

Upon Further Review

by

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EXT FOOTBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

Georgia State Championship game between the top two seeds, First Academy Tigers and Lufkin Warriors. Lufkin is down by five with less than two minutes to go. First Academy is coming on to the field to punt.

The Lufkin coach yells to a large player standing on the sideline about 10 yards away.

COACH BURRELL  
Michael! Michael! Come here!

Michael (17) an intimidating six-two, two hundred and twenty five pound African American running back quickly responds and jogs to his coach's side.

MICHAEL THOMAS  
Yeah Coach?

Coach Burrell looks directly into his Michael's eyes.

COACH BURRELL  
We've talked about this moment all year, and here it is. This is what you wanted. We are going to run things through you. We live and die with you on this drive.

MICHAEL THOMAS  
I won't let you down coach.

COACH BURRELL  
This is going to be the last drive of your high school career. This drive will be the thing you remember most about high school. Make it count. You deserve it.

The punt is returned to the thirty-eight yard line and the offense is going out on the field.

Michael begins to jog out on the field with his quarterback and best friend Josh Lattimore (18) an eighteen-year-old, six-foot tall, thin African American quarterback.

JOSH LATTIMORE  
Let's run this down their throat and take it home.

The team huddles up on the field.

## SPORTS COMMENTATOR #1

Well people are getting what they came to see. The two best teams with two of the nation's best players going head to head on the last drive of a championship game. It doesn't get much better than this.

## SPORTS COMMENTATOR #2

You can say that again. You couldn't write a script any better than this. This has been one of the best games that I have witnessed in years. It's coming down to who wants it more.

## SPORTS COMMENTATOR #1

Michael Thomas and Kiefer Solomon have given their teams everything and they will undoubtedly be the two that make the difference in this final drive. Now it's a question of who has more in the tank and who is going to will their team to a win.

FROM MICHAELS VIEW IN THE HELMET.

Would be tacklers coming up and disappearing as they are dodged, stiff armed or run over.

## SPORTS COMMENTATOR #1 (CONT'D)

Michael rumbles for back to back runs. He uses a combination of spin moves and pro style power to avoid tacklers or just straight run them over. He is showing the skills and abilities that made him a top ten recruit for Division one athletic programs across the country.

## SPORTS COMMENTATOR #2

With less than a minute to go, you have to believe that they're going to send Kiefer Solomon on a blitz up the middle to put some pressure on Josh Lattimore, hoping to force him to make a mistake.

SPORTS COMMENTATOR #1  
I definitely would. They have to give Michael a break following those last two runs. You have to be thinking pass. Make them make a mistake at this point in the game and go home with the win.

The players are lined up for the next play. PANNING from left to right in slow motion players dripping sweat, looking to each other like soldiers in battle.

The sound of Josh calling out his cadence in slow motion just before he receives the snap.

FIELD CAMERA SHOWS KIEFER COMING UP THE MIDDLE FOR A SACK.

SPORTS COMMENTATOR #2  
No one got a hand on Kiefer.

Michael turns, reacting to the blitz. Michael meets Kiefer just feet from Josh with a ferocious hit, lifting the six-foot-one, two-hundred-forty pound linebacker off his feet and crushing him to the ground before resuming his stance to provide coverage as Josh throws a pass to an open Wide Receiver.

SPORTS COMMENTATOR #2 (CONT'D)  
Whoa, what an amazing hit. Michael completely demolished Kiefer on that blitz.

The receiver catches the ball on a deep pass and runs out of bounds to stop the clock.

SPORTS COMMENTATOR #1  
You have to give it to Josh for standing strong and hitting the open receiver.

SPORTS COMMENTATOR #2  
Smart play by the wide out to get out of bounds and stop the clock.

SPORTS COMMENTATOR #1  
That leaves twenty seconds on the clock and some really important decisions to come from Coach Burrell.

The scoreboard shows twenty seconds left on the clock and one time-out remaining. Coach Burrell sends in the next play with a fresh wide receiver.

Moments later the team breaks the huddle and approaches the line.

SPORTS COMMENTATOR #2

Michael takes a pitch and sweeps around the side. --He cuts back to make one tackler miss, but Kiefer is there and they quickly gang up on Michael to bring him down in the field of play.

SPORTS COMMENTATOR #1

They brought him down just inside the three yard line. This will be the final time-out.

Coach Burrell runs to the referee and motions for the time-out with eleven seconds on the clock.

Josh and Michael jog to the sideline to meet their head coach while the others huddle to get water from the water-boys.

COACH BURRELL

We don't have any time outs left. You think you can punch it in from the three?

MICHAEL THOMAS

That's what they'll be expecting coach. Fake it to me on the dive and let Josh run it or throw it in on a naked bootleg.

They both look at Josh.

MICHAEL THOMAS (CONT'D)

If it's not there; --throw it away. We'll still have time for a final play. Now they'll have to watch everything. We can call the dive for real.

COACH BURRELL

A'right guys. It's your year and it's your time. Make it happen!

Josh begins to walk back to the team. Michael hesitates and calls out to his coach.

MICHAEL THOMAS

Coach!

COACH BURRELL

Yeah, what's wrong?

MICHAEL THOMAS

Put your hands on my helmet, like  
you're talking to me, motivating me  
for the last play.

Coach Burrell grabs his helmet in both hands and puts his  
head to his helmet.

MICHAEL THOMAS (CONT'D)

Wasn't it you that taught me that  
the best players are the best  
actors?

(Pauses)

Let's convince them that you're  
giving me that final pep talk. Make  
sure they think it's going to me.

Coach Burrell lets him go; pushes him towards the field and  
slaps him on the butt as Michael runs back to the team  
huddle.

As Michael approaches the huddle he stares at Kiefer.

Michael addresses the team looking into each of their eyes.

MICHAEL THOMAS (CONT'D)

This is it guys. Everyone has to  
convince their guy that this is a  
dive right up the gut. Josh is  
going to fake it to me on a naked  
bootleg and run it in for the  
score. We have to get them all to  
collapse on the box trying to stop  
me. If we don't make it we still  
have time for another play as Josh  
is going to throw it away if he  
doesn't have a clear shot.

Everyone looks around surprised that they are not simply  
giving the ball to Michael in the first place.

MICHAEL THOMAS (CONT'D)

Trust us guys this will work. They  
think it's going to me; we are  
going to sell it that way and get  
the win. Everybody hands in.

They all put their hands in and break the huddle with a roar.

MICHAEL THOMAS (CONT'D)  
One, two, three... Warriors!!!

The teams line up. The ball is snapped and Michael takes the fake, covers up and pounds the line.

SPORTS COMMENTATOR #1  
Michael takes the hand off; he lowers his head and is pushing the line back. The line is collapsing but he is still driving his legs.

SPORTS COMMENTATOR #2  
They seem to have him stopped. He lunges and it looks like he has lost the ball.

Michael spins towards the camera, his back is to the pile and he drives them back. As he is falling he lunges backwards over the line showing his hands are empty.

SPORTS COMMENTATOR #1  
Oh no, it's a naked bootleg. Michael was on a fake and it's Josh on a delayed naked bootleg running to the sideline with no one noticing him. He walks in the corner of the opposite end-zone untouched and unnoticed by anyone for the go ahead touchdown.

SPORTS COMMENTATOR #2  
What an amazing play. They completely fooled everyone. I don't think anyone knew Josh still had the ball. This game is over!!!

SPORTS COMMENTATOR #1  
Smart play. Josh delays crossing the line to ensure the clock runs out and it's just a formality for the extra point. He showed real awareness there. Don't score until the clock is out of time. Heads up play by the senior.

SPORTS COMMENTATOR #2  
How are they going to do an extra point? They are never going to get all the fans off the field. That's a couple hundred high-school kids on the field. Let's just call it a game.

The team and the fans are swarming the field. They are all crowding around Michael and hoisting him on their shoulders while the losing team is dejected and walking off the field saddened by their loss.

CAMERA ZOOMS IN ON MICHAEL. PANS TO THE SIDE TO SHOW JOSH WALKING TOWARDS A COUPLE OF HIS PERSONAL FRIENDS.

JOSH LATTIMORE

What the fuck! I scored the  
muthafuckin touchdown man! I'm  
tired of this bullshit!

JOSH GIRLFRIEND

Don't worry baby, you all won.  
You're state champs babe!

JOSH LATTIMORE

Fuck that. This shit's ridiculous.  
This ain't no muthafuckin' team  
win. This shit's all about him.

JOSH GIRLFRIEND

Baby let it go. Like you said, just  
get the win and the scouts will  
come calling. You got it, and you  
won it. Stats don't lie.

Michael celebrates with the crowd. Makes eye contact with Josh and points to him and pounds his chest.

MICHAEL THOMAS

You and me baby! We did it! We did  
it just like we said!

People watch as Josh doesn't respond but just walks back towards the Locker room.

INTERVIEW INT LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The locker room is filled with half the team already celebrating and getting undressed.

Josh looks up as he hears the celebration of the rest of the team and chanting of Michael's name as they enter.

JOSH LATTIMORE

(Talking to himself)

Everyone's on his fucking jock.

They stop ten feet from Josh. Michael can't find Josh as he is sitting and the crowd is blocking his view.



REPORTER #1

Michael, were you surprised at the crowd you drew on that last play?

MICHAEL THOMAS

Not at all. We all sold it. Coach Burrell has always told us that the best players are the best actors. We all did our part to convince them that I had the ball. We talked about it on the sideline and in the huddle. Everyone knew their job.

REPORTER #2

So whose idea was it for you to take the fake? Did Coach Burrell call the play?

MICHAEL THOMAS

We discussed it and just agreed. If they were going to do everything they could to stop me, then let's use it against them and it worked.

REPORTER #2

So basically you called the play?

MICHAEL THOMAS

No. WE called the play. I just wanted the win and no better way to go out than sharing it with my team.

REPORTER #2

Either way, you would have scored on the play. You fell into the end-zone. If you had the ball you would have scored just as well. Any regrets?

MICHAEL THOMAS

No, not at all. If I had scored there would have been a couple seconds on the clock. They're a great team with amazing special teams. Remember special teams scored two of their touchdowns tonight. I would hate to see them with one last chance to win the game. You never know what can happen in football. I'm just glad to have the win. Plus it was a great way for Josh to go out his senior year.

(MORE)

MICHAEL THOMAS (CONT'D)  
He was the quarterback that helped  
get us here. It was his last game  
as well.

REPORTER #3  
One last question. I know you want  
to celebrate with your team.

Michael smiles, giving the reporter his attention.

REPORTER #3 (CONT'D)  
Have you made a final decision on  
where you are going to play your  
collegiate ball?

MICHAEL THOMAS  
No, not quite yet. I am talking  
things over with my mom and my  
coach. But we're close.

REPORTER #2  
Any hints as to who might be in the  
lead at this point?

MICHAEL THOMAS  
We have it narrowed down to three  
final schools. I want to make sure  
I go somewhere that I can play a  
real part in making a difference on  
the team as well as get my degree.

Josh gets up from the bench and begins to walk away from the  
crowd with his bag.

One of the reporters notices him walking away.

REPORTER #1  
Josh, how does it feel to end your  
career with the game-winning  
touchdown?

Turning back to the reporters

JOSH LATTIMORE  
Funny, I don't feel anything at the  
moment. Just kinda numb. No  
different from any other win. It  
was a team win, driven by our star,  
Michael.

REPORTER #2  
You gonna miss having him in the  
backfield with you?

JOSH LATTIMORE

I don't know man. I have played with him my entire career. Maybe it's time for a change.

Josh tosses the game winning football to Michael, turns to walk out of the back exit.

Reporters looking surprised at the response.

REPORTER #1

He does know you guys won the game right?

MICHAEL THOMAS

I feel him on it. This is going to be a big change. This was our last game and now we have to start all over again on the bottom of the totem pole and work our way back up.

The coach is entering the Locker room. The reporters and some of the players begin to walk towards him.

Michael looks at the ball

CAMERA BACKING AWAY SHOWING TEAM CONGRATULATING COACH.

INT JOSH HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Josh and his mother sitting at the kitchen table with the Head Coach from Howard University. Ms. Lattimore (34) is young, thin, attractive in a nurses uniform as she just came from work.

JOSH LATTIMORE

I just don't understand how I lead our team to the state championship in Georgia and I can't get any love from the Division 1 schools man.

HOWARD COACH

Believe me I understand I was in a similar situation coming out of high school. Those guys are looking for that prototypical Quarterback. Over six-two, big arm and a pocket passer. We run a different style of offense where we need the best athlete possible on the field.

JOSH LATTIMORE

Everybody that talks to me wants to turn me into a wide-out, or corner back or something else other than a QB. I've played QB all my life and that's what I want to do.

HOWARD COACH

Well, if you come to Howard, that's what you'll be. We are looking for a guy that can lead his team. Someone that can run the ball, protect the ball and get others involved.

JOSH LATTIMORE

Not like I have a ton of coaches beating my door down to help me live my dreams.

MS. LATTIMORE

Josh has never been away from home before. Who's going to look out for him that far away from home?

HOWARD COACH

Don't worry Ms. Lattimore. He will be in good hands. Every year we bring on about ten or more players that are more than 500 miles away from home. Being out on their own helps them become men. It's a good thing. --Plus it gets him away from some of the negative distractions.

MS. LATTIMORE

That would be nice. I want to get him away from all this. See him have a chance to do something more than what he could with just a high school diploma. We don't have money for him to go to college and this would be such a blessing for him.

HOWARD COACH

Yes ma'am. We will make sure he gets an education. School is our number one priority and being an athlete is secondary.

MS. LATTIMORE

Is there a chance he can become a professional football player?

Josh shifts in his chair and waits to hear the response.

HOWARD COACH

I'm not going to lie to you. It's much more difficult coming out of an HBCU to get drafted into the NFL, especially at the Quarterback position, but it's not impossible.

Looks to Josh.

HOWARD COACH (CONT'D)

It'll be up to Josh to improve his skills and show the league what he can do. Dominate the competition and maybe he can be the next Steve McNair. We get two televised games a year and we have had NFL teams come to our campus every year scouting players.

MS. LATTIMORE

So why should he take a chance with Howard, and go so far away from home again?

HOWARD COACH

He said it himself. He wants to play Quarterback and none of the big schools are recruiting him at that position. --We on the other hand, are offering him the position of his dreams and the opportunity to show the world that Lufkin High was more than just Michael Thomas. Until he does something on his own he will forever live in his shadow as the guy that handed the ball off to a superstar. We believe in him and that he has untapped potential. We can develop him and give him the opportunity to show the world he's just as good as these other QBs that are ranked above him. We're his best chance if he wants to play QB.

Josh stands up and lets his frustration get the best of him.

JOSH LATTIMORE

I'm more than a safe quarterback. I can pass right along with the best of 'em. I'm not some Trent Dilfer man.

(MORE)

JOSH LATTIMORE (CONT'D)  
--If they give me the opportunity I  
can put up yards and TDs.

Pausing and trying to regain his composure

JOSH LATTIMORE (CONT'D)  
I did exactly what my coach asked  
me to do. And all I've been is  
criticized and belittled like I was  
some glamorized towel boy for  
Michael. I'm tired of living in  
his shadow. I'm the quarterback,  
I'm the leader of the team.

HOWARD COACH  
Well prove everyone wrong. Sign up  
with the Bisons and let everyone  
know you're going to be the  
starting QB as a freshman. We have  
a need right now as our starter is  
graduating this year. We're  
looking for someone that can make  
an immediate impact. I can give  
you a full ride today.

Just tell me you want to lead the Bison.

JOSH LATTIMORE  
Let's do it. Let's make it happen.

The coach stands and they shake hands.

INT MS THOMAS CAR

Driving to Athens to visit the coach and see the facilities.

MICHAEL THOMAS  
Mom, you didn't have to drive me  
all the way up there. Now you gonna  
miss a day of work and you know  
this car don't need any extra miles  
on it. --Plus, you know something's  
wrong with it and here we go  
getting on the highway to Nowhere  
Ville.

MRS. THOMAS  
Mona is going to be a'right. If we  
get things squared away you might  
be taking Mona to school with you.

MICHAEL THOMAS

Heck no. I'll be a'right without her. You spend more keeping her running than if you went and got a new car.

MRS. THOMAS

Well when I get my next tax refund I'm goin' to get me a new car.

Michael is excited for his mother's plans.

MICHAEL THOMAS

Really?

MRS. THOMAS

Well a new used car. New to me. Used to someone else.

They both laugh. Michael shaking his head at her joke.

MICHAEL THOMAS

That's cool mom. You deserve it. You work too hard to have to struggle.

MRS. THOMAS

Everything will be OK. Just wish we had better health insurance before your dad got sick. Just a couple more years and we're squared away.

The mood immediately sobers.

MICHAEL THOMAS

Man, I wish he was here to help me make my decision. I know he would be excited.

MRS. THOMAS

Yes. --I don't know who would be more excited him or you. But I do know he is really proud of you.

Car makes a weird jerking or hesitation that is physically noticeable.

MICHAEL THOMAS

Did you feel that mom?

MRS. THOMAS

Mona does that all the time now.  
She usually just does that when I  
first start driving or when I stop  
backing up to go forward.

MICHAEL THOMAS

Please God, just let us make it to  
campus. I don't want to explain to  
the coach we missed our meeting  
because we got stranded.

MRS. THOMAS

Well you just keep praying. I  
promise you Mona's gonna get us  
there I promise you that.

MICHAEL THOMAS

(chuckling)  
I hope so.

EXT CONDO COMPLEX - LATE NIGHT

Michael is being escorted by one of the senior football  
players. He is taking him to a party to help persuade him to  
play ball for them.

SENIOR FOOTBALL PLAYER

So forget everything you saw and  
heard from coach. This is the real  
part of the recruiting trip.

MICHAEL THOMAS

I liked the campus, and the  
facility is off the chain. I  
thought we had a good setup at our  
school! That weight room was a  
beast.

SENIOR FOOTBALL PLAYER

Yeah, you'll spend enough of your  
life in there. But the cool thing  
is, after the games, especially  
after a big win over a conference  
rival this is how we get down. This  
party, yo it's nothin' bro.

He walks Michael into a large party in a three story condo.

MICHAEL THOMAS

I really didn't do that much  
partying in school.

(MORE)



MICHAEL THOMAS (CONT'D)  
My dad got sick and I had to kind  
of help out around the house.

SENIOR FOOTBALL PLAYER  
Damn, that sucks. But don't worry  
about that bro. I promise you're  
going to more than make up for  
anything you missed out on. Trust  
me.

As they walk through the party Michael is constantly being  
stopped to take a selfie with people.

MICHAEL THOMAS  
Damn, this is worse than high  
school. I feel like every 5 minutes  
someone is taking a photo of me or  
asking to take one with me.

SENIOR FOOTBALL PLAYER  
Dude don't worry about that. It  
will die down with time. Right now  
everyone is just hyped about the  
idea of us getting the nation's  
best running back. And the fact  
that you're in our own backyard.  
Come on man, you gotta come here.  
You're an immediate fan favorite.

The senior looks around and points at all the women.

SENIOR FOOTBALL PLAYER (CONT'D)  
Dude! This will be all you! Pussy  
for days. I wish I was a running  
back as popular as you are. --Shit  
or as popular as you will be.  
Bitches doing your homework,  
cooking shit for you anytime you  
want and all the ass you can  
imagine. --Fuck, I'm already  
jealous of you.

MICHAEL THOMAS  
Man this is whole lot to deal with.  
I don't know about all this.

SENIOR FOOTBALL PLAYER  
Trust me you'll get used to it.  
Everybody does. The stars have it  
made man.

They walk by a table where there is access to all kinds of  
drinks.

SENIOR FOOTBALL PLAYER (CONT'D)  
Yo! Want something to drink man?  
They got anything you want.

MICHAEL THOMAS  
Naw, I'm good. I don't drink.

SENIOR FOOTBALL PLAYER  
See how long that shit lasts. I  
didn't drink before I got here.  
But to survive and fit in you gotta  
do three things. Drink, cuss and  
fuck. Then it's all good.

Michael looks surprised and laughs.

MICHAEL THOMAS  
You trippin man.

SENIOR FOOTBALL PLAYER  
Wait man, take a seat right here.  
I'll be right back in a couple  
minutes. Don't go anywhere.

Michael sits down on the sofa and just watches the party. A  
couple of girls sit on either side of him.

DRUNK GIRL 1  
Michael! Michael Thomas!

DRUNK GIRL 2  
Oh shit for real?

DRUNK GIRL 1  
Yeah bitch it's him. Take a photo  
of us.

She leans in to Michael while he tries to lean away  
uncomfortable as she takes a selfie. And her friend takes a  
photo of them. Others around begin to take photos as well.

MICHAEL THOMAS  
Y'all aw'right?

DRUNK GIRL 1  
No. --We are fucked up! You want  
something to drink? 'cause we are  
goin' to get turned up tonight!

She tries to put her cup to his lips as he pushes it away.

MICHAEL THOMAS  
No. I'm good.

DRUNK GIRL 2

Oh don't be a pussy. You're not scared are you?

DRUNK GIRL 1

Maybe he's a virgin.

DRUNK GIRL 2

Are you? Or you gotta girl?

MICHAEL THOMAS

Yeah, I gotta girlfriend at home.

DRUNK GIRL 2

I think that's sexy.

She pushes up on him and puts her breasts in his face. The second girl slides her hands up his thigh.

DRUNK GIRL 1

I think he likes the attention.

A guy hands them each a shot glass and they throw it back immediately without hesitation. One guy sits down beside Michael and lets Drunk Girl 1 sit in his lap.

STONER GUY

Don't worry it won't be long the party is about to get started bro.

DRUNK GIRL 2

You want a shot? --Hey! Someone give us another fuckin' shot.

STONER GUY

Yo! Mark get 'em another shot.

Leans over towards Michael.

STONER GUY (CONT'D)

Leave that shit alone man. You won't be able to get your dick up on that shit. Just let them drink it.

Michael frowns and leans away from the guy.

MICHAEL THOMAS

What? Dude I don't drink shit. I don't want anything.

STONER GUY

That's cool. Just saying be careful what you drink around here.

MICHAEL THOMAS  
Yeah, yeah. Whatever man.

Mark gives them both another shot glass.

DRUNK GIRL 1  
Who did you come here with?

MICHAEL THOMAS  
I forgot his name. One of the guys  
on the football team.

DRUNK GIRL 1  
They're such fuckin's assholes.

MICHAEL THOMAS  
What do you mean.

DRUNK GIRL 1  
He most likely left you here. You  
know how to get home? Or you know  
anyone else?

MICHAEL THOMAS  
No. I can get myself back to my  
hotel.

DRUNK GIRL 1  
You want me to go with you to your  
hotel?

MICHAEL THOMAS  
Naw, I'm good. My mom's there and  
I think she would flip the fuck  
out.

DRUNK GIRL 1  
We can be quiet. --Unless you want  
me to make noise.

Michael looks disgusted and moves her back.

MICHAEL THOMAS  
You serious?

DRUNK GIRL 1  
Shit I'm feeling warm. They need to  
turn on the AC. Damn!

She begins to unbutton her shirt. And is visibly sweating.

DRUNK GIRL 1 (CONT'D)  
Come dance with me.

MICHAEL THOMAS  
Where? There ain't no room to  
dance.

She leans in to whisper in his ear.

DRUNK GIRL 1  
I like it like that. You can fuck  
me and no one will know.

She puts her hands between his legs again, and Michael jumps.

MICHAEL THOMAS  
Hold up. Chill.

DRUNK GIRL 1  
Shit I'm horny as hell.

She pulls him back closer and whispers in his ear again.

DRUNK GIRL 1 (CONT'D)  
I need to fuck so bad right now.

MICHAEL THOMAS  
You're shit out of luck with me.

Drunk Girl 2 leans back into his lap as Stoner guy starts to slide his hands up her skirt. She turns her head towards him with her head in his lap and begins to reach for his belt buckle.

Michael stops her and stands up and begins to walk away as another guy takes his seat. The room is filled with people standing around and dancing with phones taking photos.

A guy stops and asks Michael to take a photo just as he is about to leave.

There are a couple shots being taken of him leaving by random people.

SHOW MONTAGE OF A SHOTS AT THE PARTY. INCRIMINATING SHOTS OF THE GUYS WITH THE GIRLS. SHOTS THAT SHOW MICHAEL LEAVING THE PARTY.

Michael gets outside the house and begins to walk towards the street talking to himself.

MICHAEL THOMAS (CONT'D)  
This is some bullshit. These mutha fuckers are crazy as hell.

Michael takes out his cell phone and hits the Uber Application to schedule a pick up.

CAMERA SHOWS THE UBER APPLICATION SHOWING HIS CURRENT POSITION AND SHOWING A GAS STATION LESS THAN A MILE AWAY. HE SELECTS THE GAS STATION AS HIS PICK UP LOCATION AND

TEXT MESSAGE SHOWS THE DATE AND TIMESTAMP OF THE ORDER BEING PLACED.

Michael begins to text his girlfriend. She goes back and forth with him for a while.

Michael continues to walk to the gas station and then gets the call from his girlfriend.

MICHAEL THOMAS (CONT'D)

Hey what's up?

SHANNON JOHNSON

Nothing. So what was going on at the party? You didn't like the team?

MICHAEL THOMAS

No, I liked the team, the coach and everything. They had a little party that was going on near the campus and I got to meet some of the recent grads. A couple of the guys that graduated and played a few years in the NFL and CFL.

SHANNON JOHNSON

Oh, that sounds cool. So how long did they make it in the pros?

MICHAEL THOMAS

Not long, but they shared how it was because of the exposure they got from the team and playing on National TV. And there was a guy that even though he never played pro ball he used his scholarship to get his education and meet some people that helped him become successful outside of just sports.

SHANNON JOHNSON

Yeah, that doesn't hurt to have a backup.

(MORE)

SHANNON JOHNSON (CONT'D)

I saw a show on TV and they showed how most of the players that didn't make it to the NFL became motivational speakers, coaches and things because of the school's network of alumni.

MICHAEL THOMAS

Yeah, but that was about the end of it. After that, it all went downhill quick. Some girls showed up drunk or high on something.

SHANNON JOHNSON

Oh the girls that they talk about in the news. --Please tell me you didn't mess with them. That's how they get you.

MICHAEL THOMAS

Hell naw. Those skeezers were nasty as hell.

They were trying to get me to drink shots and stuff, pressing up on me and next thing I know there's some dude with his dick out way too close for comfort for me trying to get one of the girls to go down on him in the middle of the party.

SHANNON JOHNSON

What! --Bullshit!

MICHAEL THOMAS

No, I 'm for real. It was like a fucking porno in there. I moved out the way, next thing I know some guy is laughing with his friend as he was trying to slip something up the other girls skirt.

SHANNON JOHNSON

What do you think it was? Like a vibrator or something?

MICHAEL THOMAS

No, it was a small tube, not like a toy. I didn't want to know what it was. They looked like they were fucked up before they even got started. Both of them were looking like they were thinking in slow motion. So I just got the fuck outta Dodge. As soon as I got outside I setup an Uber ride to come get me.

SHANNON JOHNSON

Why didn't you call your mom?

MICHAEL THOMAS

Aww hell naw! You know my mom. Man she would have that coaches ass in a sling. This whole damn school would be on ESPN tomorrow!

SHANNON JOHNSON

So what about tomorrow? What are you going to say to the coach? Are you still considering them?

MICHAEL THOMAS

No, tonight ended it for them. And I'll just tell my mom that things didn't go well and I don't want to get into the details. I will tell her that they aren't a contender anymore so need for us to waste anymore time there. We can just head home.

SHANNON JOHNSON

You think she'll just let it go that easy? I mean they were offering a full ride and it's not far from home.

MICHAEL THOMAS

Yeah, but she really wasn't high on them anyway.

SHANNON JOHNSON

OK, well that makes it easier.

A black Toyota Camry slowly turns into the gas station and it appears the driver is looking for someone.

MICHAEL THOMAS

Shannon, let me call you back. I think my ride just pulled up.

SHANNON JOHNSON

OK, call me back once you are settled.

MICHAEL THOMAS

Will do. Love you.



SHANNON JOHNSON  
Love you too babe. Be careful.  
And don't forget to call me back  
once you're settled.

MICHAEL THOMAS  
Man! You're just like my mom.

Michael talkto the guy through the window then gets in the car.

CAR DOOR SLAMS shut.

INT HOME FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Two police officers standing at the door as Michael's mother opens it. Mrs. Thomas (42) old, tall, larger built woman with short black hair.

OFFICER #1  
Hello Mrs. Thomas?

MRS. THOMAS  
Yes? Can I help you?

OFFICER #1  
Is your son Michael here? We need  
to talk to him about an incident on  
campus while he was visiting.

MRS. THOMAS  
He's been at school all day and  
just got here about 15 minutes ago.

OFFICER #1  
Can we come in so we can talk to  
him?

MRS. THOMAS  
Yes. Come in. I'll go get him.

OFFICER #2  
Thanks, we appreciate it.

The officers follow Mrs. Thomas inside. They take inventory of the pictures decorating the house, the trophies and awards that have been accumulated over the years.

INT MICHAEL'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

She knocks on the door and opens it to talk to him privately.

MRS. THOMAS

Michael there are two police officers here to talk to you. What's going

MICHAEL THOMAS

(interrupting)

Two cops here to talk to me? About what?

MRS. THOMAS

I was going to ask you if you knew why they were here.

MICHAEL THOMAS

No. I don't have a clue why they're here. I didn't do anything.

MRS. THOMAS

Michael, if you did something you need to be honest with me right now.

MICHAEL THOMAS

Mom, I promise you. I haven't done anything.

Michael gets up and checks himself out in the mirror before walking to his mother, kissing her on the cheek and heading to the officers waiting in the den.

MICHAEL THOMAS (CONT'D)

Excuse me. My mom said you wanted to talk to me.

OFFICER #1

Man you're one hell of an athlete.

OFFICER #2

Yeah, those are some pretty impressive awards you've racked up over the years.

MICHAEL THOMAS

Thanks.

OFFICER #1

Never seen this many awards in one place without being at some kind of museum or something.

OFFICER #2

You have any idea why we're here?

MICHAEL THOMAS

Honestly. I have any idea why you're here. I haven't done anything. I go to school and I come home. Nothing in between.

MRS. THOMAS

Yeah, Michael is a good kid. He hasn't ever been in any kind of trouble and has excellent grades. What is it that you all are here for?

OFFICER #1

OK, we'll just cut to the chase. -- Do you recall going to a party in Athens last week?

MICHAEL THOMAS

Yeah. I was there. I went to visit the school and check out the facilities, see the campus and then they took me to a party after the campus tour. But I didn't stay long at all.

OFFICER #2

So do you remember the two girls in this picture?

The officer hands Michael a picture of him sitting between the two girls that were hanging on him.

MICHAEL THOMAS

Yeah. I remember them. But it's not like I know 'em or anything. I had never seen them before that night and while I was there they kept dang near trying to force themselves on me.

Michael's mom takes the picture from his hands and looks at the picture.

The officers are curiously watching Michael's demeanor.

OFFICER #1

You're telling me they were coming on to you?

MICHAEL THOMAS

Yes. That's exactly what I'm saying.

OFFICER #2

They both come from some pretty well known and influential families.

MRS. THOMAS

So what are you trying to say about my son and our family?

MICHAEL THOMAS

Look, things were getting wild and I got up and left the party.

OFFICER #1

So you recall that night? Had you been drinking or doing any drugs that night?

MRS. THOMAS

Now Michael doesn't drink, and he damn sure doesn't do any drugs! What is it that you want to know about this party?

MICHAEL THOMAS

Yeah. I didn't drink anything that night. I didn't mess with any drugs. I will take a drug test right now.

OFFICER #2

That actually might help. How 'bout you come down to the station with us so we can ask you some additional questions about that night?

MICHAEL THOMAS

Hey man wait up. Am I being arrested or something?

OFFICER #2

No. You're not under arrest. But if you don't agree to come down to the station with us... and we have to get a warrant, things wont be as pleasant.

MICHAEL THOMAS

Man I ain't puttin' no hand cuffs on man. I didn't do anything.

Michael turns to look at his mom for help.

MICHAEL THOMAS (CONT'D)  
Mom, I didn't do anything at that party. I didn't mess with those girls or anything.

OFFICER #1  
We didn't say anything about the girls. Why are you worried about the girls?

MICHAEL THOMAS  
Come on man. I know where this is goin'. Something happened to those girls and because you got a picture of me with them, you gonna blame me for whatever happened.

OFFICER #1  
Come down with us to the station. You can follow us down.

MICHAEL THOMAS  
We don't have a car right now. My mom's car is in the shop.

OFFICER #1  
Well you can ride with us. And afterwards we can give you a ride back.

MICHAEL THOMAS  
Man. Me getting in the back of a cop car. Yeah that's gonna to look good. What about my scholarship?

OFFICER #2  
That's the least of your worries right now. You need to work with us to help get to the bottom of this situation as it's not looking good right now.

MRS. THOMAS  
So what happened to the girls in the photo?

OFFICER #1  
Let's handle that down at the station. We need to make sure we get all the details. We want to know everything that happened that night.

MRS. THOMAS  
Can I go with him?

OFFICER #1  
He just turned eighteen right? Now he's an adult. We just need to speak to him. It won't be long.

OFFICER #2  
Yeah, actually it will go faster and be easier if we can just ask him a few questions.

MICHAEL THOMAS  
Mom, I'll be OK. I didn't do anything. I'll be back later. I can take of myself.

MRS. THOMAS  
I don't like this Michael. What happened to the girls? Are they dead?

They both look at the police officers.

OFFICER #1  
They're alive. But they were raped while they were passed out from drugs in their system.

OFFICER #2  
We are questioning all the people that were at the party. And your son was actually seen with them in a few photos.

OFFICER #1  
Here are some of the photos that we need some additional explaining about.

Hands the photos to Mrs. Thomas and she flips through a few.

MRS. THOMAS  
I don't see anything in these photos showing my son doing anything with these girls. He looks like he doesn't want to be there.

OFFICER #1

That's also why we want him to clear up what happened that night, what he saw and what he can recollect.

MICHAEL THOMAS

Call Coach and let him know. He'll know what to do.

MRS. THOMAS

OK. I'll call him.

OFFICER #1

OK. Come on Michael we will just casually walk down. Just have a cool talk like we are all friends. Get in and you can just tell everyone you were meeting some kids that were down at the center or something. No one has to know why you got in the car... and like we said no hand cuffs, so no harm no foul.

MICHAEL THOMAS

OK. That's fair. I appreciate it.

Michael turns to his mom and kisses her cheek.

MICHAEL THOMAS (CONT'D)

I'm good mom. Don't worry, I'll be OK. God's always taken care of us.

Michael's mom stands there clinching the pictures in her hands and worrying as he walks out the door closing it behind them.

INT INTERROGATION ROOM - AFTERNOON

MICHAEL THOMAS

Look I spoke to the two guys that drove me all the way here. I didn't have anything to do with the two girls at that party. I left when I saw things getting crazy.

INTERROGATION OFFICER

So entertain me because I need to get your statement on record. Everything you said to them doesn't help me.