

EXT. FREEMAN HOUSE - NIGHT.

Establishing shot of the Freeman household. We hear the sound of a sitcom laugh track. *

WOMAN'S VOICE #1 (V.O.) *

Shaquanda, that was my pork sandwich! Look what you did! *

We hear more of the laugh track. *

WOMAN'S VOICE #2 (V.O.) *

No it wasn't, Moniqua, that pork sandwich was all mine! How do we get out of this mess?! *

We hear the laugh track again. *

INT. FREEMAN LIVING ROOM - NIGHT. *

On television we see two overweight black women stuck in a doorway. They are trying to free themselves but can't move. A LITTLE KID enters. *

SHAQUANDA *

Andre! Me and Moniqua was racing for a pork sandwich and got stuck! Go get my two-way pager so I can two-way for help! And while you're at it bring me my french fry milkshake. *

More laughter. *

RILEY FREEMAN, 8 is sits before the television, as HUEY FREEMAN stands behind him, shaking his head.

*
*

HUEY

I don't ever need to see another black person on television.

RILEY

Man, this show is funny!

HUEY

This show sets us back three-hundred and thirty seven years. We'll all be slaves again before this show is over. Aren't you tired of watching black people look stupid?

RILEY

Not if it's funny.

HUEY

So, tell me what's your favorite show on TV.

RILEY

Eve.

HUEY

Alright. What's your next favorite show?

RILEY

Next weeks Eve.

HUEY

You're an idiot. Why don't you
elevate yourself. Watch the news!
Read dummy!

RILEY

Read?! Show me one person that
reads and gets hoes.

*

Beat.

HUEY

Give me the remote.

RILEY

Take it from me. I'll chop your
body up and hide it in the mattress
like drug money.

Huey smacks Riley. Riley swings back.

GRANDDAD (O.C.)

Boys!

GRANDDAD, also known as ROBERT FREEMAN, sixty-something,
Black, approaches.

GRANDDAD

How many times have I told you two
to stop fighting in this house!
You're too damn loud and you bleed
on my carpet. You wanna fight, you
do it outside! C'mon...time for
bed.

*

*

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*

INT. BOY'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER. *

Granddad stands between the boys beds. The boys are under the covers, sitting up. *

GRANDDAD *

Now. Y'all wanna hear a bedtime story? It's about a wonderful man who was enjoying the fourth quarter of his life until two mean little kids came along, and all they did was fight and be bad. *

RILEY *

What were their names? *

Granddad looks at Riley like he's stupid. *

GRANDDAD *

Anyway, this old man tried to do the right thing for these boys by using every last dollar he had to get them a big house in the suburbs so they would be safe. And all the old man wanted to do was watch Maury Povich, have a ladyfriend over every now and then, and do them little projects that Martha Stewart do on TV. But the boys just kept fighting. *

(MORE) *

GRANDDAD (cont'd)

Only the bad news is, they didn't
kill each other, they ended up
killing the kind old man. The end.

He glares at Huey.

HUEY

Why are you staring at me? He
starts the fights!

GRANDDAD

'Cause he likes being stupid.

RILEY

Yeah!

Granddad shoots him another look.

GRANDDAD

(to Huey)

You older and you supposed to be
the smart one, even though you
wouldn't know it lookin' at your
hair. Now I'm serious, y'all fight
too much! Good night.

Granddad exits. Huey and Riley exchange scornful looks, then
lay down and close their eyes. Tight shot of Huey as he falls
asleep.

2

EXT. ALIEN PLANET

2

We pan across a desolate alien landscape. Bizarre planetary
formations reach hundreds of feet into the sky.

3 ANGLE - HUEY RUNNING.

3

Huey, dressed as a Jedi knight, leaps from one of the planetary formations. Below him, the STORMTROOPERS scan the area. *

Huey ignites his orange lightsaber in midair and hits the ground swinging.

HUEY

HA HAA!!!

Huey fights against an army of stormtroopers. Entering from above is JEDI MASTER MACE WINDU.

MACE WINDU

How many times have I told you not to rush into conflict! You fight only when necessary!

HUEY

Oh yeah? Well maybe you should worry less about what I'm doing and more about the roles you choose. I mean, "Deep Blue Sea"? "One Eight Seven"? And don't even get me started on "Great White Hype".

MACE WINDU

Excuse me?!

The stormtroopers look to one another.

STORMTROOPERS

Oooooohhhhhh!

MACE WINDU

Do you know how many years of
propping up white boys and
listening to Spike Lee it took to
get to where I am right now?!

Huey feigns playing a violin with his lightsaber.

HUEY

Oh, poor wittle Sam Jackson...

Mace, now sporting a wet jheri curl, more resembles "Jules"
from "Pulp Fiction". Sam Jackson/Mace Windu brandishes his
lightsaber towards Huey.

SAM JACKSON/MACE WINDU

I'm tryin' to help, you little
[expletive deleted]! This is why
[expletive deleted] black people
can't get no-[expletive deleted]-
where!

They fight. CU as the tip of the lightsaber touches Sam's
greasy hair, igniting it.

SAM JACKSON/MACE WINDU

(SCREAM)

STORMTROOPERS

(GASP)

HUEY

See? Big bad Sam Jackson. Now you
got a jheri curl fire on you head.

Sam smothers the grease fire on his head. He charges, wearing a look of fury. Huey's expression changes from tough to terrified. Mace/Sam swings his lightsaber and...

4 MAIN TITLE SEQUENCE 4

5 INT. BOYS ROOM - MORNING. 5

Huey sits up, startled. Granddad stands over the bed.

GRANDDAD

I had the dream again.

HUEY

(rubbing his eyes)

The one with you and Dorothy
Dandridge or the one with you and
Nancy Reagan?

GRANDDAD

The one where that rapper - what's
his name - thirty cents -

HUEY

50 Cent.

Granddad walks over to Riley and pulls back the covers, revealing Riley's feet.

GRANDDAD

(to Huey)

Yeah Fifty-Seven Cent.

(MORE)

GRANDDAD (cont'd)

So anyway Fifty-Four Cent is chasing me around my bedroom, and he keeps yelling "go shorty, it's ya' birfday", but it ain't my birthday. And I just don't know what he wants with me, Huey!

*

*

Granddad whacks Riley's feet with his cane. Riley sits up, yelling.

*

GRANDDAD
(exiting the room)

Well, time for school.

6 INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER.

6

GRANDDAD

Boys!! Boys hurry up! C'mon now!

7 INT. BOY'S BEDROOM - SAME.

7

Tight shot of Riley in the mirror, making thug faces and "jail" poses. Behind him, in the mirror, Huey shakes his head.

HUEY

If you would get out of the mirror we might have time to get a game in before the bus comes.

RILEY

You just gonna lose, but let's go!

8 INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER. 8

The boys run down the stairs together.

9 ANGLE - RILEY'S FEET. 9

Huey steps on Riley's white shoe, leaving a scuff mark.

RILEY

Yo, hold up, man! You just stepped
on my Air Force Ones! You blind
fool?!

HUEY

Riley, you're not a thug. C'mon
man, are you really that cliché
that you'll fight me for stepping
on your Nikes?

Beat. Riley attacks Huey. The fight spills into the living
room. As they fight, they bump into Granddad, who has emerged
in the doorway holding a plate of bacon.

HUEY

(to Granddad)

This fool started a fight -

RILEY

(to Granddad)

This fool stomped all over -

GRANDDAD

Shut up! You know, I would like to take this opportunity to say I could care less why y'all fighting. Both of you, have a seat.

The boys sit.

GRANDDAD

I'd like to call our first family meeting.

RILEY

Family meeting?

GRANDDAD

It's an opportunity for us to air our differences as a family. I'll go first. As I was cooking my bacon this morning, I noticed...

*

Granddad produces a spatula, at the end of which is a pair of boys "tightey whiteys".

GRANDDAD (CONT'D)

...these nice, slightly soiled underwear. From the size of your butts, it could belong to either one of y'all, but that's not important. What is important is that I don't want somebody's dirty, funky drawz on my clean kitchen table! Now, if it happens again?

(MORE)

GRANDDAD (CONT'D)

No underwear for a week! Now get
out my house before the bus comes.

HUEY

We don't like taking the bus. The
driver doesn't like us.

GRANDDAD

Old man Ruckus don't like nobody.
Hell, I don't you like either.

RILEY

Can you drive us?

GRANDDAD

Oh yeah, I'll drive you...I'll
drive y'all to the emergency room,
to a boarding school, or even a
funeral parlor, but I'll be damned
if I'm gonna take y'all a mile down
the street!

HUEY

But we're two young black men in
America! We're an endangered
species!

GRANDDAD

You ain't no wild condor! I tried
to lower the odds of something
happening to you by moving us into
this neighborhood. If something
happens, it's God's will.

RILEY

What if the Feds come after us?

HUEY

Or the Klan?

GRANDDAD

Hey, that's the risk you take. This
is America. Now Git!

EXT. THE DUBOIS HOUSE - MORNING.

The boys walk past the DuBois home.

DJ (V.O.)

7:32 in the morning here on 102.7

WFRK rise and shine, baby ...

INT. DUBOIS HOUSE - FOYER - MORNING.

We are tight on a picture of Bill Clinton and SARAH DUBOIS,
smiling pleasantly.

DJ (V.O.)

...and we'd like to thank you and
your little ones for gettin' your
FREAK on with us this Friday
morning. Mmmmm ...that's right...

Adjacent is a framed picture of Bruce Springsteen and TOM
DUBOIS. Tom wears a huge grin.

INT. DUBOIS KITCHEN.

SARAH DUBOIS leans against the counter drinking coffee and
reading the paper.

12

DJ (FROM RADIO)

12

You just heard R. Kelly's new hit
"Inappropriate", and now on our
Friday double-play, here's another
by R. Kelly called "Disturbing".

R. KELLY
(singing)

She was only fifteeeeeen and ...

Disgusted, Sarah turns off the radio.

TOM, 35, and JAZMINE enter. Jazmine's wearing a backpack.
Sarah gives Jazmine her lunch.

SARAH

Here's your lunch honey.

Tom adjusts Jazmine's coat.

JAZMINE

Daddy, the kids make fun of me.

TOM

Well that kind of thing happens to
everybody, honey. Don't take it
personally.

JAZMINE

It does? Did kids call you names?

TOM

Oh sure ... I remember kids would
call me "cornball" or uh, "nerd",
or maybe, uh "momma's boy"....

JAZMINE

Uh huh.

TOM

(progressively more upset)

Or "Herb", or "Poindexter", or
"Bryant Gumbel", or "Oreo"!

JAZMINE

Uh huh.

TOM

(very upset)

And they wanna laugh at you and
call you "fruity-boy" when you were
really just a big "Prince" fan-

Sarah touches Tom's shoulder.

SARAH

Tom?!

TOM

Oh! Hey...uh...yeah...

JAZMINE

Mom, did people make fun of you?

SARAH

Well, I was pretty popular - until
I started to date your dad.

JAZMINE/TOM

Really?

SARAH

(to Tom)

Oh honey, you had to know you weren't the coolest person on campus.

TOM

I was very popular with the ladies in college.

SARAH

You were a cheerleader.

TOM

(indignant)

I was an acrobat!

SARAH (CONT'D)

And a very good one, too! Honey, I loved you regardless. Besides eventually you get sick of the bad boys and the athletes. I mean... there's only so many starters on the basketball team -

TOM

The basketball team?!

JAZMINE

Um...I have to go catch the bus now.

SARAH AND TOM
(brightly)

Bye honey!

As Jazmine walks out of the front door the debate continues.

TOM

The whole basketball team?!

EXT. BUS STOP - MORNING.

Several neighborhood, kids are standing around laughing and talking. Several feet over, Huey and Riley stand by themselves.

RILEY

If I wanted to get diamonds in my
teeth, would I talk to a dentist or
a jeweler?

HUEY

You really do reserve the right to
be a nigga, don't you?

Riley puts his on headphones and nods to the music. Huey reads the newspaper.

As Jazmine approaches the bus stop, she notices Huey and Riley standing apart from everyone else.

RILEY

Your girlfriend's here.

HUEY

(without looking up from
paper)

Jazmine is not my girlfriend.

RILEY

I didn't say Jazmine. How you know
who I was talking about? Huh?

Jazmine looks unsure as to which kids to stand with. Finally she approaches BRENDA, BILLY, BUDDY, CHARLIE and JENNIFER. Huey looks up, watches as Jazmine tries to stand with the kids, and shakes his head.

JAZMINE

Hello!

BRENDA

Wow ... another bad hair day, huh,
Jazmine?

The kids laugh.

JENNIFER

Hey Jazmine, if I pour water on
your hair, will it grow? Like a
"Chia Pet"?

BILLY

(singing)

Chi-Chi-Chi Chia...

The kids laugh. Jazmine walks over to Huey and Riley.

JAZMINE

Good morning, Huey.
(yelling at the
headphones)

Good morning, Riley!

Riley turns and gives her a half-nod.

Jazmine stands next to Huey. She looks towards the neighborhood kids.

JAZMINE

They're not very friendly, are they?

Huey looks to the newspaper.

JAZMINE

All they do is make fun of my hair. I don't know why, it's just a little frizzy.

Huey sighs, shakes his head, and removes objects from her hair; A straw, half a crayon, and a gum wrapper. Huey shows her the garbage. She looks over at the neighborhood kids and they snicker.

JAZMINE

Why don't they like me?

HUEY

The better question is, why do you care?

A school bus stops in front of the kids.

CU on the faces of the neighborhood kids. The bus door slides open and UNCLE RUCKUS, an old, dark-skinned Black man steps out, smiling broadly at the kids.

NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS

Uncle Ruckus!

UNCLE RUCKUS

Gooooood Mo'nin' childrens! Now
don't y'all look like some little
angels, yes y'all do!

We pan across the glowing faces of the boys and girls. Huey
and Riley share a look of disgust.

JENNIFER

I drew a picture of you, Uncle
Ruckus!

The girl holds up a crude drawing of a black face with big
white eyes and pink lips.

UNCLE RUCKUS

Well this looks just like me! Thank
you, Miss Jenny! You're a regular
Picasso!

The kids file past Uncle Ruckus who tips his hat as they
pass.

UNCLE RUCKUS

Mmm hmmm...Mista Billy...Ms.
Brenda...yes'm Miss Bridget....

Jazmine is about to board. Ruckus's smile fades.

UNCLE RUCKUS

And here's our new friend. What you
say your name was again?

JAZMINE

Jazmine! Jazmine DuBois!

UNCLE RUCKUS

Well ain't you a pretty one...

As she passes, he catches her by the back of her hair.

UNCLE RUCKUS

...but you should think about some
relaxer, or a perm, somethin' ...

Huey and Riley approach.

UNCLE RUCKUS

(angrily)

Oh hell no! Y'all ain't gettin' on
this bus. C'mere...

Uncle Ruckus pushes the boys against the side of the bus and
starts to frisk them.

HUEY

Get your hands off me!

RILEY

Yeah, cuz, back up off us!

UNCLE RUCKUS

I ain't your "cuz", I ain't your
"homie", I ain't your "row dog"...

Ruckus notices a latecoming neighborhood kid running up on
the bus.

UNCLE RUCKUS (CONT'D)

'Scuse me for a second.

(to the new kid)

Good day there, Mista Charlie!

He boards.

UNCLE RUCKUS

Where was I - oh yeah, I know what
y'all plannin' to do! Y'all gonna
steal my bus and put 20's on it!

Uncle Ruckus reboards the bus.

UNCLE RUCKUS

This bus don't need no dubs! I tell
you what, I feel sorry for your
Granddaddy. Now go away! These
childrens got to get to school!

*
*
*

He slams the bus door shut and pulls off.

HUEY

I hate this neighborhood.

EXT. STREET - MINUTES LATER.

As Huey and Riley turn a corner, we see the bus pull up to them. The door opens as the bus drives alongside them.

UNCLE RUCKUS

I don't know what y'all goin' to
school for anyway! Waste of damn
time! What do you two l'il Negro
hoodlums think you got, a future?
What you gonna be, a bus driver?!
I'm the bus driver? Y'all should be
rappers! Then y'all can start some
beef and shoot each other! Do the
world a favor! How 'bout that! They
shouldn't have never have let no
colored folk move into this
neighborhood.

HUEY

Really? And what are you?

UNCLE RUCKUS

I tell you what, I ain't one of
you! I got Indian in my family!

(MORE)

UNCLE RUCKUS (cont'd)
 Blackfoot, Slewfoot, Apache,
 Cherokee, Iroquois, Turquoise...

*

EXT. J. EDGAR HOOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - MOMENTS LATER.

Huey and Riley, arrive at the school with the bus still
 alongside.

15	UNCLE RUCKUS	15
15	<p>...Seminole, Mohican, aaaaand Sioux! With a touch of Irish. Matter of fact, in some cultures I'm considered European!</p>	15

The other children exit the bus.

UNCLE RUCKUS
 Bye, Miss Jenny...Mista Charlie...

Huey and Riley pass an ominous statue of J. Edgar Hoover as
 they enter the school.

INT. J. EDGAR HOOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - HOMEROOM - MORNING.

Huey sits at his desk. He notices Billy, Brenda, and Charlie
 around Jazmine's desk. Brenda touches Jazmine's hair.

BRENDA
 Ow! Your hair hurts, Jazmine.

Charlie touches her hair.

CHARLIE
 Ow!

BILLY
 Does that really hurt?!

Brenda grabs Billy's hand and touches Jazmine's hair.

BILLY

Ow! It does!

The kids laugh. Jazmine forces a smile. Huey gets out of his seat.

HUEY

Is there a problem here?

BILLY

Oooohh...look, Jazmine. Your
boyfriend Huey's here to save you.

KIDS

Oooooohh...

HUEY

"Ooooooh" I'm about to hurt you....

JAZMINE

Everything's okay, Huey. We're just
having fun...

HUEY

What are you, a goat in a petting
zoo? Why are you letting them treat
you like that?

JAZMINE

No! But see! It does hurt!
(she touches her own hair)

Ow! See?!

Jazmine gives Huey a look that says "Please go away". Huey looks up to Billy and Charlie, then sucks his teeth.

HUEY

Have it your way.

Huey walks away. The bell rings.

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE - MORNING.

Open on a Tae-Bo infomercial.

BILLY BLANKS

17

Take control of your life!

17

Pull back to reveal Granddad standing in front of the television in his robe.

GRANDDAD

Time to get my "Tae-Bo" on!

Granddad drops his robe, revealing he's naked (with sensitive areas blurred out).

BILLY BLANKS

Call 1-800-TaeBo for your copy
today!

GRANDDAD

Sorry Billy Blanks, but why buy the
tape when you can get the
infomercials for free!

Granddad begins the workout, mimics the movements onscreen. Suddenly his face contorts with pain. He grabs his heart, his back, then passes out on the floor.

EXT. J. EDGAR HOOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY.

Kids play while Huey walks amid the large trees at the far end of playground. Leaves fall around him. Jazmine approaches wearing a look of guilt.

JAZMINE

Hello, Huey.

Huey looks at her scornfully and keeps walking.

JAZMINE

Huey! Don't be mad.

HUEY

I'm always mad. It's kinda my trademark.

JAZMINE

I mean ... I'm - I'm sorry for -

HUEY

Don't apologize to me, apologize to yourself!

JAZMINE

Well what am I supposed to do!

HUEY

Stand up for yourself! Beat the respect out of them!

JAZMINE

And how can you make friends by fighting?

Huey sighs.

JAZMINE

I just want people to like me.

HUEY

No.

(gestures towards the
other kids)

You want *them* to like you. It's
okay. Keep playing their pathetic
little punching bag. I don't care
anymore.

Huey walks away. We pull back on Jazmine, alone, as the
leaves fall around her.

INT. FREEMAN LIVING ROOM - AFTER SCHOOL.

The front door opens. The boys run straight for the
Playstation.

19

RILEY

19

19

...and don't start crying like a
punk and trying to reset the
Playstation when you lose!

19

HUEY

Spell "Playstation", dummy.

*

They stop at the sight of their Grandfather sprawled in front
of the television.

RILEY

Eww. Granddad's naked.

Huey checks Granddad's breathing.

HUEY

He's breathing so he ain't dead.

RILEY

Well, we gotta do something.

The boys run offscreen and quickly return with a blanket which they lay over Granddad. They set the Playstation on his stomach and begin playing, frantically smashing buttons.

We pan up to a clock on the wall. It reads 3:15.

Dissolve to the clock, which now reads 4:15.

HUEY

Daggonnit!

RILEY

You play like you're retarded.

HUEY

You are retarded.

GRANDDAD

(groaning softly)

Help me ...

HUEY

Did you hear that?

Riley listens.

RILEY

That's just your conscience telling
you that you suck.

HUEY

No-no ... listen.

GRANDDAD

(a little louder)

Help me...

HUEY

Hey...he's not sleeping.

Something's wrong.

RILEY

Oh snap! What do we do? Call 9-1-1?

HUEY

No!

(cautiously)

That's exactly what they'd want us

to do...That's how they got Fred

Hampton...

EXT. FREEMAN HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER.

The boys exit the house.

HUEY

We gotta find some help!

20

A cop car pulls up next to the boys.

20

OFFICER

You boys need some help?

The boys look at each other. Then back to the cop.

HUEY

No we don't need no help "Officer
Got-damn Friendly"! Can't we just
walk down the street without you
sweatin' us?

RILEY

Eff the police!!

The officer shrugs and drives off.

HUEY

C'mon, let's go find help!

EXT. YARD - MOMENTS LATER

The boys turn the corner. They see the back of a Black man's
head over a fence.

21

HUEY

21

Hey you! Brotha man! We need help,
our Granddad's in trouble.

The man turns around. It's Tom DuBois, pulling something
heavy out of his SUV. The boys run up to him.

HUEY

Mr. Dubois, we need help!

TOM

Sure thing, can you just give me
hand with this?

Tom and the boys set a large heavy object, covered in cloth,
on the ground. Tom removes the cloth. It's a marble monument
of the Ten Commandments.

TOM

Isn't it beautiful! Got this on
Ebay!

Huey and Riley look at each other.

TOM

Don't know what Sarah's gonna say,
but I'm gonna hold my ground this
time!

HUEY

Well, we really need some help! Our
Granddad is sick.

TOM

(reading monument)

Well let's see here ... honor thy
father and...why sure! What's the
problem?

HUEY

Don't know, he fell out.

TOM

Well, did you call 911?!

HUEY

9-1-1 is a joke! You can't trust
the police!

TOM

(shocked)

Can't trust...Can't trust the
 police?! Where do you kids get this
 tomfoolery! The police are our
 friends! Why else would it say
 "Protect and serve on their cars"?
 Just the other day a policeman
 pulled me over just to say hi. I
 mean, he checked my licence, he
 asked where I was going -

HUEY

Mr. DuBois...we're in a rush here.

TOM

Oh yeah, let's go!

INT. FREEMAN LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER.

22 Huey, Riley, and Tom stare down at Granddad.

22

TOM

Great Caesar's Ghost, that man's
 naked!

Paramedics and police enter the room.

OFFICER #1

Okay, what's going on?

TOM

Well, hello officers! We know
everything is going to be okay now
that you're here!

HUEY

We got home from school and he was
passed out.

TOM

(to officer)

You know, I was a junior deputy at
the Eagle Brow, Idaho, police
department when I was eleven.

The policeman looks at Tom for a beat. The paramedics lift
Granddad.

PARAMEDIC

Sir, can you talk? Do you know what
happened?

GRANDDAD

(barely audible)

Billy ... Billy Blanks...

TOM

Billy Blanks?! Billy Blanks did
this to your grandfather?!
(pauses)

And he seems like such a nice
man...

END OF ACT ONE

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*

BEGIN ACT TWO .

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY.

A DOCTOR checks Granddad's blood pressure.

DOCTOR

23

Heart attack? No, you collapsed because of a combination of over-exertion, a bad back, and indigestion.

23

GRANDDAD

Say what you want, Doc, I done seen the other side. I had one of those near out of body death experiences.

DOCTOR

I see, and what was that like?

GRANDDAD

I got a whole vision for my life. Plus, I could float around and keep my eye on y'all while I was stretched out naked. Made sure none of y'all were touching me in an improper way.

He removes the doctor's hand, which was resting on his leg.

INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY.

Riley and Huey are sprawled out on a chair, snoring loudly.
Granddad enters.

25

GRANDDAD

25

Boys!

Huey and Riley wake up.

RILEY

Granddad!

The boys run over and hug Granddad. Granddad looks happy for a beat, then his mood suddenly darkens.

GRANDDAD

(pushing the boys away)

Get the hell off of me!

INT. FREEMAN CAR - LATER.

Granddad is driving. Huey and Riley sit in the back.

GRANDDAD

26

So it took you an hour and a half
to realize the person who provides
you with food and sustenance was on
the verge of death?

26

RILEY

But I was winning!

HUEY

Granddad, I'm sorry, but I thought
you were asleep. If we had known -

GRANDDAD

But you didn't know, and you didn't care. But that's okay, because we're going to make some changes around here. We are going to be a happy, loving, caring family even if it kills you!

*

EXT. CHURCH - DAY.

The Freeman clan arrives in front of a large, Gothic cathedral.

27	HUEY	27
27	Oh hell no!	27

GRANDDAD

Oh Hell yeah! The family that prays together, stays together! I need to get right with God. God spared my life! God is good!

HUEY

He aight.

GRANDDAD

What?!

HUEY

He aight. I mean...I'm glad you didn't die and all, but if you gonna give him credit, then he's gotta take the blame too.

(MORE)

HUEY (cont'd)

Let's not forget war, famine, Eddie Griffin...just because we're all caught up in the moment...

GRANDDAD

Boy, shame on you! God ain't just "aight"! He's...better than "aight"! He's...he's...Riley, what do you kids call somethin' that's better than aight?

RILEY

The shiznit?

GRANDDAD

That's right! God is the shiznit!
Now let's go!

Granddad drags them up the stairs.

GRANDDAD

(to Riley)

OK, what does "shiznit" mean?

INT. CHURCH - DAY.

Huey, Riley and Granddad sit in a pew. The boys look around. Statues all seem to stare at them. Somber organ music plays.

RILEY

Granddad, I think we came to a funeral by mistake.

Granddad looks around.

GRANDDAD

I think you're right boy.
(leaning forward to the
next pew)

Excuse me...Did somebody die?

PARISHONER

Shhhhh!

The Priest stands at the alter.

PRIEST

In Nomina Patris, et Filii, et -

GRANDDAD

Amen! Preach brotha! Praise Jesus'
name!

The congregation glares at Granddad.

GRANDDAD

(mumbling)

Just tryin'...you know...liven
things up a taste...to hell with
y'all...

RILEY

(To Huey)

You have to do something. Sunday is
half over. This "church" crap is
eating up all our video game time.

GRANDDAD

We're not leaving 'til the preacher
says it's over!

HUEY

Fine.

Huey stands up on the pew.

HUEY

(To Priest)

Excuse me, I have a question.

All eyes are on Huey.

HUEY

(To Priest)

Jesus was crucified on a cross,
right?

PRIEST

Yes, young man.

HUEY

And you honor Jesus by wearing the
cross?

PRIEST

Correct.

HUEY

So what if Jesus had gotten the
electric chair?

PRIEST

Well...uh...

HUEY

Don't answer yet. Let's say Jesus
was a shot by 357 Magnum.

(MORE)

HUEY (cont'd)

Would we all wear a little pistol
around our neck?

Granddad puts his head in his hands.

HUEY

Let's say Christ was attacked by a
rabid badger - or better yet - a
swarm of killer bees. Instead of
making the sign of the cross, would
we do this?

Huey starts waving his arm around as though swatting bees.

INT. FREEMAN CAR - MOMENTS LATER.

Door slams. The car drives off.

GRANDDAD

29

If I gotta spend a thousand years
in hell next to Uday and Qusay
Hussein, it's your fault!

29

Granddad checks the rear view mirror. The church congregation
is chasing the car, throwing stones that bounce off the
trunk.

HUEY

I understand this whole "quality
time" thing, Granddad, but let's do
something we can all enjoy.

GRANDDAD

Maybe you're right, boy. Let's go
have some fun. Some real fun.

EXT. WOODCREST LAKE - DAY.

30

It's a beautiful day on the lake. Granddad, Tom, are holding fishing poles and the boys are in the boat, looking miserable.

RILEY

I'm bored.

Riley punches Huey in the arm. Huey pushes back.

GRANDDAD

Tom, I don't know what to do about these boys. Look around you. Look how beautiful it is. But they don't appreciate it.

*
*
*
*

TOM

Well, how do you discipline 'em?

GRANDDAD

Oh I beat 'em. I beat 'em with a belt, I beat 'em with a tree branch...I beat 'em with a tree!

TOM

Have you tried a time out?

GRANDDAD

You mean like in football?

TOM

No, like this.

Tom turns around to the boys.

TOM

Boys! Time out!

The boys freeze and look at Tom. Tom turns back around, and they immediately go back to fighting.

TOM

Well, those boys sure are a handful. I'm glad my Jazmine's such an angel.

GRANDDAD

Well thanks the lord for that.

TOM

Poor little thing, I think she's having a hard time at school.

GRANDDAD

Well have you ever thought about doing something with the girl's hair?

TOM

I don't know anything about how to do a girl's hair, and her mother being white...

GRANDDAD

Yeah well, nobody's perfect. Shoot, I wish my only problem was hair...not that it isn't.

He gestures back to Huey's hair.

GRANDDAD

I brought these boys out here so
they could grow up in a safe place,
and they damn near gave me a heart
attack!

The boat rocks from the boys fighting.

GRANDDAD

Boys, stop it right now!

TOM

Boys, can't you see we're all in
the same boat!

Tom stands.

TOM (CONT'D)

If you don't stop fighting we're
all going to -

The boat capsizes, dumping them all into the lake.

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON.

The front door opens, and a soaking wet Granddad, Huey, and
Riley enter. Their shoes squeak with every step.

RILEY

(to Granddad)

I'll just go get your belt now.

Granddad looks at the boys, sighs, and shakes his head.

GRANDDAD

Don't bother ...

RILEY

You're not going to beat us?

Granddad walks off.

GRANDDAD

You do what you want to do.

Beat.

RILEY

Cool. Game time, baby!

Riley runs off. Huey, wearing a look of concern, watches as Granddad walks down the hallway.

INT. DUBOIS HOUSEHOLD - MORNING.

Jazmine sits before a large mirror, as Sarah struggles to comb. Jazmine's hair.

JAZMINE

...so then Huey said that when the other kids make fun of me I should fight them. Then he got mad at me when I didn't want to fight. Now I don't have any friends.

Sarah tears off a piece of duct tape from a roll, and tapes an Afro puff on the left side of Jazmine's hair.

SARAH

Well, that sounds like an old friend of mommies. His name was Clarence 2X.

(MORE)

SARAH (cont'd)

He was in a little club called The Nation of Islam. He wanted to fight everybody. And his little friends with their bow ties would say, "What are doing with that ofay cracker devil"? And he would just start fighting.

Sarah starts making another Afro puff with some twistie ties.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Now I'll admit, in my younger days, that kind of thing excited me, but the relationship had no future. Do you know how tough it is getting into the county jail on Saturday? So anyway honey, the point is those tough guys can be fun, but be careful.

Sarah sets big bow in her hair.

SARAH

All finished! You're hair looks great!

Jazmine stares in the mirror. She has three asymmetrical afro- * puffs.

EXT. BUS STOP - MORNING.

The neighborhood kids are grouped together while Huey and Riley stand several feet away.

Jazmine arrives at the bus stop. Huey and Jazmine make eye contact as she approaches.

HUEY
(To Riley)

C'mon. Let's just walk.

Jazmine starts to follow, then stops.

A paper airplane flies in from the foreground and sticks into her hair. The kids laugh at her off camera.

EXT. J. EDGAR HOOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY.

Huey sits against a tree reading the newspaper.

33

Across the playground, Riley is standing on the swing seat, swinging. He's got so much momentum going he's almost doing 180 degree arcs.

Jazmine is set upon by a group of kids.

BILLY

I mean, didn't your parents tell
you not to stick your finger in
electric sockets?

The kids laugh.

Huey turns back to his paper.

MACE WINDU (O.C.)

You know what you have to do, Huey.

Huey looks up to see Mace Windu in ghost form, walking towards him.

HUEY

All I have to do is be Black and die.

MACE WINDU

You also have to live with yourself.

HUEY

She didn't want my help, remember?

MACE WINDU

I know Jazmine hurt your feelings, Huey, but she's still your friend.

HUEY

She didn't hurt my feelings. I ain't fighting nobody else's battles.

MACE WINDU

I see you still pretend not to know the difference between fighting for nothing and fighting for something.

HUEY

Where's a real Jedi when you need one. Where's Mark Hamill?

MACE WINDU

Insult me all you want. I'm just a figment of your imagination anyway. May the Force be with you.

Mace fades away.

Uncle Ruckus, raking leaves, watches the kids tease Jazmine.

BRENDA

You know what? She looks kinda like Mariah Carey. Except Mariah Carey is pretty. She's more like "Mariah Scarey".

Jazmine's eyes fill with tears.

BRENDA

Jazmine's ugly!

Jazmine begins to cry.

HUEY (O.C.)

Leave her alone.

Buddy steps up in Huey's face.

BUDDY

Mind your own business. (Then)
You walk around like you're so tough! We're not scared of you Huey. Besides, it's three of us and one of you.

Buddy pushes Huey.

HUEY

You push me so I'm supposed to push you back, right?

Huey looks at Jazmine as tears stream down her face.

HUEY

But I'm not going to push you back.

I'm better than that.

Huey punches Buddy in the face.

HUEY

I'mma knock yo' ass out!

Billy and Charlie rush Huey, who slips and blocks their wild punches.

From Riley's POV from the swings, he notices a commotion.

RILEY

Ooo, fight!

As Riley swings back down he sees that it's Huey surrounded by three boys.

RILEY

Huey?!

As he swings forward, Riley dives off the swing and lands on top of Buddy. They fight.

Huey faces Billy and Charlie. Huey does a series of elaborate Kung-Fu hand movements. The boys stand dumbfounded.

HUEY

Allow me to demonstrate the skill
of Shao'lin...the special technique
of "Afrofist"!

The fight ensues. Charlie punches at Huey's face. Huey tilts his head down so the punch lands harmlessly in his afro.

Teachers converge on the fight and pull the kids apart.

TEACHER

What's going on here?

Uncle Ruckus runs into the scene.

UNCLE RUCKUS

I saw it, I saw the whole thing!

Uncle Ruckus points to Huey and Riley.

UNCLE RUCKUS

They started the whole thing!

JAZMINE

But...no! That's not ...

TEACHER

(to Huey and Riley)

You two, come with me now!

JAZMINE

But! But!

INT. FREEMAN LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON.

34

The phone rings. Granddad answers it.

34

GRANDDAD

Hello? Yes... Fighting...uh-
huh...both of 'em...Kung-
Fu...yeah...the People's
Elbow...three hours detention. No,
I will not pick them up! I'm done
with those kids!

He hangs up.

INT. DETENTION ROOM - AFTERNOON.

Huey and Riley sit alone. Huey looks sad.

35

RILEY

35

What's wrong man?

HUEY

Why do I help Jazmine? She doesn't appreciate it?

RILEY

Wow, that's deep. Let me think about that ... 'Cause you were tryin' to be "Captain-Save-A-Hoe"! Gettin' in beef over some female. I'm tellin' you right now, until you get your mind right...you'll be a lemon in the limelight.

Huey gives Riley look of disdain.

HUEY

What the hell does that mean?

There is a tap on the window. It's Jazmine. Huey opens the window.

HUEY

Yeah?

JAZMINE

I, um ... I've got half a sandwich
left from lunch if you're hungry.

HUEY

I'm fine.

Huey's stomach growls.

HUEY (CONT'D)

Well, is there pork in it?

JAZMINE

No! It's turkey!

Jazmine gives Huey a sandwich and a bottle of water.

JAZMINE

I...I told them you didn't start
the fight, but they wouldn't...

HUEY

It's okay. This is...nothing.

Beat.

JAZMINE

Thank you.

Huey looks slightly surprised. He gives Jazmine an awkward,
but stoic nod. She smiles and exits.

RILEY

You got a sandwich from that hoe?!

Riley reaches for the sandwich. The boys start fighting.

EXT. UNCLE RUCKUS'S SHACK - AFTERNOON.

36 Shot of nice block in Woodcrest. Then pan over to see Uncle Ruckus's shack just outside of the city limits. *

INT. UNCLE RUCKUS'S LIVING ROOM.

Uncle Ruckus and Granddad sit amongst the clutter of Ruckus's place.

37

UNCLE RUCKUS

37

I told you this was a beautiful neighborhood, but you didn't say you was bring them two little hooligans with you.

GRANDDAD

You ever talk to your daughter?

UNCLE RUCKUS

She ain't worth a quarter. I told her whole life she wasn't going to amount to nothin, and she didn't. Got pregnant young, now she's on welfare.

GRANDDAD

Oh, that's too bad...how's the boy?

UNCLE RUCKUS

Told him he wasn't worth a nickel. Told 'em every day. "Boy, you ain't worth a nickel". *

(MORE)

UNCLE RUCKUS (cont'd)

He'd say, "Bye daddy, I'm off to
get my "PhD" or some nonsense.

*

*

GRANDDAD

What happened to him?

UNCLE RUCKUS

He's some big shot doctor in New
York, but that's just luck, let's
talk about something else.

*

GRANDDAD

What are your grandkids like?

UNCLE RUCKUS

Who needs them...I got all these
wonderful childrens here in
Woodcrest. They love me.

A brick comes through the window, startling Granddad. Uncle Ruckus walks over to the window, grinning.

UNCLE RUCKUS

Hey now, Mr. Timmy, y'lost your
brick again!

TIMMY (O.C.)

Screw you, fat ass!

Uncle Ruckus laughs warmly.

UNCLE RUCKUS

Mista Timmy got a good arm...

Uncle Ruckus sits down.

UNCLE RUCKUS

Now that's an example of a nice boy with potential. Now your boys ...they baaad...the older one, with the bush, Huey? Today, he got in a fight 'cause he was tryin' to impress that little mulatto gal with the crazy hair...Sassafrass?

GRANDDAD

Jazmine.

UNCLE RUCKUS

Mmm-hmm whatever. All they was doin' was teasin' her about her hair - which I feel is very fair considering her head is nappier than a wolf's ass - and here comes Mr. Bushman pickin' a fight with three boys.

GRANDDAD

Three boys? It was three on one?

UNCLE RUCKUS

Yeah, until his good for nothing jumped in to help him.

*

GRANDDAD

Riley was fighting to protect Huey? I thought they was fighting each other!

UNCLE RUCKUS

God ain't that good. Naw, they whupped the snot out of three innocent little boys. Shame, shame, shame.

Granddad smiles.

GRANDDAD

Well, imagine that...heh heh. I wonder if they used the right hook I taught 'em?

UNCLE RUCKUS

I feel sorry for you. You need to get rid of them kids. I give you my pistol, and I promise not to testify. Then you can have your life all to yourself. Just like me.

GRANDDAD

I gotta go.

Granddad exits in a hurry.

INT. FREEMAN LIVING ROOM - NIGHT.

CU on Huey, frantically pressing buttons on a Playstation joystick.

38

RILEY (O.C.)

38

What's wrong, man? You got your hands on backwards?

Huey's face shows frustration.

RILEY (O.C.)

Is your joystick broke?

HUEY

Shut up!

We pan out to see that Huey opponent is Granddad. Riley sits between them

GRANDDAD

Boy, I'm schoolin' you like "The United Negro College Fund".

Riley laughs.

GRANDDAD

Got that from a rap record.

RILEY

Good one, Granddad!

Huey throws down the joystick.

GRANDDAD

That's right boy, don't hate the player, hate the game!

FADE OUT.

THE END