed man in his 40s, who adds it to a roll of bills.

Jayla drinks and flirts with CARSON PALMER, 18, a boy she is attracted to, as we follow Greg down a hall into the bathroom. He closes the door, climbs up on the toilet and pulls the bathroom vent enough to reach up into the ceiling and pull out a shoebox. He adds the bills to the box, replaces the vent and returns to the living room.

Jayla is still surrounded by boys. As the party continues she drinks and flirts with Carson. But, something more than alcohol was in that drink. Things get blurry fast and she passes out.

She comes to on the floor of a bedroom, with a DIFFERENT BOY's head between her legs.

The next flash of consciousness involves YET ANOTHER BOY trying to help her walk when her anesthetized legs fail her.

Pain wakes her up the next time and she moans before she opens her eyes to see Sam Jackson, crushing her -- he is distinctly unattractive -- with his shoulders rising and falling above her in excruciating rhythm.

Meanwhile outside ...

EXT. PARTY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Pérez and Cantz are passing by ...

INT. PÉREZ'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Pérez seems lost in a world of his own. Cantz is still eager.

JUSTIN CANTZ

Married?

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Huh? Not any more.

JUSTIN CANTZ

Kids?

ANTONIO PÉREZ

One. Well, one I claim. I'm good at making kids. You?

JUSTIN CANTZ
Wife. No kids yet.

ANTONIO PÉREZ
Bring your old lady by some night
and I can take care of that.

JUSTIN CANTZ
I'd appreciate it if we could leave
my lady out of this.

ANTONIO PÉREZ
Like I said, I'm good at it. Just
trying to be of ...

Pérez is interrupted by a call on his cell phone.

ANTONIO PÉREZ
(To Cell Phone)
Yeah. Right. Fifteen minutes.
(To Cantz)
Gotta make a stop downtown.

Pérez cranks up the radio and hits the gas pedal.

EXT. BROAD STREET - NIGHT

Pérez's car moves south on Broad Street, music pounding as
we approach a ...

EXT. DOWNTOWN HOTEL - NIGHT

... as Pérez and Cantz drive by, Lloyd Benson enters the
hotel and the rhythm dissolves into the sound of rhythmic
chanting as he continues through the lobby down the hall to
a ...

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

It's a fundraising event where Lloyd Benson finds the always
required balloons, posters and a chanting crowd of a couple
hundred people, which explodes into applause for the MAYOR
OF PHILADELPHIA, who stands in front of a flag giving a
political speech.

MAYOR
Integrity, honor, impact!

Lloyd winds through the screaming crowd and goes ...

INT. BACKSTAGE - CONTINUOUS

Behind the stage is a smaller crowd of hangers-on, staff and

VIPs, who are ignoring the speech and focused on impressing whoever is around them. Lloyd moves through them quickly until he finds Destiny Drifting talking on a cell phone while a group of people wait to talk to her.

DESTINY DRIFTING

3 PM. Big ones!

Destiny hangs up, ignores the group waiting for her and starts to head towards the stage, but is cornered by TRACY HARTMAN, 34, a TV reporter, who walks with her as she moves.

TRACY HARTMAN

You're the hot new thing Destiny. So, just between us girls, how are you handling the mayor's super-sized libido? What's it really like in the frying pan?

DESTINY DRIFTING

That's a question Tracy? On the record, the Mayor's the only person in the race who can really make an impact. Off the record, nobody really gives a damn about his sex life.

Lloyd joins the parade and leans in to whisper in Destiny's ear -- a rapidly moving target.

LLOYD BENSON

250 people and we have ten minutes to move him.

Destiny continues to move towards the stage, her phone moves to her ear as she passes TODD CARRINGTON, 32. Todd looks like the polished, professional lawyer he is and his political ambition is in full view as he talks to SAM ROBBINS, 64, a Philadelphia City Councilman.

TODD CARRINGTON

I'll talk to the mayor personally Councilman. You're going to see those permit delays vanish.

Destiny is texting on her cell phone as she reaches the edge of the stage and gives the mayor a subtle sign to wrap it up. In the audience, ANDY SHEPHERD, a good looking guy in his late twenties, jeans and a T-Shirt, catches Destiny's eye across the room, gives her a warm smile and slides out through a back door of the room. Destiny watches Andy as he leaves the room.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Andy exits the building, greets a few PEOPLE coming in the front door and walks along ...

EXT. BROAD STREET - CONTINUOUS

Andy walks a few blocks and enters ...

EXT. ANDY'S NON-PROFIT STOREFRONT - CONTINUOUS

It's a small storefront. A sign on the glass door says, "Mentors Wanted." We wait outside and through the door, we see Andy greet a GROUP OF GIRLS, ages 10 to 18, sitting in the reception area. Through a large window next to the door we see Andy's small office. We scan photos of girls paired with successful women hanging on the walls. Our attention shifts back to one of the girls, KATHY BATES, 10 as she walks out the door heading down ...

EXT. BROAD STREET - NIGHT

As she walks Kathy notices a penny in the gutter. She picks it up, tosses it high in the air and it falls to the sidewalk. She ignores it and turns down a side street. We hold on City Hall and then pull back to see the entire square. We notice Pérez's car parked in the Tow Away Zone in front of the entrance to the District Attorney's Office at Juniper and South Penn Square. Cantz is sitting in the passenger seat.

EXT. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Through a large glass window with a decal, "Office of the District Attorney" we see a set of escalators. Standing together at the bottom are Pérez, JUDGE CARTER, 68, Court of Common Pleas, Trial Division - Criminal and ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG, 49, Assistant District Attorney. There's a HOMELESS MAN sitting on the sidewalk with his head leaning against the front window. From outside, he can hear the muffled voices through the glass.

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG

Judge Carter, I'm just not sure
this holds up.

JUDGE CARTER

It's a choice Alistair. Nothing
about justice is black and white.
The only way you get control is to
take it.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

It's simple. The Mayor's bad. You cut the bad out before it rots the good. Whatever it takes.

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG

It's just not the way I thought ...

JUDGE CARTER

Stop thinking and start acting.
That's the job.

The homeless man gets to his feet, shuffles past the window and we follow as he rummages through some trash finding the penny on the ground. He picks it up and wanders off.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. BRIANA TAYLOR'S ROW HOUSE - DAY

Hot Summer day. If possible, Fairhill looks worse in the steaming heat. Smoldering garbage makes us feel like we can smell it rotting. Briana Taylor comes out of the front door, flips a penny high in the air and we follow it into the sky.

EXT. FRANKLIN'S GRAVE - DAY

Close in on a penny in the air as it falls and bounces onto Benjamin Franklin's grave. We draw back to see A GROUP OF TOURISTS throwing pennies onto the grave.

EXT. ARCH STREET - CONTINUOUS

An open-deck tour bus is traveling down Arch Street past Christ Church Burial Ground as a TOUR GUIDE points out the grave.

TOUR GUIDE

Supposedly, it was Ol' Ben who coined the phrase, "A Penny Saved is a Penny Earned." However, others - in view of a curious tradition involving Mr. Franklin's grave - might counter that sage advice with, "A Penny Tossed is a Penny Lost." The average weekly take just in pennies is \$75. That's 7,500 pennies a week or a little over 1,000 pennies a day. Not many, you think? Well, that's 390,000 pennies a year, and if you want to really get serious about the math, that's

(MORE)

TOUR GUIDE (CONT'D)

about 45 pennies per hour - day in,
day out.

The tour guide turns to his right and points out the KEYS TO COMMUNITY statue of Benjamin Franklin.

TOUR GUIDE

On your right you can see a nine-foot bronze bust of Benjamin Franklin. The sculptor, James Peniston visited 24 nearby elementary schools to talk to students about Franklin. He asked the pupils to bring old keys from home - and they responded by filling buckets with more than 1,000. Casts of the keys were incorporated into the surface of the piece, allowing a generation of Philly kids to point to the sculpture and say, "I helped make that!"

The tour bus continues down Arch Street between the National Constitution Center and a view of Independence Hall at the end of Independence Mall. As the bus stops for the light at 6th Street, a non-descript sedan crosses in front of the bus headed south on 6th Street. Pérez is at the wheel and his daughter CATHERINE PÉREZ, 20, is in the passenger seat. We follow them down 6th Street past Independence Hall.

INT. PÉREZ'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

ANTONIO PÉREZ

... It's not okay. Last semester I didn't see you at all. This summer, once for lunch. Your mother tells me butkis.

CATHERINE PÉREZ

Not my fault. Maybe it's better this way. We aren't exactly close. Why do you suddenly care?

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Look, I shelled out \$40,000 for your education this year and I'm not the one living in Society Hill.

CATHERINE PÉREZ

Maybe it would help if you felt like I was actually worth it! Or

(MORE)

CATHERINE PÉREZ (CONT'D)

maybe it would help if you actually liked me!

ANTONIO PÉREZ

I don't got to like you. For the last 20 years, did you starve? For the last 20 years did you have clothes on your back? You got your education? You think that came from your big checkbook in the sky? I didn't ask for you. I came to an understanding with your mother and I took responsibility for you! You know about responsibility? I paid the price for you. I don't got to like you.

Pérez narrowly misses a car as he drifts out of his lane distracted by his daughter.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Shit.

Catherine glares at her father. Swerving back into his lane, Pérez quickly turns east on Pine Street into the ...

EXT. SOCIETY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD - CONTINUOUS

Pérez parks in front of group of row houses a few doors down from his ex-wife's row house in Philadelphia's second richest neighborhood. Catherine gets out of the car without a word and stomps off toward the house.

INT. PÉREZ'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Pérez picks up his coffee and toasts the million dollar rowhouse.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Here's to what might have been and the pile of shit it's become.

We pull back until we can see from above the center of the city from Society Hill past Independence Hall, all the way to ...

EXT. PHILADELPHIA CITY HALL - DAY

Looking from Love Park, through Robert Indiana's famous Love sculpture, we see Philadelphia City Hall as the tour bus approaches.

TOUR GUIDE

.. and with close to 700 rooms, City Hall is still the largest municipal building in North America and maybe the world.

The statue of Penn stands thirty-seven feet tall and weighs twenty-seven tons. He is the tallest sculpture on top of any building in the world.

For years, a "gentlemen's agreement" stated that the Philadelphia Art Commission would approve no building in the city which would rise above this statue, but you know how gentlemen are.

Which explains the Curse of Billy Penn and the failure of Philly's major professional sports teams to win championships since the March 1987 construction of the One Liberty Place skyscraper when it exceeded the height of William Penn's statue by ...

As the bus passes by, we focus on a BUSINESS MAN digging in his pockets for change for the parking meter. A spare penny rolls on the hot cement of the sidewalk to where it lands in the gutter. We go close.

EXT. HELENA KEMP'S ROWHOUSE - DAY

Close in. A FIVE YEAR OLD KID, picks up a spent needle out of the gutter. We pull back to see HELENA KEMP, Jayla's grandmother -- about 5'2" and skinny as a rail -- crossing the street with THREE SMALL KIDS in tow. One of the kids has stopped to investigate the shiny object. Helena grabs the needle out of the kid's hand and charges up to confront a CHARLES JACKSON, 14, a drug dealer who is making a sale to a CUSTOMER on the corner.

INT. HELENA KEMP'S ROWHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jayla and Briana are sitting at a card table in the front room. As Briana watches, Jayla draws a picture of a bifurcated mask. One side is black and the other white. It's not a friendly looking mask.

JAYLA WILLIAMS
 Bifurcated. It means split down the
 middle. It's not good or evil. More
 like black means unknown and white
 is used to bring the true spirits
 out.

BRIANA TAYLOR
 Nice!

JAYLA WILLIAMS
 It's supposed to be powerful, not
 nice.

Jayla holds her head like it's splitting.

BRIANA TAYLOR
 Fits you.

JAYLA WILLIAMS
 What do you mean?

BRIANA TAYLOR
 Split down the middle. Powerful.

Crushed by what happened last night, Jayla suddenly breaks
 down crying. Briana holds her hand and Jayla regains her
 composure.

JAYLA WILLIAMS
 Like I said, not good, not evil.

BRIANA TAYLOR
 You ain't hard.

JAYLA WILLIAMS
 Hard enough to make it stick. You
 gotta be.

Briana picks up the drawing.

BRIANA TAYLOR
 What are you going to do with this?

JAYLA WILLIAMS
 Makin' me a mask so I don't
 disappear. I'm going to make me
 into something significant.

Briana looks like she doesn't know what that means.

BRIANA TAYLOR
 Significant?

JAYLA WILLIAMS

You know. Like your life matters.
Like somebody'd give a shit if you
were gone. Nobody cares about me
now, but they're gonna. Look at
this. You see me putting on my game
face. You think I can raise a
rukus?

BRIANA TAYLOR

This about getting back at em?

JAYLA WILLIAMS

Naw. It's about making my own mark.
I'm not passing through without
somebody noticing. The world's
gonna feel me bitch! A life's gotta
mean somethin right? Even in this
shithole.

BRIANA TAYLOR

You think we'll ever get out of
here?

JAYLA WILLIAMS

There ain't no place but here for
people like us.

BRIANA TAYLOR

You mean somethin to me.

JAYLA WILLIAMS

Yeah. It's mutual.

Briana's eyes turn to the front window. She watches Helena
Kemp confront the drug dealer.

BRIANA TAYLOR

Your grandma gotta death wish?

JAYLA WILLIAMS

Not the first time. She always
sticking her nose in it. Let's go.

EXT. HELENA KEMP'S ROWHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jayla and Briana exit the row house, trying not to let
Jayla's grandmother see them as they run down the street in
the opposite direction from Helena. Helena walks straight up
to the drug dealer shaking the needle in his face.

HELENA KEMP

Charles, you know I don't see your

(MORE)

HELENA KEMP (CONT'D)

drug-dope face on this corner
hawkin that crap.

CHARLES looks a bit sheepish as his customer takes off, then starts to get angry. Moments later, a car with Pérez and Cantz inside blocks the view and we follow it down the street.

INT. PÉREZ'S CAR

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Pat's or a Geno's?

Cantz isn't listening. His head whips back around to look at Helena and Charles.

Pérez seems completely oblivious to what's going on in the neighborhood, but we catch him taking a quick glance into the rear view mirror. Helen and Charles are still arguing.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

I've come to the conclusion that
what makes a Philly cheese steak
taste better than anywhere else is
the arguing.

JUSTIN CANTZ

Do we need to ...

Pérez keeps driving.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

But, if you go to Geno's don't
practice your Spanish or you'll get
Cheez Wiz on bread.

Cantz's eager eyes are taking in everything he sees.

Every character they pass -- and there are plenty of characters on this street -- is a new curiosity as they move past Jayla and Briana walking down the street ...

EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - CONTINUOUS

We follow Jayla and Briana. As they go, Briana notices JAYLA'S MOM, 36, once attractive, now looking like the aging drug addict she is, spaced out in an alley. She opens her eyes long enough to see Jayla.

BRIANA TAYLOR

Isn't that your ...

Jayla locks eyes with her mom for a moment and then looks

quickly way, turning to Briana.

JAYLA WILLIAMS

Keep moving.

Jayla hurries Briana past and they continue down the street. A bit further down they see ...

EXT. BRIANA TAYLOR'S ROW HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

BRIANA'S MOM, 24 and four siblings -- all younger -- are sitting on the front porch.

JAYLA WILLIAMS

There's YOUR mom ...

BRIANA TAYLOR

Keep moving.

Briana grabs Jayla's hand and turns to her mom.

BRIANA TAYLOR

(to her Mom)

Goin' to basketball!

Looking relieved to have one less kid on her hands, Briana's mom waves her on. Briana's mom gathers up the rest of her brood ...

BRIANA'S MOM

Let's go inside and visit that fan.

Briana's mom leads her kids like a mother hen taking them inside as Briana and Jayla keep moving down the block.

We are a bit nervous, although Briana and Jayla seem to be right at home. Briana tosses a penny in her hand as she passes a number of people who know her and some that look like she should never know them, until they reach ...

EXT. ABLE PARSON'S AUTO BODY SHOP

Able Parson, Jamaican, 65, is coming out of the body shop holding a basketball and heading across the street to the park. Briana shoves her penny into her pocket as Able bounces the basketball to her and they join a GROUP OF KIDS that has gathered to play.

Jayla is in the thick of it. Like a bull in a china closet, Jayla powers through a group of kids headed straight towards us, clearly focused on driving through to the basket.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE HALLWAY CITY HALL - DAY

Destiny bursts through the door at the end of the hall looking young, sharp and professional -- everything the street is not. Lloyd Benson is right behind her as they explode on the scene, pushing past busy staffers.

DESTINY DRIFTING

I know I don't have time, but Andy Shepherd talked me into it. We can leverage the community service angle. You know ... Top ranking member of the Mayor's staff mentors at risk girls through the "The Celebration of Remarkable Women" program. Make sure you get something out on this Lloyd!

Destiny continues past the MAYOR'S SECRETARY, who is rushing down the hall past her.

MAYOR'S SECRETARY

They're ready for you, Ms. Drifting.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Thank you.

Destiny turns into the ...

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM CITY HALL - CONTINUOUS

The mayor's inner circle of advisors are seated behind a conference table. Destiny stands in front of the mayor's advisors.

INNER CIRCLE ADVISOR #1

Hard to believe it's been four years.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Time flies when you're working your ass off. Excuse me, impacting the lives of the people of Philadelphia.

INNER CIRCLE ADVISOR #2

So where do you stand?

INNER CIRCLE ADVISOR #1

On the Sam Robbins issue.

DESTINY DRIFTING

I like my chances.

INNER CIRCLE ADVISOR #2
Activating Sam Robbins for the
Mayor could be quite a coup for us.

INNER CIRCLE ADVISOR #1
Your work is all very impressive.

DESTINY DRIFTING
Thank you.

INNER CIRCLE ADVISOR #1
You'd be the youngest Chief of
Staff the Mayor's ever had.

DESTINY DRIFTING
There is a reason I've not taken a
weekend off in four years. I want
this. Bad.

INNER CIRCLE ADVISOR #2
So does Todd.

INNER CIRCLE ADVISOR #1
Todd's been productive for a long
time. He's a quality political
aide.

DESTINY DRIFTING
He's a quality political aide. But
I have been more productive.
And I agree with you, he is a
quality aide.

INNER CIRCLE ADVISOR #1
You'd be the first woman.

DESTINY DRIFTING
Gentlemen, my father was a
councilman and while he was not
always attentive, the one thing he
did give me was experience. I did a
lot of campaign stops.

I grew up around men who swore,
drank, farted, and twisted arms.

Trust me, I can handle it.

INNER CIRCLE ADVISOR #1
Let us bring it to the selection
committee. Then we'll talk.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Great. I'm on my way.

Destiny exits the room and heads back down the hall. She runs into Lloyd Benson and pulls him into her office.

INT. DESTINY DRIFTING'S OFFICE CITY HALL - CONTINUOUS

DESTINY DRIFTING

The Inquirer says American Values spent \$5.4 million on Williams campaign so far this year. That's more than all of the mayoral candidates combined.

LLOYD BENSON

Three stockbrokers from the suburbs. Not like it was when your father ran.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Yeah, well Dad had the classic three guys in a smoke filled room.

LLOYD BENSON

So what are you going to do about it?

DESTINY DRIFTING

Can't outspend American Values. There's only 3 months left and I can't raise that kind of money.

LLOYD BENSON

What would your dad have done?

DESTINY DRIFTING

Build collaborations and control the conversation.

LLOYD BENSON

Which brings us back to Sam Robbins.

DESTINY DRIFTING

And keeping the conversation off of the Mayor's sex life.

(beat)

How's Cathy doing?

LLOYD BENSON

Tense. She's got ears and the word on the street is louder than the

(MORE)

LLOYD BENSON (CONT'D)

words they print in the Inquirer.

DESTINY DRIFTING

She's tough.

LLOYD BENSON

Tougher than he is. Frankly, I'm more worried about the mayor falling apart. Lots of pressure these days.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Which is why we need to lock up Sam Robbins now. We need something big to announce this week. Only four days left.

LLOYD BENSON

How are you holding up?

DESTINY DRIFTING

I'm always great.

LLOYD BENSON

Yeah, so you say. Still trying to beat your Dad's record by the time you hit middle age. You do know it took him 60 plus years and he LOST his bid for mayor. Not to mention that running for mayor eventually killed him.

DESTINY DRIFTING

He made a difference Lloyd. His life meant something.

LLOYD BENSON

That's true. The first 55 years were amazing, your family life not withstanding. Then reality set in.

DESTINY DRIFTING

So, you want me to be realistic?

LLOYD BENSON

Not realistic, just alive. You'll make your impact. Look, you already impact thousands of people just by existing. That's the impact factor at work.

DESTINY DRIFTING

The impact factor?

LLOYD BENSON

Even if you do nothing, you have an impact. Imagine a mother that does nothing with her kid. What's the impact on that kid?

DESTINY DRIFTING

Okay, I get it. Mother's need to pay attention to their kids. Lucky I'm not a mom. But, I'm not sure small things really count that much. The devil's in the details, but I'm focused on doing something big.

LLOYD BENSON

The small stuff matters. Think about it, the mother impacts that kid, but not just that kid. She impacts every person that kid comes into contact with for a lifetime. Thousands more.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Like the cycles of child abuse that flow through families.

LLOYD BENSON

Exactly. That impact happens and it keeps going. Good impact or bad impact. You make an impact whether you want to or not. That's the impact factor.

DESTINY DRIFTING

So what what am I supposed to do about that Lloyd?

LLOYD BENSON

That's the right question. Because if you don't do something, thousands will be impacted by your inactions.

DESTINY DRIFTING

And you were trying to ease my mind? Less pressure right?

LLOYD BENSON

Once you realize that you already impact thousands, you can start thinking about how to leverage that impact. One catch though.

DESTINY DRIFTING

What?

LLOYD BENSON

The good/bad part. The impact of your smallest actions can be good or bad -- and it makes an unimaginable difference. Imagine the impact if someone had just encouraged Hitler to become an artist instead of who he really did become. You can't even really imagine that kind of impact.

DESTINY DRIFTING

So you know the next Hitler and I'm supposed to go talk to him?

LLOYD BENSON

I'm not trying to put the weight of the world on you. Luckily, you and I aren't the only people in the world. There are about 9 billion folks in the equation.

DESTINY DRIFTING

And everyone has to choose what to do about it.

LLOYD BENSON

It's your choice and it's a choice bigger than any choice you've ever imagined. And ... I think you have an appointment.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Yes I do. Small actions. One step at a time. Thanks Lloyd.

EXT. PHILADELPHIA CITY HALL - CONTINUOUS

Destiny exits City Hall. On a mission.

EXT. CITY PARK - DAY

Briana watches from a distance as Destiny plays "H.O.R.S.E."

with Jayla as part of volunteering as a mentor for Andy Shepherd's non-profit organization.

Jayla sinks an effortless shot from across the length of the court.

JAYLA WILLIAMS

Crap! You are going to save me? Who invited your superior ass to Fairhill anyways?

DESTINY DRIFTING

Your probation officer maybe? Something about you taking a brick to a girl's head. Cut the language and have some respect or we can pay him a visit together.

Jayla stops and gives Destiny a sweeping bow, laughing at her in a smart ass way.

JAYLA WILLIAMS

Right.

Destiny just smiles back.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Better.

Destiny effortlessly matches Jayla's shot.

DESTINY DRIFTING

We aren't that different Jayla. My dad's gone too. The only difference is he's been DEAD two years.

JAYLA WILLIAMS

Right. Everything about you is perfect Destiny. You are a perfect daughter with a perfect mom, you got a perfect job working for the perfect mayor, now you got a perfect dead dad ...

DESTINY DRIFTING

My Dad wasn't perfect Jayla, but when I think about him I think about those little idiosyncrasies that only I know about. The fact he took 2 bread loaves to Rhonda Jackson down on 5th Street every

(MORE)

DESTINY DRIFTING (CONT'D)

week. How he always lied to Mr. Baker and told him he looked better than the day before.

JAYLA WILLIAMS

Let me show you perfect.

Jayla shoots a long shot almost makes it, but the ball bounces off the rim.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Jayla, you're not perfect and your dad isn't perfect either. He's gone. The question is, "What are you going to do about it?"

I've got faults, but you have a perfectly clear choice.

You can live a life that goes way beyond Fairhill, but the only way you are finding out what kind of a life you can have is by giving it a shot.

You certainly aren't going to get the answers from me and even if I did know, I'm not sure I'd tell you.

Swoosh! Destiny lands an impossible shot.

INT. ASSISTANT D.A. ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG'S OFFICE - DAY

Swoosh! Armstrong lands a ball of paper in the trash can from his spot sitting on the edge of his desk. CATHY HANKINSON, 24 a young, attractive law student interning in the D.A.'s Office watches him hit his mark.

CATHY HANKINSON

So trash it?

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG

I'm not going to prosecute a woman who is the sole support for a boy dying of cancer ... If he dies well, that's another story.

Cathy approaches and picks up a newspaper with the headline, "Armstrong - Reckless or Righteous?" off of Armstrong's desk.

CATHY HANKINSON

Ahhh ... another story for you ...
(reading)

Armstrong often bends – and sometimes breaks – trial rules to get convictions, finds tenuous rationales for charging defendants with crimes when the original charges fail to stick, and charges innocent people to frighten them into testifying against others.

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG

So they say.

CATHY HANKINSON

Armstrong has been found in contempt of court 10 times for such behavior, and his tactics occasionally incur negative publicity for the DA's office.

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG

Let's see how that breaks this year.

CATHY HANKINSON

... but Armstrong exhibits a sincere desire to see justice done. To that end, Armstrong has gone after defendants accused of perverting the justice system to arrange wrongful convictions with just as much determination as his more mundane cases.

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG

I'm a knight in shining armor.

CATHY HANKINSON

Such aggressive actions in the courts have earned him the nickname "Hang 'em Armstrong". He has developed a reputation with both colleagues and rival attorneys, once being referred to as "the top of the legal food chain" by a rival attorney during a trial. Wooo hooo! Hang em high Armstrong.

Armstrong laughs, wads up another paper from the desk and moves toward her tossing the ball of paper as he goes.

Swoosh!

INT. JUSTIN CANTZ'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Swoosh! Cantz is pushing a plunger forcefully in a kitchen sink filled with water and God knows what other garbage trying to free up the drain. Water is going everywhere and Cantz's wife scowls at him.

JUSTIN CANTZ'S WIFE
Perfect! You're an idiot! See that garbage going into the rug.

JUSTIN CANTZ
You want me to fix this?

JUSTIN CANTZ'S WIFE
Like you fix everything?

JUSTIN CANTZ
Which means ...

JUSTIN CANTZ'S WIFE
Get your head out of your ass.
Everything you do you screw up.

Finally, the plugged drain frees up and the water starts to drain. Cantz starts to clean up his mess. He looks like he has things to say, but remains silent.

JUSTIN CANTZ'S WIFE
What's your problem anyway.
Thought you were supposed to be thrilled at getting a shot to be Dick Tracy. Feeling sorry for yourself again?

JUSTIN CANTZ
Look, it's not Dick Tracy and I'm tired. You try handling my job. Pérez isn't exactly textbook.

JUSTIN CANTZ'S WIFE
Don't worry. I'm sure you'll screw this up this 30 day trial too. The Cantz Dance. Try to make everyone love you, then you get screwed and who pays the price? Me of course. Bone up Bozo.

Cantz's wife's face is frozen in disgust.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Todd Carrington's face is also a mirror of disgust as he and Destiny are escorted to a table by the HOSTESS in a classy restaurant. Todd is offered a menu but brushes it away with a disdainful look.

TODD CARRINGTON
Just get the waiter over here.

Todd sighs heavily, his eyes scanning the room looking for important people, impatient for the waiter, his eyes landing on Tracy Hartman seated across the room at a table by herself. Destiny sighs at Todd like she's seen this before.

TODD CARRINGTON (CONT'D)
I just want to see where this goes.

DESTINY DRIFTING
Todd, so do I.

TODD CARRINGTON
Then step up. Can we agree on being exclusive?

DESTINY DRIFTING
Let's see what happens. Just see where it leads us.

TODD CARRINGTON
Destiny, I don't mean to be pushy, but... we're perfect together. We're friends, lawyers, both work for the mayor. Pretty soon you'll be working for me. If you look at it on paper, it makes perfect sense. I mean, a no-brainer.

Their WAITER comes in the front door to the restaurant, obviously late for work and passes by the MAÎTRE D' in a hurry.

WAITER
Sorry, traffic on Kensington is impossible.

He calls to Todd and Destiny ...

WAITER
Be right there!

The waiter disappears into the back as Todd spots JACK LEWIS, a campaign contributor in his sixties, sitting across the room with an attractive YOUNGER WOMAN.

TODD CARRINGTON
Lewis is here. Give me a second.

Todd goes over to Jack's table and Destiny checks her cell phone for messages

TEXT MESSAGE
(From Daniel Rochester)
We've spoken with the selection committee. You lock in Sam Robbins ... I think we'll be holding a big press conference to introduce you as the Mayor's new Chief of Staff.

DESTINY DRIFTING
Yes!

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The front door of the restaurant opens and Tracy Hartman exits the restaurant with a take-out container.

EXT. TELEVISION STATION - NIGHT

The network logo clearly on the door, Tracy Hartman enters the building with her take-out container.

INT. TELEVISION STATION NEWSROOM - NIGHT

Tracy Hartman enters the newsroom, an open office space filled with desks and computer monitors, and moves quickly to the desk of the lone person in the room, RUTH WOODS, 52, the producer of the 6 PM Newscast, who is talking on the phone.

RUTH WOODS
(Into phone)
Yes. Uh huh. Maybe. Alistair, I talked to my guy at the Justice Center. I know you've been dropping cases.

Tracy sets the take-out box by Ruth and checks messages at her desk.

RUTH WOODS (CONT'D)
(Into phone)
I get it. You don't want to talk. I'm not ticked. Look, Alistair I'm not asking if the PD is lying, I know they are. All I want to know is who's behind this. You might want your stamp on this. You work
(MORE)

RUTH WOODS (CONT'D)

with me. I work with you.

Ruth hangs up the phone and picks up the take-out container, smiling thanks to Tracy.

TRACY HARTMAN

You think Armstrong's got something.

RUTH WOODS

Maybe, I just don't think it's for us. It feels thin. What are you working on now?

TRACY HARTMAN

Sam Robbins has something on the Mayor and Angela Beane.

RUTH WOODS

Doesn't that sex and politicians story get old with you?

TRACY HARTMAN

Very. That said, it's my only sex life since I started here. Makes it easy to figure out why that sex and the workplace stuff is so popular. Power, sex, what's not to like.

Ruth pulls open the take-out box.

RUTH WOODS

Which explains why you were eating alone again right? Gotta love this job. So single girl in the big city, what's in the kitchen?

FADE TO BLACK

INT. ANTONIO PÉREZ'S HOME IN NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA - DAY

Sunlight streaming through the window. Pérez comes into his small kitchen. This is definitely not a million dollar row home. He rummages around in the refrigerator looking for something to eat.

Finding the pickings slim, Pérez grabs a container of Quaker Oats and a gallon of milk out of the refrigerator. He pours the uncooked oats into a bowl, splashes them with milk, grabs a paper towel off a roll hanging above the sink and heads into the living room purposefully, moving like a man on a mission.

Pérez sits on the couch, opens a laptop sitting on the coffee table, opens up a browser, pausing long enough to blow his nose into the paper towel. Apparently, he has a cold and his head is completely stuffed up.

Pérez hurriedly shoves several spoonfuls of oats into his mouth and turns back to his laptop, chewing on the oats.

A tickle in the back of his throat causes a small cough. Fighting to resist spewing his mouth of oats all over the laptop, he draws in a quick gasp of air followed by an explosion of oats in every direction.

Unfortunately, the explosion doesn't dislodge whatever is in the back of his throat. Gagging, Pérez runs back into the kitchen, coughing repeatedly over the sink and trying to force out whatever is blocking the airway, but his efforts seem to be making things worse as his airway tightens down.

Now he can't seem to breathe in at all. He's trying to be calm, appears to be trying to get air in through his nose, but nothing is going in and nothing is coming out. Pérez reaches for the phone, but seems to realize that help would arrive too late to do any good and throws the phone to the floor.

He frantically searches through the cabinets for a glass and tries to sip some water, but only gags more. Close in on his face we see him struggle to remain calm exhaling tiny amounts of air through his nose, then trying to open his nostrils to get a hint of air back in.

He seems to be fading to black, but finally, a bit of air begins to flow and he manages to get more air moving, more sips of water and the throat starts to relax more.

Relief.

The front door bell rings. Pérez pulls the door open to see Cantz.

Still coughing occasionally, Pérez grabs a 9mm Glock 19 in a shoulder holster from the kitchen table.

JUSTIN CANTZ

You okay?

ANTONIO PÉREZ

You can die in an instant.

... as he heads out the door to the car. We focus on the cars streaming down the street.

EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY

A stream of cars moves down the street. Briana dodges between them. We follow her as she walks down the block tossing the penny in the palm of her hand. Briana sees Jayla's mom stumbling down the sidewalk towards her, carrying plastic grocery bags of who knows what. Briana decides to cross to the other side of the street, but as she waits for a passing car, Jayla's mom trips and falls hard onto the sidewalk. Instinct kicks in and Briana rushes over and helps her up.

JAYLA'S MOM

You the oldest Taylor girl ain't you.

BRIANA TAYLOR

Yes ma'am.

JAYLA'S MOM

Seen you with my Jayla.

BRIANA TAYLOR

Yes ma'am.

JAYLA'S MOM

Don't imagine she saw me. She don't look at me no more.

Jayla's mom stares a vacant look. As Briana walks across the street, she's almost run over by a passing car with a blasting horn.

INT. DESTINY DRIFTING'S OFFICE CITY HALL

Destiny is sitting at her desk as Lloyd Benson enters the room.

DESTINY DRIFTING

LLLOOOOYYYYYDDDDD! You're trying to kill me.

LLOYD BENSON

No. Todd Carrington is trying to kill you. He always goes a step too far Destiny.

DESTINY DRIFTING

The Mayor wants results Lloyd and if we don't seize the initiative on this you know Todd will. I'm not going to stand around while Todd claims the Chief of Staff slot.

LLOYD BENSON

I thought you were pretty tight
with Todd.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Complicated. Look Lloyd, I want to
shake up Philadelphia and I can't
do that without making things
happen. You have to have power to
make a difference and the Mayor
needs all the power we can muster
for him. What else can we do to
make sure we tap into Sam? I want
to create a big impact here Lloyd.

LLOYD BENSON

Small actions produce big results
Destiny,
(beat)
good or bad. Better put some
thought into what kind of impact
you're going to have.

DESTINY DRIFTING

I need a big impact this week
Lloyd.

LLOYD BENSON

You need positive impact or it's
not worth anything. All of politics
is selling right?

DESTINY DRIFTING

At one level I guess.

LLOYD BENSON

Well, all sales are based on trust
and value. If you don't trust me,
you shouldn't do business with me.
If you do trust me, then all I have
to do is create some real value.

DESTINY DRIFTING

I get the trust issues Lloyd.

LLOYD BENSON

I'm not sure how you get past the
Mayor's trust ratings, but you
better start putting some real
value in the equation.

DESTINY DRIFTING

The mayor is valuable. So how do I sell that to the city.

LLOYD BENSON

I'm talking real value here. Like if I talked you out of a dollar and then gave you back two dollars.

DESTINY DRIFTING

I'll go for that.

LLOYD BENSON

And then if I asked for another dollar.

DESTINY DRIFTING

If I trusted you, I'd go for that.

LLOYD BENSON

And if I kept giving you two dollars for every dollar.

DESTINY DRIFTING

That'd keep going for as long as you kept delivering.

LLOYD BENSON

Think somebody might notice?

DESTINY DRIFTING

Maybe.

LLOYD BENSON

And if I did the same thing for them, maybe the word would get out.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Could happen.

LLOYD BENSON

Think I'd need help selling that service? Social media, the papers, Paid Advertsing?

DESTINY DRIFTING

I think I get the point.

LLOYD BENSON

The mayor has talked people out of a heck of a lot of dollars. Start thinking about how you give some of those dollars back. Here' I'll chip

(MORE)

LLOYD BENSON (CONT'D)

in. You can start with my two cents!

BAM! Lloyd slams two pennies on Destiny's desk.

INT. ABLE PARSON'S AUTO BODY SHOP - DAY

Able Parson is standing next to a spotless car with a single small imprint -- possibly made from a flying piece of gravel. Briana watches as he slaps his hand hard over the dent.

ABLE PARSON

BAM! One little pebble and it starts.

BRIANA TAYLOR

That little scratch? Nobody's going to see that.

ABLE PARSON

It's just a little mark now, but give it a few months. The paint's gone and the rust starts to collect. Pretty soon you've got a six inch hole in the side of this classic. But, we do this now, a little putty, sand it off, a little paint and we're back to perfection.

Able hands Briana a can of putty and she starts spreading it on the dent.

EXT. ANDY'S NON-PROFIT STOREFRONT - DAY

Kathy Bates, armed with a with squeegee blade, cleans the glass door of the store-front office. Next to the entrance, through a large window we see Andy Shepherd and Destiny sitting at a conference table in Andy's office -- heads close together.

INT. ANDY'S OFFICE - DAY

Destiny and Andy are looking over Jayla's file ...

ANDY SHEPHERD

It's no little thing Destiny. It's not often someone from the Mayor's office personally takes on a mentoring project and Jayla's a real challenge.

DESTINY DRIFTING

That's exactly what her probation officer said. I like challenges.

ANDY SHEPHERD

How did the basketball go?

DESTINY DRIFTING

I managed to survive the first session. What's the rest of the story with Jayla?

ANDY SHEPHERD

Dad's out of the picture. Mom's got serious drug problems and I don't think she shows up much. She's living with her grandmother in Fairhill. Jayla's a tough kid, mad at everyone. She was bullied and got tired of it. Be careful with this one Destiny.

DESTINY DRIFTING

She's smart Andy.

ANDY SHEPHERD

I'm just saying, be careful. She's a manipulator, she wants it HER way and if she wants it, she's going after it.

Andy moves closer to Destiny, obviously interested in more than just the file she's looking at ...

DESTINY DRIFTING

Why are you right next to me?

ANDY SHEPHERD

Because you're the first volunteer I've ever been attracted to, thank God.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Don't think of me as a volunteer, I'm a lawyer.

ANDY SHEPHERD

Normally, a deal breaker, but I'm all about expanding my level of tolerance. Self-improvement, etcetera.

DESTINY DRIFTING
Impressive.

ANDY SHEPHERD
Thank you.

We focus on a spider on the desk headed for Destiny. We move close.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. TELEVISION NEWSROOM - DAY

Close up. Spider on the desk. We switch to the spider's viewpoint. It's the click of eight spider legs moving across a vast plain of desk. It starts in one direction, then darts in another, unsure where to go, then takes off towards the blurry color of a shirt and climbs up on a stack of papers, pausing for its next move. BAM! Ruth Woods smashes it to a black spot with her bare hand. We pull back to see the newsroom, now packed with the entire NEWS TEAM, Ruth Woods and Tracy Hartman are huddled at Ruth's station.

RUTH WOODS
I feel guilty every time I do that.
A spider's got to have a
perspective on life right?

TRACY HARTMAN
Yeah?

RUTH WOODS
It's moving along, picks a place to
go, minding it's own business, then
BAM! It's a greasy spot.

TRACY HARTMAN
Personally, I don't want a spider
moving into my space, no matter
what its perspective is.

Ruth wipes the black spot off the papers and gives the papers to Tracy.

RUTH WOODS
Okay, I'm impressed. Gutsy call on
the Judge Carter story.

TRACY HARTMAN
That's one word for it. Foolish is
another.

RUTH WOODS

I think Alistair Armstrong is gonna
shit a brick.

TRACY HARTMAN

Mike wants to sue for the sealed
docs in the Mallard case.

RUTH WOODS

He wants to sue the city?

TRACY HARTMAN

You think the suit has a chance?

RUTH WOODS

Depends on the judge.

Ruth's phone rings. Ruth picks it up.

RUTH WOODS

About Armstrong? Yeah. Okay

Ruth hangs up.

(to Tracy)

Mike wants to talk to us.

TRACY HARTMAN

Us?

EXT. FAIRHILL VACANT LOT - DAY

The vacant lot is overrun by weeds and other foliage.
There's a makeshift memorial in one corner to Nicole
Piacentini, a 35-year-old woman whose body was found here,
the victim of a killer dubbed the "Kensington Strangler."

Able Parson, Helena Kemp, A PASTOR and a GROUP OF YOUTH
GROUP KIDS FROM A SUBURBAN CHURCH with a few KIDS FROM THE
NEIGHBORHOOD are picking up the garbage, pulling weeds,
recycling the plastic and disposing of all the used tires.

Wearing surgical masks to shield themselves from the odor of
human waste and garbage, a COUPLE OF RESIDENTS rake the
ground and collect hypodermic needles. Helena is looking at
the pastor with a skeptical eye.

HELENA KEMP

Us? We try, but we can't do much.

Helena points out the memorial.

HELENA KEMP

It takes somebody to die for the
(MORE)

HELENA KEMP (CONT'D)

lots to be cleaned. It's crazy. But that's what happens in neighborhoods like this. We're breaking the law when we clean these lots. Because it's so important to our neighborhood, we decided that we would trespass. But if they've got a fence up around them, there's no way that we can trespass, so we don't.

ABLE PARSON

We found hundreds of needles in here. You have to be very careful picking them up. Then there's the poison ivy or you get sick with some mysterious illness after doing this stuff. Make sure those kids keep the masks on.

The pastor takes off to talk to a kid that's removed his mask. Able turns to Helena ...

ABLE PARSON

You going to try to get a city trash can for this lot?

HELENA KEMP

Are you kidding? One, the street has to have a block captain. The city won't place a can otherwise. Two, the block captain has to maintain the garbage can and keep it clean. Three, the block captain has to collect bags of trash as they fill, store them somewhere, and set them out on the curb for collection day. That's right: the city don't do special collections for their own trash cans. You know what it takes to become a block captain? Naw, you don't want to know.

A JUNKIE approaches Able Parson.

JUNKIE

Where are we gonna do our needles now?

An ambulance passes by, siren blasting, covering Able's response.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE CITY HALL

The sound of a siren fades into the distance as we see the MAYOR, Destiny, Todd and Lloyd standing around a conference table going over street maps. Television news on in background.

TODD CARRINGTON

Mayor, Sam Robbins controls that ward and he's not budging.

MAYOR

Where can we squeeze him most?

TODD CARRINGTON

His development project. Kensington is the main route to the shopping district. Keep that jammed up and the businesses in that area are going to be screaming at him.

DESTINY DRIFTING

If nothing's moving those businesses are going to be dying.

LLOYD BENSON

Isn't that going to come back on you mayor? What if someone figures out that you are the one throwing the monkey wrench into this?

TODD CARRINGTON

Who's going to tell them? It's Sam Robbins project. Not our fault if the contractors just can't get anything done.

On the television, the news moves to the weather report.

NEWS ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

We're predicting the hottest night of the summer ...

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. KENSINGTON SHOPPING DISTRICT - NIGHT

It's the hottest night of the summer and on Philadelphia's Kensington Avenue, underneath the elevated train tracks at Somerset Street, mills a crowd of addicts nearly 100 strong, the biggest ever to flock to this well-known drug corner.

The city's unrelenting heat wave has left them worse for

wear, their exposed skin coated in a glaze of sweat, their tank tops and shorts smeared with street grime. These self-described "low-bottom dope fiends" haven't bathed recently, and many have been "running and gunning" around the clock for days, selling needles and prescription pills, or prostituting on the Avenue to hustle up enough money for another bag of heroin.

Stalled cars on jam packed street under the el tracks. Two shop owners come out of their empty stores to stare at the NEWS CREW setting up on a corner of the intersection.

Tracy Hartman is talking to WILL LANDESMAN, an addict in his fifties, but looking considerably older.

WILL LANDESMAN

Ever since the strangler was caught we do everything out in the open and the cops are cool with it. The reason for all the bustle is that Kensington Avenue has become a drug-bust-free zone.

TRACY HARTMAN

Drug-bust-free zone?

WILL LANDESMAN

During the hunt for the strangler, the area was flooded with cops, but since they locked up Rodriguez the cops have retreated. Costs money to keep those cops out here like that.

A silver Toyota pulls up to the curb and a thin looking BLONDE WOMAN, in her forties hops out. She's comparatively clean cut, probably from the suburbs or middle-class Northeast Philadelphia, whose residents with a taste for heroin are drawn to Kensington for its freewheeling addiction-bazaar atmosphere. She calls out to nobody in particular ...

BLONDE WOMAN

Who's got works?

Several men rush to be the first to make a dollar selling her a syringe.

Sam Robbins comes out of his hardware store with Todd Carrington they stand off to the side. Tracy spots Sam and calls out to him.

TRACY HARTMAN
 Almost ready for you Councilman
 Robbins.

Tracy Hartman turns to her CAMERA OPERATOR and says ...

TRACY HARTMAN
 Let's do a sound check.

Tracy picks up her microphone and starts to run through her intro.

TRACY HARTMAN
 Sam Robbin's grand project to
 revitalize the Kensington Shopping
 District has come to a stand still
 along with all of the traffic as
 contractor problems plague the
 project for a second straight ...

El train passes overhead with a roar as Todd leans in towards Sam Robbins.

TODD CARRINGTON
 You know I can help with this.

Sam Robbins gives Todd a frustrated look and walks over to be interviewed as a helicopter flies overhead.

EXT. PHILADELPHIA BADLANDS - CONTINUOUS

Aerial view of the northside of Philadelphia as we travel from Kensington to Fairhill.

EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - NIGHT

Helicopter passes over. It's not such a busy area, but Jayla, Briana and Komo are standing on a street corner in a huddle. Komo gives Jayla a frustrated look as he spots a familiar car.

INT. PÉREZ'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Pérez and Cantz are driving by the corner and spot the three kids.

ANTONIO PÉREZ
 Looks like Komo has found himself a
 fine woman. Young and tasty. Love
 to get up in that...

JUSTIN CANTZ
 God Pérez! She's a kid!

ANTONIO PÉREZ
 Your old lady white rookie?
 Personally, I like my meat dark.

Pérez pulls the car up beside them and exits the car, Cantz shaking his head in disgust follows him.

EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - CONTINUOUS

Pérez comes up behind Jayla from the back, reaches an arm around her stomach and pulls her back against his crotch.

ANTONIO PÉREZ
 This your new squeeze Komo?

Komo looks like he wants to punch him in the face, but says nothing. Briana retreats and watches from a distance. Jayla struggles but can't get loose. For a second, her hand falls on Pérez's gun and Cantz reacts in a second, pointing his firearm at her. Pérez releases Jayla and turns to Cantz laughing.

ANTONIO PÉREZ
 Don't shoot me officer!
 (repeatedly)

Pérez is doubled over laughing, Jayla pulls away and Cantz stares in disgust and secures his weapon.

JUSTIN CANTZ
 You're an idiot!

Pérez continues laughing like he can't bear to stop. Cantz returns to the car. Pérez regains his composure gradually and turns to Jayla.

ANTONIO PÉREZ
 Thanks for the squeeze.

Pérez turns to Komo as he heads back to the car.

ANTONIO PÉREZ
 Keep that one safe for me.

INT. PÉREZ'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Pérez gets behind the wheel and drives off.

JUSTIN CANTZ
 What the fuck!

ANTONIO PÉREZ
 It's about power kid. You got it
 (MORE)

ANTONIO PÉREZ (CONT'D)

or they got it. Which way do you want it to work fresh meat?

FADE TO BLACK

INT. DESTINY DRIFTING'S OFFICE CITY HALL - DAY

Destiny walks into the office hallway and staffers come out of offices lining the hallway applauding and congratulating her.

MAYOR'S SECRETARY

You got the power girl!

Todd Carrington gives Destiny a reluctant thumbs up and turns away. She enters her office with the freshly applied "Chief of Staff" nameplate on the door and sits down at her desk as Lloyd Benson enters her office, shuts the door and towers over her.

LLOYD BENSON

So you got the power huh?

Destiny laughs excited and happy for at least a moment.

DESTINY DRIFTING

That's the thing about power. You never quite get enough. Try influencing anyone these days and see how tough it gets.

LLOYD BENSON

That's because you want control. What are the odds of ANYONE being in control of ANYTHING these days.

DESTINY DRIFTING

I NEED control.

LLOYD BENSON

Okay, Chief, if you want control, the first thing you need to do is control Todd. It's past time to get Todd back in line. He's taking this Sam Robbins thing too far.

DESTINY DRIFTING

We're almost there Lloyd. Sam is caving and we need to finish this off now. I'm brand new on this Chief of Staff thing, the selection committee made it emphatically clear that I need to make sure Sam

(MORE)

DESTINY DRIFTING (CONT'D)

Robbins' support gets locked in and in the meantime, I need to be careful who I step on. We've got time. Just be patient and we'll make this right.

LLOYD BENSON

Todd needs to be handled, but bottom-line, you'll be better off planting seeds than trying to control weeds. Better to just hack weeds like Todd out right now, in my humble but accurate opinion.

INT. ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG'S OFFICE - DAY

Tracy Hartman and a small CREW are taping an interview with Alistair Armstrong in his outer office.

TRACY HARTMAN

First, congratulations on your new position. As our city's new interim District Attorney, you're in charge of drug prosecutions. Is it accurate to say, the city is going to continue looking the other way when it comes to heroin users?

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG

There is no "hands-free zone" in the city of Philadelphia, and there never will be. Commissioner Hogan does not support it; no one in this department does. You're out there talking to junkies with a couple ounces of drugs in them who can't be trusted to make a lucid statement. The police department does the best it can to guarantee public safety and stop drug use with the resources it has, but they can't lock up people without good reason. Look, junkies got rights, too. I can't just prosecute someone for hanging out on a stoop looking like they're high on drugs. That's what's accurate.

TRACY HARTMAN

That's the word from Interim District Attorney Alistair Armstrong

(MORE)

TRACY HARTMAN (CONT'D)

on what appears to be a "hands
free" zone in the Badlands of
Philadelphia. Back to you Kristy.

Armstrong's eyes go to the ceiling and he throw his hands in
the air. The crew starts cleaning up and Armstrong goes into
his private office shutting the door behind him. Pérez walks
through the reception area, past the receptionist and
television crew without saying a word and appears in front
of Armstrong who is sitting at his desk already deep in the
paperwork.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Heard you have something for me.

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG

Sam Robbins is setting up seven
community meetings. The goal is to
get input from 75 to 100 people in
different areas of the city, which
will help inform some more
policy-based combat against the
drug crisis.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

And that's going to change
something?

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG

Yeah, more talking, but if drugs is
going to be the conversation, Judge
Carter wants me in the middle of
it.

He's up my ass again to raise the
bar in Fairhill and Kensington. He
wants a full docket on his bench.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

And you get to be the driving force
behind justice.

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG

You're a big fan of justice Pérez,
but no. YOU get to be the driving
force of justice. I just get to
take the credit. The Judge will be
happy to take care of you as long
as you get him what he wants. Make
some noise. Take the ball and run
with it.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

JAYLA WILLIAMS is obsessively bouncing a basketball as she sits on a bench with Destiny, while Briana wanders over to Able Parson's Auto Body Shop. Destiny takes the ball.

DESTINY DRIFTING

What's going on with your Mom?

JAYLA WILLIAMS

We'd all be better without moms.

Jayla stares at her feet, shifting uncomfortably silent, bouncing the ball over and over. Destiny just waits. Finally, Jayla stops bouncing the ball.

JAYLA WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

She used to be okay. She had five kids, all the time singin' and smilin'. She used to cuddle me, and I remember how good it felt in there an' how sweet she smell. You know, she sing an' it make you feel good all over, jus' like dope.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Not so good now?

JAYLA WILLIAMS

She's out to die.

(beat)

I gotta go.

Jayla makes a hasty exit, bouncing the ball to Destiny.

INT. DRUG STORE - DAY

Jayla's mom is sitting on the floor in the aisle, stuffing cold remedies from the lowest shelf into a worn shopping bag as fast as she can while the CASHIER is focused on helping eight year old, AMANDA RAWLINGS and her MOTHER at the checkout counter.

Jayla enters the store and spots her mom. Her mom looks up at her daughter and Jayla cringes in shame. Avoiding the aisle that her mother is in, Jayla disappears from view.

Suddenly ...

A MAN WITH GUN enters the front door, points the gun at the cashier, who ducks under the counter reaching for something. In his excitement he drops the revolver he was trying to get and it lands right in front of Amanda and her mother, the

cashier leaps for it, the robber raises his gun to fire and Jayla's mom leaps in front of Amanda to shield her, falling as the man fires.

EXT. KENSINGTON SHOPPING DISTRICT - MOMENTS LATER

An ambulance with lights flashing is parked in front of the drug store. The street is jammed with traffic. For a moment we think it must be Jayla's mother as paramedics come out of the front door of the store with someone on a stretcher, but as they put her into the ambulance, we discover it's AMANDA RAWLINGS. As the ambulance tries to head for the hospital, it completely bogs down in traffic because of construction.

INT. AMBULANCE - CONTINUOUS

Paramedics work frantically on Amanda but she dies in the ambulance on the way to the hospital.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE CITY HALL - DAY

Destiny stands next to the Mayor visibly upset as Lloyd Benson comes in to comfort her.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Get those streets moving Lloyd.

LLOYD BENSON

A little late for that Destiny.

MAYOR

Just make it happen and find out what exactly what Todd's done, Armstrong's going to be all over this one.

INT. TV STATION STUDIO - NIGHT

On the set of the Nightly News broadcast.

NEWS ANNOUNCER

The mayor's new Chief of Staff, Destiny Drifting has now been implicated in the political strong-arming of Sam Robbins. Ms Drifting is accused of deliberately tying up streets in Robbins ward to apply political pressure which resulted in the death of eight year old Amanda Rawlings.

INT. DESTINY DRIFTING'S OFFICE CITY HALL - DAY

Destiny and Lloyd are standing in Destiny's office. Lloyd holds Destiny comforting her ...

LLOYD BENSON

One step at a time. Amanda Rawlings is gone, but your life isn't over by a long shot.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Nobody cares about my life Lloyd. You tell me! How is my life supposed to make ANY difference after this?

LLOYD BENSON

From everything I know about you, you're still your dad's daughter, Destiny.

DESTINY DRIFTING

He didn't exactly hold it together when things got tough Lloyd.

LLOYD BENSON

You will. You know what I meant. He did some pretty significant things and you can learn from what he didn't do so well.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Not doing so great so far am I.

LLOYD BENSON

You'll be fine. I'm going to set you up with Makayla Jackson. If anyone knows about handling a crisis, it's Makayla.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Makayla Jackson ... Are we talking about the same person? She hasn't had any real influence since she was Mayor and that's been a decade and a half ago. She's been silent for years. Is she even alive?

LLOYD BENSON

Makayla is about as alive as you can get and she knows about making things happen. Talk to her.

EXT. PHILADELPHIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER - DAY

Tracy Hartman is interviewing Alistair Armstrong in front of the courthouse complex.

TRACY HARTMAN

... freshly appointed Interim District Attorney, Alistair Armstrong is preparing possible charges in this ongoing investigation. What's the status now?

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG

Destiny Drifting is going to prison if I have any say in this and that goes double for the Mayor. This administration chose to put politics above people and Amanda Rawlings paid for it. Now it's time for Amanda to receive the justice that she is owed.

Alistair's eyes shift as he sees the MAYOR come out of the front doors followed by a crowd of REPORTERS.

MAYOR

Todd Carrington may have been involved in some things I don't know about, but Sam Robbins is way off base when he starts accusing me of sexual harassment with Angela Beane. You haven't heard a peep out of her have you? I didn't have any contact with that woman that wasn't entirely professional.

EXT. MAKAYLA JACKSON'S ROW HOUSE - DAY

Destiny is walking through the clutter and jumble of a very modest group of row houses. She goes up the steps and rings the door bell of MAKAYLA JACKSON'S row house.

INT. MAKAYLA JACKSON'S ROW HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Destiny is sitting on a couch in Makayla's humble row house. Photographs show Makayla with family and friends, but nothing reminds us of her once powerful position as Mayor of Philadelphia. Makayla brings in a cup of tea for Destiny from the kitchen. Destiny looks like she is about to bolt and run.

MAKAYLA JACKSON

Not what you expected? I've come a long ways from the splendor and power of City Hall.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Oh .. I wasn't thinking anything like that. I'm just not sure why Lloyd was so insistent that we meet.

MAKAYLA JACKSON

From what I hear, things are closing in a bit on you. Maybe he thought I'd be a good listener. I've had a few things close in on me from time to time.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Look, no offence, but I've got more than a little closing in on me and I don't have a lot of time to spend sitting around talking about it. My life is ticking down by the second and in about 10 minutes, I'll be down to worthless.

MAKAYLA JACKSON

Well I can tell you one thing in about 2 seconds. If your life is falling apart and you feel worthless, it's about time you start thinking about somebody besides yourself.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Honestly, I'm more worried about the Mayor than I am about me. I'm afraid he's falling apart.

MAKAYLA JACKSON

What makes you think that?

DESTINY DRIFTING

You can't imagine in your wildest dreams that the Mayor would ever give up. On the surface, he's the same. He's working as hard as ever. Putting on a good face. Doing what needs to be done. But, he's not really there. He's going through the motions. You look at him and

(MORE)

DESTINY DRIFTING (CONT'D)

think none of this stuff affects him at all, but I know it's killing him. He reminds me of my dad when things started going bad for him.

MAKAYLA JACKSON

You mean the campaign financing thing. What did your dad do when things started closing in?

DESTINY DRIFTING

Drink.

MAKAYLA JACKSON

And what did he do when things were going well?

DESTINY DRIFTING

Just little things. One step at a time, but he knew he was making a difference.

MAKAYLA JACKSON

Seems like that worked better.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Right up until it didn't.

MAKAYLA JACKSON

Yeah, it's easy when it's going well. When it's not, that's when you have to make the big choice.

EXT. FAIRHILL VACANT LOT - SUNSET

Pérez and Cantz are parked in an empty lot.

INT. PÉREZ'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

ANTONIO PÉREZ

You got no choice. Sounds like she's got you by the balls to me. So what are you going to do about it?

JUSTIN CANTZ

It's not like that. She's got her reasons to be angry. She didn't exactly get what she expected when she married me.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

What did she expect?

JUSTIN CANTZ

When we were dating she thought I was God.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Setting the mark high were you?

JUSTIN CANTZ

God knows I'm just trying to get through the day.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

You've lasted on this job longer than I thought.

JUSTIN CANTZ

How about you? You were married at one point. What was she expecting?

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Nothin.

(beat)

But, she moved the bar up, went out and found something that's for damn sure.

JUSTIN CANTZ

Sorry.

(beat)

What did you get out of that?

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Lots of bills and a daughter that thinks I'm a pile of shit. Why the hell are you still slugging it out?

JUSTIN CANTZ

It just crept up on me. One day, I decided to stick with her. Now, I make that choice every day. Maybe it changes tomorrow, but, I can't beat up on her for a choice I made. She's not going to change and I know it so, it's my choice to make. Can't blame her for being her. Today I chose to stay. My choice. Hate it or love it.

EXT. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - EVENING

Cathy Hankinson and Alistair Armstrong exit the building and walk along the street towards City Hall.

CATHY HANKINSON
You love this stuff.

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG
It's the hunt.

CATHY HANKINSON
Big bad hunter goes off and kills
himself a Bambi.

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG
The mayor's no Bambi. He knows
exactly what he's doing. He's been
doing it for years. Don't think I
don't see the carnage.

CATHY HANKINSON
And you have him in your sights.

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG
Dead meat and going down.

CATHY HANKINSON
Doesn't it bother you? I mean the
guy's got a wife and kids right?
Ever think about what this does to
them?

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG
There's a greater good thing going
on here.

CATHY HANKINSON
Like it doesn't matter, the ends
justify the means.

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG
I'm not trying to hurt anybody.

CATHY HANKINSON
But you are. Right?

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG
Collateral damage.

CATHY HANKINSON
Human damage.

EXT. PHILADELPHIA CITY HALL - NIGHT

Hold on City Hall as Cathy Hankinson and Alistair Armstrong
walk down the sidewalk.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE CITY HALL - NIGHT

Mayor picks up newspaper glances at the headline. "Angela Beane Delivers Tape of Mayor's Threats." The mayor throws it in the trash and walks into the empty office hallway.

INT. STAIRCASE PHILADELPHIA CITY HALL - NIGHT

The Mayor walks up the stairs takes the elevator to the tower, pushes up the door in the ceiling and climbs up into the statue of William Penn, moves to the small platform at crotch level and then through the glass covered access point to the top of the hat.

EXT. PHILADELPHIA CITY HALL - NIGHT

The Mayor climbs onto the top of William Penn's hat and teeters in the wind. He sways back and forth until he finally takes a flying leap off the brim of the hat.

Apparently, he didn't take time enough to consider his trajectory, because he slams hard onto the edge of the roof of the observation deck. Stunned and bleeding he slowly pulls himself to his knees, but slips as he tries to stand and falls to his death in the courtyard below.

EXT. INDEPENDENCE HALL PARK - DAY

Title: Three Months later.

Cold fall day. Makayla and Destiny sit on a park bench in a the park behind Independence Hall.

DESTINY DRIFTING

It's hard to imagine how fast everything has collapsed. My political life gone, job gone, mayor gone, reputation gone, finances soon to be gone and if the D.A. decides he can stick some charges, I could be living in a whole other world. I have zero clue about what I'm supposed to be doing.

MAKAYLA JACKSON

That's where you start. Then it's just one step at a time.

(beat)

(MORE)

MAKAYLA JACKSON (CONT'D)

I like to ask people two questions. The first question is, "What do you like to do when you get up in the morning?"

DESTINY DRIFTING

What do you mean?

MAKAYLA JACKSON

Well, some people like to get up and talk on the phone all day. Some people want to go out in the sunshine and create a garden. Some people want to get up on a stage and be speaking in front of thousands of people. Other people would HATE doing that. What do you like to do when you get up in the morning? What's the one thing that would make you so eager to start the day that you'd be up all night in anticipation. Sheer joy that you get to do it!

DESTINY DRIFTING

I just want to have a real impact. I watched my Dad when he was a councilman impacting lives every day. He was always there pulling strings for the people who didn't have any power or influence.

MAKAYLA JACKSON

And you think you can't do that?

DESTINY DRIFTING

I think my string pulling days were over the day Amanda Rawlings died. All of my impact has been in the negative column.

(beat)

So what was the second question?

MAKAYLA JACKSON

When you get to the end of your life, what will you have done that will make you feel like you lived, loved and made a difference?

(beat)

I figure if you get up every day excited about what you are doing

(MORE)

MAKAYLA JACKSON (CONT'D)

and eager to face the day and then
you get to the end of your life and
you feel like you lived, you loved
and you made a difference, that's a
pretty good life.

DESTINY DRIFTING

It could have been.

A news van travels down the street past them, headed north.

EXT. SAM ROBBIN'S HARDWARE STORE - DAY

The news van passes in front of Sam Robbins' hardware store.

The store looks as old as the city. Built in 1879 and
operated as Weiler's Department Store before it was turned
into a hardware store in 1938 by Robbins dad.

INT. SAM ROBBIN'S HARDWARE STORE

Inside it's the kind of place where your grandfather went
when he needed hinges to fix a banging door, or where he
went to get a piece of cut glass to replace a broken window.

A period advertisement from the Weiler days indicates that
the store carried hardware, agricultural implements, glass,
paint, kitchen appliances, groceries, meats, clothing, books
and religious articles, among other items.

Sam Robbins is stocking shelves as Able Parson and Briana
enter the store. Able is holding a paperback in this hand.

ABLE PARSON

Just bringing your book back Sam.

SAM ROBBINS

Whatja think?

ABLE PARSON

Sad story, but lots of history in
this place. Nothin's changed has
it?

SAM ROBBINS

Everything ... and not much.

ABLE PARSON

I liked the part about where
Gabriel is drawing pictures on the
street of the kids who are dying
one by one in Fairhill.

SAM ROBBINS

I always thought someone should do something like that for auto accidents. Like take a bucket of red paint and just toss it on the pavement where someone died. The streets would be covered with blood.

ABLE PARSON

I'd rather see the streets covered in hope.

SAM ROBBINS

Somebody should make that happen.

EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - NIGHT

A news van whips by as Pérez walks over to his car parked at the curb and finds Cantz sitting in the driver's seat. He laughs and gets in the passenger seat.

INT. PÉREZ'S CAR

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Look at you sitting pretty behind the wheel. You sure you know how to handle this thing? Lot's of juice under this hood.

EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - CONTINUOUS

Cantz pulls out on the street with a squeal of tires. The car weaves in and out of traffic like he has someplace to get to.

As they approach an intersection, a clean, black 1978 Monte Carlo on nice rims whips through the light ahead of them running the light at high speed. Inside we see THREE KIDS hanging out the windows pretty obviously high or at least drunk.

INT. PÉREZ'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Cantz automatically hits the accelerator and tears around the corner after them. Pérez grabs for anything he can hang onto as they round the corner. As he regains his balance he slaps Cantz on the side of his head.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

You want to be traffic cop? I can arrange that!

JUSTIN CANTZ

They have to kill someone before we
decide to to something?

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Your choice kid. I'm happy to send
you back. Maybe they'll give you a
medal and let you be a meter maid.

Cantz eases up on the gas.

EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - CONTINUOUS

The Monte Carlo disappears down the street. Cantz turns the corner, sulking, and ambles down the street at a crawl. As they approach an intersection a wreck of a car with Komo Greene at the wheel crosses ahead of them.

INT. PÉREZ'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Let's see what he's up to.

EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - CONTINUOUS

Cantz turns the corner to follow at a distance. Up ahead Komo pulls up to the curb. Cantz eases over and stops on the side of the road. Jayla comes out of a rowhouse and gets into Komo's car. Immediately after they pull back into traffic, Cantz follows.

INT. PÉREZ'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Time to do a little squeezing.
Pull them over.

EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - NIGHT

Cantz pulls immediately behind, flashes his headlights.

INT. KOMO'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Komo looks into the rear view mirror, recognizes Pérez's car and pulls to the curb.

EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - CONTINUOUS

From overhead we see Cantz get them out of the car while Pérez opens the rear door of Komo's car.

INT. KOMO'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Pérez searches the car thoroughly, but finds nothing.

EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD STREET

Again from overhead, we see Pérez pull a kilo of coke out of his pocket. Then move close as he shoves it in Komo's face.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

This yours?

EXT. HELENA KEMP'S ROWHOUSE - NIGHT

Helen Kemp exits her front door, double checks that the door is locked and starts to cross the street. Down the block we see a black 1978 Monte Carlo approaching at high speed. Helen steps back to the curb as the car veers off the street and onto the sidewalk. All we see is headlights.

INT. JAIL VISITORS ROOM - DAY

Jayla and Destiny seated with a glass partition between them.

DESTINY DRIFTING

I thought we had something going
Jayla.

JAYLA WILLIAMS

You think I did this? I didn't do
shit. You think I'm stupid? I'm on
probation and I'm going to be
carrying this crap? Komo doesn't
even DO snow!

DESTINY DRIFTING

Which is why they found a kilo of
cocaine in his car right?

JAYLA WILLIAMS

Believe me or not! I'm screwed!
What do I care! I know YOU don't!
What I DO know is the judge says
come up with \$5,000 by Tuesday or
he's draggin me up to state prison.
They RAPE girls like me up there!

INT. ANDY'S OFFICE - DAY

Destiny and Andy are sitting in Andy Shepherd's office...

ANDY SHEPHERD

Any vulnerability she senses,
she'll exploit.

DESTINY DRIFTING

She's hurting Andy. Who has she got? Her grandmother was her only rock and Komo and Briana are the only friends she has as far as I can tell.

ANDY SHEPHERD

I'm just saying, be careful. She's smart as a whip and she's not afraid to use it. She knows what she wants, what she wants is out. She's going to use any trick in the book to make it happen.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Sounds just like me up until three months ago. Right now, I want out too.

Destiny heads out the door.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

DESTINY approaches a small GROUP OF TEENS hanging out on the corner. The apparent leader DIEGO SANCHEZ, moves out from the group to confront her.

DIEGO SANCHEZ

I know you. They are going to FRY you lady!

DESTINY DRIFTING

Well, I know you too Diego and you have no idea how cold it can get in this part of Philadelphia. I still have a few friends in this neighborhood. Maybe I should call Able Parson.

DIEGO SANCHEZ

What you want from me? I got nothing to do with the shit that happened to Jayla.

DESTINY DRIFTING

What about your friend Komo?

DIEGO SANCHEZ

I'm not saying shit about Komo.

Diego takes off running, with Destiny in hot pursuit. After running through half of Fairhill, he manages to ditch her and she starts walking back towards her car, completely out of breath.

Briana Taylor peeks around a corner and motions to Destiny to come over. After carefully checking her surroundings Destiny goes over to see her.

BRIANA TAYLOR

I know Komo.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Yeah.

BRIANA TAYLOR

He ain't stupid.

DESTINY DRIFTING

What do you mean stupid?

BRIANA TAYLOR

Diego do snow, but Komo stays clear. He ain't stupid.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Maybe you just don't see it.

BRIANA TAYLOR

I ain't stupid.

From overhead we watch as Briana wanders down the street, headed to nowhere. Destiny is left standing alone. We back off until Destiny almost seems to disappear.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. MAKAYLA JACKSON'S ROW HOUSE - DAY

Makayla is serving Destiny tea again.

DESTINY DRIFTING

I just want to disappear.

(beat)

You did that didn't you? Why did you drop out of sight?

MAKAYLA JACKSON

What makes you think I'm out of sight?

DESTINY DRIFTING

I didn't hear one thing about you

(MORE)

DESTINY DRIFTING (CONT'D)

in the last ten years. You were on top. You were everywhere, then you just vanished.

MAKAYLA JACKSON

Sometimes it doesn't make any difference whether anyone sees you or not. Especially, if you don't care who gets the credit.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Okay, keep your secrets. Most people seem to have plenty of them.

MAKAYLA JACKSON

No doubt about that. What are you keeping quiet about these days?

DESTINY DRIFTING

Jayla Williams.

MAKAYLA JACKSON

What about her?

DESTINY DRIFTING

She's back in jail again. A kilo of coke in the car and she's telling me the judge is sending her to state prison unless she comes up with \$5,000 in cash.

MAKAYLA JACKSON

You believe that?

DESTINY DRIFTING

Well, she says she needs someone to take cash to the courthouse.

MAKAYLA JACKSON

The courthouse? And you are going to do this?

DESTINY DRIFTING

I've got about \$10,000 in my bank account, no job prospects, an Interim D.A. sniffing around and the stink of killing a kid on my resume. You think I need trouble?

INT. PHILADELPHIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER COURTROOM - DAY

JUDGE CARTER is sitting at the bench, Komo is at the defendant's table and Armstrong is at the prosecutor's

table. Apparently, whatever happened is now over. The Judge exits. Komo is lead off by a bailiff and Armstrong leaves through a side door and walks into ...

INT. JUDGE CARTER'S PRIVATE CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

The judge is taking off his robe. He smiles at Armstrong and hands him a Philadelphia Inquirer paper with a photo of Armstrong. The headline reads, "Armstrong Puts More Fairhill Drug Dealers Behind Bars."

JUDGE CARTER
Keep them coming Alistair.

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG
You know I will.

JUDGE CARTER
Since you were appointed Interim, you've got a double-digit lead according to the Inquirer, but I want a nest egg in your campaign fund for the District Attorney race.

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG
No argument with that.

JUDGE CARTER
... and you've got to keep control of the conversation. Keep Pérez on the prowl.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG'S OFFICE

Armstrong sits at his desk, Destiny sits in a chair across from him.

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG
Why are we having this conversation?

DESTINY DRIFTING
You know this isn't right Alistair, it's your duty to look into this.

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG
Let me get this right. YOU want to get involved with Jayla William's! Are you suicidal?

(MORE)

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG (CONT'D)

Jayla Williams has been nothing but trouble since she was 8 years old. Don't you have something more important to worry about? Did it ever occur to you that I'm going through every move you ever made in the Mayor's office. I guarantee if you don't have enough to keep you busy and out of trouble now, I can add to that pile.

(beat)

I'd keep your nose clean as a whistle, because I'm watching anything you do that has a tinge of dirt.

EXT. KENSINGTON SHOPPING DISTRICT - DAY

Lloyd Benson and Destiny walk along the street under the el.

LLOYD BENSON

It won't hurt to talk to Sam. He's got a good handle on what's going on especially when it comes to the north side.

They enter ...

EXT. SAM ROBBIN'S HARDWARE STORE

A CLERK working at the front counter recognizes Lloyd as he and Destiny enter the store.

CLERK

He's in the back.

Lloyd and Destiny move through the aisles to Sam's rolltop desk in the back room. Sam looks up.

SAM ROBBINS

Not expecting to see you two in my neighborhood.

LLOYD BENSON

You're a good man Sam. We could use someone decent.

SAM ROBBINS

Decent? What kind of decent have you seen lately?

DESTINY DRIFTING

I'll be direct. What do you know

(MORE)

DESTINY DRIFTING (CONT'D)

about the decency of Alistair
Armstrong?

SAM ROBBINS

As far as I know he hasn't killed
any kids recently.

LLOYD BENSON

Nobody wanted Amanda to die Sam.

SAM ROBBINS

I know, just politics Lloyd. You
out looking for dirt on Armstrong?

DESTINY DRIFTING

Just looking for the truth. There's
something going on in Judge
Carter's court and Armstrong
doesn't seem to be too interested
in checking into it.

SAM ROBBINS

Always seemed like Armstrong was
big on justice to me. A little too
zealous in fact. I know Carter and
the Governor wanted the Mayor gone
and Armstrong always wants a bigger
hat. He's pushing for the D.A. slot
because it gives him something to
bet his future on, but maybe he
just doesn't like you. At least
that's what the papers say.

LLOYD BENSON

What about Judge Carter?

SAM ROBBINS

Not a fan.

EXT. SOCIETY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Pérez is parked in front of a row house in Philadelphia's
second richest neighborhood. He watches the house for a
while, then starts the car and pulls into traffic. We follow
him towards Independence Hall where we see.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Makayla and Destiny walking along a city street.

DESTINY DRIFTING

What is she supposed to be paying a
judge cash for? And clearly our

(MORE)

DESTINY DRIFTING (CONT'D)

Interim D.A. doesn't want to touch this. As much as he loves publicity, you'd think he'd be all over this.

MAKAYLA JACKSON

Maybe his attention is more focused on you.

DESTINY DRIFTING

So you think I should just drop it.

MAKAYLA JACKSON

I think you already have a lot to worry about. I think you don't need any more problems. I think Jayla gets herself into messes like this and I think the interim D.A. is trying to put the final nail in your coffin.

(beat)

And, Jayla might be the best thing that ever happened to you.

INT. JAIL VISITORS ROOM

Jayla and Destiny seated with a glass partition between them.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Let me get this right, the judge is extorting you and you want me to pay him \$5,000?

JAYLA WILLIAMS

I never had 5K in my life. The best I ever got was a puppy. You think my dad ever gave me anything but shit. My mom don't even know it's day. Komo and Briana are the only friends I ever had and Komo's headed to Fayette for a LONG time. All I got is you and you're just a washed up "do-gooder." With all the mess you got going on, pretty soon you ain't gonna be needin money anyways. They don't charge for food in here. Might as well make your useless money worth somethin'.

DESTINY DRIFTING

That the way you feel about me?

JAYLA WILLIAMS

That's the way I feel about life.

(beat)

Don't worry about me. You ain't the only one who don't give a shit about me now. It's easy to care when things goin' good, but you got your own problems.

(beat)

It ain't right what happen to you.

(beat)

But, I can't do nothin about that and you don't need my shit.

DESTINY DRIFTING

You think this is just going to go away if I deliver the money.

JAYLA WILLIAMS

That's what the man say.

EXT. CITY PARK - NIGHT

Destiny is pacing along the sidewalk, talking on a cell phone.

DESTINY DRIFTING

I know it's not right and no I haven't got it figured out.

(beat)

I don't have a clue.

She hangs up and walks through the empty park, tension building. Destiny takes out an envelope and stares at it. Is someone coming to meet her? Just at the moment of greatest tension, she walks quickly out of the park.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - DAY

The sunrise is reflected on the glass of the entrance. Another day.

INT. ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG'S OFFICE - DAY

CATHY HANKINSON

So it's going to happen?

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG
Already did.

CATHY HANKINSON
It always amazes me how these
things work.

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG
Amazed how?

CATHY HANKINSON
One tiny thing. One detail and
everything changes.

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG
For better or worse.

Cathy Hankinson's face smiles ...

CATHY HANKINSON
Richer or poorer ...

INT. ANDY'S OFFICE - DAY

Destiny and Andy are sitting in Andy Shepherd's office...

DESTINY DRIFTING
Komo and Jayla are out.

ANDY SHEPHERD
Just like that? How?

DESTINY DRIFTING
Apparently, Judge Carter threw out
the traffic stop.

ANDY SHEPHERD
And this just goes away?

DESTINY DRIFTING
Well, I'm not sure it's completely
gone, but I do know Komo and Jayla
are back on the streets.

(beat)

I'm going to have Jayla camp out at
my place until she get's back on
her feet. She's looking for a
part-time job and I'm trying to
give her some space to create
something new.

ANDY SHEPHERD
That's going to be a bit tricky I
(MORE)

ANDY SHEPHERD (CONT'D)

think, but let me see if I can help.

DESTINY DRIFTING

You've done a lot for her Andy. I think she's got a bit of a crush on you.

ANDY SHEPHERD

What about you? Do you have enough of a crush on me to grab a bite to eat?

INT. DESTINY DRIFTING'S APARTMENT - DAY

Briana and Jayla are at the dining room table. Jayla is filling out job applications. There is a new cell phone in a box on the table and an old one next to it. Jayla picks up the old cell phone.

JAYLA WILLIAMS

This don't work for making calls anymore, but it still takes pictures and video. The games still work.

Jayla hands Briana the phone.

BRIANA TAYLOR

She just give you the new one?

JAYLA WILLIAMS

Told me I needed it to make sure I can get calls back from these applications.

BRIANA TAYLOR

Steppin' up from Fairhill are ya?

JAYLA WILLIAMS

It's a step up from jail. I'm just glad to be out.

Briana messes with the camera, taking a video of Briana.

INT. ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG'S OFFICE - DAY

Cathy Hankinson is seated in front of Alistair Armstrong's desk.

CATHY HANKINSON

Sounds like Judge Carter wanted them out to me.

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG
Bullshit. Why would Carter want them out? The criminal deserves to be punished and deserves to be punished in proportion to the gravity of his or her crime. That's justice.

CATHY HANKINSON
Who gets to decide Alistair?

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG
Looks like that's my job Cathy. Somebody has to do it.

CATHY HANKINSON
How do you make that choice Alistair? Flip a coin?

INT. MAKAYLA JACKSON'S ROW HOUSE - DAY

DESTINY DRIFTING
She's really starting to get it together Makaya. It's not going to happen overnight, but she's changed since she's staying with me. It's like she held onto just enough hope to keep her alive and now it's starting to peek out from the shit she's always lived in.

MAKAYLA JACKSON
One step at a time is my motto. Keep watering that plant and it's going to grow. The question is, "How are YOU doing?"

DESTINY DRIFTING
Like you said. One step at a time and keep walking.

(beat)

Or, in my case crawling.

(beat)

I've got good people in my life and I appreciate that, but it's not putting rent money in my pocket. Most employers aren't looking for lawyers on the bottom.

MAKAYLA JACKSON
Is that how you feel? On the bottom?

DESTINY DRIFTING

I messed up. Maybe I didn't see it coming. Maybe I didn't pull the trigger, but Amanda Rawlings paid the price. I'm the one who's paying for it now and let me be clear I DESERVE to pay the price.

MAKAYLA JACKSON

Interesting word "deserve." Start breaking that word down into two parts and concentrate on the second half.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

Jayla is working behind the counter serving coffee, when another COFFEE SHOP EMPLOYEE comes to relieve at the end of her shift. Jayla takes off the uniform apron and heads out the front door.

EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF COFFEE SHOP. - NIGHT

As Jayla comes out and walks down the sidewalk an UNIDENTIFIED MAN falls in behind her, he follows for a block then quickly comes up behind her, reaches out and touches her shoulder, she turns in fear and starts running. The man chases her through the neighborhood finally trapping her in an alley and leans down close to her face.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Through a window we see Andy and Destiny laughing and smiling over desert. All is good with the world. Destiny picks up her cell phone and answers a call. Concerned at first and then in a heated discussion, Destiny is clearly upset. Andy comforts her.

INT. ANDY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Andy and Destiny are sitting at a table as Makayla rushes into the room.

MAKAYLA JACKSON

What did they do to her?

DESTINY DRIFTING

Nothing yet.

ANDY SHEPHERD

Just threatened to put her back in

(MORE)

ANDY SHEPHERD (CONT'D)

jail if she doesn't come up with another \$5,000.

(beat)

But it's worse than that. Another one of my kids out on probation is telling the same kind of story only for her it's ten K. The street says they're going after kids in trouble and squeezing them to go to the people that care about them to raise the money. Then they give them a little hope and squeeze them for more.

DESTINY DRIFTING

How do they get away with that?

MAKAYLA JACKSON

How do they not? It's the judge and maybe the Interim D.A. Who are these kids going to complain to? Their probation officer?

ANDY SHEPHERD

I think it's the same probation officer.

MAKAYLA JACKSON

God help them.

DESTINY DRIFTING

I think God already did. You see the three of this in this room right? This is not going to go unanswered.

MAKAYLA JACKSON

You know they are going to come after you with everything they've got -- and they've got a lot.

ANDY SHEPHERD

Destiny, you know how I feel about you and I don't want you hurt any more. You've been through a living hell the last few months and you've already got more than you can deal with.

DESTINY DRIFTING

If you call this hell you haven't seen me ticked off yet. Well my

(MORE)

DESTINY DRIFTING (CONT'D)

dear friends, I just got mad. In fact, like Howard Beale said, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore!" Let's crush these bastards!

Makayla smiles wryly and raises her eyes to the ceiling.

MAKAYLA JACKSON

Let the fun and games begin.

EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

From overhead we see Andy talking on a cell phone next to a car parked in front of a rowhouse, while Destiny and Makayla stand in front of the house talking intensely to Jayla, Komo and Briana Taylor in a huddle. The huddle breaks and we see each of them headed in different directions to houses within the neighborhood.

INT. ROWHOUSE IN FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Komo is talking to Diego Sanchez, when Pérez and Cantz come in from opposite ends of the house.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

And so we meet again.

They put Komo in handcuffs and take him out the front door.

EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Briana sees Pérez and Cantz come out of the house with Komo and starts taking a video on her cell phone as they put him in the car. Andy comes towards them from where he was standing by his car, but they wave him away.

INT. ABLE PARSON'S AUTO BODY SHOP - DAY

Able is working on a car as Destiny enters.

ABLE PARSON

Whoa ... It's been awhile, since you were down here making the rounds with your dad.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Two years since he died.

ABLE PARSON

A good man.

DESTINY DRIFTING

He was.

(beat)

You still making ugly things
pretty?

ABLE PARSON

There's gold in these old wrecks
you know.

DESTINY DRIFTING

You always know how to find it.

(beat)

Plenty of ugly to go around too.
Komo said you've been seeing some.

ABLE PARSON

I told the D.A. something was going
on, but nothing's happening. I'm
going back down tomorrow.

EXT. SOCIETY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Pérez is parked in front of the million dollar row house
again.

Pérez's ex-wife, MARY FIELDS, 45, gets out of a taxi looking
like she has dressed for a very special occasion. As she
gets out her keys to go inside, she notices Pérez and goes
over to ...

INT. PÉREZ'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Pérez rolls down the window.

MARY FIELDS

A little bit out of your district
aren't you?

Pérez motions for her to get in the car. Sighing Mary gets
in the passenger seat, but Pérez doesn't say anything. They
sit silent for a couple of minutes. Pérez stifles a cough.

MARY FIELDS

Feeling under the weather?

Still no response from Pérez. Mary starts to exit the car,
but Pérez puts his hand on her hand to stop her. Mary leans
up against him, her head against his shoulder.

MARY FIELDS

Well, doesn't this bring back old
memories ...

They just sit there for a while. Then ...

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Apparently the median stage 4
non-small cell lung cancer life
expectancy is only around 8 months.
Good to know right?

EXT. ARCH STREET - DAY

Briana and Able Parson are looking at the Community Keys Bust of Benjamin Franklin. Behind them we see Benjamin Franklin's grave with a GROUP OF TOURISTS throwing pennies on the grave. Able Parson runs his hand over the keys which make up the surface of the statue.

ABLE PARSON

Every one of these old keys was
donated by a school child and it
was kids that collected and donated
every one of the 1.8 million
pennies that paid for the project.
Grown-ups, they just throw that
stuff away.

EXT. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - DAY

Briana and Able Parson walk past the large glass window with the decal, "Office of the District Attorney," enter the building and through the window we see them ride up a set of escalators.

INT. ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG'S OFFICE - DAY

Able Parson and Briana are sitting on a bench outside of Armstrong's office waiting as we see Alistair and Komo through the open door. Alistair is towering over Komo. Briana quietly takes out her cell phone, hits the record button and points it towards the door.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Briana is sitting at a table with a pastry in front of her copying Jayla's drawing of the mask. Jayla stands behind her, looking over her shoulder.

JAYLA WILLIAMS

Now just shade it in.

BRIANA TAYLOR

What are we going to do about Komo?

JAYLA WILLIAMS

Make some black magic.

(beat)

I just keep thinking, what if Pérez just magically dropped dead. What if a car plowed into him like Grandma? What if he "accidentally" shot himself?

BRIANA TAYLOR

You really thinking or just day dreaming?

JAYLA WILLIAMS

Just praying. At least so far.

BRIANA TAYLOR

Mr. Parson is going to help.

JAYLA WILLIAMS

That's good for Komo, but I have to do this on my own. Able and Destiny mean well, but when it comes down to getting 5K, I'm in this alone.

If anyone is going to make something happen, it's going to be me.

(beat)

What happened at the D.A.'s office?

Briana pulls out her cell phone and they watch the video.

INT. ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG'S OFFICE - DAY

Cathy Hankinson is seated in front of Alistair Armstrong's desk again.

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG

Pérez is fully capable of setting him up. But that doesn't mean Greene doesn't have it coming. The kid's been on the streets all his life.

CATHY HANKINSON

Doesn't make him guilty.

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG

You think he isn't dirty? He's been a runner for drug dealers for at least two years. You already know

(MORE)

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG (CONT'D)

that.

CATHY HANKINSON

What's your friend Judge Carter going to say about this?

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG

Judge Carter doesn't own me.

CATHY HANKINSON

Well, maybe he owns Komo Greene. Isn't he the one who let him off the hook in the first place?

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG

I made my reputation on going after corruption no matter where it leads.

CATHY HANKINSON

I'm guessing you picked your targets Alistair. Be careful how you pick your battles. Judge Carter has always been in your house. He's been pushing you, financing you, mentoring you.

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG

Or does he just want to own me?

CATHY HANKINSON

Are you looking a gift horse in the mouth?

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG

More like taking a clue straight from the mouth of the horse.

INT. ABLE PARSON'S AUTO BODY SHOP - DAY

Briana is looking at a picture of a race horse on the wall of Able's tiny cluttered office.

BRIANA TAYLOR

What's with the horse?

ABLE PARSON

That's one special pony, Briana. That's the horse that paid for this shop.

BRIANA TAYLOR

You bet on horse races?

ABLE PARSON
Gambling is for fools, but
sometimes you make a choice. Let me
see your penny.

Briana takes a penny out of her pocket and hands it to Able.
Able flips the coin repeatedly.

ABLE PARSON
Did you know that if you flipped
this coin forever, that eventually
it would come up heads for 40 years
in a row?

BRIANA TAYLOR
Not likely.

ABLE PARSON
Absolutely likely if you do it long
enough. Just imagine that you were
born during that streak. You'd
think that when you flip a coin it
would always come up heads. That'd
kinda spoil your penny walks.

BRIANA TAYLOR
I'd be going in a circle.

ABLE PARSON
That's what we do. We think that
our experience in life is the only
one there is. The reality is so
much better. Your choices are
infinite.

BRIANA TAYLOR
So what did you choose?

ABLE PARSON
That time, I chose just to go for
it.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

The hallway is dark and empty, just a sliver of moonlight
shining through the small window in the bathroom at the end
of the hall which backlights a dark silhouette moving
quietly down the hall and into the bathroom.

The figure shuts the door behind them, stands on the toilet
seat and reaches up to the bathroom vent, pulling down the

grill on the springs just enough to reach inside and remove the box from the space above.

They push the grill back up and as they turn to step off of the toilet we see a face painted, like a mask, one side white and one side black.

INT. DESTINY DRIFTING'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jayla and Briana are sitting at the dining room table with a stack of bills and a rubber stamp. Jayla is stamping each bill with a small picture of a bifurcated mask. Briana is drawing.

BRIANA TAYLOR

Able says, Gabriel is good-hearted and a talented artist. He doesn't want to be part of the gangs, but he can't seem to find a way out.

JAYLA WILLIAMS

Know that feeling.

BRIANA TAYLOR

And he sees all these kids around him dying, but nobody seems to notice them.

JAYLA WILLIAMS

That's true.

BRIANA TAYLOR

So he starts drawing these chalk outlines of their bodies in the streets every time someone dies.

JAYLA WILLIAMS

Who's going to notice that?

BRIANA TAYLOR

It took awhile. But, people started to notice.

(beat)

Able says we need to notice the good stuff just as much as the bad stuff.

JAYLA WILLIAMS

You really want to do this?

BRIANA TAYLOR

Somebody should.

Jayla hands Briana a fifty dollar bill.

JAYLA WILLIAMS

So you go down there, hand them
this and ask for two boxes. That's
\$25 each, but they ain't gonna like
you for doin' it, so you are gonna
hafta smile those sweet eyes at em.

EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY

Pérez is leaned up against his car talking on a cell phone.
Cantz is inside the car at the wheel waiting for him to
finish his call.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Mom told you ... well it makes you
think ... How should I know? ...
No, I get it. You need to stay
there. Love you.

Pérez hangs up the phone and gets in the car.

INT. PÉREZ'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

JUSTIN CANTZ

Wow. Pérez actually loves someone.

Pérez says nothing. Not his usual self.

JUSTIN CANTZ (CONT'D)

What's up?

ANTONIO PÉREZ

I need to bust some butt.

JUSTIN CANTZ

I got a strange call from Komo last
night.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Komo's in jail so why does he have
your number?

JUSTIN CANTZ

I gave it to him a while back, just
in case. He says that girl friend
of his has something on Judge
Carter.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

And did he say what this something
is?

JUSTIN CANTZ

He says Judge Carter is demanding cash from him.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Does your badge say FBI on it? What's that got to do with us? You think Carter is running drugs? What part of narcotics don't you understand? First traffic cop, now Federal Agent. Why don't you just do your job.

JUSTIN CANTZ

What is the job?

ANTONIO PÉREZ

Drugs on the streets, that's our job. Keep your nose clean kid. The rest is just plain messy.

EXT. EL TRACKS IN KENNSINGTON - DAY

SEPTA train travels over the elevated tracks.

INT. TRAIN CAR - CONTINUOUS

Briana and Jayla ride the train, headed downtown. Each one holds a shoebox.

EXT. SAM ROBBIN'S HARDWARE STORE - CONTINUOUS

Sam Robbins steps out of his store and looks at dozens of pennies scattered on the sidewalk.

EXT. BEN FRANKLIN'S GRAVE - DAY

It's covered with pennies.

EXT. KEYS TO COMMUNITY STATUE - DAY

Sidewalk covered with pennies.

EXT. ABLE PARSON'S AUTO BODY SHOP - DAY

Sidewalk covered with pennies.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

Sidewalk covered with pennies.

EXT. FAIRHILL VACANT LOT - DAY

Sidewalk covered with pennies.

INT. TELEVISION STATION NEWSROOM - DAY

The newsroom is packed with staff, Ruth Woods and Tracy Hartman are huddled at Ruth's station.

TRACY HARTMAN
They're everywhere.

RUTH WOODS
And you got a video?

TRACY HARTMAN
Some kid in a mask. It's all over
social media. Hashtag pennydrop.

Ruth types the hashtag into her computer and comes up with a full page of results. She clicks on a video of an OLD WOMAN leaning over a HOMELESS PERSON sitting on the sidewalk.

BRIANA TAYLOR (V.O.)
Every day Kendra Lovett, drops
something off to Charlie.

The video cuts to a rain of pennies on the empty spot where Charlie had been sitting. #pennydrop.

EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY

There's a couple dozen pennies in front of Destiny's mother, but she doesn't really notice anything as she leans up against the wall. A car pulls to the curb in front of her and Makayla Jackson and Able Parson get out. They gently help her get in the car and drive off.

INT. JUSTIN CANTZ'S APARTMENT - DAY

Cantz and his wife are sitting in the living room.

JUSTIN CANTZ'S WIFE
I can tell you aren't getting any
brighter. He told you to lay off.
What about me? Don't you even care
how this effects my life? No.Of
course not. You can stuff your
goodie two shoes attitude up your
ass as far as I'm concerned.

JUSTIN CANTZ
Look, it's not all about you.
Sometimes, we have to choose what's
right.

JUSTIN CANTZ'S WIFE
And you're always right.

The doorbell rings and Cantz wife opens it, tears still in her eyes. Pérez stands on the step.

ANTONIO PÉREZ
A good time to visit I see.

JUSTIN CANTZ'S WIFE
Talk some sense into him. He's an idiot.

Cantz's wife goes into the bedroom and shuts the door and Pérez and Cantz go outside.

EXT. JUSTIN CANTZ'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Cantz and Pérez walk out to the car.

ANTONIO PÉREZ
So how did you get her all fired up again.

JUSTIN CANTZ
It's not hard.

ANTONIO PÉREZ
Tell me about it. Brings back memories. You should have heard my ex lay into me. Ahhh good times.

Pérez get's behind the wheel, Cantz get's in the passenger seat.

INT. PÉREZ'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

JUSTIN CANTZ
I got another call and you aren't going to like it.

ANTONIO PÉREZ
What's up?

JUSTIN CANTZ
We've got 15 minutes to get downtown.

EXT. EL TRACKS IN KENNSINGTON - NIGHT

SEPTA train travels over the elevated tracks. Storm clouds building.

INT. TRAIN CAR - CONTINUOUS

Briana and Jayla ride the train, holding shoeboxes, headed downtown.

EXT. PHILADELPHIA STREET - NIGHT

Traffic jam. Pérez and Cantz are at a standstill. Pérez flips on the LED hideaway strobe lights, but the cars aren't budging.

EXT. PHILADELPHIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER - NIGHT

The homeless man is sitting on the street next to the entrance to the justice center. Jayla is standing close by holding a shoebox, but Briana is nowhere in sight.

Judge Carter comes out of the building says a few words to her and takes the shoebox from her. The judge walks down the street towards a parking garage. We see Briana come from across the street, go to the homeless man and retrieve a cell phone from him.

EXT. PHILADELPHIA STREET - CONTINUOUS

From above we see Pérez's car moving rapidly through the city streets.

EXT. FILBERT STREET - CONTINUOUS

Cantz and Pérez are headed East on Filbert approaching the Criminal Justice Center. Pérez is driving. Cantz is talking on a cell phone.

INT. PÉREZ'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

JUSTIN CANTZ

The parking lot. Got it.

Cantz hangs up.

JUSTIN CANTZ

Pull up there.

Pérez pulls over to the side across from the parking garage. They wait.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

You sure you about this?

JUSTIN CANTZ

Pérez, you've got a choice. You can choose to do nothing or you can choose to do something. Whatever you choose, you will impact

(MORE)

JUSTIN CANTZ (CONT'D)

thousands.

ANTONIO PÉREZ

What makes you think anything I do matters?

JUSTIN CANTZ

You make a difference whether you want to or not. The question is, "What are you going to do about it?"

EXT. PARKING GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Judge Carter drives out of the parking lot.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. CITY PARK - DAY

It's a bright sunshiny day. Tracy Hartman and a small news crew are broadcasting the opening of the Helena Kemp City Park from the fresh new basketball court.

A small group of people including Destiny, Able, Andy, Jayla, Briana, Komo, Sam Robbins are cutting the ribbon on a recently renovated park in front of Able's autobody shop.

Makayla and Jayla's mom stand off to the side. Briana's mom herds her kids.

TRACY HARTMAN

Today Sam Robbins' efforts paid off as the opening ribbon was cut at the newly named Helena Kemp Park. This Fairhill based renovation project brought together civic and community leaders in a celebration of things that make a tangible, positive difference in today's drug-torn neighborhoods.

Destiny steps up to the microphone.

DESTINY DRIFTING

It's the small things that make the biggest impact. Each day Helen Kemp tried to do five small things that made something better, but the biggest impact that we can have is a simple kind word when someone needs that the most. We can all do that.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. FAIRHILL NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DUSK

Jayla and Briana stand at an intersection.

JAYLA WILLIAMS

So we got a choice.

Briana flips a coin, laughs and puts it in her pocket.

BRIANA TAYLOR

You choose.

JAYLA WILLIAMS

I choose to stick together.

EXT. BRIANA TAYLOR'S ROW HOUSE - DUSK

Briana's mom is sitting on her front step surrounded by her children. Briana and Jayla come around the corner walk up the front steps and Briana smiles.

INT. JUSTIN CANTZ'S APARTMENT - DUSK

Cantz comes in the door and looks at his wife.

JUSTIN CANTZ

I'm still here after all these years.

JUSTIN CANTZ'S WIFE

I can't imagine why.

She starts crying and he holds her tight.

EXT. SAM ROBBIN'S HARDWARE STORE - DUSK

Sam Robbins sweeps the pennies from the sidewalk as Destiny and Andy walk up to talk.

DESTINY DRIFTING

Still doing the good stuff?

LLOYD BENSON

Somebody has to.

DESTINY DRIFTING

If you don't, who will.

LLOYD BENSON

Maybe we can do something together.

DESTINY DRIFTING

I'd like that.

EXT. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - EVENING

Cathy Hankinson and Alistar Armstrong walk out of the building together.

CATHY HANKINSON

What's next?

ALISTAIR ARMSTRONG

What would you choose?

The homeless man picks up pennies. There's the sound of thunder. The storm is coming on.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. DRUG STORE - DAY

Back in the drug store on that hot summer day.

Jayla's mom is sitting on the floor in the aisle, stuffing cold remedies from the lowest shelf into a worn shopping bag as fast as she can while the cashier is focused on helping eight year old, Amanda Rawlings and her mother at the checkout counter.

Jayla enters the store and spots her mom. Her mom looks up at her daughter and Jayla cringes in shame. Avoiding the aisle that her mother is in, Jayla disappears from view.

Suddenly ...

A man with a gun enters the front door, points the gun at the cashier, who ducks under the counter reaching for something. In his excitement he drops the revolver he was trying to get and it lands right in front of Amanda and her mother, the cashier leaps for it, the robber raises his gun to fire and Jayla's mom starts to leap in front of Amanda to shield her.

In slow motion we watch as Jayla agonizes over a choice to let her mother save the child, finally making the choice to grab her mother's arm, which stops her motion and causes her to fall as the man fires and hits Amanda.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. PÉREZ'S CAR - NIGHT

We hear the sounds of a storm. Thunder and rain. All we see

is black. The flash from the gun exploding in his mouth illuminates Pérez face just long enough for us to recognize him.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. SOCIETY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Almost black. Looking down on a rain pelted corner, with an old fashioned colonial lamp post. Lightning. Scores of pennies scatter onto the sidewalk from the stormy sky.