ONLY FOUR

Ву

# KISAKYE HAKIM

A university graduate, ending his job search in vain, stuck with his single mother's hospital bill, accepts to join his friend's business, finds himself stuck in human trafficking business.

Kisakye Hakim

KISAKYE HAKIM hakimkisakye@gmail.com +256789683174 INT.HOSPITAL.MORNING.

At the entrance of a well-organized, attractive hospital stand two energetic young men, in their 20's.

DAN poorly dressed, a t-shirt with faded trousers and ISAAC by contrast dressed in smart casuals. Between them they carry Dan's unconscious mother, SARAH-40s into the hospital lobby.

Two nurses approach hurriedly; SHAKY and MARGE early 20'S, quickly followed by the DOCTOR-30s. Sarah is whisked away into an emergency ward the boys try to follow but are firmly stopped by Shaky.

SHAKY

No! You need to wait...

The door firmly closes behind them. Dan twists his hands impatiently, Isaac tries to comfort him.

A bleep of a text distracts him, he reaches for his phone, the sender is Boss. Isaac goes through the message, he smiles and then turns back to comforting his friend...

After some time, the doctor moves out with a small piece of paper in his hands and Dan follows him up to his office.

DOCTOR'S OFFICE

Without waiting for the doctor to sit down

DAN

Doctor, what is wrong with my mother, will she be fine?

Isaac enters and stands beside his friend facing the doctor.

DOCTOR

Please calm down, your mother is going to be fine, though she needs a specialist to work on her, good enough the hospital has made arrangements, the cardiologist will be here in no time. Just go home and we will contact you ASAP.

ISAAC

Thanks doc, Dan lets go.

Dan looks even more worried, Isaac holds on to him, propelling him out, at the doctor's door Dan stops and comes

back.

DAN

Doctor, how much will it cost for her to be fine?

DOCTOR

Worry not, she is in good hands.

DAN

Doctor please?

The doctor gives him the small piece of paper with procedures to be done as he leads him out.

DOCTOR

OK fine, take that and ask the cashier.

Doctor moves into another ward following another patient being taken in by the nurses.

A young, charming, welcoming lady ZANY-20s sits behind a computer, reading a newspaper with a big heading INCREASED MURDERS IN KAMPALA SUBURB, BUT NO CLEAR REASON YET. She turns down the paper, looks up at Dan and Isaac, then glances at the clock on the wall. It's exactly 10:00 o'clock, she turns back to them.

ZANY

Good morning, how may I help you?

Dan gives her the doctor's paper.

DAN

Cost of that?

She doesn't take it.

ZANY

I first need some form of ID and your phone number.

Dan looks at her in slight panic, it's obvious he doesn't have any, Isaac reaches for the chit, writes his phone number at the back, picks out his ID and collectively gives them to Zany.

Zany takes them and enters some details in to the computer, smilingly writes on the hospital business card and gives it to Dan.

His eyes widen for a fraction as he gulps, he hands it to Isaac. Isaac is calm as he looks at the amount... 6mshs cash.

ZANY

No need to clear now, clearing is mostly done at the discharge time.

**ISAAC** 

Exactly when is that?

ZANY

It depends on what the doctor has written, today being a Monday...I suppose by the end of the week, or earlier...

**ISAAC** 

Alright then, thanks.

Isaac leads Dan out, he looks a little weak and grey as they exit the hospital.

INT.ISAAC'S CAR FROM THE HOSPITAL.MORNING.

Dan and Isaac in the car driving out of the hospital car park. Dan is quiet and in deep thought, there are two large envelopes on the back seat.

After some time driving, Isaac stops the car at the road side in a town center.

ISAAC

Man, am running late, let me drop you here, you know you have four days to look for the money...

Dan looks at him stricken, Isaac shakes his head.

ISAAC (CONT)

...hey don't even think of asking me, I don't have that kind of cash.

DAN

I know, I know...

Dan looks sadly away, then back at him, a desperation creeping in his tone

DAN

I just Don't know what am going to do!

ISAAC

Find a job!

DAN

(Frantic)

Man, for the past two years I have been searching, I have failed to get any…even with my degree!!, how do I expect to get one in four days?..AND on top of that 6 Mill?!...NO WAY!!

Isaac considers him for a moment,

**ISAAC** 

Hmmm, then in that case, it's about time you joined my business...

Dan stubbornly shakes his head.

DAN

Not that again!, your business is not my thing!... no offense, but am not a bad guy!

Isaac sniggers slightly

ISAAC

Neither am I, what you fail to see my friend is that life is not just black and white, it's shades of Grey...you'll earn up to a Mill a day, and more importantly, I can top up the balance.

DAN

(Pauses, bites his lip as he thinks then slowly shakes his head) No way, I will find a way out, but get me some money to eat am hungry.

ISAAC

(Sighs)

Your loss...

He pulls out a wallet full of bundles, picks out a fifty and offers it to him. Dan checks note if not fake, it looks OK, he then moves out onto the street leaving Isaac pondering. Isaac quickly starts the car and drives off.

## EXT.STREET-BETTING HOUSE.MORNING

Dan moving on the street reading all the posters on the electric poles.

He tries to cram the phone numbers, mumbling under his breath, after a few minutes, he stops, he looks frustrated he reaches up and removes off the poster, folds it and puts it in his pocket, then continues moving.

With his 50k in his hands, he stops at a sports betting house and looks at his money.

Other youths are happily moving in and out of the betting house.

After some time standing, he finally moves into the betting house.

## INT.BETTING HOUSE.MORNING

A number of youths are in the house going through the pinned lists and others on laptops. Dan joins them and peruses the lists.

At the counter are two young and attractive ladies. Dan approaches the them.

DAN

a pen and paper please?

One of the ladies at the main desk gets him a pen and a piece of paper, as he moves back, another lady offers him a batch of fixtures and he sits down.

Dan starts picking the matches as other youths do likewise. Some copying what he chooses. He ends up with a number of ten matches, but all of odds 1.6 and below.

He writes on the paper 40,000/= and approaches the desk. He hands it with the 50k note to one of the ladies who smiles as she enters it into the computer and makes a receipt for him.

The lady hands him the receipt and a balance of 10,000ug. Dan smiles at the receipt as he murmurs quietly to himself

DAN

(Cautious yet hopeful)
Woooh, 20,000,000/=, that's a lot of
zeros

He smiles and happily moves out of the betting house, he does not notice the furtive eyes that are watching him, wondering, thinking.

After he leaves LEO another 20 something turns to his friends.

LEO

(Excitedly)

That guy's receipt is a **must** win. This is our time to get rich, let's break the receipt into three and stake on them.

EXT-INT.ISAAC'S APARTMENT. MORNING.

EXT.GATE-COMPOUND.

Isaac parks outside a gate with a quiet good looking apartment. He steps out, carrying a big toy car, and strolls through the gate. The compound is neat, well-kept. Without hesitation he opens the door and walks right through.

INT.SITTING ROOM.MORNING.

Isaac makes his way towards a pretty lady PHIONA, 20's, watching TV, he leans over and pecks her, she does not react. He turns to his 2yr old boy KENNETH and offers the toy to him. Kenneth, grins at him excitedly, Isaac pats his head affectionately. Turns back to his lady and hands her some money.

PHIONA

(Smiling)

My love have a seat I'll get you some tea.

ISAAC

Babe sorry, my boss just sent me a message for a business to complete...

PHIONA

(Annoyed)

You have just walked in and now you are leaving? What do you take us for? What kind of business doesn't let you spend some time with your family?

ISAAC

(Cajoling)

My love try to appreciate and understand...

PHIONA

(Voice raising, tone hardening) Please stop! I appreciate that you give us money, but understand what exactly...?

She stands, begins to pace agitatedly, as her argument gets warmer, turns and points an accusing finger at him

PHIONA (CONT)

you, refused to move in with us, you're not married to another woman, so what do you do, that is so important... at night? Hmmm, tell me Isaac?

ISAAC

Please my lov...

PHIONA

(cuts him short)

My love what!!!! You think money is everything? I would have stayed with Dan...

**ISAAC** 

(Annoyed)

But you left him for me and I wonder what you would be eating right now!

PHIONA

Next time, don't bother!, there is the door, you know the way out!

He stares at her questioningly

PHIONA

(Sharp!)

I said get out of my house, now!

Isaac sighs glances at his son, who is busily playing with his new toy.

Looks at his woman, her arms are folded her expression is super pissed, he turns and walks to the door, shuts it quietly behind him

She drops her arms, deflated, now more sad than angry ...

EXT. ISAAC'S APARTMENT. MORNING

AT THE GATE

As Isaac pushes the gate to move out, he collides with a young lady MARY-20's who grabs him by the collar pushing him back inside. Isaac manages to maneuver himself and her out of the gate.

He holds her against the car, quickly glances towards the house, then back at her

ISAAC

(Heated whisper)

What is wrong with you?!!

MARY

(Spitting, Angry)

You! You are what's wrong with me. Taking my parents money was bad enough, but sleeping with me and vanishing... You thought I will not find you,! I want my passport and money now!

**ISAAC** 

(Hurriedly)

OK, OK get in the car, let's go I'll give you whatever you want.

MARY

No way, I don't trust you! Now that abroad is no more,

She looks up behind him, towards the apartment

MARY

I'll ask your wife instead, I bet she knows where they are...

She quickly pulls away from him, making for the gate. Isaac grabs her, his hands reach for her neck.

He begins to squeeze tighter and tighter, her small hands reach up to his, trying to paw them away, her efforts are desperate as they try to pry his fingers off, but its no good.

His face is grim as he slowly watches the fluttering of her eyes, as her life drains away, finally(after what feels like a life time, but has only just been a few minutes), her hands

drop as she slumps against the car.

There is a fine sheet of sweat on his fore head, he takes a deep breath, quickly glances over his shoulder, then around.

He wraps his arms around the limp body and shifts it into the back seat next to the large envelopes. Stands looks around again noticing no one, shuts the door, walks to the drivers seat, jumps in and quickly drives off.

#### EXT.STREET.MORNING

Dan is excited as he moves through the slum, his eyes glued on to his receipt, he bumps into someone, one of the youth who was in the betting house Leo. Leo snatches Dan's receipt and runs off.

Dan takes off after him, chasing him through the slum market knocking people's goods over.

Leo and Dan wind through the slum houses, Leo is sprite and fast, running hard Dan pants breathlessly after him, he is tiring out. He begins to scream, sounding the alarm.

DAN

Thief, thief, thief!!1...

With in a minute, a number of people from different directions grab Leo. There is a scuffle, and shouts as they start beating him up.

Dan shoves himself through the mob. He picks the receipt from the guy's pocket and moves away.

Leo attempts to say some thing, none of the people want to know. The pummeling and kicks continue, its crazy, its brutal, blood starts to flow out of Leo's gashes and bruises, from no where a brick smashes into his head, he stops moving...a broken boy.

## A beat:

Every one stares, horrified...mortified, suddenly... Police alarms approach.

Everyone suddenly scatters like flies, in different directions.

A five red liter jerrycan and a match box and Leo's bloody dead body are the only things left on the scene.

INT.OFFICE.AFTERNOON.

A well furnished office, Isaac nods to an expensively dressed guy, EDDY 40'S, he is the BOSS. A sleek, slim young man stands erect next to him, this is MARK mid 20's the BODYGUARD. They greet and shake hands.

EDDY

The other deals went well...(peers at him)you do know that is the reason I keep offering you more deals.

He half bows,

ISAAC

Thank you Sir for the opportunities and for having such faith in me.

Eddy flicks an impatient wrist at him, as he nods.

**EDDY** 

Yes, yes

ISAAC

I came as soon as I got your message

**EDDY** 

...hmmm so, after going through the details, what is your take on it?

**ISAAC** 

The deal is worth it, but my friend who can help, has a problem.

**EDDY** 

What kind?

Isaac's phone on the table vibrates, an unknown number flashes, he does not pick.

He begins to tell Eddy each and every thing about his friend Dan, this takes some time.

EDDY (CONT)

... That's not a problem, I'll handle it, just get me to him...that's if you are sure he is worth it.

EXT.SLUM.DAY

Dan walks through the slum thorough ways with a bread/bun. He

jumps several sewage trenches, shouting out greetings to the residents.

He opens one of the slum rental house and enters.

INT. DAN'S RENTAL.DAY

The room contains a few things; small mattress, bed sheets, small radio, his graduation photograph up on the wall, a jerrycan, no Carpet and a few other things.

Dan turns on the radio which is resting on several betting receipts. He looks through the betting receipts full of crosses where he has missed by either one or two matches.

He stares at his new receipt, it indicates the last match starts at 2:00pm. He puts the new receipt on top of the radio.

RADIO PRESENTER OS ... it is mid day and the early matches have started. Stay with us we will be giving you the updates of all the games.

Dan gets his cup, pours water into it from the jerrycan and sits on his mattress. His brow furrows, a far away look on his face as he slowly chews his bread.

DAN

(Inner dialogue)

I must save my mum...she is the only person I have on earth...she suffered for me, to get me an education, to feed me everyday...she is both mum and dad to me...oh God please help me...

EXT.ROASTED FOODS' MARKET ON THE HIGH WAY.DAY. FLASH BACK.

A big crowded roasted foods' market, a young lady SARAH in her early 20s. she is roasting GONJA/BANANAS for her tough fat boss MERCY-50s.

Mercy sits aside one of the many charcoal stoves watching whatever Sarah is doing.

A bus comes around and stops in front of the market. Most of the sellers in the market run towards it. Mercy places several bananas into the basket, screeches nastily at Sarah. MERCY

Why are you still seated on your lazy butt?! get up you fool, sell more! run!!...

Sarah quickly picks the basket with the GONJA/BANANAS and runs to meet the bus.

She races through the Market exit, leading to the highway, accidentally collides with her teary kid, DAN-7, she drops the full basket of gonja/bananas trying to save her child from falling into the near-by charcoal stove.

Everyone turns to stare, Mercy runs over in a rage her voice loud and threatening attempts to strike the child

MERCY (CONT)

How dare you?, no one messes with my business!

Sarah hastily holds her kid away from Mercy

SARAH

(Just as Enraged)

It's not his fault!...and don't you ever lay a hand on my son!

Mercy sticks her chin out aggressively, eyes glinting dangerously as she geers condescendingly at her

**MERCY** 

My son!, my son!...rubbish, Is it my fault that you got spoiled early and he is the product! Am done with you, out of my sight, you and your son!... no salary for this month, never come back here.!!!

Sarah sighs heavily, puts an arm around her boy and both move away through the crowds. Mercy kisses her teeth after them then picks up her Gonja/bananas, dusting off a few and replaces them back into the basket as people watch her.

**MERCY** 

What are you all staring at, don't you have things to do?!

They turn back to their activities, some bemused, others not so much.

INT. SARAH'S RENTAL.DAY.MEMORY.FLASH BACK

The room is a small, muddy construct one of many in this slum area. A tiny window lets in a sheltered light mostly blocked off by a neighbors wall, a sad leached curtain droops from a string in the entrance.

A mattress lays on a mat, with a few items neatly stacked in the corner. She comforts her kid Dan, offers him some eats from the sauce pan he refuses.

SARAH

(Friendly/prodding)
OK...now tell me why you came back early, why were you crying?

DAN

(Sad)

Teacher told me to go home, and come back with the money...

She nods, reaches under her mattress and retrieves a couple of notes.

SARAH

(Faking a smile)

OK my son, lets go to school

Dan unconvinced looks at the money in his mothers hands, then at her face.

DAN

(Concerned worried)

Mum, teacher will shout at you...

SARAH

(Smile strained)

Hey Don't worry son, you must study.

Dan grabs his bag and he moves out first. Sarah surreptitiously wipes away tears in the corners of her eyes.

DAN

Mum! hurry, my friends are in class.

Sarah finally moves out of the house and locks it.

INT.BURSAR'S OFFICE AT SCHOOL.DAY.MEMORY.FLASH BACK

BURSAR-30s sitting in his office, his office door opens, Sarah and Dan walk in. Dan stands behind his mother with his

bag on his back.

He does not look up, in a sing song bored voice as if this is a daily predictable routine

BURSAR

If you have the balance, please sit down, if you are here to explain, see yourself out, this is not a charity organization!

Sarah picks out the money she has, puts it on the table, he stares at it unconvinced, finally raises his eyes, looks at her.

SARAH

(trying not to wince from his
expression)

Please take it, I'll be back in a few days...with the balance.

His mouth turns in wry contempt.

BURSAR

More days?! more days? madam this has become a song with you!

She looks desperate as she wrings her hands

SARAH

Please sir, bear with me, am doing my best, just a few...

He studies her for a moment, then picks up the money from the table, and locks it into the locker.

BURSAR

OK, you have four days, till the end of the week...if that fails,

He glances to the boy

BURSAR (CONTINUED)

...there are always government schools

SARAH

(Sighs in relief)

Oh thank you, thank you sir, can he go into class now?

BURSAR

Dan you may join your class

Dan and his mum begin to move out, the Bursar pipes up.

BURSAR (CONTINUED)

Madam, remember four days...please close the door.

Sarah nods at him and starts pulling the door, to her surprise Dan reaches out and shuts it quickly.

EXT.ROAD.FENCED APARTMENTS.DAY.FLASH BACK

Sarah trudges along with her son, holding a battered old suitcase, after awhile Dan turns to her.

DAN

Mum where are we actually going, we have been walking, and walking...

SARAH

In one of these apartments I'll get a job, and there will be money for your studies...

They continue walking after a while, Dan looks tired, he turns to her.

DAN

How do you know we will get a job?

SARAH

A friend told me to come here for it.

DAN

(Intrigued)

What friend is that?

Sarah pauses as she thinks, Dan looks at her eagerly waiting

SARAH

My friend GOD told me so...

In the process of speaking her eyes fall on a sign post, "MAID WITH NO KIDS WANTED"

SARAH

...We have found one my son.

She knocks vigorously on the gate, making Dan nervous. A few

minutes a young female TEO 20's opens the gate.

TEO

Yes, please how may I help?

SARAH

Am here for the job, (nods) to the sign

Teo looks her up and down, notices Dan.

TEO

...and the boy?

SARAH

My son, my only family...

A kerfuffle as a young boy, Dan's age runs out with a wallet, his father Collin 30's chases after him

TEO

Isaac stop messing about, give your father's wallet back!

ISAAC

I need money, but dad is not giving me any.

COLLIN

OK fine, hand it over and I'll give you some...

Isaac narrows his eyes, not really buying this, shakes his head, opens the wallet, removes a couple of notes, then hands it back to his dad who quickly rewards him with a sharp slap.

Dan winces and holds on to his own cheek as Isaac falls down in protracted tears. Teo quickly runs to her son and comforts him as Collin turns his attention towards the gate

COLLIN

Who is this?

SARAH

Am looking for a job sir

TEO

We don't accept maids with kids

SARAH

Please madam, he is the only reason for me to work

COLLIN

Our son has to be the priority, if you are to work for us...the pay is standard...no bonuses, no extras.

Sarah pauses as she thinks about it, glances at Dan, squares her shoulders and turns to Collin.

SARAH

I wont ask for an extra coin, all I ask is that you educate and feed my son instead as payment...we will work for you,

Collin and Teo share a look as they consider it.

COLLIN

Hmmm, that depends...we'll see...

He turns and enters the house

TEO

You must not lay a hand on my son, no matter what, you'll wash for him, cook for him and make sure he takes a bath twice a day, your sole purpose from now on is to take care of Isaac, is that clear?

SARAH

(nods)

Yes madam...

Collin satisfied nods, and moves inside.

TEO

Good. Your boy must not fight with my son, if he does you are both out of here, he must know his place, you both must, got it?

SARAH

Yes, Thank you madam

She turns and leads them inside.

END OF FLASH BACK.

INT.DAN'S ROOM.DAY.PRESENT

The sound of the radio, Dan coming out of his reverie, lies

on the bed, silent tears run down his cheeks.

DAN

(Internal)

Oh my mother, you are really a strong lady...I need you alive, God please...help me

His eyes slowly shut, he sleeps

INT. HOSPITAL. EVENING.

At cashier desk.

Isaac walks in quickly bypassing Zany the cashier, she gazes at him in inquiry, glances at the clock, it reads 4.00pm.

She writes on a card, Isaac rushes back to her station

ZANY

Relax...

ISAAC

Good. She is still alive, so why the call?

Zany hands him the card, Isaac looks at it, eyes widen at the figure 7.5 Mill.

ISAAC

How come?

ZANY

She needed extra attention, which costs 1.5 Mill, but you didn't come as expected.

ISAAC

And ???

ZANY

The hospital had to inject in for her and we topped it on to the bill

ISAAC

OK that is fine, just take care of her, will be back soon.

Isaac moves out.

INT.DAN'S RENTAL.EVENING

Dan sound asleep, his cup beside the mattress, the radio is on, his bet receipt lies on top on it. A booming knock on the door, Dan does not stir.

After a few minutes the door opens inwards. Isaac stressed enters turns off the radio, Dan wakes spooked.

**ISAAC** 

I've been looking everywhere for you, I hoped you were out looking for a job!

DAN

(Convincing)

Don't worry I have enough money

Dan turns on the radio, Isaac switches it off, Dan turns it back on.

ISAAC

OK, where is this money?

Dan hands the receipt to him, Isaac is surprised and looks at Dan in incomprehension.

DAN

Isn't it enough

**ISAAC** 

(Incredulity)

Weed is bad enough!!! but what you do is worse, You spent the money I gave you in bets?!

Dan retrieves the receipt from him.

DAN

(Unperturbed)

Relax, I know what am doing.

RADIO PRESENTER OS

It's time to go through the first matches, everyone grab your receipts and a pen...

Dan does just that, sits on the bed and begins ticking as the presenter reads out the results.

ISAAC

Dan, don't over...

Dan mouths at him to be quiet, and continues ticking.

RADIO PRESENTER OS

...those are the early matches, lets take a break, we will be back with today's early must wins...

The presenter breaks off, Dan's ticket only has one match left un-ticked.

He grins to his friend.

DAN

You see my mother's bill is paid, leaving a huge balance.

Isaac frowns at him.

ISAAC

I wouldn't count my chickens before...

Sounds of the presenter cut him off, Dan tense with excitement shushes him quiet.

RADIO PRESENTER OS

Today's must win among the early kick offs is also done...and as I receive the results...of the games...

Dan pen in hand, bites his lip as he stares hard at his receipt ready to tick, a feverish tension around him

RADIO PRESENTER OS(CONT)

... a two...two...it's... a draw, the game is a draw!

DAN collapses in a heap.

INT. HOSPITAL.NIGHT.

Dan wakes up, he stares at the ceiling for a moment, his eyes then run down to his arm, its hooked up to a drip. He frowns.

Someone shifts by his bed, he turns a fraction, tries to sit

DAN

What happened?

Isaac gently but firmly presses him back

ISAAC

Relax, I don't need any more problems.

DAN

(Sour)

You?, am the one with all the problems.

ISAAC

(Trying not to lose his patience) Exactly!!! and betting is not solving them!...do you know your mum's bill has increased?

Dan stares at him in creeping fear,

DAN

What! is she ?

Isaac shakes his head.

**ISAAC** 

She's fine, some complication, they dealt with it.

Dan sighs and lays back, partially relieved

ISAAC

...So what you gonna do?

DAN

(Irritated)

Give me a moment to just-

ISAAC

-just do what, cook up another bet?

DAN

(depressed, and shouting)
NOW WHAT WOULD I HAVE DONE!

Isaac super annoyed shouts right back

ISAAC

SHUT UP! YOU ARE DOING MORE HARM THAN GOOD!

Shaky walks in quickly

SHAKY

Hush!You do know this is a hospital?

**ISAAC** 

(Backing down)

Am sorry nurse...s

Shaky disconnects the drip but leaves the cannula, she departs.

DAN

Isaac am out of ideas, please help me,
get me a deal, I'll do anything!

ISAAC

Hmmm, as it goes...there is a deal, but...

Dan stares at him, with wild eyes

DAN

No buts, anything!

Isaac stands up and observes him then continues as he rubs his hands, matter of factually.

ISAAC

That's good...In fact I came to tell you about the deal, and now that the hospital bill has raised to 8 mill, it comes at an opportune time.

Dan frowns, shakes as he absorbs this new information

DAN

Sorry wait, 8 Million?, my treatment was 500,000?

Isaac lifts his eyebrows in affirmation

ISAAC

 $\dots$  It would have been less at the nearest clinic

DAN

Then why bring me here?

ISAAC

You know what they say about cheap health care!

(Incomprehension)

What!(impatient)...Oh God Isaac, just get me on to that deal!

ISAAC

The Boss already paid the hospital bill, and left you some extra money

Dan swallows as he stares at him in rising trepidation

DAN

Oh, OK...the deal must be a complicated one...

Isaac nonchalant ambles over to the side of his bed, sits.

ISAAC

Not really, and the Boss is easy, if you follow the rules...he left for his business, so right now, am in charge...

He leans in close, conspiratorial.

ISAAC

Let me explain what the deal is all about.

After sometime of Isaac explaining Dan asks.

DAN

How do I contact him, the Boss?

**ISAAC** 

He left a phone for you and everything else is in my car, which is now your car right outside, the hospital car park.

DAN

(With feeling)

Thanks Isaac

ISAAC

(Shakes it off)

No sweat. I also got paid, in the large envelopes are other monies, don't over use them. Don't forget,

only four and the deal is done.

Isaac reaches into his pocket pulls out a set of car keys and hands it to Dan, he mouths good luck and walks out.

INT.SARAH'S HOSPITAL WARD.NIGHT.

The doctor walks out of Sarah's room and almost collides with Dan, with the visible cannula on his hand

DOCTOR

What are you doing out of bed, you are still weak.

DAN

Am fine doctor, just want to talk to my mum. How is she?

DOCTOR

She is not talking yet, still resting, mmmh I guess you can see her for a little bit...just a bit.

DAN

(Nods)

Thanks doctor

He walks away, Dan enters his mothers room

INT.SARAH'S ROOM.HOSPITAL.NIGHT

 $\mathtt{DAN}$ 

(Somber, emotional)

Mother, I know you can hear me, though you can't talk right now. I want you to know I love you very much. I'm willing to do any thing possible to fight for your life...I know I can't pay you for raising me, but like I promised you I will do anything possible to make you not regret having raised me...you suffered to get my fees in my dad's absence. Am doing this as a thanks to you my mum, please stay alive for me.

INT:RESTAURANT:DAY: MEMORY:FLASH BACK

Dan early 20's dressed in a graduation gown his mother Sarah 40's its across from him, they chat as they eat.

Thank you mum for everything you have done for me, I know it hasn't been easy.

SARAH

You are welcome son, please forgive me for not giving you a party.

DAN

Oh mum that's OK, you are one in a million...

He shifts, looks wearily at her,

DAN

...uh mum, do you, mind if I ask you a question?

SARAH

What is it my son?

DAN

Mum we have gone through so many hardships together, but not once have you ever mentioned my father

Sarah is slightly thrown but covers up her surprise, she looks sad instead.

SARAH

My son where is this coming from, what haven't I done for you, that you have to mention your father?

He leans over and grasps her hand in apology, comfort

DAN

Oh am sorry mother, I never meant to offend you, it's OK we don't have to talk about him.

There is a pause, she seems lost, far away slowly she refocuses on him, smiles wearily in a quiet voice

SARAH

It's OK, you do have a right to know, you are no longer a child...

(Nods)

I can take it, whatever it is.

SARAH

... JUDE was our family lawyer, he helped mum and I fight for our properties from the claims of other relatives when my dad died ...

DAN

(Eager)

Well that's good, if he is a lawyer, it means he is a good man, what happened? why did he leave us?

She slowly shakes her head

SARAH

(Pain)

He doesn't know you exist!

DAN

(Puzzled)

How...but?

SARAH

...the case was brutal, it cost my mum a lot to keep fighting, soon the funds run out, Jude threatened to drop the case if mum couldn't fund him, it was awful... we stood to lose everything my dad left behind for us...he stormed out of the house that day, I went after him...

DAN

(Fearful whisper)

...what happened?

SARAH

(weeping silently)

I begged him, he said nothing comes for free...he asked me to meet him at his rental in the evening, to **explain** things, he warned me not tell my mum...

Dan bangs the table.

(Aghast, angry)
AND YOU WENT, MUM! THE BASTARD!

She reaches out a hand to him, to calm him, her voice is distracted, like she is removed from what she is saying

SARAH

...I was fifteen, I wasn't naive, but I thought, maybe I could persuade him, appeal to his better angels...but...

DAN

(Deflated)

Oh mum...

SARAH

(Crying heavily)

I, got pregnant, soon afterward mum died, a combination of shock, grief, loss...call it what you may. I lost everything that day, I never ever wanted to see his face again...he disappeared shortly after he lost our case.

Dan reaches out for his mothers hands, both are crying

DAN

Oh mother, from this day on I declare my dad dead and gone. You my mum have been both parents to me, am sorry for what you had to go through.

INT: ISAAC'S SITTING ROOM.DAY.FLASH BACK.

ISAAC

...no matter our differences Dan, your mother, will stay here with my wife, till you get her a place to stay, always let me know when you are coming to see her.

Dan and Phiona's eyes meet then shy away

DAN

Thanks a lot my friend, I appreciate this.

Isaac stands and leaves, Phiona right behind him.

SARAH

Don't worry son. I'll be fine, go find a job...(grabs his arm)...but don't be like him, never like him, no matter what!

DAN

Don't worry mum, I'll never take his path.

END OF FLASH BACK.

INT:SARAH'S WARD:NIGHT

Dan sits next to his mother

DAN

(tears flowing out of his eyes)
Mum am sorry for what am going to do,
I know you raised me to be a good
person, but this is a matter of
life...your life, I cannot afford to
lose you, you are the only person, I
have...am sorry mum.

He watches her sleep as if memorizing her features, he wipes his tears, stands removes the cannula and leaves.

INT: CAR-HOSPITAL CAR PARK.MORNING

Dan slips into Isaac's car, now his car, in the back is a big black bag and a large envelope, he opens the bag and pulls out a phone and a wad of money. He presses a button and receives a text

BOSS OS. TEXT.

Hello

Dan texts back

DAN. TEXT

Hello Boss

BOSS OS. TEXT.

Mr? it took you long to check in, you must accomplish the deal, if you fail, I'll be wanting my money back!

DAN

I'll do the job Boss

BOSS OS. TEXT.

Will be waiting...

Dan puts the car in gear and drives off.

EXT: CHAPATI MAKING STATION-ROAD. EVENING

Several chapati stations jostling each other among various businesses on the busy road.

Dan parks his car opposite the row of chapati sellers and observes.

Among the chapati sellers is JACK-20s who is approached by a university female student also JOY-20s.

JACK

Miss how may I help you?

JOY

(annoyed)

How may you help me!?my balance!

JACK

(Laughs amused)

What joke is this...how can I have your balance, you haven't bought anything...yet

JOY

Stop pretending, give me my money!last time I gave you my money, you gave me less change.

JACK

Obviously one of us is mistaken or confused, and that's not me!

Joy is super pissed, she raises her voice.

JOY

ME CONFUSED, LOOK AT THIS FOOL, GIVE ME MY MONEY!

People start to gawk at them.

RANDOM GUY

Miss you are right, how can he sleep with you and not pay...?mmm but I suggest in future you need to make better choices.

She turns to him offended and outraged.

JOY

HOW DARE YOU! BASTARD SON OF A BITCH, MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!!

Everyone is stunned into silence as they observe the drama.

JACK

...listen miss I got no money for you, can you move off please, you are affecting my business.

She turns to him angrily, before she can respond, her friend approaches, MONY-20's takes her arm and leads her away, Joy over her shoulder yells at Jack

JOY

...don't think this is the last you've heard from me!

JACK

(Winks amused)

Whatever, crazy chick, you know where to find me!

INT: DAN'S CAR-CHAPATI STAND ROAD. EVENING

Dan watches the scene with interest from his car, his eyes focusing on Jack, his eyes swivel back to a green tin by the gear box, then back to Jack

DAN (INTERNAL)

hmmm, he might be the guy...for the job

He studies him for a few more seconds, then grabs the tin and steps out of the car.

EXT: CHAPATI MAKING STATION-ROAD. EVENING

Jack is busy serving customers, Dan approaches and stands beside the station, as customers make and receive their orders. He stands there for sometime until all customers are done. Jack turns to him

JACK

...how many chapatis Boss, or do you want a rolex?

Dan moves closer, and in a quiet voice begins to explain

something to him for some time. Jack is intrigued but also hesitant.

**JACK** 

...no way, I can't do that for God's sake...

DAN

The way I see it, God is the one who led me to you...don't you want to be rich?

**JACK** 

(cautious)

I suppose...who doesn't?

Dan smiles, then places the tin into Jack's hands and steps away, begins to move off and stops, turns back to Jack

DAN

...remember only four and it's done.

Jack looks at the tin, then at Dan

**JACK** 

Got it. Only four...

Dan nods and quickly walks off.

INT: DAN'S CAR-CHAPATI STAND ROAD. EVENING

Dan smiles to himself.

DAN(INTERNAL)

Send a thief to catch a thief...

His eyes glance up catching himself in the drivers mirror, his smile quickly fades.

DAN

(mumbles to self)

...Oh God, has it come to this? am sorry, have no options...please help me through this...

He glances at the large envelope in the back, reaches for it, opens it. it contains a wad of fifty notes, he retrieves a few and stuffs them in his right back pocket, he then goes through the black bag and withdraws a fist full of twenties, arranges them and stuffs them in his left pocket.

Glances once more in the mirror, utters a quiet prayer.

DAN

...God if the plan is to fail at least protect me and this money from the owner.

He turns the ignition and drives off.

EXT: JACK'S CHAPATI STATION. EVENING

Jack sits quietly lost in thought, a friend PAUL-20s approaches and sits beside him on the bench.

PAUL

Hey watsup, you are too quiet.

JACK

Am thinking about this guy.

PAUL

What quy? tell...

Jack remembers what Dan said to him.

DAN'S VOICE IN JACK'S HEAD If you accept to do this, it must **only** stay between us...understand?

Jack is quiet, as he recalls, Paul nudges him gently

PAUL

Hey man, share, it cant be that bad.

Jack gives him a weary smile

JACK

Some guy from campus accused me of selling him half cooked chapatis and that he is going to tell the students...this could affect my business for sure...

Paul frowns heavily, shakes his head

PAUL

That's ridiculous, your chapatis are the best around here...any way their are not your only customers, you'll be OK. EXT: UNIVERSITY COMPOUND. EVENING

Dan strolls through the campus, he notices a young lady ANNA early 20's sitting under a tree, as he approaches her he notices, she's crying, he searches himself and offers her two handkerchiefs.

ANNA

(Depressed)

Go away, got enough problems.

DAN

Take the hankies, maybe then I'll go.

ANNA

Why would you offer two hankies?

DAN

One each for your beautiful eyes.

She scoffs loudly at him, but reaches for the hankies.

ANNA

... now go for all guys are dogs!

DAN

surely not **all**..anyhow am not going anywhere until you tell me who made you cry.

ANNA

...as I said all guys are dogs, you see, you are insisting, yet you promised to go.

DAN

I said I may go, but" dog guy", am not

ANNA

What did you say?

Dan stares at her, changes tack.

DAN

you are too pretty to cry, moreover under a pure green tree, you know what happens if you cry for a fool,...you too become a fool.

He sits down next to her.

Had I known I should have brought a bucket, to collect your tears.

ANNA

Why?

DAN

Tears from a beautiful girl, may contain blessings.

Anna stares at him irritated but partly charmed.

ANNA

Guys!!! your all full of it!

DAN

(Fake innocence) Full of what exactly?

Anna shakes her head

ANNA

...rubbish, empty statements, empty gestures ...

Dan nods emphatically as if he agrees with her,

DAN

If you give me a moment of your time, I may be able to change that perspective.

She crosses her arms, but does not move away, he smiles shifts closer and continues.

EXT: JACK'S CHAPATI STATION. EVENING

Jack is busy serving his customers a variety of rolexs (flied eggs rolled in chapati), kikomandos (a mixture of beans and chapatis) and plain chapatis, after a while, Dan approaches with Anna

JACK

Ssebo/Mr, what will it be?

Dan refers to Anna

DAN

Have just been telling my friend here that you make the best rolexs, but to

convince her she simply has to try one...can you please make us two to go.

Jack's gaze quickly darts from Dan to Anna then back to Dan, he seems unsure

**JACK** 

Ehhh, Now?

DAN

(Slightly irritated/ impatient)

YES!, NOW!

Jack's hand trembles a bit as he clears the griddle, he swallows hard as he glances at the green tin underneath the make shift cabinet table, he glances at Dan who is busy chatting with Anna.

He takes a breath and begins mixing the ingredients for the rolex in two cups, midway he separates the cups, pauses looks up and around furtively, then quickly reaches for the green tin, opens it and dumps some of its contents in one cup, and deftly returns the tin under the table, he wipes his brow and continues.

## FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...

he hands one hot piping rolex to Dan and the other one to Anna.

ANNA

Oh that looks good, smells even better.

Jack looks over at Dan, ducks away avoiding Anna's eyes as he makes himself busy clearing away at his station.

Anna and Dan happily move to the car with their fried goods.

INT: DAN'S CAR-UNIVERSITY CAMPUS. EVENING

Dan drives into the campus and parks, both he and Anna unwrap their rolex and begin eating, along with their drinks.

ANNA

Thanks for everything, including this...its yummy

DAN

My pleasure... what course are you doing?

ANNA

Financial administration, and you?

DAN

Ahhh me...mass comm

As they continue eating Dan begins feeling dizzy

ANNA

It is true this guy makes **really** good rolexs

DAN

(Dizzy)

...Yeah...

Anna's phone starts to ring

ANNA

Hey mister, my friends are calling, I need to go, thanks a lot.

DAN

(Dozing)

...yeah...

Anna moves out of the car not realizing that Dan is sleeping.

EXT: JACK CHAPATI MAKING STATION: EVENING

Jack serving his customers, after sometime notices Anna approaching with her girlfriends, EDITH, JOY, JESSICA and MONY all in their early twenties.

JACK (INTERNAL)

(Puzzled)

Isn't that that girl...but how? she's supposed to be...damn! how am I gonna deal with that" ONLY FOUR GUY"

In the process of staring at the girls his hand accidentally slips onto hot chapati pan, he yelps and jumps, rushing to dip it in cold water

INT: UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE.MORNING

Anna and her friends approach, Anna noticing Dan's car,

gestures to her friends.

ANNA

Hey girls that's the car of that guy, the nice guy, that cheered me up.

JOY

For you we know, all guys are nice

JESSICA

Joy! please don't start...

JOY

She's my friend, I must tell her openly

ANNA

Enough already, I get it.

INT/EXT: DAN'S CAR-UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.MORNING

Dan is zonked out in his seat, the remaining part of his rolex is on the floor, his unfinished juice sits on the dashboard, his phone begins to ring and ring and ring, it stops.

Dan slowly wakes up, he squints and touches his head, he looks around and sits, he frowns at his image in the mirror, then realization hits

DAN

Oh shit!

He frantically scrubs at his face then rashly tries to tidy up the car, he puts on his coat, scoops the rolex and grabs the unfinished container of juice, envelope and bag as he steps out of his car his phone drops from his pocket on to the seat.

He opens the boot and deposits the bag and envelope within, shuts it, dumps the rolex into a bin.

His phone begins to ring inside the car, he enters retrieves it and answers

DAN

Boss?

BOSS

(ANNOYED)

Why are dodging my calls?

DAN

Am so sorry...I had a hiccup

BOSS

What Kind of hiccup?, you want to take my money, for nothing?

DAN

Boss as I promised by tomorrow the deal will be done, they will be at the port...

BOSS

They better be! or it will be your head on a plate!

DAN

(a little spooked)
They will, they will I promise.

The call ends abruptly, Dan stares at the phone, swallows hard, moves out of the car, locks it and walks off.

EXT: JACK'S CHAPATI STATION.MORNING

Jack is busy serving his customers, from out of nowhere someone grabs his arm, he turns in alarm, its Dan, who physically leads him to the side.

**JACK** 

What is it now!

DAN

(Furious)

Are you mad, how could you give me a mixed rolex?

JACK

(Amused)

Oooh it's you who got the mixed one.

Dan scowls at him, Jack quickly sobers up.

**JACK** 

...sorry, but how does it work?

DAN

Are you a fool?

**JACK** 

I said am sorry, OK it wont happen

again...

Dan gets right up in his face, no more mister nice guy.

DAN

(Mean/nasty)

You better not, or I'll make sure you die in poverty...

A pause as Jack stares at him, not sure of what to make of this.

**JACK** 

OH...OK, I understand, just let me get back...to my customers

Dan gives him a glare, turns and storms away.

EXT: UNIVERSITY COMPOUND.MORNING

Anna jazzes with her four friends, Joy, Mony, Edith and Jessica, its break time.

Dan approaches, a brazen smile.

DAN

Beautiful ladies, how are you today?

They all respond with smiles except for Joy, Anna turns to him.

ANNA

...are you sick or something, why the coat.

DAN

Am just cold.

JOY

Try a cup of tea, it will do the trick.

Dan does not respond,

ANNA

This is my friend Joy, she is right maybe a cup of tea will help.

DAN

hmmm, I'll have one, if you all join me

JOY

I already took my tea, besides am watching my figure.

ANNA

...well am up for it, how about the rest of you girls?

They all agree except Joy who walks off.

DAN

OK ladies, lets get ready for the best tea you've ever had.

They all begin to move off.

INT: DAN'S CAR.ROAD OFF CAMPUS.MORNING

ANNA

Why move out, we could have had tea at campus!

DAN

Just wait, you'll taste the difference.

Dan parks near Jack's chapati station.

ANNA

Why are we stopping?

DAN

As a friend you'll soon get to know my quirks, and one of them is that I can't take tea without my rolex

She smiles looking more interested

**ANNA** 

Oh please, can you get me one as well

DAN

Sure (turns to the others) and you ladies?

They all nod and say yes, Dan smiles and moves out.

EXT: JACK'S CHAPATI STATION.MORNING

Jack frowns and grips the rolling pin as he watches Dan approach.

DAN

It is time...mix me four rolexs, pack them together, then pack mine separately.

JACK

(Aghast)

Four!!! how are you going to have them **all** at the same time?

DAN

What are you on about?

**JACK** 

...I mean the ladies, do you have friends?

Annoyed and irritated

DAN

Listen, mind your own business, and do your job if you want to get paid, and hurry, I got no time to waste.

Jack nods and begins preparing the ingredients.

INT: DAN'S CAR-CHAPATI STAND ROAD.MORNING

ANNA

Girls What do you think about him?

**JESSICA** 

He sure is handsome.

MONY

Yeah handsome, but not easy to cope with.

Anna, slightly annoyed

ANNA

What! you don't even know him like that!

Jessica shrugs

**JESSICA** 

Nor do you...

Edith jumps in

EDITH

Mmmm to me he seems like the kind of guy, who puts in less, but expects more...

ANNA

OK, then in order to find out lets do what we do best, and if he passes, then it could be the start of something...not so?

They all whoop in agreement.

EXT: JACK'S CHAPATI STATION.MORNING

All the rolls of rolexs are done the four are packed together, Dan picks up his, he retrieves a fifty note from his back pocket and hands it to Jack, Jack looks at the note and back at Dan

**JACK** 

(not happy)

How can you pay me only this!!!

DAN

First take that!

Quick glance around

DAN(CONTINUED)

...do you expect me to give you a full bag of money, when everyone is watching?...am gonna send it with a boda guy/motorcyclist, that 50k is his pay...after you get it...

He moves closer, something in his expression unnerves Jack.

DAN(CONT)

...make sure, you disappear.

JACK

(nods)

I get it, I will.

Dan gives him a bright smile, takes a bite from his rolex

DAN

That's good, thanks a lot my friend

Grabs the bag of rolexs and saunters off munching. Jack is

quiet as he watches him disappear in to the car, looks at the fifty note again and slowly puts it in his pocket.

INT: CAR.ROAD SIDE.MORNING

Dan enters as Anna is jazzing with her friends, he hands the rolls of rolexs to them, he places his on the dash board and starts the car.

The girls share out the rolls and begin tucking into them. Anna chewing delicately, turns to him

ANNA

Am sorry, we have this habit, we cant wait when we are hungry.

He smiles.

DAN

Hey that's OK, I also couldn't wait to start on mine, see.

He gestures to his rolex on the dash board, he reaches for it and chomps in to it as he drives, by the time he finishes his rolex the girls are slumped over fast asleep. He raises the windows, locks the doors, retrieves his phone and punches in a number

DAN

Hey, its me...have you prepared everything as planned?...It all ends today!

EXT: JACK'S CHAPATI STATION.MORNING

Jack looks pensive as he waits, his eyes clocking any approaching bodas/motorcyclists that passes by. He directs his customers to the next chapati station. Jack is so intent on watching the road he does not notice his friend Paul who has wandered over.

PAUL

Hello...

Jack eyes still on the traffic, points towards his neighbors station.

**JACK** 

Next station please.

PAUL

(Puzzled)

What's wrong with yours?

Jack recognizing the voice turns, shakes his head, Paul sits besides him.

PAUL

...whats up? you still stressing about business?

**JACK** 

(Shakes head)

No, rather the opposite.

Paul stares at him confused.

JACK (CONT)

(Smiles)

...today is my last day in chapati making

PAUL

(Sniggers)

Going back to scraps?

**JACK** 

(Irritated)

NO!...

Paul looks at him with a "then what?" expression, Jack's smile reappears, rubbing his hands in expectancy

JACK

OK...since you are my friend, I guess I can tell you, but you must not tell anyone.

PAUL

Off course, I wont.

Jack shifts closer, lowers his voice and begins to tell him everything, Paul's expression changes from curiosity to incredulity as Jack explains.

Jack gets the tin and shows him

JACK

This is it...I saved some...I could also use it on those girls who take people's money for free.

Paul looks at him as if he is crazy

PAUL

You dreaming!, you better wake up!

JACK

Am not...he left me with this

Jack pulls out the fifty from his back pocket, Paul takes it and examines it

PAUL

I thought he left you a phone number, not a fake note!

**JACK** 

It's not fake!

Jack irritated snatches it from him,

PAUL

It is fake, look at it properly

Jack takes a good look, his expression dims, his shoulders slump in disappointment

JACK

(Mumbling)

The bastard!...

He turns to Paul

JACK

...but I know him, I'll see him, he wont get away with-

PAUL

-he already did!(puts an arm around him)...my friend stop consoling yourself, you better get back to work.

**JACK** 

(Angry)

How...this was my chance to get out of (glances towards his station...shakes his head sadly)...I guess it's back to scraps.

PAUL

(chuckling)

You were taken for a ride my friend,

but don't worry God will help.

JACK

(Angrier)

Don't do that...he also mentioned God!

Paul burst out laughing, even harder, Jack scowls heavily at him.

INT: LORRY/ROAD.DAY

Dan and the lorry driver DENNIS-30's driving along on the main road.

After sometime another driver on the road signals traffic ahead.

**DENNIS** 

There are two traffic officers ahead of us.

Dan puts the large envelope stuffed with fifty notes next to the drivers seat

DAN

This is your money, just get me to the lake and then you are done.

**DENNIS** 

Don't worry everything is in my control.

The traffic officers are just meters away, the one on their side signals for them to stop

DAN

(Slightly unnerved)
Don't stop, just drive...you'll
explain when you come back.

**DENNIS** 

As I said everything is in control with money everything is possible.

Dennis stops the lorry next to the officer, and starts to open the large envelope, Dan offers him two twenties from his pocket

DAN

That's your money, use this...

Dennis puts the money on his drivers permit and offers it to the officer, Dan nervously stares at the other officer on the other side of the road.

TRAFFIC OFFICER

I see your permit is up to date.

He returns it to Dennis and pockets the money, as he moves round the vehicle, they watch him through the side mirror, as he rounds the back a sudden **thump!** stops him dead.

Dan and Dennis exchange a loaded look. The officer grips his baton looks towards Dan and Dennis signals to them.

TRAFFIC OFFICER

(Commanding tone)

Step out of the vehicle now!

Dan swallows hard, takes a deep breath and steps out of the lorry, Dennis stays put watching him wearily, his hands gripping the staring wheel.

EXT: CARRIER END LORRY/ROAD.DAY

The Officer frowns at the four coffins in the back of the carrier, Dan stands next to him.

INT:LORRY/ROAD:DAY

Dennis in the cab stares right ahead, his hands still gripping the wheel, listening to the conversation outside

EXT: CARRIER END LORRY/ROAD.DAY

TRAFFIC OFFICER

Where are you taking these coffins?

DAN

To my workshop in the next town.

TRAFFIC OFFICER

Anything inside of them?

DAN

(Shaking his head rapidly)

No, no...nothing!

Another knock in one of the coffins, Dan quickly pulls out some fifties from his right back pocket

INT: LORRY.DAY

Dennis grabs the envelope and gingerly reaches for the door

EXT: CARRIER END LORRY/ROAD: DAY

The officer looks at the fifties in Dan's hand as he offers them, he does not take them

TRAFFIC OFFICER
I want to look inside

To the officer's surprise one of the lids slides falling aside.

INT/EXT: FRONT END/LORRY.DAY

Dennis clasping the large envelope quickly slides out of the lorry, he looks frantic.

EXT/INT: CARRIER END LORRY/ROAD.DAY

Anna stands upright in the coffin, looking livid as she stares at Dan.

EXT: FRONT END LORRY/ROAD. DAY

Dennis clasps the large envelope and begins to run ...the fake fifties spilling out after him leaving a trail.

EXT/INT: CARRIER END LORRY/ROAD.DAY

As Dan makes contact with Anna's gaze he gulps, quickly turns and...

EXT: ROAD, DAY

legs it out of there. The officer glances at Anna, moves after the fleeing Dan and stops in the opposite direction further ahead a money trail in Dennis wake, for a moment he looks confused and flabbergasted...who to chase?

EXT: TOWN-BANK.EVENING

Dan's car is parked outside a bank, Isaac in smart casuals quickly walks out of the bank, he speaks rapidly on the phone and carries an empty large bag. He opens the boot and deposits the bag, walks to the drivers end, enters and drives off.

EXT: JACK'S CHAPATI STATION. EVENING

Jack and Paul at the station, from a long way Jack spots Anna and her friends with four police officers. Anna points towards his station, Jack signals to Paul.

**JACK** 

Man, am a sitting target, in the village.

Paul frowns begins to ask him, Jack shakes his head and quickly turns avoiding stalls he runs off, the police give chase after him. Paul turns in the opposite direction and starts shouting loudly at vendors.

PAUL

KCCA.KCCA...KCCA...

The workers grabbing some of their thing, run in different directions, messing up the chase, the police look confused and bewildered as the two friends disappear and get lost in the crowds.

Anna and the police reach the chapati stand on searching it they discover the green tin. They round up everything and carry it to the police car.

All the other chapati stations are now empty as everyone has disappeared.

EXT: ROAD.NIGHT

Dan is stranded, he looks left and right. A car approaches and parks next to him, it's Isaac.

Dan enters and they drive off.

INT: POLICE STATION COMMANDER OFFICE.NIGHT

Anna with her friends sit in the commanders office MARTIN. MARTIN 40's is a big boned intensive man.

MARTIN

In your statement you said, you met the guy yesterday at campus, and you went out with him without knowing his name...

ANNA

I was going to get to know him better today

MARTIN

Hmmm, just thank God you are all still alive and not trafficked...or worse!

ANNA

I can recognize him, if I see him

MARTIN

Do you have a phone number...or an address?

Anna slowly shakes her head, but quickly retorts.

ANNA

...but even if I had, it will be no good...he took all our phones

Another officer walks in.

POLICE OFFICER

Sir the lorry involved was reported as stolen yesterday...they want us to transfer it to the Central Police Station.

MARTIN

(Nods)

Go ahead...(Turns to Anna)so miss, we'll do our best, but I cant assure you, we'll get these guys...now if we had your phones...

He muses as he shakes his head. Anna gets up with her friends

ANNA

It's been a long day...we better go.thanks for everything Commander,

MARTIN

(Nods)

Am sorry I cant do much for now

Anna nods and walks out with the girls. Martin continues staring at his desk looking buffed.

INT: HOTEL ROOM.NIGHT

Dan is unsettled, pacing back and forth, phone in his hand Isaac sits calmly on the bed. Dan's phone begins to ring, he stops stares at it, then angrily chucks it on the bed. ISAAC

Calm down...

DAN

Calm down!!...he is calling, what am I supposed to tell him! Oh God, if it wasn't for that stupid, **stupid** driver, the deal would be done!

ISAAC

We can still get it done.

The phone is still ringing, Isaac picks it, answers it

ISAAC

...yes yes Boss, we are still on it, mhh...there was...a slight problem... with the police, hello...hello?

Dan looks at him, in trepidation, slight tremor in his voice

DAN

What...did he say?

ISAAC

He switched off.

DAN

Shit!

**ISAAC** 

(Matter of fact)

Let's not waste time, time for plan B...My plan.

DAN

(A bit relieved) Oh OK...yeah lets.

011 0111111 10

EXT: HIGHWAY.NIGHT

In the dark a dashing gentleman RAY-30's chatting on the phone as he moves along, a van approaches flashing its light in his eyes, it stops beside him.

Two unidentified persons jump out and grab him, throw him in the back and quickly drive off.

EXT: ROAD.MORNING

A youth JOHN-20's, a rucksack on his back moves erratically

as he talks to himself, he grasps his cheap phone in his hands. By passers stare and avoid him.

JOHN

(Muttering)

Studying is a problem, from p1,p2,p3p,p4,p5...then primary, O levels, finally high school, and now the tug of war to join university...when all is done, now CV, job searching...why didn't someone tell me about all this? everyone says education is the key to success and now the padlock is locked! and no one knows the key...

He stops short, sees the posters on the electric pole, and walls moves closer, begins to read them.

"LETS GO WORK ABROAD" draws his attention, he reads on.

(you only need a passport, free visa, free air ticket ,salary 2000 a month casual laborers, 3500 for educated laborers, health Insurance, free accommodation, few spots left, all genders, hurry!...call this number... before you come to this address...)

John checks his bag, a passport peaks out, he punches the number into his phone, automated voice.

AUTOMATED VOICE

Dear customer, you do not have enough funds to...

He switches off, irritated, pulls wallet from back pocket, opens it, two notes of two k left.

JOHN

(To self)

Mhhm if I buy air time, wont have enough transport...to and fro.

Snaps wallet shut, shoves it back in pocket, waits for a bit, then hails a passing taxi.

EXT: CAR HIRING STATION.MORNING

A myriad vehicles, cars, lorries, trucks, containers, cabs, double cabins etc.

Isaac leans against a black van in which we saw Ray bundled

into, he hands the keys to a guy KEN-40's who hands him another set.

ISAAC

It's good to do business with you, will inform you when my containers arrive.

KEN

Thank you too, for keeping your word... actually I do have a good container for you...

He points towards a container lorry parked in a corner

A phone in Isaac's pocket starts to ring, he reaches for it, he looks at the name "SWEET HEART" he grimaces, he nods and waves to Ken who turns to his other customers.

ISAAC

(Yes madam...am sorry your husband did not get home last night, he had some duties... yes, yes...will let him know.)

He switches off, Immediately his own phone begins to ring, he reaches in his back pocket and takes it out, answers

ISAAC

Hello madam...yes we are the ones,...madam just come to the address.

He hangs up and answers another call as he enters the container lorry.

INT: ISAAC AND DAN'S APARTMENT BEDROOM: DAY

Ray is firmly tied up, Dan enters carrying eats, and tries to feed him, Ray refuses, Dan slaps him hard a couple of times.

DAN

(Sourly)

I was just trying to help you, keep you well, at least until you see your family.

Ray observes him angrily, leans his head back and spits bloody saliva at him. Dan quickly jumps out of his trajectory, reaches over and rewards him with a punch. Ray leans in trying to catch his breath, then looks up at Dan. RAY

(Angry)

What do you want with me?

DAN

Don't worry, it will soon be over, we just need your phone and you'll go home.

RAY

What will soon be over?

Dan does not respond,

RAY

(Trying not to panic)
Look my family must be already looking
for me...let me go, keep the phone, I
don't care...

DAN

Are you stupid?

RAY

Whatever your plan is, will not be successful, if you keep me here!

Dan looks around the room spots an old shirt, picks it tears it up, Rays frightened eyes watching his every move.

RAY

(A little desperate)

Hey maybe I can be an asset, I can help...tell me what to do...I promise I'll...

Dan strides towards him with a strip of cloth.

DAN

Shut up!...

Binds his mouth up, as Ray struggles. Dan reaches into his pocket withdraws a syringe, Rays eyes round up like saucers panic stricken he struggles harder, Dan calmly removes the the lid, grabs Rays wrist and plunges the needle into a vein.

He caps the needle and moves out, the sound of a key being turned.

Ray can only see outside into the fenced apartment via the steeled glass window. A long fence surrounds the building.

INT: ISAAC AND DAN'S APARTMENT-SITTING ROOM.DAY

A well organized room with many seats, a fridge and Television, Dan walks in stirring a jug of juice, he places it in the fridge.

The sound of a car outside. Dan begins organizing the books and files on the table. Isaac walks in happy.

ISAAC

Man everything is on a straight path, going our way.

DAN

How did it go?

ISAAC

The guy got me a container, and so far I have directed ten, had to switch off after that.

DAN

(Aghast)

But we only need four!

Isaac walks over and checks the files.

ISAAC

We will choose from those... (turns to Dan)...by the way that guy's wife called, we must act quickly!

DAN

Everything is prepared, will be at the gate.

ISAAC

And the pen?!

Dan opens one of the files, and picks out a pen for him, Isaac begins reorganizing the documents, Dan moves out.

EXT: ISAAC AND DEAN'S APARTMENT GATE.MID DAY

Dan lost in thought sits by the gate, the container lorry parked a few meters away. After sometimes Isaac appears, stands on the veranda.

DAN

Let me hope your plan works, after everything...

ISAAC

Just be patient, this is what I do, things will work out...

He turns and enters, steps approach, Dan turns back to the gate, two young women-20's and a male mid-20's reach him.

EVA

Hello, is this the place...for the jobs abroad?

Dan refers to the sign with the poster by the gate

DAN

(Sarcastic)

As the sign indicates...yes

lets them in.

DAN

Follow me, my boss is inside

Dan leads them inside, leaving the small gate open

64. INT: ISAAC AND DAN'S APARTMENT SITTING ROOM: MID DAY

Isaac seated busy with the files, passports and books. Dan leads EVA, SHARON and FRANK in.

DAN

Boss, the clients are here

Isaac looks up smiles, stands

ISAAC

Thanks Dan, Welcome(gestures to the three), please take a seat.

They do, he turns to Dan nods

ISAAC

Dan...back at your post.

Dan nods, moves out, Isaac sits turns to the three.

**ISAAC** 

Please feel at home as you prepare your documents, there will be others to join us, but lets start at once...

The girls begin prepping, Frank watches as he chats on his

phone.

EXT: ISAAC AND DAN'S APARTMENT GATE. MID DAY

John stands outside looking at the poster "LETS GO WORK ABROAD" Just your passport needed etc etc...

He is soon joined by two others JACKY-20, BEN-20, both enter the gate, leaving JOHN still gazing at the poster.

Dan swings wide the gate, he does not look pleased, he leads them forward

DAN

Follow me !

They follow him, John also quickly joins them.

INT: ISAAC AND DAN'S APARTMENT-SITTING ROOM.DAY

Dan enters trailed by the three

DAN

Boss...three more

**ISAAC** 

(Happy)

Great! welcome, please join the rest and prepare your documents...

The three find seats and begin the process, John checks out the room, Dan looks suspiciously at him, refers to Isaac

DAN

Boss...

ISAAC

Mmmh yes

Before Dan says anything, a knock distracts everyone, Isaac gestures to him

ISAAC

Check that out...

Dan not amused turns and matches out.

EXT: ISAAC AND DAN'S APARTMENT GATE. MID DAY

Dan opens the gate, five more girls and a boy, early 20's they buzz with excitement. Dan's annoyance deepens. He points

towards the front door.

DAN

(No enthusiasm)

Through there, you'll find the Boss.

The group moves through towards the door, Dan goes out the gate, he rips off the poster and pulls up the sign post.

INT: ISAAC AND DAN'S APARTMENT SITTING ROOM. MID DAY

A group of six enters as Isaac standing is about to address the rest.

ISAAC

Oh my goodness!, welcome, join the others, organize your documents, you have...ten minutes.

John stands and lets the others pass, as they find seats. He randomly glances through the window, observes Dan rushing to the back with the bunched up poster and the sign post. He frowns and turns to look at the entire group, in the process his eyes clash with Isaac's...there is something in Isaac's gaze which quickly disappears as he smiles.

ISAAC

Whats wrong? have you failed to get a seat?

JOHN

No,...I was just, just wondering where the loo is?

The rest chuckle

ISAAC

Oh that!, just move through the corridor, at the end, turn left...

John nods and moves out.

INT: ISAAC AND DAN'S APARTMENT.BACK. MID DAY

Dan walks with the bunched up poster, and the sign post, past two rooms and two unfenced latrines, one of them has a padlock.

Dan angrily throws the sign down and begins smashing and breaking it up into pieces, he then walks to the back entrance of the apartment.

INT: ISAAC AND DAN'S APARTMENT-CORRIDOR: MID DAY

John creeps through the corridor peeking into the various open rooms, as he gets closer to the exist he hears a sound from a closed room, he creeps closer, he looks over his shoulder at the empty corridor, then back to the closed door.

He carefully reaches for the handle, turns it, the door opens, and he peaks inside, as his gaze roves around he spots a man tied to a chair.

The man's gaze widens, as he makes grunting noises, head nodding to something behind John, as John turns back a

THWACK!, John lands on the floor, his phone slides out of his shirt pocket and ends up under the bed.

Dan seething towers over his prone body, he straddles him grabs his throat, bangs his head down twice, starts wringing it like a wet towel.

John stricken terrified tries to pull his hands off, but Dan is committed, his grip is a vice, his face is freaky crazy, as he twists harder, and harder, John knees him in the balls.

Dan yelps in pain and moves off, John seeing his chance tries to stand, Dan now furious, trips him, John crashes down, Dan leaps on to him again, and resumes chocking him, presses his thumbs into his throat and pushes harder, and harder.

John's head is bleeding, he tries to dislodge Dan, punching him futilely in the ribs, Dan pushes harder, John's fingers reach up to try to pry him off, but he is now weaker, Dan looks like a mad lunatic as he grimaces with effort, finally John's hands fall down, his eyes roll up, after three long deathly silent minutes, John's body slumps.

Dan sweaty breathing hard takes a moment, still straddling the dead John looks up into the terrified eyes of Ray

DAN

You are next...if you don't remain silent!

Dan gets up, steps over the body and walks out.

INT: ISAAC AND DAN'S APARTMENT-SITTING ROOM.DAY

Isaac briefs the group

ISAAC

Guys, I see you all have finished your documents...except Frank who escorted his sisters...and our friend with the running stomach...so now am going to take you through the job list...

Dan walks in angrily

DAN

Excuse me Boss, I need a word...

**ISAAC** 

OK guys, will be back in a minute, help yourselves to juice...lunch will be here soon...Dan please get them the juice first, then we'll talk...

Dan smiles as he gets the jug out of the fridge and starts to fill their glasses, after serving all of them he fills one more glass and leaves it on Isaac's table.

Isaac moves to the corridor, Dan follows after him, leaving the youths jazzing as they drink.

INT: ISAAC AND DAN'S APARTMENT BACK SPACE.DAY

Dan and Isaac a few meters from the toilet.

DAN

(Frustrated)

I don't get your plan, we only need four...do you see how many are in there?!

ISAAC

Just calm down, everything is going according to plan

DAN

(Slightly derisive)

According to plan?!, and what are you going to do with the boys?

Isaac shoots him a quick warning look, sighs,

ISAAC

(Constrained patience)

Relax, your plan failed but mine wont. Now that they have drunk the juice its all in my hands...have been in this business for a while, I will show you how it works.

Dan glances towards the corridor and frowns, Isaac follows his gaze.

**ISAAC** 

What!

DAN

Mmmm...just felt...(Head shake refocuses on Isaac)...never mind...so did you plan that one of them will die?!

ISAAC

(Alarmed, suspicious) WHAT!!! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

DAN

(Matter of fact) I just killed one.

Isaac's brows shoot up surprised, a little impressed, his tone not so much

ISAAC

(Laissez faire)

So what! what if you killed him, is he your brother...collateral damage, it happens.

DAN

(Distressed, slight panic)
AM NOT A MURDERER!

AM NOT A MONDERER

Isaac quickly glances towards the corridor, alarmed at Dan's reaction, lowered voice tries to calm him

ISAAC

Hey, hey keep it down!, I know you are not...listen you need to keep it together... calm down OK?

Dan takes a large breath, trying to recollect himself.

DAN

Do you know why I killed him?

Isaac puts a conspiratorially arm around his shoulder.

ISAAC

(...it doesn't matter, I don't
know how many I have killed, and
I'll do it again...)

Dan stares at him not quite sure what to make of that.

ISAAC(CONT)

...if need be, listen Dan, just work on it, solve the issue... I trust you.

Dan nods slightly, Isaac removes his arm,

ISAAC

Now let me go and see if my plan is finished.

Isaac moves off, Dan removes a set of keys and a match box from his pocket, unlocks the shut latrine, removes a jerrycan of kerosene and proceeds to burn the sign post along with the poster.

INT: ISAAC AND DAN'S APARTMENT-BEDROOM. DAY

Ray stares at John's dead body in a daze. The phone rings, breaks his spell, he looks towards the bed and starts to strain at his binds, while rocking the chair, finally he comes down in a crash in a kneeling position...

A beat as he waits for the door to crash open...nothing...the ringing continues.

With his bound wrists he inches painfully towards the edge of the bed, neck straining, and with a sweeping motion with his bound wrists he gathers the phone to him, he is sweating and breathing heavily, with a final inch of a thumb, the ringing stops...

The door bursts open, Isaac strides in, his gaze takes in the body, then the upturned chair with Ray stuck in it. Ray watches the feet walk towards him, and awkwardly secretes the phone between his legs.

Isaac rights the chair up, eyeballing a sweaty disheveled Ray, loosens the gag on his mouth

ISAAC

(Smirks)

What God were you praying to?

RAY

(Desperate)

I, really really need to pee

Isaac runs his eyes over him, noticing his tightly pressed thighs, grins.

ISAAC

You know what happened to the last guy who wanted the toilet?

Ray shakes his head slightly, Isaac gestures at the body.

ISAAC

That!

Ray gulps, looks away, Isaac replaces the mouth strip, walks to the body, hankers down and searches it, looks at Ray.

ISAAC(CONT)

...Did you hear a phone ringing?

Ray shakes his head, Isaac turns back to the body, stands up and begins to walk to the door, the phone rings, Ray tightens his thighs, freaked, Isaac stops and slowly turns around.

It continues ringing, he walks towards Ray, looks him over reaches down, praises his thighs apart, the phone clatters to the floor.

He kicks the chair, Ray falls, Isaac kicks the phone towards him.

**ISAAC** 

(Deathly calm)

Pick it up.

Ray shoots him a look

ISAAC

I won't ask again, pick up the damn phone!

Ray awkwardly with his bound wrists maneuvers the phone into his hands, Isaac raises his foot and brings it down with such force, crushing the phone into bits and snapping Rays fingers along with it. Ray clenches his eyes as silent tears stream down his face. Isaac angrily storms out.

INT: ISAAC AND DAN'S APARTMENT-SITTING ROOM.DAY

Isaac walks in, everyone is in a state of sleep. Frank's phone is lit, Isaac does not notice it.

ISAAC

(Excited .shouting)

MY PLAN IS THE BEST...DAN, OPEN READY THE CONTAINER...

He pauses as his gaze sweeps over the bodies

ISAAC(CONT)

Mmmm I must choose...Oh God show me who will be best for the customers...

He examines their faces, and his hands skim over the ones in skimpy outfits revealing their thighs.

He selects three skimps with the fourth Franks sister Eva. Franks phone begins to ring, Isaac reaches for it, turns it off and throws it down.

Dan enters, Isaac points to Eva

**ISAAC** 

Take her first, quick time is of the essence.

Dan lifts Eva over his shoulder and departs, Isaac leans against the table and makes a call.

ISAAC

Boss, have got more than four, how about it more money...for us

We hear Boss's reply.

BOSS OS.

Four is normally enough...but you can send six, will up your money, but be on time.

ISAAC

Sure Boss, using an express, the container will be in your hands tomorrow night.

BOSS OS.

See that it does.

Isaac ends the call, turns and checks on the other girls, as he moves towards JACKY, Frank stands up, and thumps Isaac on the head with the Jug, Isaac passes out.

EXT/INT: ISAAC AND DAN'S APARTMENT LORRY. MID DAY

The lorry's container doors are wide open, Dan, Eva over his shoulder grunts as he steps up, by passing woody boxes at the entrance. He gently lays her down on a huge mattress. He pauses and stares admiringly at her in her little skirt.

Dan kneels down between Eva's legs and reaches for her top, begins opening her button, Isaac's scream stops him.

Dan quickly scrambles off the unconscious girl runs out of the container knocking over one of the boxes. The box spills it's content of coffee beans, a sealed bundle of white powder peaks through.

INT: ISAAC AND DAN'S APARTMENT-SITTING ROOM.DAY

Dan comes in running and stops short. His eyes widen at the knife sticking out of Isaac's thigh. Isaac is very wet, tied to the chair, a bucket of water next to him, the jug by his feet is bloody, Frank stands over Isaac, a bloody knife in hand, he barks questions at him.

Frank slowly turns to Dan.

FRANK

Good you are here, sit where I can see you, answer my questions and your boss remains unharmed.

Dan considers him for a beat, glances over to the door way, Frank's voice is hard.

FRANK(CONTINUED)

I wouldn't if I were you, now SIT!

Dan nervous, finds a seat and carefully lowers himself down eyes focused on Frank.

FRANK

I suppose you both are wondering how I didn't fall asleep...don't worry I'll tell you, but first...

He glances at the sleeping bodies.

FRANK(CONT)

...you need to tell me what you put in the juice, your plan and how to wake up my sisters!

He looks at Isaac then at Dan, his look and voice is dark.

FRANK(CONT)

...Or else...

Dan worried steals a look at Isaac, he doesn't look too good.

FRANK(CONT)

...Yeah, he's lost a lot of blood, and he will lose more.

INT: ISAAC AND DAN'S APARTMENT-SITTING ROOM.DAY.FLASH BACK

Dan after serving juice moves out, leaving the jug and a glass of juice onto Isaac's table. The group are sipping theirs.

FRANK

Girls I need to find the loo

**EVA** 

Well you better hurry before you burst on us

Frank moves off into the corridors.

APARTMENT CORRIDOR.DAY.FLASH BACK

Frank reaches the exist, he hesitates as he hears voices outside.

EXT: ISAAC AND DAN'S APARTMENT BACK.MID DAY.FLASH BACK

ISAAC

(Constrained patience)
Relax, your plan failed but mine
wont.Now that they have drunk the
juice its all in my hands...have been
in this business for a while, I will
show you how it works.

INT: ISAAC AND DAN'S CORRIDOR EXIT.DAY.FLASH BACK

Frank peeks at them from the shadows, looks horrified as he

listens to them.

EXT: ISAAC AND DAN'S APARTMENT BACK.MID DAY.FLASH BACK

DAN

Mmmm..., just felt...(Head shake refocuses on Isaac)...never mind...so did you plan that one of them will die?!

**ISAAC** 

(Alarmed, suspicious) WHAT!!! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

DAN

(Matter of fact) I just killed one.

Isaac's brows shoot up surprised, a little impressed, his tone not so much

ISAAC

(Laissez faire)

So what! what if you killed him, is he your brother...collateral damage, it happens.

DAN

(Distressed, slight panic) AM NOT A MURDERER!

Isaac quickly glances towards the corridor, alarmed at Dan's reaction, lowered voice tries to calm him

ISAAC

Hey, hey keep it down!, I know you are not...listen you need to keep it together... calm down OK?

Dan takes a large breath, trying to recollect himself

DAN

Do you know why I killed him?

Isaac puts a comradely arm around his shoulder.

ISAAC

(...it doesn't matter,I don't know
how many I have killed, and I'll
do it again...)

Dan stares at him not quite sure what to make of that.

INT: APARTMENT CORRIDOR EXIT.DAY.FLASH BACK

Frank now looking terrified, withdraws back, turns around and rushes back in.

APARTMENT SITTING ROOM.DAY.FLASH BACK

Frank rushes into the sitting room, he is frantic, everyone is slumped over asleep, he pauses as he takes in the scene.

Reaches for his phone, scrolls and rings, no reply, tries another waits...no pick up. Puts the phone down, picks up the lone glass of juice and the jug and walks to the kitchen.

APARTMENT KITCHEN.DAY.FLASH BACK

Frank pours the juice in his glass and the jug into the sink, he erratically opens the cupboards and drawers, searching, he stops in one of the small drawers he retrieves a short stubby knife, he pockets it.

His eyes take in the room slowly, they land on a generator on it a greasy rope. He picks the rope, grasps the jug and the empty glass and leaves the kitchen.

END OF FLASH BACK.

INT: ISAAC AND DAN'S APARTMENT-SITTING ROOM.DAY

Frank holds the knife in front of Isaac's face, Isaac grimaces in pain, Dan unnerved, still seated watches them carefully.

FRANK

I want my answers!

DAN

I... can get you all the money, that can make you rich, and you can leave ...with your sisters.

FRANK

(Angry)

I WANT ANSWERS AND YOUR GIVING ME BULL...

He viciously stabs Isaac's other thigh, Dan is spooked

ISAAC

(Screaming)

AHHHHHHH!!! TELL HIM, TELL HIM

EVERYTHING!

In the process two hard knocks at the gate, all turn, Dan then looks at Frank

FRANK

(Threatening whisper)

Get rid of them, all else your Boss dies...

Dan stands up, glances at Isaac, his face is etched in pain, he moves out as Frank watches him through out the window.

EXT: ISAAC AND DAN'S APARTMENT-GATE. MID DAY

As Dan moves towards the gate, looks behind him to the window, Frank raises the blood stained knife at him, gestures to him.

Dan turns back, and freezes for a second, a police man and a lady MOLLY-30's wait impatiently, he takes a quick breath and lets them in, Molly pushes him aside, followed by the Officer HENRY-50's and other police guys.

Dan shakes himself off, raising his shoulders and voice, blocks their way.

DAN

Excuse Me! This is private property, how may I help you?

MOLLY

(Frantic, anxious)

I Want my husband...I traced his phone, it leads here, my husband always comes home...

DAN

You must be mistaken madam.

MOLLY

OK Lets first search the house, then we will go.

Dan glances back at the window, there is no one, he shrugs.

DAN

OK, go ahead my boss is inside.

As they get to the entrance, Dan turns and runs towards the gate.

**HENRY** 

(Shouting)

Hey you get back here!

Dan slips through the gate as the other officers begin to give chase, Dan suddenly reappears walking backwards towards them, in front of him is an Officer pointing a gun at him.

The other officers grab him and rough him up before leading him into the house.

INT: ISAAC AND DAN'S APARTMENT-SITTING ROOM.DAY

Isaac groans in deep pain, tied to the chair, the knife lays on the ground, Frank is fast asleep, beside his sister.

The police walk in with Dan.

HENRY

(Perplexed)

What the hell happened here?

DAN

(Nervously shaking his head) It was all my boss, he did it...

Dan points at Isaac.

DAN(CONT)

Officer am Innocent, am just a gate man...he is the boss!

One of the officer shoves Dan into a chair next to the bleeding Isaac, Molly runs around checking, looking for her husband.

HENRY

Quick Make sure that the victims are taken to the hospital, starting with the bleeding man...we shall interrogate him after, the rest of you search the entire house.

The officers untie Isaac, one cuffs Dan as the rest search the house.

HENRY(CONT)

Why stab your Boss?

DAN

Officer it wasn't me who stabbed him(Points to Frank)...it was him

As some officers approach Frank, Henry signals to them, to leave him alone. Henry approaches Frank and shakes him hard but Frank is fast asleep. The commander annoyed walks over to Dan and gives him two sharp slaps.

HENRY

Are you fooling me, the guy is knocked out.

Dan stares at Frank's unmoving body then back to the annoyed Henry, he looks cornered, shakes his head rapidly

DAN

(Panicking)

Am not fooling you!, he's faking it, he's awake, he tortured my Boss, wanted to know what was in the juice

"SLAP" the slap is so hard it rings through the room, Dan moves his cheek into his shoulder to lessen the pain

DAN

Aiiiiii...

HENRY

Am running out of patience with you, something is very fishy here, your story does not relate...

One of the officers walks in hurriedly

OFFICER

Sir, one dead body in the back room

Henry turns beady eyes on to Dan

**HENRY** 

So...my friend, the charges are raking up...lets see we have...murder of persons, attempted murder of your so called boss...human trafficking...kidnapping...impersonat ion of...

Dan quickly interrupts him, his voice shrilly with panic.

DAN

I didn't attempt to murder my boss...listen(lowers his voice), I can, can...I have money, lots of money...may be we can...

Henry stares at him in contempt, carries on

HENRY

...Bribing an officer is a serious offense, on top of everything...(bristling with anger)...when am done with you will tell us how many you have bribed so far!

Dan swallows hard, Molly walks in at that point holding on to her weakened tortured husband Ray, Dan stares wordless.

INT: HOSPITAL-SARAH'S WARD.NIGHT

Shaky and Marge are tidying up the room

SHAKY

This lady is strong in body, the way she responded to treatment is amazing.

MARGE

I know... is it true what the press are saying about her son?

Shaky scowls as she nods.

SHAKY

Sure is, that's the problem with super rich guys...they think they can get away with anything, can never marry any of them!

Marge laughs.

MARGE

(Cheekily)

What about the perks...

SHAKY

(Unamused)

Please don't get me started

Marge giggles, Sarah unbeknown to them opens her eyes and

looks around.

SARAH

(Weak)

Where is my son?

Both turn in surprise.

MARGE

Ooh Mam Sarah, you are awake. THANK GOD!

SARAH

Where is my son?

SHAKY

He will be here soon, don't worry.

Sarah throws the covers off her attempting to move off the bed, Shaky and Marge quickly hold her back

SARAH

Get off me, I have to see my son.

MARGE

Madam please...calm down this is not good for you1!

SARAH

(Desperate)

Something must be wrong, I have to see him.

She is feisty as she tries to fight the nurses off, turns to disconnect the drip, Marge rushes out leaving her with Shaky.

SHAKY

Madam trust me...nothing is wrong with your son, he has just gone to get some eats.

Sarah's lips tight in concentration tries to shove her away, Marge reappears with a full syringe, and quickly injects it in to Sarah's Cannula.

After a few minutes, Sarah relents and slowly begins to get drowsy, she is soon fast asleep. The nurses sigh in relief.

Shaky turns to Marge.

SHAKY

Thanks...mmh did the doctor prescribe that?

MARGE

Not exactly...he doesn't have to know!

They turn and get back to finishing the room.

INT: ISAAC'S HOSPITAL ROOM.NIGHT

Isaac lies on the bed a police guard JACOB-30's stands beside the bed robot like, holding a gun.

ISAAC

Officer, Officer, Officer?

The guard turns to him

ISAAC (CONT)

(Pathetic smile)

Hello?

Jacob scowls at him, looks away, the commander Henry approaches, cuffs in hand with Eva behind him. Jacob stands to attention and salutes him, the commander returns it.

HENRY

Is that the man who gave you your papers.

EVA

(Nods)

The very one, he promised us lots of money.

Henry turns to Jacob hands him the cuffs, Jacob restrains Isaac to the bed, Henry nods and signs something to him, Isaac frowns as he watches them, Jacob quickly glances at Isaac then back at Henry, nods, then smiles.

ISAAC

(Suspicious)

What did he say?

**HENRY** 

(Smirks)

Try anything silly, and you'll be shoot!

ISAAC

(Appalled, concerned)

You can't do that!

**HENRY** 

Watch me...

Isaac looks at Jacob tying to gauge his reaction, Jacob is a stone, Isaac turns back at the commander

ISAAC

Which article of the constitution is that!?

**HENRY** 

My own...

Moves towards Eva puts an arm around her as he propels her forward, stops, turns regards Isaac

HENRY(CONT)

(Referring to Jacob)

... he may not talk, but he knows the trigger position, his target is on point(smiles coldly)... for the last five years, have never known him to miss!

Turns to Eva, they depart, Isaac lays back weakly, Jacob silently watches him.

INT: POLICE CELL.NIGHT

Dan is being tortured by his cell mates, led by their leader IVAN-30's he cowers in a corner trying to shield himself

DAN

(Freaked)

Please stop!, I have no story to tell!

They grab him and lay him down on his belly, expose his back and thrash him twice, Dan grimaces in pain, his eyes and mouth grimly tightly.

IVAN

Its simple, tell us your story, and the beating stops!

Dan remains silent, Ivan annoyed gestures to the others

IVAN (CONTINUED)

... He is joking, please proceed.

The thrashing is harder, as they move across his back, it gets manic, Dan grits his teeth, trying to take it, finally he yells out.

DAN

(Shouting)

STOP !FOR GOODNESS SAKE, I WILL TELL YOU, WILL TELL YOU, JUST STOP!

Ivan raises his hand, and everyone steps away from Dan. Dan gingerly sits up looks at Ivan and in a tremulous voice begins talking.

After some time he stops.

IVAN

(Thoughtful)

Hmmm...now that is **our** story, you are going to refuse it in front of the police and court!

Dan frowns up at him, Ivan continues

IVAN

You are an ASKARI/SECURITY GUARD...OK?

Dan doesn't reply, Ivan nods to the others

IVAN

(Quiet threatening)

Guys...help him realize, what he is!

Dan alarmed quickly shouts out

DAN

ASKALI...!

**IVAN** 

Will you refuse all the charges

DAN

(Nodding dramatically)

Yeah, yeah, I'm...I'm innocent...

Ivan nods enigmatically,

IVAN

OK, OK, guys leave him alone...he is

now part of us.

INT: UNIVERSITY-HOSTEL.NIGHT

Anna and her four girlfriends, watching T.V, Breaking news of Dan and Isaac's arrest.

NEWS REPORTER

...whoever knows or has a case against these people is encouraged to go to the police and make a statement. If you opened up a case against these suspects go to the main station with your police reference number.

Edith excitedly turns to her friends

EDITH

This is the chance, that guy has to pay, once and for all!

ANNA

(With feeling)

They should lock him up and throw away the key...

INT: HOSPITAL SARAH'S ROOM.MORNING

Sarah gently sleeps as Shaky carefully adjusts her pillow. Boss and his body guard Mark walk in.

BOSS

Nurse how is she?

SHAKY

She is doing better...

The boss stares oddly at the sleeping Sarah.

BOSS

How soon will she be discharged?

Shaky steps away from Sarah's bed.

SHAKY

That will depend on her Doctor, excuse me.

She moves out, Mark looks to the Boss.

MARK

What do you want me to do Boss?

BOSS

Get rid of her

MARK

Huh?

The Boss gives him a look, Mark gets it, quickly walks over to Sarah, slides the pillow from under her, the Boss turns to leave, Mark places the pillow on to Sarah's face, the Boss quickly rushes back and stops his hand, Mark looks at him confused.

**BOSS** 

Change of plan...we need her alive, it's the only way to get my money.

He gives her a hard look, turns angrily.

BOSS

Lets go pay them a visit!

They walk off, Sarah gently snores an askew pillow hiding part of her face.

INT: HOSPITAL-ISAAC'S ROOM.DAY

Jacob stands patiently by Isaac's bed. Phiona comes in with Kenneth, they have newspapers, she looks pissed as she chucks the papers at Isaac.

The headlines are glaring:

TWO CON MEN DAN AND ISAAC ARRESTED OVER HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MURDER. A YOUNG WOMAN (MARY 20) FOUND DEAD ON THE ROADSIDE WITH NO DOCUMENTS.

PHIONA

Explain this to me!!!

As Isaac removes the paper from his face she sees his hand cuffed to the bed

PHIONA

(Angry, derisive)

Don't waste your time!...you really made a great name, when is your VIP launch, huh?, more fool me for having a kid with you!

She leans closer, trying to hold the weight of anger, disappointment and hurt from exploding, but failing pointing a warning finger.

PHIONA(CONT)

...that is it, I promise you this, stay away from us, you are no longer a father!, I'll be both parents to MY CHILD!!!

Isaac horrified, guilty desperate, raises his cuffed hand to her.

ISAAC

Please Phi, don't do this, I can expl...

She smacks his hand away, about turns and angrily marches, at the exist, she collides with someone, its the Boss, he moves aside and watches her walk off.

They enter with Mark, the Boss approaches Isaac's bed, looks at Jacob, reaches in his pocket pulls out a few significant notes, his smile is oily, confident, offers the notes to the quard.

BOSS

Just need a few, please step outside

Jacob's expression betrays nothing as he looks at the notes, his eyes flick back to the Boss, the Boss's smile drops suddenly, his eyes widen, slowly deliberately Jacob raises his semi automatic weapon and trains it at the man's head.

ISAAC

he is a missed call...

The Boss quickly glances at Isaac, frowns, not getting him,

ISAAC(CONT)

...He is deaf!but knows the trigger position.

Boss's face whips back to Jacob, slowly raises his hands, the notes pinched between the thumb and fore finger...Jacob slowly lowers the weapon, reaches forward and removes the money, pockets it. Looks forward maintains position.

BOSS

(Sighs, relieved)

I can see that...(turns to Isaac) was

that your wife who stormed out of here?

ISAAC

(Sadly)

Yeah, she is...was...

Boss raises his brow.

BOSS

Hmmm...(change of tone), I need to know where my money is...

Isaac raises his restrained hand, the chain makes an ugly squeak against the iron bed rail

**ISAAC** 

Get me out of this shit, then I can complete the deal, or give your money back.

BOSS

(Shakes his head)
(No way just tell me where my money is.)

ISAAC

(Adamant)

Listen mate, the way I see it, the only way you get it, is by getting me out of this.

The Boss looks at him with disdain, his tone is ugly with restrained anger.

BOSS

No 1, am not your mate! get it! you little shit!!, number 2 you are in no position to make any deals, no cards to play...as for me I still have a few in my pack, including your wife, kid, and your friend who is next on my list.

Isaac jerks straight up enraged

ISAAC

Don't you dare put your hands on my family!

BOSS

(Ugly laugh)

Ha ha ha, hit a nerve did I?

He leans into Isaac's face, lowers his tone

BOSS

Think long and hard of what you're next move is...cause I **know** what mine is, **MATE!!!** 

Boss moves out with his body guard Mark, Isaac angrily pulls at his hand impotently trying to dislocate the cuffs, they jangle and screech. Jacob lifts and points the weapon at him, Isaac stops, glares at him and lays back.

INT: POLICE CELL.MORNING

Dan is in the midst of various utensils, cleaning furiously scrubbing, rinsing repeat.

CELL MATE 1

We need to shave his hair

IVAN

(Irritated, commanding)

Sit down!

Dan ignores him

**IVAN** 

Fine, then we do it our way!

The group grab him, rough him up as they throw him down

**TVAN** 

(Shouting)

Are you going to sit down voluntarily?

Dan grimaces in pain, looks at him and nods.

IVAN (CONTINUED)

Say it!

Someone twists Dan's arm backwards, he yells out.

DAN

(Screams)

YESS, YESSSS!

They sit him down, one produces a razor blade, and begins to

shave him.

INT: HOSPITAL ISAAC'S ROOM.MORNING

Isaac in deep thought, he tears up, the doctor enters, says something, he does not notice, Jacob moves a fraction away, but keeps eyes on them.

The doctor taps his shoulder, Isaac jerks and turns to him.

ISAAC

Yes, yes doctor.

DOCTOR

I asked how are you feeling?

Isaac looks quickly away, rubs at his face furtively then back.

ISAAC

Am cool, good...fine!

The doctor regards him for a second

DOCTOR

Mmmm, no unusual headaches or general body weakness?

Isaac starts to shake his head.

ISAAC

Non more than usual...(frowns )Wait, what do you mean unusual headaches, whats this really about?

The doctor clears his throat.

DOCTOR

...we have a situation.

ISAAC

(More alert)

What kind of situation?

DOCTOR

...you had an unprecedented reaction to a drug, so we had to do some investigations...but what we found out was...

He moves and sits on Isaac's bedside, Isaac's eyes follow

him.

ISAAC

...was what? doctor!

The doctor sighs, looks squarely at him

DOCTOR

... a rise of white blood cells in your system that-

Isaac interrupts him harshly, his eyes wide, fighting panic.

**ISAAC** 

Give it to me straight doctor!

The doctor stands, straightens

DOCTOR

Very well, Leukemia

**ISAAC** 

Leu what!

DOCTOR

Leukemia, it's a blood cancer.

A beat:

They stare at each other, Isaac trying to take it in, a myriad expressions fleeting on his face, disbelief, fear panic, horror.

ISAAC

(Cracked whisper)

Is it...

Doctor nods his head wearily.

ISAAC

how long?

DOCTOR

A year... give or take.

Isaac swallows hard.

ISAAC

(Quietly)

I thought it was work, the fatigue, lack of sleep, appetite,...the running

up and down...I thought I could get on top of it, but now...

He raises his gaze to the doctor, his eyes look hollow

ISAAC(CONT)

...It's too late.

The doctor is quiet, reaches a hand out onto his shoulder.

A beat:

He drops his hand and continues

DOCTOR

With the time left we can put you on a regime that can alleviate some of the-

ISAAC

(interrupts bitter)
but it can't cure me, right?

DOCTOR

(Head shake)

In this state, sadly no!

Isaac raises hands to head, the cuff chain jangles, he is distressed, confused, the full weight of it hitting him, he begins to babble, in panic.

**ISAAC** 

How could I have not known! have never been sick, not really, not even a cold, or flu, and such, this cannot be happening, am strong, my genes are strong ...(looks at doctor) how does this happen? how could this happen?!

The doctor sits back down besides him and starts to explain, after some time, the commander walks in.

**HENRY** 

Am sorry doctor. I have to take him to court.

They hurriedly move Isaac out, Doctor staring sadly after him.

INT: POLICE CELL.MORNING

An officer opens the cell door, Dan looks up his head smooth void of hair.

POLICE OFFICER

Dan, your lawyer is here.

Dan looks at him curiously.

DAN

But I don't have a-

POLICE OFFICER

(Cuts him short)

- Move!I don't have all day, and for the rest of you who still have cases, prepare yourselves!

He impatiently shoves Dan out, Dan turns as he hears Ivan call out at him.

**IVAN** 

Dan you must not forget, don't make a mistake. See you in court!

Dan moves away with the officer.

INT: POLICE STATION-RECEPTION.MORNING

The officer shows Dan in, two men are in discussion, their backs turned, a step, they turn, Dan hesitates for a fraction.

BOSS

Come my friend...sit

Dan and Boss sit across from each other, Mark remains standing.

DAN

Who sent you?

The officer nods, smiles to the Boss, walks away.

BOSS

(All business, no smile)

Am not your lawyer, am your Boss!am here for my money, or you Mother dies!

Dan looks at him in shock, trying to work out what to say,

the patrol enter, the commander holding on to Isaac who he drops in the seat next to Dan.

**HENRY** 

We are going to court now, get me their files.

Henry sits aside from Boss and the group as he waits. Boss looks from Dan to Isaac

BOSS

It's good that you are both here, Want my money!(sotte voice)...for your families to be safe...

Isaac sighs leans in also lowers his tone

ISAAC

We all have enough problems at the moment...you know what to do...

The Boss glares at him as he kisses his teeth, Dan looks from one to the other, quickly jumps in.

DAN

Look, maybe I can help.

Boss with a smirk.

BOSS

I knew **you** wouldn't let your mother die.

DAN

(Raises his voice)

Commander?

Henry glances towards him.

**HENRY** 

Yes!What now...more lies?

Dan stands shoves his chair back points at the Boss and Isaac heatedly.

DAN

Sir, he is not a lawyer!, he is the main Boss...and Isaac is his second...They are my bosses, they know where the girls were being taken!

Enraged the Boss hits the table with his fist hard, stands

BOSS

THAT'S A LIE!!YOU BETTER CHANGE THAT STATEMENT OR ELSE!

Jacob rushes in at that moment, holding a sheet and hands it to the commander, Dan continues niggling the Boss

DAN

Or else what?

BOSS

Look here Commander, he is a lying, maggot, he is desperate...

HENRY

That's enough!...in order to verify the information we have so far uncovered, we will have to take you two in as possible persons of interest.

Turns to the officer

HENRY(CONT)

Arrest them.

Boss and Mark scuffle as one officer takes their phones, and the other puts them in cuffs.

BOSS

(Furious)

You are making a big mistake!

**HENRY** 

(To Dan)

hmmm...you made your case, easier, our investigation team were also running in a parallel direction.

The officer with the phones hands them to Henry, he turns to Boss and Mark

HENRY

Your phones will be used as part of the investigation. You can collect them after the court case.

Dan sidles up to Henry,

DAN

Uhhm Commander am I free to go now, since you have got the Boss?

HENRY

That decision is up to the court, not us!

DAN nods, he seems a bit relieved, as he looks up his gaze suddenly clashes with Anna and her four friends as they bustle in, Anna makes a bee line for him, She is furious as she grabs his collar and shoves him against the wall.

ANNA

Coffins!!! What the hell were you going to do to us!,

Dan wordless stares at her, she raises her hand to slap him, the Commander grabs it.

HENRY

I Know how you must feel, but he can charge you with assault.

She wrenches her hand away.

ANNA

(Furious ,offended)

Me! assault!, after all that he has done!

She is shaking with shock and anger, the Commander puts a gentle hand on her shoulder

**HENRY** 

Take a breath...

Anna nods and tries to pull herself together, her girlfriends surround her.

HENRY(CONT)

Let me go and prepare, I will call you all for your statements.

He smiles kindly at them and moves off. Other suspects, Including Ivan and his cell mates are brought in, they stare as Anna lashes out at Dan.

ANNA

I'll make sure that you never see the light of day!

BOSS

(Bemused)

Boy, I knew you had problems but man karma can be a bitch!...ha ha ha, this will be fun.

Dan looks at him, irritated, changes tactic, straightens up, lairs mockingly at the girls

DAN

Ladies, I don't know what your game is, and who paid you for this stunt!

They look at each other then at him in disbelief, enjoying this he continues

DAN(CONT)

I have never met any of you, besides you are all too cheap for my tastes.

They are gasps of shock, and amusement in the room as everyone listens.

DAN(CONT)

... and cheap to accuse me for nothing...oh, in case I just forgot, I don't know how your pussy looks like-

At that Anna makes for him, her friends hold her back she is crazy mad.

ANNA

YOU LYING BASTARD YOU KNOW WHAT YOU DID!

Dan grins at her enjoying the effect of his provocation, looks around the room then back at the angry girls

DAN(CONT)

...I must have been too drunk, to take **ALL** of you at once!

The prisoners all start whooping out loud, Dan takes a sarcastic bow, looks up at the seething expressions of the girls and the angry look of the Boss, and continues, he points at each girl

DAN

(Mock serious)

...If you were not paid, who of you sucked my dick, and who had a basin

out you?

At that all the men burst out laughing, patting each other, and pointing at the girls

DAN(CONT)

...I know you sell it at 5k, how much did you get that day? huh tell me

The girls shocked, embarrassed,

EDITH

WE ARE NOT WHORES, YOU S.O.B!

More laughs, whoops, Ivan shouts out,

**IVAN** 

Hey Dan, who enjoyed the coffin sex the moat, show us!

Dan smiles slowly moves his finger slowly it lands on to Joy, she is aghast

JOY

WHAT ME!!! LIAR, WASN'T EVEN THERE!

DAN

(Serious mean)

Oh please shut the hell up!, I made your night, and you know it. I fucked all of you and I remember,

He points at them one by one as he makes descriptions,

DAN(CONT)

...your pussy was the Sahara!, not even a drop! but **you** scream nicely, the other one had nice breasts, the other a nice round bum, but she is more of a finger fun,...but the one I can never **ever** forget is...

Turns to Anna who gives him daggers,

DAN(CONT)

(Smiles)

...she wet the entire room, she may be small, but she flows, like the Nile... you were more than ready to give it up for 5k...

Anna pulls away from her friends and gets up in his face, her eyes blaze.

ANNA

(Harsh whisper)
I will **end** you, you dog!

DAN(CONT)

(Same tone, threatening)
...Bring it on, little girl, I'll
brand you to the Judge, and anyone who
cares to listen!

Anna angrily grabs his neck, lifts her knee going for his balls, Edith and Mony manage to pull her back, Ivan and the rest are egging them on, laughing, the girls move away intending to leave, the Commander walks in.

HENRY

Hey, where are you going, they are organizing for you to write your statements.

**JESSICA** 

(Shakes head)

Nor longer needed, all men are dogs!

The girls angrily march out as the prisoners laugh out loud some woofing/barking like dogs,

**HENRY** 

(annoyed shouts)

OK ALL OF YOU QUIET...Officers, lets go!

The officers hoard the prisoners out, The commander is left, Henry stares after them quietly confused.

INT: HOSPITAL SARAH'S ROOM.MORNING

Sarah is awake, she is in deep thought, she looks much better.

SARAH

(Internal)

I feel much better, I should leave, save Dan this extra bill.

She puts a hand inside her garments and pulls out an old fifty note, she starts to get out of bed as the Doctor and the nurses enter.

DOCTOR

Oh good, madam I can see you are stronger, this is good. If your sons were here they could take you home today, you no longer need a week.

SARAH

Doctor where is my son?. Was he here yesterday?

DOCTOR

Yes...he is in court

SARAH

(Shocked)

Court?!

Doctor caught out tries to remedy his reply.

DOCTOR

No Mum...I meant-

SARAH

(Distressed)

\_Is it the bill, did you take him to court for the hospital bill?

MARGE

...he was...

The doctor gives her a look, she shuts up.

SARAH

I want to see my son, now! I want to see Dan!!

DOCTOR

OK. OK, I'll take you to him.

Sarah quickly gets out of bed

SARAH

We go now!

DOCTOR

Please mum, you need to understand this might...uhm

She starts grabbing her stuff

SARAH

(Impatient)

Am ready. lets just go, you can tell me the rest as we move...

He nods, turns to Marge

DOCTOR

OK...take her to my car, I'll be there in a minute.

They all move out.

EXT: DOCTORS CAR-PARKING LOT.MORNING

Marge walks Sarah to the car, as she begins to leave, Sarah grabs her elbow, Marge turns back

SARAH

My daughter, tell me what really happened to my son...how much does the hospital demand?

MARGE

(Slightly uncomfortable) uhhm...it's not really about the bill...

Sarah looks at her in confusion

SARAH

Then what?

Marge after a considered moment, leans in and begins to tell her everything, Sarah's expression goes from concern, disbelief and shock.

SARAH

(Mortified)

My son, can't do something like that!

Marge shrugs.

MARGE

Either way, today is his first day in court,...am sorry Mum.

She turns and leaves as the Doctor arrives, Sarah stunned turns to him.

SARAH

Am so sorry doctor, for what I said...I now know it's nothing to do with you, I'll take myself to court.

DOCTOR

It's no trouble, and besides I insist.

He takes out the keys opens the passenger door, then comes round to Sarah who stares at him, not sure of anything.

DOCTOR

Don't worry about the bills they were all paid...

Sarah looks at him in surprise

SARAH

They were?! how?

He opens the door for her, she sits he shuts the door, walks back round enters.

INT: CAR PARKING LOT/ROAD.MORNING

He starts the car and maneuvers out of the lot. Continues

DOCTOR

Madam you being in my care, also makes it my business, should anything happen to you.

INT: COURT PRISONERS CHAMBERS.DAY

A number of well dressed prisoners ready to be tried are gathered in the room. Officers stand by the doors.

Dan and Isaac are Isolated

DAN

Man we are in for it, and we don't even have a lawyer

ISAAC

I will accept the charges, but you must refuse them.

DAN

Why?

ISAAC

You have a mother to look after

DAN

You have a wife and kid

Isaac expression clouds over, pain in his voice

ISAAC

No more...things are just,...

Shakes his head, draws closer, serious

ISAAC(CONT)

Dan listen, promise me you'll be a good dad to my kid.

DAN

(Dismay)

What! what you talking about, your just-

ISAAC

(Cuts in)

I thought money was everything for them, but I was wrong.

Dan looks at him, then nods

DAN

Yeah sure Will, but we'll get out of this together

Isaac is morose as he paces in the small space between them.

**ISAAC** 

My friend its not as simple as it seems...I dragged you into this...

Stops pacing, closes the space between, his tone is urgent.

ISAAC(CONT)

...listen do as I say...maintain that you know nothing!

He quickly glances at the Boss, then back at Dan.

ISAAC(CONT)

...you are just an Askari...

DAN

(Nods)

I will, I am...the Boss must remain in prison, or else our families will be in danger!

The Boss and Mark wander over.

BOSS

I hope what you two are discussing heatedly, involves the return of my money...

Dan retorts back.

DAN

Get us a lawyer, and you'll get your money.

BOSS

I don't have access to my phone...ergo I don't have access to my lawyer!

DAN

Then we are truly fucked!

Boss contemptuous smile.

BOSS

Speak for yourselves... I'll refute all charges, besides none of the girls witnessed me at the scene.

An officer approaches.

POLICE OFFICER

The suspects indicated in human trafficking, murder, homicide and kidnapping are the ones going in first, the rest will wait your turn.

Isaac, Dan, Boss and Mark move out

IVAN

Hey Dan, don't forget what we discussed!

INT: COURT ROOM.DAY

As Dan and the group enter, they hear JUDGE JUDE-50's issuing out a command for the prisoners in the chambers,

JUDGE JUDE

They'll be imprisoned for 2 months remand before their cases are heard again. Take them!

The Officers shepherd the prisoners out, bypassing Dan's group who head for the chambers.

The court is full of ladies and gents who had been kidnapped, among journalists and other people.

Their case files are presented to the judge, as the government prosecutor readies himself.

Sarah and the doctor walk in joining the throng of people. Sarah glances up at her son and Dan looks down at his mother, a loaded moment passes between them.

JUDGE JUDE

Order in court! May the charges be read!

Sarah abruptly turns and stares at the judge, there is something in that look, the judge feeling the weight of her stare looks down at her, there is surprise and shock in both their gazes. She flicks down at his placard identification

# (JUSTICE MUSOKE JUDE )

She swallows hard, nods to herself as if something has clicked.

The prosecute clears his throat loudly, drawing everyone's attention.

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR

... The charges brought forth against the defendants so far, include: Human trafficking, 2nd degree murder, homicide kidnapping, torture, possession of illegal drugs, impersonation, bribery of Officers...

He looks up and solemnly continues.

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR

...so far that is what we have unveiled, but investigations continue so forth.

The judge looks unsettled, he looks at the accused

critically.

JUDGE JUDE

As the accused what do you have to say?

BOSS

(Adamant)

I refuse all of those charges!

MARK

My lord I also refuse those charges, I have done nothing.

DAN

My lord, am just a gate man, a job I only acquired recently(gestures to the Boss, Mark)...these two are my top bosses, Isaac is my immediate boss, but I know nothing of their businesses.

ISAAC

My Lord I accept the charges, these two as Dan indicated are my Bosses as well, they fund the human trafficking project, I have evidence on my phone, meetings we held also recordings of every discussion, he never paid me a coin, that money apparently was to come...

BOSS

(Seething with anger)
He is lying!both of them!

He points to Dan

BOSS(CONT)

...I paid all his mother's hospital bills, even gave him extra spending money!

Isaac nods gestures to the courtroom

**ISAAC** 

You all heard him, my Lord he said so much himself, why pay for a mere Askari's mother's bill...DAN only took the job to help fund his mother's hospital bill, nothing more.

SARAH

(shouting)

I KNEW IT, MY SON IS INNOCENT!

The judge frowns down at Sarah then his gaze quickly flicks up at Dan

JUDGE JUDE

The court will be adjourned till 2:pm, prosecutor, bring all the evidence and the witnesses into my chambers...have an interest in this case, push the rest of the cases for tomorrow.

The judge moves out, the accused are taken away, Sarah and the doctor follow behind.

INT: JUDGE RESTING CHAMBERS.LUNCH TIME

The judge rushes in past his secretary.

JUDGE JUDE

(Agitated)

Oh God help me!

He finds his phone, makes a call as his secretary walks in.

JUDGE JUDE

Find the lady called Sarah, she was in the parking area...bring her to me!

**SECRETARY** 

Should you see her in that state, Judge why don't you first eat.

He rounds on her angrily.

JUDGE JUDE

Know your place...just do as your
told, go get the lady!

She turns and departs

JUDGE JUDE(INTERNAL)

Oh God now I have to send her son to prison!! Last time I was their lawyer...it didn't turn out so good, and now am the Judge...they are without counsel...this does not look good...Oh God help!

INT: DOCTOR'S CAR-COURT CAR PARK.LUNCH TIME

Sarah looks conflicted, she is very silent. The doctor munches on his snacks, he offers her some, she shakes her head. He turns to her.

DOCTOR

Mam, what is it? If you believe your son is innocent, then he will be set free...by the way do you know him?

SARAH

Who?

DOCTOR

The Judge...I just noticed the way you reacted.

She sighs, looks off .

SARAH

Ooh my child...its complicated

DOCTOR

(Peaked interest)

An old flame...an ex perhaps?!

SARAH

(Voice hollow, sad)

It's more than what you can imagine, ignore it...(suddenly vehement)of all things, why would God do this to me!!

Doctor with concern.

DOCTOR

Tell me, maybe there is something I can do to help.

The secretary approaches the car, leans near the drivers window.

SECRETARY

Am so sorry to disturb, but am looking for a lady called Sarah, she's supposed to be...

Sarah leans slightly over and

SARAH

Am Sarah, what is the problem?

SECRETARY

No problem mam, the judge sent me for you...would you mind coming with me?

The doctor opens his door,

DOCTOR

Am coming with her, she is my patient.

The secretary firmly pushes his door back,

SECRETARY

Am sorry sir, but it's a private meeting

Sarah readying to get out, hand on doctor's shoulder gently says.

SARAH

(Thank you doctor, but I'll be fine...)

DOCTOR

Fine, but I'll wait here should you need me.

He nods at her, she gets out. he resettles and picks up his snacks.

INT: JUDGE RESTING CHAMBERS.LUNCH TIME

He sits as he makes notes, his hand trembles slightly, his food is untouched, a sound at the door, he looks up, stands and walks round, the secretary enters with Sarah behind her.

JUDGE JUDE

Sarah, please sit sit down

Jude looks at the secretary, she turns and walks out.

Sarah sits, she looks everywhere but him, eventually she turns her gaze to him.

SARAH

I know you can save my son. Please help me.

Jude looks her over, his face betrays nothing walks over to his chair, trying to be conversational, voice light prodding.

JUDGE JUDE

I see you really moved on, How many

kids do you have... I have four girls myself...

SARAH

I have only one child...my son Dan, you have to save him.

He observes her for a moment, then back to his professional voice.

JUDGE JUDE

Id love to save your son, but there
are systems in place for matters like
this,if -

SARAH

(Cuts in angrily)

Oh please spare me the...(breaths) you are the system, you have the power...

JUDGE JUDE

What I meant to say is, it will be easier if you had counsel.

He leans forward hands clasped

JUDGE JUDE

... Can't his Dad get him a lawyer?

Sarah winces slightly as if in pain, shifts, eyes on to her hands.

SARAH

Am ...everything for my son.

She looks directly at him.

SARAH

It's only **you** who can help me out of this...

He stands up, moves away from the table hands in his pocket begins to pace up and down, his back to her

JUDGE JUDE

This is very unusual...I may be the law, but am not above it...

Sarah leans over reaches for his pen and writes something on his notes, places the pen back and resettles, he turns round faces her.

JUDGE JUDE

Sarah am sorry, Id love to help, but I can't see how, you can't depend on me

SARAH

(Shakes her head)

I can't accept that! Save my son, he is my everything...don't do something you'll regret the rest of your life!

His eyes narrow, his tone is sharp

JUDGE JUDE

What do you mean by that!

She shakes her head sadly as she stands

SARAH

Just save my son, that's all I demand of you.

He rubs at his face distractedly, trying to hide his irritation mixed with something else.

JUDGE JUDE

Listen Sarah just because you repeat it, it wont change the situation...

He draws his chair and sits.

JUDGE JUDE

... There is nothing I can do... you can see your self out.

She walks to the door and stops, he looks down and shuffles his notes, she looks at him grasps the door knob...

INT: COURT-SECRETARY'S ROOM.LUNCH TIME

The secretary leans at the door, her face intent, a recorder in her hand,

The door opens unexpectedly, she flails unsteadily trying not to fall into the judge's chambers.

She manages to twirl around and shut the door in Sarah's surprised face.

She sits at her desk takes a deep breath

SECRETARY

Pheww that was a close one...but this guy...he is too clean, not even a trace.!

She opens the table locker, dumps the recorder and shuts it.

INT: COURT-PRISONER'S ROOM.DAY

Dan, Boss, Isaac and Mark are in the safe room. An officer stands at the entrance. Boss in a foul mood paces up and down like a caged angry bull as he quarrels.

BOSS

You people dragged me into this, how could you do this to me...after **every** thing I have done for you?

Mark sadly watches them, he is quiet.

DAN

Don't blame us, its your money that led you into this...had you not come after -

BOSS

(Crossly)

Just shut up!

ISAAC

Not just the money, it's the whole rotten business.

Boss angry shouts out.

BOSS

Rotten! I didn't see you complain when you got your cut!

ISAAC

(Shrugs)

...at least you should have planned for the losses.

Boss stares at him, sourly turns away.

BOSS

I need to get out of this...

Moves towards the officer

BOSS(CONT)

Officer assist me with your phone

The Officer gives him a "you got to be kidding look"

BOSS(CONT)

...fine! for a hundred thou.

He digs for his wallet, retrieves it, opens it pulls out revealing a few business cards, and two fifty's. He hands him the money, the officer stares at it for a second, then grabs it as he gives him the phone.

#### MONTAGE IN

Boss makes a series of calls, flipping from one card to the next, no joy, he is irritated, annoyed as he paces up and dawn.

Cards are strewn around his feet.

He stops, one card left, its old, dog eared, he pauses as he looks at it, takes a breath...

he punches the digits tentative...

### MONTAGE OUT

**BOSS** 

Yes, it's me...no ,no no, don't switch off...have a deal to make up for everything..yes, yes... you call the terms... OK OK, yes Mark is here

He gives the phone to Mark who raises a brow.

MARK

Yes, yes... the account is(whispers a series of no's) OK

Hands the phone back to his Boss.

MARK

Got us by the balls!

BOSS

Mmmam in court... just a little hiccup, but am gonna need your help.

LAWYER OS

Nature of hiccup?...who is presiding?

BOSS

(Grimaces)

Possession...Judge Jude

LAWYER OS

Am on...

The phone beeps

BOSS

(Agitated)

Hello?, hello...what did you say?

There is a click/warning, he stares at the phone, the battery kaputs. He grasps the phone angrily about to smash it down.

OFFICER

OI, DON'T YOU DARE!

He reluctantly hands the phone back. Turns to the others

BOSS

Looks like am gonna get out of here, but don't be fooled, I still need my money! or else your families pay the price...short of that I'll make sure you rot in jail.

ISAAC

Oh shut your trap, sit down!

BOSS

(Nasty)

Weak ineffectual, that's what you are... am not weak like you...I'll stand or jump on the bars if I have to!

ISAAC

(Bored/fed up with the whole thing) Then keep quiet and let us think...

He gives in and concedes, reaches down picks up the business cards, returns them into his wallet and walks over to a corner...

EXT: COURT ENTRANCE COMPOUND.DAY

Doctor munches on his snacks. Sarah sits beside him in silence.

DOCTOR

What did the Judge say? if it's about money, I can help...your son can pay me back when he is out...by the way are they both your sons?

SARAH

Am sorry I cant go into it,... thanks for offering but its not necessary.

She looks at her watch

SARAH

Uhhm , I think its almost time to go in, the second session.

He nods, putting away the packet of eats, brushes crumbs away.

DOCTOR

OK, we better go in.

They get up and move towards the court, bypassing a curious disorganized fellow in an ill fitting suit. FRED late 30's is busy removing documents from his slightly battered briefcase.

INT: COURT ROOM.DAY

Everyone is already in court as Sarah and Doctor enter. Fred walks in after them and goes to stand beside his client's box.

Dan and the rest of the accused are escorted in, Sarah tries to grab on to her son's hand but fails as he is propelled forward by the officers. The lawyer join them.

Sarah agitated attempts to stand up and move towards Dan, the doctor holds her back.

DOCTOR

(Kindly)

Let them talk to their lawyer

SARAH

(Annoyed, raises voice)
I DON'T TRUST LAWYERS!

Eyes shift towards her and the doctor, the Judge is announced, everyone stands in accordance as he enters. He sits, they all sit.

Fred opens the summons and briefs his clients.

FRED

Don't answer any questions, until I specifically allow you to.

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR
Your honor, I request to start the re reading of the charges.

The Judge glances towards Dan, spotting the lawyer, he bangs the gavel and nods towards the prosecutor.

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR

My Lord in this very court we have four individuals accused, I request them to go into the box before I start the readings.

Dan and the rest are shepherded into the box, Fred rests the summons on the table as he waits for the charges.

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR

These four are charged with two accounts of murder... Murder of a young innocent youth, and of a husband and father of two young children. On top of that, aggravated assault/torture, Kidnapping, attempted human trafficking of around 20 persons, possession of weapons, possession of illegal substances (class A drugs), last but not least...bribing of police officers.

Fred stands tugs at his ill fitting suit, picks up the sermons and drops them in front of the accused, directly at Boss.

FRED

Karma is a bitch!

Picks up his battered case, turns around and walks out.

The judge, Boss and the three stare after him, eyes wide shell shocked as he disappears through the door.

The Judge frowns not sure what to make of it, he looks down at Sarah the prosecutor coughs, The Judge looks at him, gathers his composure, nods resettles.

The Prosecutor starts to present evidence that the police gathered. A bloody knife, Packets of snowy white powdered, drugs, a green tin, a sealed Jug with remnants of juice, a pile of documents, photo copies of passports. Large manilla envelopes full of 20 and 50 ugshs notes.

Next the witnesses one by one are shown in starting with the ladies. Eva is first.

The court officer hands her a bible

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR
Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, so help you God!

EVA

Yes I do!

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR Please state your name, age and occupation.

**EVA** 

My name is Eva Nanyondo, am 21 and jobless.

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR
In your own words, relate to us the events of that day

**EVA** 

After we saw the posters of the jobs abroad,...

Prosecutor puts out a hand.

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR Excuse me.you said 'we' You and who exactly?

**EVA** 

....My brother Frank and my sister Sharon.

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR

(Nods)

Carry on

EVA

...we rang the number and were directed to the address...where we

turned up with our documents and passports. Dan was at the gate, he took us to Isaac who received the documents, briefed us...then later offered us juice...must have blacked out, for when I woke up I was in hospital surrounded by police.

Prosecutor nods at her.

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR
Thank you miss for your account, you may step down...next?

# MONTAGE IN

- The prosecutor call different female witnesses to the stand

# MONTAGE OUT

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR
My lord we have finished with the female witnesses, allow me to call forth a male one.

He nods to Frank who walks to the stand, he is given the Bible.

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR
Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,

FRANK

I promise, to tell the whole truth!

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR

(Gestures to him)

In your own words...

FRANK

...as the others, stated Dan may have been Just the askali, but he knew more than he is letting on.

PROSECUTOR

(Interested)

What gives you that idea.

FRANK

...the conversation I heard between him and Isaac.

Isaac angry shouts out

ISAAC

CAN ANYONE CORROBORATE THAT?

JUDGE JUDE

(Bangs gavel repeatedly) ORDER, ORDER IN COURT

Looks at Isaac.

JUDGE JUDE(CONT)

Young man you will conduct yourself accordingly, this is a court of law, not a free for all!...

He looks back at Frank.

JUDGE JUDE(CONT)

... Having said that, can you answer the question...can you corroborate your statement.

The prosecutor slightly agitated.

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR

Your honor, may I approach...this is highly unusual

Frank looks from the Judge to the prosecutor

JUDGE JUDE

No you may not! the law has to be seen to be working...and seeing that the accused have lost their counsel, and as it seems their right to be represented,...(back to Frank)...so can this conversation be verified by another witness apart from you?

Frank seems to be at a loss, he slowly shakes his head.

FRANK

No, no your honor.

JUDGE JUDE

(Nods to the court transcripter) The last statement to be struck from the record...(Looks at Frank)Young man, from here on stick to the facts.

There is a stir as people react, muttering to each other, BANG!

JUDGE JUDE

ORDER!! or I'll have you all thrown

Every one shuts up, Frank hesitates, then continues

FRANK

...hmm yes uhm Isaac did everything else...he offered everyone juice, but I never drunk it.

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR

... Excuse me am bit confused, you say you never took the juice...we"ll get back to that, that Dan was an Askali and Isaac did everything!

FRANK

Yes!

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR

...But the police statement states that Isaac was found tied to a chair and both his thighs slashed!...all of you were fast asleep, and Dan was the only one conscious and unaffected...why are you lying? have you been threatened in any way by him?

Isaac shifts, about to say something, thinks better of it, the others are quiet.

Frank looks at the accused Dan specifically, then looks at Sarah, finally looks at his sisters... then at the Judge who stares back at him waiting.

> GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR ...should I repeat the question?

FRANK

(Hastily shakes head) No...whatever I do I have to consider my sisters, their safety.

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR

You and your sisters are safe...nothing, no one will harm them. Just answer the question.

Frank shifts in the stand, swallows and continues.

FRANK

It was for my sisters sakes that I delayed taking that juice...I took a walk around checking out the place...It's when I saw...(looks at Dan and Isaac, then away)... When I got back in to the room, everyone was asleep. It was strange, I tried waking them up, but nothing worked... as I was thinking of what to do next, I heard one of them coming back...

He pauses as he looks at his sisters then the prosecutor.

FRANK(CONT)

...It was me who tortured Isaac, I needed to know what was in the juice, and how I could wake my sisters up, when Dan came in, I ordered him to sit down...it was then that we heard the knock on the gate, I ordered him to open it, when I saw it was the police, I pretended to be asleep.

Frank stops, he looks worried.

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR
Hmmm you should have told us this from
the start ... Thank you for your
account, you may step down.

Frank steps down he seems slightly relived. Molly walks in and is put through the procedures of swearing in...

MOLLY

(Weary, sad, angry)
...all I know is that my husband is dead because of them!

A beat:

The prosecutor is quiet, everyone is quiet as they watch the poor woman convulse into unrestrained tears...

After a moment.

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR

Mam...you can step down now...

She walks slowly to her seat, helped by a family member, the prosecutor turns back, and addresses the Judge.

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR

My lord, with these witness, phone records, and all the evidence presented to you, allow me to rest my case.

Everyone's attention shifts to the Judge,

JUDGE JUDE

Yes...the evidence provided is rather compelling, but I wouldn't be doing my job if I don't give the accused the chance to...

He pauses as he stares at something on his notes "SAVE YOUR SON" he is very still, the court is also silent, the Judge then bangs his gavel loudly.

JUDGE JUDE

ORDER, ORDER IN COURT!

People look at him, at each other wondering what's up. Jude seeks out Sarah's eyes, she nods, he glances towards Dan.

JUDGE JUDE(CONT)

...the accused should be remanded back to jail, until I make my final ruling, in a week... Friday, except for Dan...

Boss and Mark, Boss looks to the judge

BOSS

What about my chance to defend myself?

The Judge is quickly gathering his notes, distracted

JUDGE JUDE

I said Friday!

He pauses looks towards the accused but his eyes on Dan

JUDGE JUDE(CONT)

...from what has so far been revealed Dan's part in these dealings was nominal...

He speaks directly to Dan,

JUDGE JUDE(CONT)

...young man your presence will be needed at the final ruling... but right now you are free to go(bangs the gavel) court adjourned!

The Prosecutor does not look happy, Boss seethes in anger, Mark is deflated, Isaac nods to Dan.

INT: JUDGE RESTING CHAMBERS.EVENING

The Judge rushes into his office, he finds the secretary listening to his recorded conversation with Sarah.

JUDGE JUDE

(Furious)

YOU!!! GIVE THAT TO ME!

Trembling at his anger, she hands the recorder to him

JUDGE JUDE(CONT)

YOU ARE FIRED!OUT OF MY SIGHT!

She cowers, as she looks at him

**SECRETARY** 

Am sorry, am sorry sir, please give me one more-

He strides to the door opens it and points her out grimly, teary she walks out, he bangs the door furiously shutting her face out.

EXT: COURT ENTRANCE. EVENING

Dan, Doctor and Sarah move out of the court, Dan spot's Phiona carrying her son at the entrance.

DAN

Doctor go with my mum, will meet you at the hospital.

Dan approaches Phiona and gestures for her son, she hands him the boy, he reaches for her hand

DAN(CONT)

Come lets move away from here, don't want this boy to see his father in cuffs.

He leads them to Isaac's car, they enter and drive away.

# TEXT ON SCREEN

A week later Boss and Mark were found guilty, sentenced to life imprisonment. Isaac committed suicide a day after the final judgment.

Jude finally meets his son, Dan and Sarah officially.

Dan asked Phiona to marry him, she agreed and now live happily as a family.

Mr Fred a former lawyer down on his luck came into some unprecedented wealth, his living large, dating celebrities and buying mansions.

# FADE OUT: