

DECEPTIVE VOWS

by

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Interracial Couple Version (Version 1 of 3)

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FADE IN:

INT. INSIDE HANFORD WOMAN'S PRISON - DAY

PATRICIA, a 25-year-old black woman, sits in her prison cell staring into space. GUARD #1 approaches Patricia's cell and opens it up. The Guard stands there with the cell door open as if to wait for Patricia to walk out.

GUARD #1

Patricia, it is time for your therapy session. All the other ladies and the Doctor are already there waiting for you.

PATRICIA

I told you all I don't need no therapy!

GUARD #1

Patricia I don't want to argue with you about this everyday. Now you know that this is mandatory, so if you ever plan on getting out of here I suggest you go to your meetings peacefully.

PATRICIA

(with an attitude)

Fine, I will go to the stupid session!

Patricia gets up and storms out of her cell.

INT. A CLASSROOM INSIDE THE PRISON - DAY

Guard #1 escorts Patricia to the only remaining seat in the class.

There are approximately ten women sitting at a group of tables that were brought together.

At the head of the table is a gentleman peering over his glasses.

The gentleman's name is DR. MORGAN. CAROL WITHERSPOON and SHARON WALKER are two of the ten other female inmates in the classroom.

DR. MORGAN

Patricia we are all glad you were able to make it.

PATRICIA
(mumbles, but audibly)
Yeah right.

GUARD #1
Excuse me young lady, what did you
say?

PATRICIA
I was just saying. . .

GUARD #1
(cuts Patricia off)
Don't you start no shit in here
because I will lock your ass down!

DR. MORGAN
That's okay, I will handle it from
here. I think she will be all right
now

Guard #1 backs up and stands with the other guards.

DR. MORGAN
Actually you all can leave. I am
sure I will be fine here alone with
them.

GUARD #1
But Doctor Morgan you. . . .

DR. MORGAN
I said I will be fine!

The four guards leave.

DR. MORGAN
(flips through his papers)
Okay it looks like we are up to you
Carol Witherspoon. Remember we are
all like friends and family here.
No matter what happens outside
these walls, we are family here.
The thing that connects all of you
is your past. Now I want you to
remember we are not here to judge
each other. We are here to help one
another. In a way I guess you help
each other out by sharing your
experiences. Having said all that,
we will start with Carol and work
our way around the table.

Carol pulls the box of tissues next to her as tears well up in her eyes.

CAROL WITHERSPOON

Well, I have told my story so many times before, but it still hurts. I will say that the sessions have helped me a lot. That is actually why I came back to the sessions. I feel a certain freedom to express what happened to me. Anyway, I will try to make this short. My name is Carol Witherspoon and I am here because I killed my abusive husband John.

SHARON WALKER

(rubs Carol's back)
It's okay Carol.

CAROL WITHERSPOON

One night he came in drunk and started beating me. I was used to the beatings but that night he attacked my son. I just flipped out. I went to my son's room and got his Louisville Slugger bat and beat my husband John to death with it.

DR. MORGAN

Are you okay Carol? Are you sure you want to go on?

CAROL WITHERSPOON

Actually that is pretty much the whole story. The police came and arrested me. The question a lot of people ask is, "Why did you stay in your abusive relationship for five years?" I had four kids to think about. I kept asking myself, where would I go? How would I provide for them when I never had to work before?

DR. MORGAN

Believe me, I know the situations can become very complicated. Most women don't really see a way out of their situation. The question is: how do we stop this vicious cycle of violence from continually occurring?

(MORE)

DR. MORGAN (cont'd)

We know who, what, where, how and why it occurs, but we do not know how to stop it.

SHARON WALKER

Well in my case my husband just wouldn't let me go. He just kept on stalking me. I tried everything to escape him. I mean I even moved countless times. No matter where I went he would find me. Hell a restraining order is not even worth the ink and paper it uses. By the time the police got there he was always long gone, and there was no way to prove he harassed me. I blame the judicial system for not doing enough.

DR. MORGAN

(writing notes)

So you all believe the judicial system fails to do enough to stop this problem, right?

SHARON WALKER

Yeah I do. One time my husband punched me in the eye. I had a black eye, which was swollen almost shut. Sacramento's finest came and took my husband away for assault and battery. Would you believe he was back out in less than seventy-two hours? I got sick of the abuse and left him. As I said before he refused to let me live in peace even after I moved away from him.

Sharon pauses to wipe her tears.

CAROL WITHERSPOON

It's okay Sharon you can do this. Just let it go girl.

SHARON WALKER

I moved back with him and poisoned him to death. It was called premeditated murder. Sad thing was I didn't regret killing him. I knew he would never stalk or abuse me again. I have done ten years now and I still don't regret killing him.

(MORE)

SHARON WALKER (cont'd)

I just regret doing time for it. By the way I didn't say my name. I am Sharon Walker.

DR. MORGAN

Thank you for sharing your story with us Sharon, and you too Carol. Your stories were remarkable and powerful. Okay, it looks like we have time for one more story. Patricia we are up to you.

PATRICIA

I pass!

DR. MORGAN

Are you sure you want to pass?

PATRICIA

Yes I am sure! I don't have anything to say!

CAROL WITHERSPOON

Ladies, you are not going to help your situation by holding on to the pain you feel. You will feel a lot better if you let it go.

PATRICIA

Will you all just leave me alone? I said I don't want to do this. Why can't you fucking people understand that?

SHARON WALKER

Patricia you don't know how . . .

DR. MORGAN

(cuts Sharon off)

Remember what I told you all? We are not here to judge each other. If she doesn't feel like talking she does not have to. We can not force anyone here to talk.

SHARON WALKER

(with an attitude)

Fine, it is her life!

Patricia jumps across the table and grabs Sharon.

PATRICIA

You don't even know me bitch!

Several women try to pull the two ladies apart. Suddenly, about ten prison guards rush into the room and separate Patricia and Sharon.

They put some sort of cuffs or wrist restraints on Patricia and Sharon and escort both of them out.

GUARD #1

So Dr. Morgan, now you see why we stay in here.

DR. MORGAN

(looking puzzled)

Well this is the first time this has ever happened.

GUARD #1

Effective immediately, today's session is now officially closed. So ladies let's move out.

DR. MORGAN

Okay ladies, you heard. Hopefully we can continue this session tomorrow.

GUARD #1

I wouldn't bet on it!

INT. PATRICIA'S CELL - NIGHT

Patricia is having a nightmare as she lies in her bed. She twists and turns violently, and she is sweating profusely.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ANDREW AND PATRICIA'S HOME - ONE YEAR EARLIER- DAY

ANDREW ROBINSON, Patricia's husband, and a 32 year old Caucasian male, walks towards her with a mean expression.

He has both fists balled up. Patricia begins to back up slowly, but ends up in a corner.

Her husband grabs her by the throat with his left hand, pins her against the wall, and begins beating her violently with his right hand.

INT. PATRICIA'S CELL - MOMENTS LATER

Patricia begins to scream out loudly. Her cries break the night's silence.

PATRICIA
No Andrew! No Andrew! I'll do
whatever you want!

An INMATE, who is Patricia's cell mate can be heard shouting
at Patricia.

INMATE
Girl what the hell is wrong with
you? Are you crazy or something?

Patricia awakens from her nightmare. She sits straight up
like a dead person arising and begins breathing heavily.

GUARD #2 (O.S.)
Cell Block "C" ladies keep it down!

INMATE
That bitch is crazy!

GUARD #2 (O.S.)
I said keep it down! If I have to
come in there somebody is going to
the hole!

INT. DR. MORGAN'S OFFICE - MORNING

A guard brings Patricia to Dr. Morgan's office. This time she
has on the wrist restraints and shackles.

GUARD #1
Here she is Dr. Morgan. You should
be okay with her this time.

DR. MORGAN
(Straightening his desk)
Please take the restraints off of
her.

GUARD #1
Are you sure? It's sort of against
policy.

DR. MORGAN
I am positive.

Guard #1 starts to unshackle Patricia but then puts them back
on.

GUARD #1
Doctor I think I better leave them
on.

DR. MORGAN

I really don't think they will be necessary.

GUARD #1

Sorry, Doctor Morgan, but It's for your own safety. I'll be right outside in case you have any problems with her. As for you young lady, don't you dare start no shit in here!

The guard turns and walks outside. Patricia sucks her teeth and flips off the guard once the guard turns her back to walk out.

DR. MORGAN

Hello Patricia.

Patricia does not respond, but she does look around the room. She then looks down at a picture that is sitting on Dr. Morgan's desk.

The picture is of Dr. Morgan, his wife, his daughter and his son.

DR. MORGAN

As I said in the session, nobody is going to force you to talk about your story, and if you don't want to talk about what happened to you, that is fine.

PATRICIA

(picks up a picture)

Is this your family?

DR. MORGAN

Yes it is. That is my wife Julie, my son Jerry and my daughter Cheryl. Why do you ask?

PATRICIA

I was just curious.

DR. MORGAN

Patricia I want to get straight to the point. I brought you here to tell you that I may have to release you from the sessions. I simply cannot let one person destroy this program. There has been too much success here with the program.

PATRICIA

You know that I will be stuck in this hell hole longer, right?

DR. MORGAN

I don't have anything to do with that.

PATRICIA

What do they want from me? I don't want to tell my damn story! I just want to forget about it.

DR. MORGAN

Unfortunately, that is not what the state wants. They feel there has to be some sort of rehabilitation for any woman that has gone through what you went through. They mandate this program and frankly I agree with them.

PATRICIA

Okay fine! I will go through the session, but I do not want to do it with the other inmates.

DR. MORGAN

Is that what this is all about? You don't want to do this with the other inmates?

PATRICIA

I really don't want to do it at all, but if I have to do it, I would rather not do it with them.

DR. MORGAN

So basically you would like to have private sessions, right?

PATRICIA

Yes, that is exactly what I want.

DR. MORGAN

I will see what I can do. Now, I am not going to make any guarantees, but I will see what I can do. Now if I do this for you, you are going to have to promise me that there will be no more outbursts.

PATRICIA

Don't worry Dr. Morgan. If you can do this you won't have any more problems out of me.

DR. MORGAN

Okay Patricia. I will see you on Friday to let you know what happens. Keep in mind that this is our last ditch effort to rehabilitate you and get you through this state mandated program.

PATRICIA

Okay Dr. Morgan. I have one more question.

DR. MORGAN

What is it Patricia?

PATRICIA

How old is your baby?

DR. MORGAN

He is about eighteen months old now, why?

PATRICIA

I just wanted to know. . . Anyway I will see you Friday.

INT. THE PRISON CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON

Patricia is sitting at the table all by herself. Carol Witherspoon approaches with a tray of food.

CAROL WITHERSPOON

Do you mind if I sit here?

PATRICIA

No.

CAROL WITHERSPOON

(With a puzzled look)

No to sitting down here or no you don't mind?

PATRICIA

No I do not mind if you sit here. You're Carol, right?

CAROL WITHERSPOON

Yeah that's me.

PATRICIA

Well I am sure you probably know me already, but my name is. . .

CAROL WITHERSPOON

Patricia.

PATRICIA

I told you.

CAROL WITHERSPOON

Anyway, I just want to cut through the chase and ask you what your problem is.

PATRICIA

I don't know what you are talking about.

CAROL WITHERSPOON

Oh, I think you do.

PATRICIA

Look, I just do not believe that they can help me. Shit, do you think anyone gives a damn about what happened to us?

CAROL WITHERSPOON

Maybe they do and maybe they don't, but we are going to have to trust somebody, right?

PATRICIA

To tell the truth I just want to forget about it. It hurts so bad and I do not want to keep re-living it over and over.

CAROL WITHERSPOON

So do you think holding it all in is going to make the pain go away?

PATRICIA

I don't know. All I know is that I am confused.

CAROL WITHERSPOON

Do you think you are the only woman that has gone through this shit? Every last woman in the program has a story to tell.

(MORE)

CAROL WITHERSPOON (cont'd)

Some of the stories are different,
and some of the stories sound very
much alike, but they all have
terrifying stories to tell.

PATRICIA

Yeah I know. I heard your story and
it sent chills up and down my
spine.

CAROL WITHERSPOON

I am sure your story is just as
terrifying.

PATRICIA

I don't know, I guess so.

CAROL WITHERSPOON

Well I just wanted to let you know
that you do not have to feel
ashamed of what you did. What it
all comes down to is you were
protecting yourself. Shit it was
you or him.

PATRICIA

Yeah he definitely would have
killed me. I am sure of that.

CAROL WITHERSPOON

I want you to know that I tried to
bottle up the rage inside myself.
It began to tear me apart from the
inside out. I even thought about
ending it all. I did not get any
relief until I told my story. Now I
feel like I can help other women
get through the pain. Trust me
Patricia, you will feel so much
better if you just let it go.

PATRICIA

I am sorry, but I guess I am just
not like the rest of you. It does
not make me feel any better to talk
about what happened to me. In fact
I think it makes me feel worse. I
tried going to one of these
programs when my husband first
started beating me. Some of the
women in that program were beaten
half to death. I had terrible
nightmares for weeks.

(MORE)

PATRICIA (cont'd)

After that I just never wanted to go into any programs.

GUARD #2

Okay you two Princesses, you need to hurry up so the next group can come in and eat.

CAROL WITHERSPOON

Okay Patricia, I guess I will talk to you later.

PATRICIA

(dumps her tray)

Okay, take it easy. Which Cell Block are you in?

CAROL WITHERSPOON

I'm in Cell Block "C."

PATRICIA

Okay I will see you later Carol. I'm in "C" too.

CAROL WITHERSPOON

That's cool. Remember to stay strong girl

PATRICIA

Oh I will.

INT. DR. MORGAN'S OFFICE - MORNING

Patricia has a conversation with Dr. Morgan. It seems Patricia has finally come around to tell her story.

DR. MORGAN

Okay Patricia you wanted private sessions so here we are.

PATRICIA

I actually changed my mind about that.

DR. MORGAN

What do you mean you changed your mind? I had to pull a lot of strings to get you these sessions. I don't have time for games. Now I have quite a few women in here who really do want my help. So what is it going to be Patricia, do you want my help or not?

PATRICIA

Yes Dr. Morgan I want your help. In fact I am ready to tell my story.

DR. MORGAN

That's really great news Patricia. What changed your mind if I may ask?

PATRICIA

Well basically I had time to think about what you and some of the girls in the program were saying. If I can just stop one woman from going through the hell I have been through it would help me get through this.

DR. MORGAN

I am sure it would help you with the healing process too. (Looks at his watch) Well there is a group session in two hours; do you want to tell your story to me or the group?

PATRICIA

I will tell it to you first. I think it will help prepare me to tell it to the group. I guess you can call this a practice session.

DR. MORGAN

Okay Patricia that sounds like a good idea. Do you mind if I tape the session?

PATRICIA

No I don't mind.

DR. MORGAN

Are you comfortable?

PATRICIA

Yeah I'm fine. I just want to get this over with.

Dr. Morgan pushes the record button on the tape recorder and speaks into the microphone.

DR. MORGAN

I am Doctor Morgan from Hanford Women's Correctional Facility.

(MORE)

DR. MORGAN (cont'd)

It is the sixteenth day of November, twenty-twenty-three. The time is zero eight hundred hours. I am interviewing Patricia Robinson, a victim of domestic violence, who is doing time here for killing her husband.

He gives Patricia the thumbs-up sign to signify the start of the session to Patricia.

PATRICIA

Well my name is Patricia Robinson and I am serving time here for killing my husband like Doctor Morgan said. I decided to tell my story in hopes it will start the healing process and I figure it might help other domestic violence victims. So I guess I will start from the beginning and tell the whole story. It all started back about two years ago. . .

Patricia stares straight ahead. We fade out on Patricia and FLASHBACK to that summer and the events leading to that fatal confrontation with her husband.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

Patricia and her two best friends, YVETTE and VANESSA, are sitting at a restaurant table outside eating lunch and talking.

PATRICIA

Yvette how is your husband?

YVETTE

Oh he's doing fine.

VANESSA

You hanging out with us tonight too?

YVETTE

I have to see if my husband has something planned.

PATRICIA

Damn girl when is the last time you "rolled" with us?

YVETTE

About two or three weeks ago, why?

PATRICIA

You used to hang with us more often before.

YVETTE

Well I am married you know, so I can't always hang with you guys. You two are single.

PATRICIA

That's right and ready to mingle!

YVETTE

Oh really? When is the last time you had a date Patricia?

PATRICIA

It has been a while but I'm cool with that. Shit I need to find me a strong man.

VANESSA

There are plenty of strong men out there.

YVETTE

I guess she needs a "thug in her life."

PATRICIA

No not a thug, just a strong man.

YVETTE

She always attracts those weird ones though.

PATRICIA

They haven't really been weird, just a little different.

YVETTE

Whatever! Girl I keep telling you that if you don't loosen up you are going to die single.

VANESSA

Why do we always end up arguing about our men or lack thereof?

YVETTE

I don't know you two usually like to start this mess.

VANESSA

Anyway, you still going to the movies with us later?

YVETTE

Yeah I guess so, what time did you say it starts?

VANESSA

(Looks at her watch)

Well it looks like we got about two hours for the next show.

PATRICIA

Then we better get moving because I need to get some shopping done.

VANESSA

Girl we have two hours. Besides I thought the plan was for us to go shopping after the movie so we wouldn't have to rush.

YVETTE

How much time do you think I have out here? I have to get back to my husband.

PATRICIA

Why? He isn't going anywhere. He'll be home when you get there. Then again maybe not.

YVETTE

(takes out her phone)

You two are tripping but I will tell you what I am going to do. I will call Roger right now.

Patricia and Vanessa look at each other and shake their heads. Yvette can be heard talking in the background.

PATRICIA

So what did he say?

YVETTE

(Closing her flip phone)
He said I could hang with you guys
this afternoon but he does have
plans for me this evening.
Satisfied?

VANESSA

What I need to know is where are we
going when we leave here?

PATRICIA

Well we can just do some light
shopping. We'll go to the movies
and then we can call it a day. How
is that?

YVETTE

It sounds good to me. How about you
Vanessa? You down with that?

VANESSA

Yeah I am cool with that.

YVETTE

Okay well let's bounce.

INT. ANDREW ROBINSON'S APARTMENT - MORNING

ANDREW ROBINSON, a 32-year-old Caucasian male, is lying in
his bed sleeping. He is obviously dreaming or having a
nightmare.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ANDREW ROBINSON'S CHILDHOOD HOME - DAY

It is now twenty years earlier. Andrew is a twelve-year-old
boy. He is under a kitchen table, crying and trembling as he
watches his father beat his mother.

He darts from under the table, grabs his father by the leg,
and tries to bring him down. His father knocks him down and
stands over him with his fists balled up.

Andrew's POV: His father bends down towards him and reaches
out to grab him.

INT. ANDREW ROBINSON'S APARTMENT (PRESENT) - THAT MORNING

Suddenly, Andrew wakes up. He is breathing hard and is soaked
with sweat. His alarm clock is ringing. He takes his pillow
and throws it clear across his room.

He gets up and starts throwing things and tearing things apart in his room in a fit of rage.

INT. PATRICIA'S PARENTS' HOME - MORNING

Patricia has breakfast with her mother DONNA and her father CHARLES. They have a conversation as Donna sets the food on the table and Charles reads the newspaper.

CHARLES

(Puts down the newspaper)
Smells good baby.

DONNA

Thanks honey.

PATRICIA

Daddy you are going to be late again.

CHARLES

(Looks at his watch)
Actually I'm doing pretty well this morning.

DONNA

That's certainly good news.

CHARLES

Honey I haven't been late all week.

DONNA

Yeah but you were late twice last week.

CHARLES

By the way I may be working late this evening. I need to catch up on some work.

DONNA

Okay I guess your dinner will be in the refrigerator.

PATRICIA

I am going over to Vanessa's house right after work so I won't be home either.

DONNA

How is she doing?

PATRICIA

Oh her and Yvette are both fine.

DONNA

It's hard to believe you three have been friends for so long. It's been what, about twelve or thirteen years?

PATRICIA

Actually it's been more like fifteen years because I have known them since we moved to The Bay Area.

CHARLES

That's right you were ten years old.

DONNA

How is Yvette's husband doing? Last I heard he was worried about getting laid off.

PATRICIA

Roger is doing fine but he's still worried.

CHARLES

That is certainly some bad news. I sure hope things work out for him. I been there before and it ain't no fun.

PATRICIA

Tell me about it.

DONNA

So what about you Patricia, still nobody special in your life?

PATRICIA

No, not yet.

CHARLES

Good she needs to stay focused.

DONNA

Honey she is twenty-five years old. We can't expect her to stay single for the rest of her life. I mean don't you want some grand kids?

CHARLES

Yeah I guess that would be nice at some point if she can find the right man.

DONNA
(Pats Patricia's back)
Don't worry, Patricia, you will
meet "Mr. Right."

PATRICIA
Oh, I am not worried, mamma.

INT. AN OFFICE CUBICLE AT PATRICIA'S JOB - MORNING

Patricia is at her job, sitting at her desk in an office cubicle. Andrew comes in to repair her computer.

ANDREW
(Peaks into her cubicle)
Hello.

PATRICIA
May I help you?

ANDREW
I am a Computer Repair Technician.
Your receptionist sent me back
here.

PATRICIA
Oh, come on in. It's this computer
right here.

As Andrew bends down to take a look at the computer, Patricia takes his Identification badge, which is hanging around his neck, and pulls it closer to examine it.

PATRICIA
(Somewhat flirtatious)
Andrew Robinson. That's a nice
name. I like that.

ANDREW
Thank you.

PATRICIA
(Holds out her hand)
Oh, I'm sorry, I am Patricia
Campbell.

ANDREW
(Shakes her hand)
Hello Patricia Campbell.

PATRICIA
Well, let me get out of your way so
you can do your job. You need
anything?

ANDREW

No I'm okay. By the way you're not in my way.

PATRICIA

I need to take a break anyway. I will be in the break room if you need me or you can just ask anyone from the office.

ANDREW

You all have coffee back there right?

PATRICIA

Yeah we sure do, you want some?

ANDREW

Yes, I could use a cup or two.

PATRICIA

Okay, I will go get you a cup.

ANDREW

That's okay. I shouldn't be too long here. I will head back there after I finish.

PATRICIA

Then maybe I will see you back there, but if not, you have a good day.

ANDREW

You too. It was nice meeting you.

INT. THE OFFICE BREAK ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Patricia is sitting at the table having a donut and coffee. Andrew does show up a few minutes later. Patricia's eyes light up like a deer in headlights.

PATRICIA

Oh, you made it back here. Help yourself. I made fresh coffee and there are some donuts on the table.

ANDREW

(Pouring coffee)
Thanks.

PATRICIA

So did you find out what was wrong with my computer?

ANDREW

Yeah and I actually took care of it. It's working fine now.

PATRICIA

So how long have you been doing that?

ANDREW

(Sips coffee)

About four or five years. What about you, how long have you been here?

PATRICIA

I don't know, about two years or so.

ANDREW

(looks at his watch)

I guess I better take this with me. I need to get going. Here is my card. Feel free to call me.

Andrew pulls a business card out of his pocket. He hands it to Patricia.

PATRICIA

(Taking the card)

Can I ask you a somewhat funny question?

ANDREW

Go ahead.

PATRICIA

Would I be calling you for business or pleasure?

ANDREW

Well I will put it this way. You can call me anytime. That's if you're single of course. I mean I didn't see a ring so I hope I am not being too forward.

PATRICIA

No, you're not being too forward. I will give you a call, of course if you are really single and I am not going to get cussed out by some woman if I call.

Andrew laughs and shakes his head.

ANDREW

Don't worry you won't get cursed out. I am really single. I wouldn't give you my number if I weren't.

PATRICIA

That's definitely hard to believe. You are attractive and you seem to be a nice guy.

ANDREW

But it is true I am single.

PATRICIA

Okay I guess I will have to believe you. When is a good time to call?

ANDREW

I should be settled in around eight or nine.

PATRICIA

I will call at nine.

ANDREW

That's cool. I look forward to talking to you.

EXT. PATRICIA'S HOME - SEVERAL DAYS LATER - EVENING

Patricia is getting ready to go on a date with Andrew. Her parents notice how bubbly she is. She is SINGING and DANCING around the house.

CHARLES

Okay Patricia, tell us what's going on.

PATRICIA

Nothing is going on daddy, why you asking me that?

CHARLES

Well you have been dancing around here like you won the Lottery.

PATRICIA

I just have been in a good mood that's all.

DONNA

Yeah right Patricia. Tell us all about him.

(MORE)

DONNA (cont'd)

I have seen that look before and it's definitely because you met somebody.

PATRICIA

(Rolls her eyes, sighs)

It's just a guy named Andrew I met on the job last week.

DONNA

You met him last week and. . .
Continue Patricia.

PATRICIA

I met him and he seems to be a nice guy.

CHARLES

Yeah they all seem nice at first!

DONNA

When do we get to meet him?

PATRICIA

Mom I don't know. Let me get to know him first, I just met him myself.

CHARLES

What does he do, does he work with you?

PATRICIA

No he works on computers. He is some sort of Computer Technician I think. He came to my office to repair my computer.

CHARLES

(Opens a Newspaper)

A Computer Technician? I like this guy already! I would really love to meet this guy, Patricia.

PATRICIA

(Mumbles but audibly)

Yeah, I bet you would.

CHARLES

What did you say?

PATRICIA

Oh, I was just talking to myself.

CHARLES
Watch it, young lady.

PATRICIA
(Puts on her sweater)
Well, I am getting ready to head
over to Andrew's house.

DONNA
Are you coming back home?

PATRICIA
Mom!

DONNA
What?

PATRICIA
Of course, I'm coming back home.

DONNA
What time should we expect you?

PATRICIA
I should be home by eleven.

DONNA
At least tell us where he lives.
Hell, this guy could be a damn
Serial killer or ax murderer, for
all you know!

PATRICIA
I doubt it! Could you two just
relax? I will be fine. It's not
like it's my first date.

DONNA
(Throws her hands up)
Okay Patricia, have a good time.

INT. A RESTAURANT - EVENING

Patricia walks into a very nice and romantic restaurant with
Andrew.

A WAITRESS leads them to their table. The tables have lit
candles and there is also a fireplace flickering in the
background.

The sounds of soft music can be heard playing in the
background.

WAITRESS

(Hands them their menus)
Can I get you two anything while
you check out your menus?

PATRICIA

I will just have some diet seven-
up.

WAITRESS

How about you sir?

ANDREW

I'll have a glass of Champagne.

WAITRESS

Okay I will get that for you right
away.

The waitress leaves.

PATRICIA

So tell me something about yourself
Andrew.

ANDREW

What do you want to know?

PATRICIA

Everything about you I guess.

The Waitress comes back and gives Andrew and Patricia their
drinks.

WAITRESS

(Sets the drinks down)
Are you folks ready to order?

ANDREW

Go ahead Patricia.

PATRICIA

I'll have the steak and lobster
special.

WAITRESS

(Writing on a pad)
How would you like your steak
cooked?

PATRICIA

I would like it well done.

WAITRESS

Would you like a baked potato or wedges?

PATRICIA

I think I'll have the wedges with your Caesar's salad.

WAITRESS

Okay and you sir?

ANDREW

I'll have the Honey Barbecued Ribs, a baked potato and Cole Slaw.

WAITRESS

(Collects the menus)

Okay I'll be back shortly.

The Waitress walks away.

ANDREW

Patricia you haven't even said whether you like this place or not. I mean I went out of my way to get this place for us.

PATRICIA

Oh I'm sorry. It's real nice and romantic in here. I like it a lot. Believe me I appreciate this. It's a great first date that's for sure. If you are trying to win me over and impress me, you certainly are well on your way.

ANDREW

Good, because we're going Dutch.

PATRICIA

We're going what?

ANDREW

Got you!

PATRICIA

(Punches Andrew's arm)

Andrew, that's not funny!

ANDREW

(Laughs)

I wouldn't do that to you.

PATRICIA

I would hope not! Just look at the prices on this menu.

ANDREW

So you want me to tell you about myself right?

PATRICIA

Yes, I do.

ANDREW

Well gee where do I begin? I mean my life would be a best seller if it ever became a book. It would be called, "The Trials and Tribulations of Andrew Robinson."

PATRICIA

Oh really?

ANDREW

Yeah, I think so. You see I actually came from a broken family.

PATRICIA

I'm sorry Andrew I didn't mean to spoil the mood.

ANDREW

That's okay, I don't mind talking about it. I am well over it now.

PATRICIA

You sure? We can change the subject if you want.

ANDREW

Patricia I know it's early in this relationship or whatever you want to call it, but I feel comfortable with you. I feel fine telling you about my life.

PATRICIA

Well I kind of feel comfortable with you too which is unusual for me so soon. Anyway, since you feel okay talking to me, I'm all ears.

ANDREW

Hold on, here comes the food.

The Waitress comes back and sits Patricia and Andrew's food on their table.

WAITRESS
Is there anything else I can get
you folks?

PATRICIA
Not me, I'm fine.

ANDREW
Maybe some more dinner rolls and
some more Champagne.

WAITRESS
Okay sir I will get that for you.

The waitress leaves.

ANDREW
Let me see, where should I begin?
Well, basically I had a real rough
childhood. Look I don't know if
this is a good time or place to
talk to you about this.

PATRICIA
Why?

ANDREW
It might spoil the mood.

PATRICIA
Oh come on Andrew just tell me! You
said you was okay with it.

The Waitress comes back and places the dinner rolls and
champagne on the table.

WAITRESS
Can I get you folks anything else?

PATRICIA
(irritated)
No, we're fine!

The waitress is startled and jumps.

WAITRESS
Okay, enjoy your meal.

The Waitress walks away rather quickly.

ANDREW

Patricia!

PATRICIA

What! I'm all ready to hear your story, but the damn Waitress keeps coming back and interrupting you. I want to hear what happened to you. The Anticipation is killing me!

ANDREW

Well, actually many kids go through what I went through. Basically, I grew up watching my father abuse my mother. He later started abusing me too.

PATRICIA

That's terrible.

ANDREW

My mother finally fled with us after she couldn't take it any more. I never saw my father again and it's been over twenty-five years.

PATRICIA

So your mother raised you?

ANDREW

Yeah. We struggled to make ends meet but she always managed to keep a positive attitude and keep us focused.

PATRICIA

You have any brothers and sisters?

ANDREW

I have an older brother in Oregon and a younger sister in Los Angeles.

PATRICIA

You all stay in touch?

ANDREW

Yeah, we call each other and visit each other sometimes.

PATRICIA

How's your mother? Is she okay?

ANDREW

She died a couple of years ago. She had a massive heart attack.

PATRICIA

Okay Andrew, you don't have to go any further.

ANDREW

Oh I'm fine. Actually telling my story is somewhat therapeutic for me.

PATRICIA

Have you ever been married?

ANDREW

Yes I have... Twice.

PATRICIA

You've been married two times? You're only thirty-two so what happened?

ANDREW

I guess I just wasn't ready to be married before.

PATRICIA

(jokingly)

You didn't kill them did you?

ANDREW

(Laughs)

No they're both alive.

PATRICIA

You have any kids?

ANDREW

No.

PATRICIA

Thirty-two with no kids, or is it no kids you know of?

ANDREW

No kids period, and you?

PATRICIA

Nope, I don't have any kids either. No "baby mama drama" here.

ANDREW

That's cool. So you don't have a man in your life?

PATRICIA

No, I have been single for about three months, how about you?

ANDREW

Well, I definitely don't have a man in my life.

PATRICIA

(Laughs)

You know what I mean!

ANDREW

No, I am single right now. So tell me a little more about yourself.

PATRICIA

Oh, Andrew, maybe next time.

ANDREW

Patricia, what's wrong with now?

PATRICIA

I promise I will tell you next time.

ANDREW

So you are saying there is going to be a next time?

PATRICIA

Yeah, I think so.

ANDREW

Are you ready to go dancing?

PATRICIA

Sure, where are we going?

ANDREW

I know you're not thirty-plus, but I like that club downtown. It's really not too far from here either.

PATRICIA

Which club?

ANDREW

It's called Club Spice.

PATRICIA
I've heard of that club. I hear
it's pretty nice.

ANDREW
I'm sure we'll have fun.

PATRICIA
(Looks at her watch)
It's still kind of early.

ANDREW
Want to check out a movie?

PATRICIA
Yeah what do you want to see?

ANDREW
Let's go see "A Cop's Justice."

PATRICIA
That's the new action flick with
Lucy Liu right?

ANDREW
Yeah it's supposed to be good. I
mean it got great reviews and the
previews looked real good.

PATRICIA
Okay, we can check it out. I like
action flicks.

ANDREW
Good. I like you already. I thought
you might want to see that movie
called "The Lost Love Diaries." I'm
sorry, but I just can't get into
the "Chick Flicks." They bore me. I
like to see someone get shot,
stabbed, or beaten up.

PATRICIA
(Laughs)
You're crazy Andrew. I can tell
that already. Actually I do like
love stories and Soap Operas but I
happen to like action flicks too.

ANDREW
I hope you like to dance too.

PATRICIA
Oh, I love to dance.

ANDREW

(Looks under the table)
It's a good thing you wore flat shoes.

PATRICIA

These are sort of my "do anything in" shoes. They look nice but they don't have a big-ass heel.

ANDREW

You'll be glad you wore them by the time I get finished with you, trust me on that.

PATRICIA

Is that so? I guess we'll see about that because I can get down on the dance floor.

ANDREW

Okay well let's get going. I guess we will both be dancing our asses off.

INT. CLUB SPICE'S DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

Patricia and Andrew are on the dance floor of Club Spice. Flashing and blinking lights illuminate the dance floor.

Patricia is clearly the better dancer and is wearing Andrew out. Other people on the dance floor stop and watch as a small crowd forms around them.

Andrew, clearly out-done and embarrassed, grabs Patricia by the arm and leads her back to the table.

INT. ANDREW'S CAR - LATER THAT NIGHT

Andrew appears to be exhausted. He rolls down his window and leans his car seat back to a reclining position.

ANDREW

I should have known you would have all that damn energy.

PATRICIA

You sure should have. Perhaps before you started running your mouth.

ANDREW

I guess those seven years I have on
you caught up to me on the dance
floor.

PATRICIA

Oh now it's an age thing right?

ANDREW

Yeah it looks that way. Hell, if I
was seven years younger they would
be taken you out of here on a
stretcher.

PATRICIA

(Looks at her watch)

Well Andrew I had a good time but
it's starting to get late. I better
be getting back home.

ANDREW

(Re-adjusts his seat)

Okay Patricia I'll take you home. I
mean I would hate to see your
parents send a Posse out after me.

PATRICIA

I see you got jokes, Andrew.

INT. PATRICIA'S OFFICE CUBICLE - MORNING

A female CO-WORKER brings Patricia a beautiful bouquet of
long- stemmed red roses. Balloons are also attached and float
freely above the bouquet.

PATRICIA

Those are for me?

CO-WORKER

Yeah the Florist just brought them
in. They're from some guy named
Andrew. This card came with them.

She hands Patricia the card.

PATRICIA

Wow I got a card too?

CO-WORKER

Yeah and the words are so sweet.

PATRICIA

How do you know that?

CO-WORKER

Whoa! I better be getting back to work.

PATRICIA

Yeah right, maybe you better. Girl you better stop reading other folks' mail too.

CO-WORKER

I'm sorry! I was just curious. This is the first time I ever saw a guy send you anything since you been here.

PATRICIA

Your point?

CO-WORKER

Look, I need to get back to work. Congratulations.

Patricia's Co-worker walks away rather quickly to avoid a confrontation. Patricia just shakes her head.

PATRICIA

(Mumbles)

Yeah bitch, you need to go get a life and stop worrying about everybody else's business you trifling hoe.

Patricia reads the card and a big smile comes over her face. She smells the roses and reads the balloons. The balloons read, "Just Thinking of You."

INT. PATRICIA'S HOUSE - EVENING - ONE MONTH LATER

Patricia is on the phone with Andrew. She hangs up and Donna and Charles just look at her like she's crazy.

PATRICIA

What?

DONNA

Can we use the phone sometimes too?

PATRICIA

I'm sorry, Andrew and I got carried away, I guess.

CHARLES

You have been spending an awful lot of time with this guy.

PATRICIA

Well he seems to be real nice and I
am really starting to like him.

CHARLES

Oh boy, here we go again!

DONNA

(jokingly)

What are you talking about Charles?
You seemed nice when I first met
you, too.

Donna laughs.

CHARLES

Honey, that's not funny!

PATRICIA

(Laughs)

Yes, it is. Mom just clowned you.

CHARLES

Okay, we will just have to see how
this goes. I hope I am not the one
who has to say, "I told you so."
Lord knows this wouldn't be the
first time.

DONNA

Honey, you need to think more
positively. Maybe this guy will be
the one for Patricia. Let's just
try to be a little more supportive.

CHARLES

(shaking his head)

Okay, I will do my best. But I
can't promise you two anything.

EXT. MIDTOWN ATLANTA - DAY

Patricia and Andrew walk down the street holding hands. They
briefly stop and embrace. Andrew gives her a passionate kiss.

INT. ANDREW'S CAR - LATER THAT EVENING

Andrew and Patricia are in Andrew's car, which has the
windows steaming up. Andrew starts rubbing Patricia's leg as
he kisses her.

ANDREW

So, would you like to come over for
a while?

PATRICIA

(moves Andrew's hand away)
I don't think that's such a good idea.

ANDREW

Why? We have been together for months, and you have not seen the inside of my place.

PATRICIA

Maybe I can come by tomorrow, Andrew.

ANDREW

That's what you always say.

PATRICIA

Well, why do you always ask when it's late at night? I don't want to just be a booty call.

ANDREW

(Starts the car)
Okay Patricia I can take you home... You sure you don't want to just stop in for a minute?

INT. ANDREW'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Andrew and Patricia are wrestling wildly on Andrew's bed. It appears to be heated passion as they practically tear each other's clothes off. Suddenly, Patricia pauses the action.

PATRICIA

(Breathing heavily)
Andrew wait a second.

ANDREW

What's wrong?

PATRICIA

You have a condom?

ANDREW

Yeah I have one right here.

Andre pulls out a condom from his nightstand. Andrew and Patricia make wild and passionate love.

Andrew collapses on top of Patricia after an intense orgasm. Patricia holds him in her arms as they both fall asleep.

INT. ANDREW'S HOME - THE NEXT MORNING - DAY

Andrew is still in bed with Patricia. Andrew tosses and turns as he has another one of his childhood nightmares.

Patricia wakes him up. He jumps up and practically pushes her out the bed.

PATRICIA
Andrew, it's me!

Andrew sits on the edge of the bed to get his bearings.

PATRICIA
You were having a nightmare.

ANDREW
Yeah, it was the recurring dream I had about my father coming after me.

PATRICIA
It's okay, baby. I'm here with you.

ANDREW
I'll be okay. I deal with this shit all the time.

PATRICIA
You sure you'll be okay?

ANDREW
Yeah I am sure.

Andrew glances over to his alarm clock.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
Oh damn! I'm late for work!

PATRICIA
Andrew, today is Saturday.

ANDREW
Oh that's right.

PATRICIA
You hungry?

ANDREW
Yeah why?

PATRICIA
Want to go to breakfast?

ANDREW

Why? I can make breakfast right here.

PATRICIA

Really?

ANDREW

Sure. Let's get a shower and then I will cook you a nice breakfast.

PATRICIA

Sounds good to me but let me call my folks to let them know where I am. My cellphone died, so can I use yours?

ANDREW

(Shakes his head)

Damn! You calling them again?

PATRICIA

Why do you get an attitude every time I call my parents or my girlfriends?

ANDREW

Patricia let's not spoil our time together. Please don't go there.

PATRICIA

What are you talking about?

ANDREW

Well, you are not a sixteen-year-old, but you are constantly calling your folks whenever we go out.

PATRICIA

Andrew they are my parents and they worry about me. Especially when a guy they have yet to meet keeps me out all night.

ANDREW

Patricia that's bullshit! They don't need to know your every move.

PATRICIA

Why are we even arguing about this? It's not a subject for discussion. Now, can I use your phone or not?

Andrew takes the phone and sort of throws the phone towards Patricia.

ANDREW
Here's the damn phone!

PATRICIA
What the hell is your problem?

ANDREW
Don't ask me what my Goddamn
problem is Patricia! I Just told
you what my problem is.

Patricia slams down the phone and gets up to leave. She starts gathering her stuff as Andrew stands in front of her to block her departure. Andrew then grabs Patricia's right arm.

PATRICIA
(Pulls away from Andrew)
Andrew move!

ANDREW
Look, Patricia, I'm sorry. I guess
I woke up on the wrong side of the
bed. Can we start this over?

PATRICIA
Don't talk to me like that! I am
not some slut from the hood.

ANDREW
I told you I am sorry. Now, what do
you want from me?

PATRICIA
Just take me home, Andrew!

ANDREW
Fine, I'll take you home! Better
yet, why don't you take the bus or
tell your parents or your damn
girlfriends to come get you?

They pause momentarily as if to cool off. Andrew puts his arms around Patricia and pulls her close to him.

Patricia resists him at first but then gives in and wraps her arms around him. They both sit on the bed holding hands.

PATRICIA

Shit, what was that all about? I mean last night was so beautiful, and then we wake up ready to kill each other.

ANDREW

I guess it's because I'm falling for you, and I am afraid.

PATRICIA

What are you afraid of, Andrew?

ANDREW

Well, it just seems that everyone I get close to or love either leaves me or dies.

PATRICIA

That's not your fault. There is absolutely nothing you can do about what happened to you in the past. At some point, you will have to get on with your life.

ANDREW

Yeah, I know. Sometimes, that is easier said than done. So how about that breakfast? Are you still hungry?

PATRICIA

Sure! Actually, I'm starving.

ANDREW

Good, then I know you will enjoy my cooking.

PATRICIA

By the way Andrew I have strong feelings for you too. I was afraid to let you know because I thought it was kind of early in the relationship, and I didn't want you to start treating me different.

ANDREW

(Hugs Patricia)

We're going to be okay baby.

EXT. PIEDMONT PARK - AFTERNOON

Patricia, Yvette, and Vanessa are sitting on a blanket in the grass. The weather is very beautiful as children and families play.

PATRICIA

I really like this guy.

VANESSA

We figured that much. Shit, you done got worst than Yvette, and you're not even married.

YVETTE

She might as well be married. She practically lives with him.

PATRICIA

We still spend time together.

VANESSA

Yeah, once in a blue moon.

PATRICIA

Look, guys, you know we will always be tight. We just need to support each other.

VANESSA

Yeah, you have a point there but we have been friends for so long I guess we don't want any men coming between us.

PATRICIA

Well that hasn't happened to us so far. Yvette is married, and you have been married before.

YVETTE

True.

VANESSA

You met our men whenever we were dating and you usually let us meet the men you were dating.

PATRICIA

What's your point Vanessa? Are you saying that because I haven't introduced Andrew to you and Yvette?

VANESSA

Yeah that's why I am saying that.

PATRICIA

Don't worry you guys will get to meet him.

VANESSA

Every time you're out with us he calls you to come home. It seems like he doesn't want you with us.

PATRICIA

No it's not like that, he just likes to spend a lot of time with me.

VANESSA

Yeah right, I bet.

Three well-built and attractive African-American men walk up to the girls. Their names are SEAN, RICK and BARRY.

SEAN

Hello ladies, my name is Sean and these are my Homeboys Rick and Barry. How are you all doing this fine day?

VANESSA

We're fine. What did you say your name is?

SEAN

I'm Sean and you?

VANESSA

I'm Vanessa, and these are my two best friends, Yvette and Patricia.

RICK

So you all are just chilling?

PATRICIA

Yeah we're just relaxing.

BARRY

So what are you all up to? I mean is it okay if we chill with you?

VANESSA

Sure have a seat.

The three guys take a seat.

YVETTE
(Whispers to Vanessa)
Why you being so fast girl?

VANESSA
(holds up her hand)
Hey, ain't no ring on this finger.
I can't help it if you two are
spoken for.

SEAN
Yeah, I guess we should have asked
if you all were spoken for. Not
that it matters now-a-days.

YVETTE
Well I am happily married and it
definitely matters to me.

BARRY
How about you two, you married?

VANESSA
Not me I am single with no kids.

PATRICIA
Well I am....

VANESSA
(Cuts Patricia off)
She's spoken for too. She ain't
married but she might as well be!

PATRICIA
Shut up Vanessa! You don't need to
talk for me.

Andrew is standing behind some trees with some binoculars. He
has followed Patricia to the park. He watches Patricia and
her two friends through the binoculars.

ANDREW
(talking to himself)
Those two whores! I don't want her
with them!

A woman who is walking by, holding her child's hand, stops
and looks at Andrew.

Andrew looks at her with a mean look. She pulls her child by
the hand and quickly walks away.

Andrew pulls out his cell phone and dials Patricia's cell
phone number.

He watches Patricia as she ignores her RINGING cell phone. He shakes his head and storms away angrily.

ANDREW

I guess I am going to have to
straighten her ass out about them
two bitches!

INT. PATRICIA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - AFTERNOON (4 MONTHS LATER)

Patricia, Vanessa and Yvette come into the house and flop on the couch. Patricia turns on the television with the remote.

PATRICIA

Can I get you guys anything?

VANESSA

Yeah I'll take some Champagne.

PATRICIA

How about you Yvette?

YVETTE

I'm cool.

Patricia pours Vanessa a glass of Champagne. She slightly leans across the table and uses her left hand to position herself. Her very noticeable engagement ring can now be seen.

VANESSA

Damn girl!

Patricia jumps and nearly spills the Champagne.

PATRICIA

What?

VANESSA

(Grabs Patricia's hand)

What the hell did you do to him? I
mean, look at the rock on your
finger!

YVETTE

(Takes Patricia's hand)

Patricia, you didn't.

PATRICIA

Yes, I did. He proposed to me
yesterday, and I said yes. That's
what I was going to talk to you all
about.

VANESSA

Patricia you've only known that boy
for what about three or four
months?

PATRICIA

It's been six months, "Ms. Know-it-
all," and my man ain't no boy!

VANESSA

There she goes getting all
defensive.

YVETTE

Patricia she's just saying that
because her man acts like a boy.

VANESSA

Who the hell asked you? For your
information my man doesn't act like
no boy. In fact none of my men have
acted like boys.

YVETTE

(Jokingly)

Well woopy-doo! None of them have
been worth a shit, either!

VANESSA

You're so funny. What about your
husband?

YVETTE

What about him?

PATRICIA

Will you two stop acting like
teenagers?

VANESSA

Well, she started it.

YVETTE

I was just messing with you, girl,
and I get you wired up every time.

PATRICIA

I was hoping to hear some good
advice on marriage. It's not going
to change my mind or anything, but
I thought I could get some advice
from you guys.

VANESSA

Yvette should be able to help you there. She is married and she has always been the one able to hold on to her men the longest. I was only married once but you know it sure wasn't for long. I had to give that crazy fool the ax... Almost literally.

PATRICIA

Yvette that is true. You and Roger been together for a while now and you are the one always able to hang on to your men so school me girl.

YVETTE

Well there is no magic or secret recipe to a successful relationship or marriage. The fact is it is hard work. My relationship with Roger lasts because there is love, understanding, trust and respect. So if you're looking for a secret recipe there are your ingredients.

VANESSA

(Shakes her head)

Oh shit, I guess we got Doctor Ruth started!

PATRICIA

Vanessa shut up!

YVETTE

So you understand where I'm coming from Patricia?

PATRICIA

Yeah and I feel Andrew and I have those ingredients.

VANESSA

Girl how the hell you know that after six months?

PATRICIA

Just trust me I know.

VANESSA

Girl please, I bet you don't even know his shoe size.

PATRICIA
(laughing)
Ten and a half ho!

VANESSA
Damn, he wears a size ten and a half? So, does the shoe size thing apply to him?

YVETTE
What are you talking about, girl?

PATRICIA
I know what she's talking about, and it's none of her business.

YVETTE
So when do we get to meet this Andrew? It's been six months, and you're about to marry this guy.

VANESSA
Yeah, that's true.

PATRICIA
(Reaches in her purse)
You all will get to meet him soon enough but meanwhile here's a picture of him.

Yvette takes the photo first.

YVETTE
This is him? Damn, he's fine!

VANESSA
(Snatches the picture)
Let me check him out.

YVETTE
Vanessa!

VANESSA
(looking at the picture)
Whoa! He is fine for a white boy. Does he have a brother?

PATRICIA
(Snatches the picture)
Yeah, but he wouldn't want your ass! And you know you wouldn't want his ass because you don't date anything but brothers.

VANESSA

No, she didn't! How do you know what I want, heifer?

PATRICIA

I'm just kidding. His brother lives up in Oregon.

YVETTE

Hey Vanessa, that ain't nothing but a five-hour-twenty-minute flight from here.

VANESSA

Sorry, but I don't do the long-distance thing.

PATRICIA

Girl, you need to take what you can get and stop acting like you're all that.

YVETTE

So what did your parents say? I mean, you did tell them, right?

PATRICIA

They both think I lost it, but they're supposed to finally be meeting Andrew on Friday. They don't know he's white yet.

VANESSA

I would love to be a fly on the wall. Especially, to see how your pops reacts.

YVETTE

Don't trip about that. Your parents will never feel you're ready to get married or be on your own. Regardless of who you choose to be with. Especially fathers. But he just wants you to be happy, so I'm sure he will eventually accept him.

VANESSA

Shit, my parents were glad to see my ass leave. I think they had a party when I left. I left on my own, but they wouldn't have cared who I was with.

YVETTE

So you all haven't set a date yet?

PATRICIA

No, not yet.

YVETTE

Well, I guess a congratulation is in order.

PATRICIA

Thanks.

VANESSA

Yeah, congratulations, girl. I still need you to see if you can hook yo' girl up. Not with his brother, but maybe he has a local friend.

Patricia and Yvette just look at each other and bust out laughing.

INT. PATRICIA'S PARENTS' HOME - EVENING

Charles and Donna impatiently await Andrew's arrival. Charles reads the newspaper, and Donna prepares the meal.

CHARLES

(looks at his watch)

Honey, I don't think they're going to show.

DONNA

Oh, they'll be here. They probably got caught in traffic.

The front door opens, and in comes Patricia and Andrew. Andrew is well-dressed and well-groomed, and Patricia is looking very sexy.

DONNA

I told you.

They all just stand there looking at each other for a while.

PATRICIA

Oh, I'm sorry, Andrew, this is my mother, Donna, and my father, Charles. Mom, Dad, this is Andrew.

ANDREW

It's nice to finally meet you.

DONNA

You two have a seat. Well Andrew we have heard so much about you.

ANDREW

I hope it was all good.

DONNA

In fact, it has all been good.

CHARLES

So you plan on marrying my daughter, right?

ANDREW

That's correct, sir.

CHARLES

How old are you?

ANDREW

I'm thirty-two, why?

CHARLES

I was just curious.

ANDREW

Look, I'm sure you two have lots of questions for me, so feel free to ask me anything.

DONNA

Have you ever been married?

ANDREW

Yes, I have, twice.

CHARLES

Twice?

ANDREW

Yes twice. That's not so unusual now a days is it?

CHARLES

What happened?

ANDREW

I guess I wasn't ready for marriage and commitment at that time but I know I am ready now.

CHARLES

So what do you do young man?

ANDREW

I trouble shoot and repair
computers for companies.

DONNA

That sounds like a good career, how
long have you been doing that?

ANDREW

About four years. I'd have to say
it is a pretty good job. The
technical fields always do really
good. There's lots of money to be
made.

CHARLES

What about your family?

ANDREW

Well I got an older brother in
Oregon and a younger sister in
Southern California and they're
doing fine.

CHARLES

What about your parents, how are
they?

ANDREW

I have not seen my father for many
years and my mother Just died of a
massive heart attack late last
year.

DONNA

I am sorry Andrew that's terrible.
My husband didn't mean to open any
old wounds.

PATRICIA

(Looks at her watch)
Andrew we better get going.

DONNA

So soon?

PATRICIA

Yeah we have plans tonight.

Patricia and Andrew stand up in preparation to leave.

DONNA

You all are not going to stay for dinner? I'm cooking my famous spaghetti.

CHARLES

(Jokingly)

Oh boy, her famous spaghetti. You two better get going while you still can.

PATRICIA

Dad!

DONNA

(Jokingly)

That's okay Patricia. He won't be eating tonight. Looks like he'll be going on Donna's diet plan. Trust me, he'll be begging for my cooking.

CHARLES

(Laughs)

So, I take it we will be seeing you again soon.

ANDREW

Sure. By the way, it was nice meeting you two.

Andrew shakes Charles and Donna's hand. He attempts to release his grip, but Charles squeezes tighter.

They stare at each other briefly as Charles finally releases his grip. Andrew then leaves with Patricia. Donna escorts them to the door and then returns to the living room.

CHARLES

I can't pinpoint it, but there's something funny about him.

DONNA

Okay, so you're telling me you don't like him? You don't even know him yet.

CHARLES

Well, he just doesn't seem to be...

DONNA

(Cuts Charles off)

Black enough?

(MORE)

DONNA (cont'd)

Let's not go there, honey. You haven't liked any of her boyfriends.

CHARLES

Well, I guess I haven't been wrong about any of them because she is not with any of them today.

DONNA

(Laughs)

Oh, honey, please! I'm going to finish dinner. By the way, none of them has been white either.

CHARLES

Okay, don't let me have to say, "I told you so." Now, I'm telling you, there is something funny about him.

DONNA

Don't you think he seems to be a nice gentleman?

CHARLES

Yeah, maybe a little too nice. He's like a Choir Boy.

DONNA

Well, I think he is a nice man, considering all he has been through.

CHARLES

That figures. I guess we'll never agree about her boyfriends.

Donna just shakes her head, sighs, and walks away.

EXT. A CHURCH - WEDDING DAY - LATE AFTERNOON

Andrew and Patricia have just been married. Donna, Charles, Yvette, Vanessa and some other family members and friends are present.

Andrew opens the front passenger car door to allow Patricia to get in. The car is decorated and the words "Just Married" can be seen on the rear window.

INT. PATRICIA AND ANDREW'S HOME-SEVERAL WEEKS LATER-EVENING

It is just weeks later. Patricia has come home from work early.

She plops down on the couch to relax and turns on the television.

Andrew comes in from work and stands at the front door a while just watching Patricia.

ANDREW

What the hell are you doing?

PATRICIA

What do you mean, what am I doing?
I am relaxing.

ANDREW

(Turns off the television)
You can relax after you fix my God
damn dinner!

PATRICIA

Andrew, why are you talking to me
like that?

ANDREW

Look, if you don't get your dumb
ass in there and cook my dinner,
you are going to wish you had.

PATRICIA

Andrew, you can't...

ANDREW

(Cut's Patricia off)
I can't what? I am your Goddamn
husband now. You are my wife, and
you will do what I say. Now that's
just the way it's going to be
around here. I let your big mouth
and shitty attitude go on long
enough. Now go cook my dinner
before you piss me off!

Patricia wisely goes to the kitchen to cook dinner.

INT. VANESSA'S HOME - THE NEXT EVENING

Vanessa is in the kitchen preparing supper. Patricia and Yvette are in the living room watching television. Vanessa goes into the living room area.

VANESSA

So, what is it that you wanted to
talk to us about?

PATRICIA

Excuse me?

VANESSA

Hold on, I am going to turn off the television.

Vanessa turns the television off.

VANESSA

I said what is it you wanted to talk to us about?

PATRICIA

Well, Andrew went off on me last night.

YVETTE

What do you mean he went off? Did he hit you?

PATRICIA

No, but I thought he would.

VANESSA

What? You two haven't even been married a month yet.

YVETTE

Tell us exactly what happened, girl.

PATRICIA

Basically he yelled at me, threatened me and cussed me out because his dinner wasn't ready when he got home.

VANESSA

Oh, he is probably one of those men that want you to wait on him hand and foot and still have time for you to go to work and take care of yourself.

PATRICIA

Well, I was tired as hell when I came home from work, too. I just wanted to relax for a little while. Shit, I ain't no damn robot!

VANESSA

Girl, you didn't see this coming?

PATRICIA

No, I mean we had little arguments in the past but he has never threatened me. He told me now that we're married things are going to change.

YVETTE

Trust me Patricia things do change when you get married, but they shouldn't change for the worst. Hopefully they change for the better. Things aren't always going to be so easy and there will be arguments and disagreements. That's pretty much normal. But, there should never be verbal or physical abuse.

VANESSA

I knew that cracker was no good!

YVETTE

Vanessa!

VANESSA

What?

YVETTE

Look Patricia, you have got to communicate with him. Remember what I told you about the important ingredients? Communication is one of the most important ones. Therefore You should be able to talk to him just like you're talking to us. Let him know how you feel about his actions.

PATRICIA

Are you sure? Just talk to him?

YVETTE

Yeah, everything will be fine. He probably knows he was wrong and I can just bet you will at least get an apology from him.

VANESSA

Or, if he is the asshole I think he is, you might get cussed out again.

YVETTE

Vanessa!

VANESSA

What?

YVETTE

Why do you have to always say some negative bullshit?

VANESSA

Look I need to go finish fixing dinner. You all have too much drama going on for me.

Vanessa heads for the kitchen.

YVETTE

Don't listen to her. You see how she can't keep no man. Just go back and talk to him like I told you. He probably just had a bad day at work.

PATRICIA

Okay, Yvette, I will give that a try.

INT. PATRICIA AND ANDREW'S HOME - THE NEXT EVENING

Patricia has finished cooking Andrew's dinner. She is still in her work clothes.

She is notably exhausted as she rushes around the kitchen to put the finishing touches on the meal.

Andrew walks in the door and looks around. He sits on the couch and turns on the television.

PATRICIA

Hello honey, dinner is just about ready. How was your day?

ANDREW

It was fine. Now, Bring my food in here.

Patricia brings Andrew's food to him on a tray. She then sits next to him.

PATRICIA

Are you sure you want to eat in here? I had the dining area set up for us.

ANDREW

Yeah, I am sure!

PATRICIA

Andrew I wanted to talk to you.
That is if you calmed down a bit
since yesterday.

ANDREW

Talk to me about what?

PATRICIA

I wanted to talk about our little
fight last night.

ANDREW

Well talk!

PATRICIA

I just think the way you spoke to
me was wrong.

ANDREW

Is that so? Is that really what you
feel? I think you are listening to
your dumb-ass girlfriends. Either
them or your parents.

PATRICIA

Andrew! Please don't talk bad about
my best friends.

ANDREW

I don't like them. They're a bad
influence on you.

PATRICIA

What are you talking about Andrew?
You hardly know them.

ANDREW

Shut the hell up! I don't give a
shit! Now, don't spoil my evening!

PATRICIA

I thought we were going to discuss
the argument we had last night.

ANDREW

There is really nothing to discuss.
You will have my meal ready for me
when I come home. No ifs ands or
buts.

PATRICIA

But Andrew you. . .

ANDREW
(Cuts Patricia off)
I said no buts! What part of that
don't you understand?

Andrew gets up and throws his plate of food across the room.

ANDREW
You satisfied? You spoiled my
evening and you managed to piss me
off all in a matter of minutes. Now
clean that shit up and get me
another plate of food!

Patricia just stands there looking surprised and in shock
with her mouth wide open.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
Move!

Patricia goes to the kitchen, gets the broom and dustpan and
quickly cleans up the mess. She then brings him another plate
of food.

ANDREW
You better wipe that look off your
ugly face, like real quick!

PATRICIA
Andrew I shouldn't have to put up
with this. I mean I did nothing to
deserve this.

ANDREW
Just shut up and leave me alone.
You already pissed me off once.
Don't do it again.

Patricia storms away with an attitude.

PATRICIA
Fine! I'm so sick and tired of...

Andrew jumps up and grabs Patricia by the arm and pulls her
back towards him.

ANDREW
I told you I am not going to put up
with your back talk! You will
respect me!

PATRICIA
Andrew you're hurting me.

Andrew slaps Patricia in the face. Patricia grabs her face, and stares at him with a shocked expression.

ANDREW
(Shakes his head)
Look what you made me do!

Patricia sits on the couch and cries. Andrew watches for a minute but then feels remorseful. He sits next to her on the couch and rubs her shoulders.

ANDREW
I'm sorry baby. I didn't mean for that to happen. I just had a bad day.

PATRICIA
Andrew what happened to us? We used to be so close now all we do is fight.

ANDREW
Nothing happened to us. We still love each other right?

PATRICIA
But Andrew you hit me.

ANDREW
I know and I told you I'm sorry. It won't happen again. Look Patricia you know I love you right.

PATRICIA
Yeah I know you love me.

ANDREW
You know I would never do anything to hurt you intentionally.

PATRICIA
I guess that's true.

ANDREW
Then you know that was not me a few minutes ago.

PATRICIA
Honey we have to try to get along better.

ANDREW
(Hugs Patricia)
Everything is going to be fine and
we'll be all right.

INT. PATRICIA AND ANDREW'S HOME - EVENING

Yvette and Vanessa are over at Patricia's house. Yvette and Vanessa play Dominoes as Patricia prepares dinner. Patricia comes to the table to sit down and relax. She removes the dark shades she is wearing.

YVETTE
Girl, what happened to your face?

PATRICIA
Oh, I was running upstairs to my
apartment when I fell. I tried to
break my fall, but I wasn't able
to.

VANESSA
You serious? You fell on your face?

YVETTE
How the hell did you manage to fall
on your face?

PATRICIA
Look, it just happened! It was an
accident. Now can we discuss
something else?

YVETTE
No we're not going to discuss
something else. We want to know
what really happened to you and
remember we weren't born yesterday.

VANESSA
Andrew did that, didn't he?

PATRICIA
Yeah he got a little upset and hit
me. Are you two satisfied? I told
you what happened!

VANESSA
Well, I think you need to give him
the "Al Green Treatment."

YVETTE
What are you talking about, girl?

VANESSA

She needs to throw some hot grits
on his ass.

YVETTE

Vanessa, be quiet! So what now,
Patricia? You know he has crossed
the line now.

PATRICIA

I don't know, he did apologize to
me and he did promise it would not
happen again.

YVETTE

Yeah, that's what they all say.
Trust me, if he hits you once,
chances are pretty good he will hit
you again.

PATRICIA

He loves me, he just has a bad
temper.

VANESSA

Have you told your folks about this
yet?

PATRICIA

No way! I don't want them getting
all upset for nothing.

YVETTE

Patricia for nothing? Do you call
getting struck by your husband
nothing?

PATRICIA

It was just a little fight. We're
going to be fine.

Andrew comes in, but the girls do not notice him standing
there.

VANESSA

If you ask me, I think he's crazy.
From what you said about his
childhood, he fits the profile of
boys that grow up to be men that
rape, kill, abuse, and goodness
knows what else. His ass probably
needs some help.

Patricia and Yvette try to signal Vanessa to shut up after they finally notice Andrew standing there.

ANDREW

I want these two bitches out of my house!

VANESSA

(Jumps up)

Who are you calling a bitch?

PATRICIA

Vanessa no! Just leave.

VANESSA

You need to teach your man some respect.

YVETTE

(Pulls Vanessa by the arm)

You going to be all right Patricia?

ANDREW

She's going to be just fine. Now get out!

VANESSA

If you need anything girl just give us a holler. We'll be over here in no time. I ain't nothing but about two seconds off his ass.

Andrew escorts the girls to the door and SLAMS it behind them.

ANDREW

I thought I told you I don't want you with those two whores.

PATRICIA

No, you just said you don't like them.

ANDREW

Well, now I'm telling you, I don't want you with them anymore.

PATRICIA

But Andrew, they're my two best friends.

ANDREW

Yeah right. They pretend to be your friends so they can know all your damn business. They know more about you than your parents!

PATRICIA

We do discuss our problems and issues but that's what friends do.

ANDREW

Well, you don't need to discuss our problems with them. It's none of their fucking business what goes on in this house.

PATRICIA

Okay I won't discuss our problems with them anymore.

ANDREW

Well, you need to include your nosey-ass parents in that deal.

PATRICIA

Andrew they're my parents. You can't expect me to. . .

ANDREW

(Cuts Patricia off)

Don't tell me what I can't expect you to do. I expect you to do whatever I tell you to do. I'm your husband. End of discussion!

Andrew walks up to Patricia.

ANDREW

(Pushes Patricia)

You have anything else smart to say?

PATRICIA

Andrew! You promised me you would not do this.

ANDREW

You better get out of my face and sit your ass down you ungrateful whore!

PATRICIA

(Storms away)

Andrew that's it!

Andrew catches up to her, grabs her by the arm and spins her around with force.

ANDREW

You're just going to run over to your parents' house. You see, they will put up with your dumb ass and spoil you but I am not going that route with you.

PATRICIA

Andrew I don't deserve this! Now could you let me go please?

ANDREW

Oh you deserve every bit of this bitch!

Andrew throws Patricia to the ground and starts walking towards her.

INT. VANESSA'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Vanessa is helping Patricia out by bandaging her bruises and supplying her with ice.

Patricia looks like she was in a fight and lost all twelve rounds. Yvette is also there to comfort her friend.

PATRICIA

He just had another bad day. He just needs to learn to control his temper and everything will be fine.

YVETTE

Patricia, don't be so naïve. I mean, Andrew really beat you up this time.

VANESSA

Are you sure you don't want to be checked out at the hospital?

PATRICIA

No, I am going to be fine.

YVETTE

Aren't you going to tell your parents about this?

PATRICIA

No way, and you two better not tell them either!

YVETTE

You need to report this to the police.

PATRICIA

No, that will just piss him off.

VANESSA

I think you need to get away from that crazy fool.

YVETTE

Vanessa!

VANESSA

What damn it! I can't say how I feel?

YVETTE

Girl, you need to watch what you say to her right now.

VANESSA

Patricia, what are you going to do now?

PATRICIA

I don't know. I'm just scared and confused right now.

VANESSA

If you want, I can get some guys to tighten his ass up for you.

PATRICIA

No, Vanessa, I don't want you to do that. I still love him, but I think he needs help.

VANESSA

Girl, if you keep letting him beat on you, you're the one that's going to need help. You know this is not going to stop, right?

PATRICIA

(Puts ice on her face)

I don't know; maybe it will, and maybe it won't. But I think it will.

Patricia's Cell Phone RINGS, and she answers it.

PATRICIA

Hello mom... Oh, I am doing fine...
What do you mean that's not what
you and daddy heard?... Okay, I
will be right over.

Patricia slams her phone down.

PATRICIA

Tell me you all didn't! Please tell
me you didn't!

YVETTE

Didn't what?

PATRICIA

Tell my parents about this.

YVETTE

We thought it was the best thing to
do.

PATRICIA

Yvette, I would expect something
like that from Vanessa, but you
shocked me.

VANESSA

Hey, I'm sorry but like she said we
thought it was the best thing we
could do. We knew you wouldn't tell
them.

PATRICIA

Thanks a lot! Now I need to leave
because I have to go explain all
this shit to my parents.

VANESSA

Girl why are you tripping? We
just...

PATRICIA

(Cuts Vanessa off)

Look I'm leaving! I'll holler at
you two another time!

Patricia gathers her purse and stuff and storms out of
Vanessa's house.

VANESSA

I guess we pissed her off.

YVETTE

That's okay she'll get over it. I
still say we did the right thing.

INT. PATRICIA AND ANDREW'S HOME - EVENING

Andrew throws Patricia on the bed and begins tearing at her clothes. Patricia struggles a little but then stops her resistance.

PATRICIA

Andrew, you don't have to hurt me.
I'll make love to you.

Andrew slaps Patricia several times as he tears Patricia's clothes off.

ANDREW

Shut up! I'm going to treat you
like the whore you are!

Andrew rapes Patricia violently. You can see the ferocity on his face. Patricia just lays there motionless.

As she begins to cry, blood slowly flows from her nose. Andrew just gets up and leaves when he's finished and SLAMS the bedroom door. Patricia assumes the fetal position and CRIES out loudly.

INT. A BATTERED WOMEN'S SHELTER - LATE AFTERNOON

Yvette and Vanessa take Patricia to a Shelter. They take her to the Program Coordinator, GINA PERKINS.

GINA PERKINS

Hello my name is Gina Perkins and I
am the Program Coordinator. I take
it you are Patricia right?

PATRICIA

(Sarcastically)
Lucky guess, or did the bruises
give it away?

GINA PERKINS

These are your two friends, umm...

PATRICIA

Vanessa and Yvette.

GINA PERKINS

Thank you. Well we will take care
of her from here.

(MORE)

GINA PERKINS (cont'd)

You two are welcomed to come by during visiting hours. Once again thank you for bringing her here. You two did the right thing.

PATRICIA

Mrs. Perkins I don't know if I will stay or not.

GINA PERKINS

Just relax Patricia and everything will be fine.

YVETTE

Okay girl you hang in there. We'll be in touch.

Vanessa and Yvette both give Patricia a hug and then they leave.

GINA PERKINS

Nice friends you have there.

PATRICIA

Yeah they really are.

GINA PERKINS

Well Patricia I guess we can start with a tour of our facility. Maybe you can meet some of the girls. Now our most important rule is that you have no contact with your husband or significant other while you're here. That's for safety reasons.

PATRICIA

Okay. I can understand that.

A young lady named MICHELLE WATTERS walks down the hall towards Patricia and Mrs. Perkins.

The young lady is in bad shape and appears to have been battered violently. Mrs. Perkins stops her to meet Patricia.

GINA PERKINS

Hello Michelle.

MICHELLE WATTERS

Hello Mrs. Perkins.

GINA PERKINS

Michelle this is Patricia, Patricia this is Michelle Watters.

MICHELLE WATTERS
(Hangs her head)
Hello Patricia.

PATRICIA
(Puts her hand out)
Hello Michelle.

Michelle and Patricia shake hands. Michelle continues down the hallway very slowly as if she is a Zombie. Patricia and Mrs. Perkins continue walking.

PATRICIA
(Talking low)
Is that how some of the women here look?

GINA PERKINS
What do you mean Patricia?

PATRICIA
I mean she was in pretty bad shape.

GINA PERKINS
Oh some of our girls are in even worse shape. That's why we have a great Nursing staff here and a great counseling staff. Sometimes the internal and emotional wounds are far worse than the physical wounds we see. It's real important for us to help heal you from the inside out.

PATRICIA
Mrs. Perkins I don't think I belong here.

GINA PERKINS
Am I missing something? I mean your husband does hit you right?

PATRICIA
Yeah but Michelle looks like her husband tried to beat her half to death.

GINA PERKINS
Just because your husband hasn't beaten you up that bad yet doesn't mean he won't. In most cases the abuse gets progressively worse, sometimes until the woman becomes a fatality.

PATRICIA

Oh my husband is not going to kill me! You see my husband just needs to get some help for his emotional problems.

GINA PERKINS

Honey they all need help in some way. Some are too far gone for help. Patricia don't be naïve. The cemeteries are full of women who thought their man would never kill them. Besides you don't know. . .

PATRICIA

(Cutting Gina off)

Look Mrs. Perkins I appreciate all your concern but I just don't feel like I belong here. I think maybe I would be taking a bed from someone who really needs help.

GINA PERKINS

Okay Patricia I can't force you to stay here. In order for you to get any help from us one has to recognize the fact they need help.

PATRICIA

(Putting out her hand)

Well thank you very much Mrs. Perkins. I appreciate your time.

Gina Perkins holds onto Patricia's hand after shaking hands with her. She then reaches in her pocket with her free hand and gives Patricia a business card.

PATRICIA

What's this?

GINA PERKINS

That's my business card. It has our eight-hundred hot line number on there too. That number is staffed twenty-four seven. Feel free to call us anytime. Now I can't promise you that there will be space available for you later. Unfortunately there is never a shortage of battered women in this community. Many of them use our facility as a safe haven.

(MORE)

GINA PERKINS (cont'd)

You are welcome to use any of our resources or facilities at any time at no charge to you.

PATRICIA

Thank you Mrs. Perkins.

GINA PERKINS

You're welcome Patricia and by the way you can call me Regina or Gina. So you be careful and don't hesitate to call us any time day or night.

PATRICIA

Okay I won't. Once again thanks a lot Ms... I mean Regina.

GINA PERKINS

You sure you don't want to stay for at least one night?

PATRICIA

No I think I will be fine Regina.

Patricia slings her luggage over her shoulder and heads down the long hallway. Gina Perkins just stands there with her hands on her hips as she shakes her head.

INT. PATRICIA AND ANDREW'S HOME - EVENING

Andrew has gone all out to welcome Patricia back home. He has cooked her a full-course meal with candlelight provided, put out balloons and a "Welcome home Patricia" banner. and put on some soothing music.

The sweet sounds of jazz can be heard playing softly in the background. Andrew, standing over Patricia with an apron on, pours her some Champagne.

ANDREW

Baby I am so glad you came back home to me. I thought I had lost you forever. You know I love you right baby?

Andre bends over and kisses Patricia.

PATRICIA

Yeah I know you do Andrew.

ANDREW

I just wanted to say I am sorry for the way I treated you and I wanted to make a solemn promise that I won't ever hurt you again.

Andrew places a bouquet of roses on the table with a little card attached. Patricia reads the card aloud.

She still has noticeable bruises from previous encounters with Andrew. In fact, her lips are so swollen her voice is distorted.

PATRICIA

(reading the card)

"I love you now more than ever. You are special to me. With love always, Andrew Robinson." (Pauses, eyes tear up) That's so sweet Andrew.

ANDREW

Hold on baby I have something else for you.

Andrew runs to the back room and comes back with a small box. He opens the box and presents Patricia with a beautiful Necklace. He assists her putting it on.

ANDREW

You like it?

PATRICIA

Andrew it's beautiful.

ANDREW

I was going to wait until dinner is finished but I guess I couldn't wait.

PATRICIA

(Hugs Andrew)

Thank you baby and I love you too.

ANDREW

Can you find it in your heart to forgive me?

PATRICIA

You promise you won't hurt me anymore?

ANDREW

Yeah, I promise.

PATRICIA

Would you go to marriage counseling with me or maybe see a counselor to help you with your nightmares?

ANDREW

I don't need no damn counseling! Patricia, you think I'm crazy or something?

PATRICIA

(Slides back her chair)

No, baby, I don't think you're crazy. I just thought you might be able to get help for your nightmares, and maybe we can both sit down and discuss our marriage.

ANDREW

We don't need a Marriage Counselor either. Our marriage is fine!

PATRICIA

Baby, let's not spoil the evening. I'm sorry I brought it up. Let's just forget about it.

ANDREW

(slightly agitated)

Yeah, I think we better forget about it. I don't want us to revisit this again.

PATRICIA

Anyway... So, what did you cook tonight baby? Whatever it is sure smells good.

ANDREW

I made some baked chicken, corn and rice.

PATRICIA

Yummy! Well let's dig in before I starve to death.

INT. PATRICIA'S PARENTS' HOME - EVENING

Patricia is at her parents' home. Yvette and Vanessa are also there.

They are all trying to convince Patricia to get out of her destructive relationship.

Patricia has fresh bruises and wounds to go over the healing ones. She even appears to have stitches over her eye.

Donna takes out a small hand mirror and puts it up to Patricia's face.

DONNA

Girl just look at your face. Honey
this is not love.

CHARLES

No it's a vicious cycle! He beats
on you, you come stay with us or
your friends, and then you go right
back to him. For what?

PATRICIA

Because I still love him and I am
not ready to throw the towel in on
my relationship just yet!

CHARLES

Patricia this guy is no good for
you and I think you know it.

VANESSA

Girl how long are you going to let
this go on? Shoot, the Police and
the Paramedics go to your house so
much they're talking about making
your house one of their Sub
stations.

YVETTE

Vanessa!

VANESSA

What?

YVETTE

You still don't think you need to
go to a Battered Woman's Shelter?
I'm sure you're starting to look
just like some of those women.
Remember? The ones you said really
need help.

VANESSA

I think he needs an attitude
adjustment. I told you I know a few
roughnecks on the east side that
would take care of his white ass.

Charles grabs a Louisville Slugger bat and heads to the door angrily.

CHARLES

Shit, I can take care of his ass
myself!

Donna catches up to Charles and snatches the bat away from him.

DONNA

Baby, have you lost your mind?

CHARLES

Honey, I just want to talk to him.

DONNA

(holds up the bat)
With this? This looks like a one-
sided conversation to me.

CHARLES

Well, what am I supposed to do?
That son of a bitch is hurting
Patricia!

DONNA

(shakes her head)
Baby, you have lost your mind.

CHARLES

Honey, I just want to go face to
face with him and find out what his
problem is.

DONNA

With a damn Louisville Slugger,
right?

CHARLES

Well what am I supposed to do? Just
sit around and let him beat
Patricia? I'm sorry but I just
can't do that.

DONNA

Believe me you're not the only one
who feels like doing this.

VANESSA

I know that's right!

DONNA

But baby this is not the answer.

CHARLES

It seems to me that violence might be all he does understand.

DONNA

Well, I can't let you do this. What good would it do? You would be in jail and he would still be beating Patricia.

PATRICIA

Look I don't want any of you to get involved. He knows you all are trying to get me away from him and he is really pissed about it.

CHARLES

Oh really? He's pissed? I'll show his ass pissed!

DONNA

So are you saying he might come after us?

PATRICIA

I don't know if he would or not but I know he gets pretty crazy sometimes.

CHARLES

You need to get away from that crazy fool!

DONNA

Charles is that necessary?

PATRICIA

There's something else I need to tell you all.

DONNA

What's that Patricia?

PATRICIA

I am pregnant.

CHARLES

You got to be joking! Already?

PATRICIA

No daddy I'm serious.

CHARLES

Shit you two didn't waste no time!

DONNA

Patricia what were you thinking?

PATRICIA

I didn't want it to happen so soon
but it did.

CHARLES

Now you're going to be a part of
his life for a long time in some
way or another.

PATRICIA

Look I'm real confused right now so
can I just have a moment alone?
Please!

CHARLES

Okay everybody let's give her some
space.

Charles escorts Yvette and Vanessa to the door. Patricia just
lays on the couch in the fetal position and begins to cry.

PATRICIA

God, please help me! I can't take
this anymore.

Charles and Donna try to console Patricia but she just turns
away. Charles and Donna leave.

INT. PATRICIA AND ANDREW'S HOME - EVENING

Andrew is punching and kicking Patricia. Patricia goes
unconscious and lies motionless on the floor.

Andrew attempts to awaken her but to no avail. He then begins
to pace the floor frantically.

Suddenly there is a knock on the door. It is two Police
Officers. OFFICER POWELL is a tough, black female officer and
OFFICER MCNEIL is the less rugged black female officer.

ANDREW

(Still pacing)
Who is it?

OFFICER McNeil (O.S.)

It's the Police open up!

ANDREW

(Opens the door slowly)
What's the problem, officers? We
didn't call the police

The two officers step into the house.

OFFICER McNeil

First of all, I am Officer McNeil
and this is my partner Officer
Powell. We are here because we
received calls from your neighbors
about a four-fifteen taking place
here.

ANDREW

What the hell is a four-fifteen?

OFFICER POWELL

Are you having a fight with your
wife?

Suddenly, there is a loud SCREAM. Officer McNeil pushes by
Andrew and begins to walk into the living room to look
around.

She sees Patricia lying there, rolling around in pain. She
passes out and goes motionless.

OFFICER McNeil

She's in here! Hook 'em up!

Andrew rushes into the living room with Officer Powell right
on him.

OFFICER POWELL

Turn around and put your hands on
your head... Do it now!

Andrew turns towards Officer Powell with his fists balled up.

ANDREW

You don't have a right to be in my
house, so get the hell out bitch!

OFFICER McNeil

(On a Walkie-Talkie)

Dispatch this is Officer McNeil,
roll rescue to this location for a
female down and unresponsive due to
a domestic battery. Respond code-
three. Standby for status.

Officer McNeill pauses and looks over at her partner as if he
knows what's coming next.

Officer Powell grabs Andrew's arm and does a Jujitsu-type
takedown.

Andrew hits the floor hard. She sits on his back and handcuffs him.

OFFICER McNeil (CONT'D)

(On a Walkie-Talkie)

The suspect is in custody, and we'll be code-four after rescue arrives.

OFFICER POWELL

Perhaps you need a lesson in how to treat women! More importantly, you better know who you're raising up to. I am not your wife!

DISPATCHER (VO)

Ten-four Officer McNeil Dispatch copies. . .

ANDREW

(Still trying to struggle)

My wife fell downstairs! I was getting ready to call an ambulance.

OFFICER POWELL

Yeah right and she landed on her face about a dozen times. Tell that bullshit to the judge! Right now, I suggest you exercise your right to remain silent.

Officer Powell reads the suspect his rights and escorts him outside. Officer McNeil stays with Patricia.

OFFICER McNeil

Hang in there, young lady; help is on the way.

OFFICER Mcneil

(Talks on her Walkie- Talkie)
Dispatch, this is Officer McNeil; advise Rescue to step it up and give me an ETA.

DISPATCHER (VO)

Ten-four Officer McNeil, Rescue's ETA at the time of the call was ten minutes.

OFFICER McNeil

Ten-four Dispatch just have 'em step it up.

INT. TRI-COUNTY HOSPITAL - EVENING

Two Paramedics, (PARAMEDIC #1 and PARAMEDIC #2) rush Patricia down a hospital hallway.

Donna, Charles, Yvette and Vanessa are all present also. A Female Doctor, DOCTOR RICHARDSON, rushes along side the Gurney as the Paramedics stop briefly. Two nurses also are present.

DR. RICHARDSON
(Checking Patricia)
How long has she been out?

PARAMEDIC #1
Well, she's been in and out of
consciousness for the passed ten to
fifteen minutes.

DR. RICHARDSON
What happened to her? Is this the
car accident victim?

PARAMEDIC #2
Negative, this is the domestic
violence victim. Her vital signs
are all within normal limits.

Dr. Richardson shines a light in Patricia's eyes.

DR. RICHARDSON
Does she have any allergies?

DONNA
None that we know of, but she told
us she's pregnant.

CHARLES
Is she going to be okay?

DR. RICHARDSON
We are going to try to stabilize
her. You two can go to the waiting
area and I'll come get you as soon
as we get her stabilized. Okay take
her to treatment room number four.

The two Paramedics take Patricia to treatment room four.

DONNA
But we need to be there for her.

DR. RICHARDSON

Just trust me ma'am. We're going to do everything we can for Patricia. I'll personally make sure you're kept up to date on any changes in her condition and I'll make sure you're there when she wakes up.

CHARLES

(Hugs Donna)

It's okay, baby. Let's go to the waiting area and let them do their job.

INT. TRI-COUNTY HOSPITAL-THE WAITING ROOM-LATER

Moments have passed by. Charles and Donna pace the waiting room area almost wall to wall simultaneously.

Dr. Richardson finally comes out and gives her prognosis. Charles and Donna rush up to her to hear the news.

DONNA

How is she?

DR. RICHARDSON

It looks like she's going to be fine. We still have more tests to run, including a CAT scan. We are going to keep her overnight, but she is alert right now, so you're welcome to visit her.

CHARLES

How about the baby?

DR. RICHARDSON

It's too soon to tell for sure, but we will hopefully have more answers for you soon. Okay, she was a little disoriented at first, but she is actually doing really well right now, so come on back and talk to her.

Dr. Richardson leads Patricia's Parents back to the treatment room area. Patricia's mother gives her a big hug.

DONNA

You okay baby?

PATRICIA

I guess so. I feel like I went a few rounds with Mike Tyson.

CHARLES

No, it was with Andrew Robinson.

DONNA

What now Patricia?

PATRICIA

I don't know. I'm still afraid and confused.

CHARLES

We don't have to talk about this now. Why don't you get some sleep?

PATRICIA

It's okay dad. Where's Andrew now?

DONNA

He was arrested.

CHARLES

He'll probably be out and back home before you get out of here.

PATRICIA

I guess we need to try to work this out.

DR. RICHARDSON

(Adjusting Patricia's IV)

Young lady I hate to get in your business, but I can't stand here and listen to you without wanting to give you some sound advice. Now I wish I could show you some of the pictures of women that come through these doors nearly every day. Some don't even make it. Do yourself and your loved ones a favor, get out of this situation before it's too late. Things are not likely to get better but they are likely to get worse.

DONNA

So what happens to her now Doctor Richardson?

DR. RICHARDSON

I'm going to let you folks have a moment with her. Like I said, I didn't want to seem like I was getting into your business, but if I can just help one woman get out of this type situation, or perhaps even save her life, I have done my job.

CHARLES

Oh no, Doctor, we appreciate your input and concerns.

DR. RICHARDSON

No problem. I am going to step out for a moment and then I will come back and check on her. I did give her something for her pain. It will make her sleepy too.

Dr. Richardson goes to the door but then turns around to say one more thing to Patricia.

DR. RICHARDSON (CONT'D)

I can help with healing your physical injuries, but I can't help you with the emotional and psychological trauma you undoubtedly have. That usually runs a lot deeper than your physical trauma. Okay I'll be back in a while.

As Dr. Richardson leaves Officers McNeil and Powell arrive.

OFFICER McNeil

Is it okay if we interview her briefly Doctor?

DR. RICHARDSON

It's okay with me but you'll have to ask her how she feels. I did give her a sedative just now.

Dr. Richardson leaves.

OFFICER McNeil

I'm Officer McNeil, and this is my partner, Officer Powell. We just wanted to talk to Patricia briefly.

DONNA

Patricia do you feel like talking to these two Officers?

PATRICIA

Yeah I'm okay with that. We have already met.

OFFICER POWELL

We have met. We are the two officers who responded to your house earlier this evening.

CHARLES

Is it okay if my wife and I stay?

OFFICER McNeil

Sure that's fine. She needs support right now. Are you family or friends?

CHARLES

Well we are family. I am her father Charles and this is my wife Donna. Thank you for following up on this.

OFFICER McNeil

No problem sir we are just doing our job.

PATRICIA

How can I help you two?

OFFICER POWELL

Well actually we wanted to ask you a few questions about what happened to you so we can do our report.

PATRICIA

Well basically it was no big thing.

OFFICER McNeil

What do you mean it was no big deal? You wouldn't be here if it were no big deal.

PATRICIA

Well I'm not going to have him locked up for this if that's what you're wanting. I mean, I don't want o press charges against him.

CHARLES

Patricia what are you talking about? This guy beat you until you were unconscious.

DONNA

(Begins to cry)

No Patricia, you can't let this go on. He is going to keep hurting you.

Charles hugs his wife and tries to comfort her.

PATRICIA

Mom it's going to be okay. Where's he right now?

OFFICER POWELL

He's downtown being booked into the jail.

OFFICER McNeil

Yes and from his record you are not his first victim. It seems Mr. Robinson has a history of domestic violence charges from other cities involving his other now ex-wives.

PATRICIA

Yeah, but they are still alive right?

OFFICER POWELL

Yes, they are but what does that have to do with anything?

PATRICIA

Well, everybody seems to think he's going to kill me or something. Andrew is not crazy he just needs some help. I still honestly think he'll be okay after that. I mean I should at least give him the benefit of the doubt.

CHARLES

Oh at this point I say you've more than done that.

OFFICER McNeil

Well he would have to attend a mandatory stress and anger management course if we could get you to press charges against him.

(MORE)

OFFICER McNeil (cont'd)

I mean, he has been arrested for battering you at least four times already. Each time you refuse to press any charges.

OFFICER POWELL

Statistically, the course only has about a fifty-five percent success rate. Most of the Subjects go right back to their abusive ways. However, I guess fifty-five percent is better than nothing. The state mandates this program.

OFFICER McNeil

You see, the old theory of, "lock 'em all up and throw away the key" does not apply anymore in this state. The state feels there has to be some sort of intervention or rehab for domestic violence suspects.

PATRICIA

So what do you want from me?

OFFICER POWELL

As we said before we would like some sort of statement from you about what happened. Please don't tell us you fell or ran into a wall. Don't bother wasting our time by trying to insult our intelligence.

PATRICIA

Nothing happened and he's not a criminal.

CHARLES

Patricia!

PATRICIA

You all don't understand. Now can I just get some rest? I am feeling real sleepy right now.

OFFICER McNeil

Okay Patricia we'll leave you alone. I'm going to leave you with my card. Feel free to call us anytime. I will write the number to the Domestic Violence Intervention Hot line.

(MORE)

OFFICER McNeil (cont'd)

You can call them twenty- four
seven. I'll leave it on your
nightstand.

Officer McNeil takes a card out and writes a number on it.
She then puts it on the nightstand.

Patricia's speech starts to become slurred as the sedative
starts kicking in.

PATRICIA

So when will Andrew be back out?

OFFICER POWELL

Hopefully not before the ink dries
on our report. He is also getting
booked on resisting arrest and
assaulting an officer charges.

PATRICIA

Thank you Officers. I just need to
get some rest. Whatever they gave
me is kicking in right about now.

OFFICER McNeil

Okay Patricia we hope to talk to
you soon. Remember, we need some
sort of statement as soon as
possible.

CHARLES

Okay Officers. Maybe another time.

Patricia just rolls back over into a fetal position and
covers her head with her pillow.

DONNA

(Rubs Patricia's back)
It's going to be all right baby.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DR. MORGAN'S OFFICE (PRESENT DAY) - AFTERNOON

We go back into Dr. Morgan's office and Patricia's session.
Patricia grabs a box of tissues off Dr. Morgan's desk.
Telling her story has made her emotional.

DR. MORGAN

(Takes off his glasses)
Wow, Patricia, that is a powerful
story. Do you want to continue?

PATRICIA

(Looks up at the clock)
You have time? I mean am I your
only Inmate this afternoon?

DR. MORGAN

Oh, don't worry, I can make the
time.

PATRICIA

We could pick it back up tomorrow
if you want.

DR. MORGAN

No go ahead, I would rather hear
more. Of course if you are up to
it.

PATRICIA

I think I can finish up in about
thirty minutes is that okay?

DR. MORGAN

Take your time. Can I get you some
water or something?

PATRICIA

No but I might need a towel by the
time I finish.

DR. MORGAN

(Presses play)
That's okay, Patricia, just let it
out. Tell your story.

PATRICIA

Well, Yvette and Vanessa always
came through for me when I was
down. They were always able to
cheer me up and keep me going. I
remember one night we went out
dancing and we . . .

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CLUB ELEGANCE - NIGHT

Patricia, Yvette, and Vanessa are at a Nightclub called Club
Elegance. Slow music can be heard in the background as DJ ROB
SMOOTH of radio station 104.9 FM spins oldies.

VANESSA

Girl you need to loosen up a bit.
We brought you out here to have
some fun and damn it you are going
to have some fun!

PATRICIA

(Pulls a small mirror out)
Girl, I'll be okay. . . How does my
face look?

Patricia puts a little more make-up on her face.

YVETTE

Your face looks fine. I told you
the make-up would work.

Patricia looks around the whole club, nervously, as if she's
expecting someone.

VANESSA

Girl, I told you to stop tripping.
That fool ain't going to show up
here! If he does, we got your back,
honey. Shit, I wish he would.

PATRICIA

Vanessa, I really wish you wouldn't
diss my husband like that.

VANESSA

Hey, I'm sorry, but you know I
can't stand him.

YVETTE

Look, we didn't come here for this!

VANESSA

Yeah, that's true. We came here to
party, so let's do this!

YVETTE

I'll be right back. I need to talk
to the DJ. Remember Patricia, this
is our night.

Yvette returns and sits back down at the table. The slow
music fades out in the background. DJ ROB SMOOTH (black, 25-
30) is the DJ.

DJ ROB SMOOTH

Don't forget to come on out and enjoy Hip-hop and Reggae night at Club Elegance every Saturday with drink specials until eleven. This next song is going out to Patricia Robinson from her best friend Yvette. It's called "Ladies Night" by Kool and The Gang. This is "Flashback Friday" and I am DJ Rob Smooth from FM one-zero-four point nine.

DJ Rob Smooth spins the record. Yvette and Vanessa pull Patricia onto the dance floor. The crowd opens up the floor as if to give the girls room. The girls do a DANCE ROUTINE.

INT. PATRICIA AND ANDREW'S HOME - EVENING

Andrew sits Patricia on the couch and has her cover her eyes. He runs to the closet and brings out several boxes.

ANDREW

No peaking!

PATRICIA

Okay, okay, I'm not!

He sets the boxes on the couch near Patricia and on the coffee table.

ANDREW

Okay baby you can open your eyes now.

PATRICIA

Wow what's all this honey?

ANDREW

I come bearing gifts.

PATRICIA

I see.

ANDREW

Go ahead and open them up.

Patricia tears open one of the boxes and it's another beautiful watch.

PATRICIA

Wow this is so beautiful. I love this.

ANDREW
Really you like it?

PATRICIA
(Hugs Andrew)
Thank you baby. I really love it.

ANDREW
Then I'm sure you'll love the rest.

PATRICIA
(Jokingly)
What's today? Did I forget our
anniversary or something? I know
it's not my birthday.

ANDREW
No baby, I just wanted to show you
how much I love you.

PATRICIA
(Hugs Andrew again)
Oh Andrew that's so sweet.

ANDREW
Honey go ahead and open the rest of
your gifts.

PATRICIA
Okay baby.

Patricia opens her gifts one at a time. Each time she gasps
with excitement.

She received two beautiful dresses, three pairs of very nice
shoes, a nice watch and several other articles of jewelry of
an unspecified value.

PATRICIA
Andrew I'm speechless!

ANDREW
I guess that means you like the
gifts.

PATRICIA
(Hugs Andrew again)
I love everything. Thank you baby.
I feel bad because I didn't get
anything for you.

ANDREW
I'm sure you have something I might
like to have...
(MORE)

ANDREW (cont'd)

Maybe later tonight. Just me you
and some nice tunes.

PATRICIA

You nasty Andrew. That's why I'm
like this now.

ANDREW

(Holds Patricia's hand)
That's not the way it should have
happened though. I was not in my
right state of mind that night.

PATRICIA

(Eyes tearing up)
It's done Andrew so let's not spoil
the evening. We're going to move
on. We both made the decision to
keep the baby so that's what we're
going to do. Nobody has to know how
this baby was conceived.

ANDREW

Yeah, I guess that's right. Well,
you don't have to worry about
cooking tonight.

PATRICIA

Why baby? You're not hungry?

ANDREW

No tonight's a Red Lobster night.
Dinner is on me.

PATRICIA

(Hugs Andrew once again)
Thanks for everything Andrew. You
really made my day.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DR. MORGAN'S OFFICE (THE PRESENT) - AFTERNOON

Once again we go to Dr. Morgan's office. Patricia continues
to tell her story. Dr. Morgan is still hanging on to
Patricia's every word.

DR. MORGAN

So your friends and your parents
were really the only people you had
supporting you, right?

PATRICIA

Yeah, I pretty much wanted it that way. I was very ashamed.

DR. MORGAN

Well, obviously, that's not the end of the story, so please continue.

PATRICIA

(Points to the clock)

Dr. Morgan, I will miss the afternoon roll call and kitchen detail.

DR. MORGAN

Don't worry about that, they know you're here. I'll let them know our session went over. Just go ahead with the story. You got me all into this now. I mean, it's a powerful story.

PATRICIA

Can you have them loosen these shackles a bit?

DR. MORGAN

Now you know they won't do that. They consider you to be a bit dangerous after your little run-in with that other inmate.

PATRICIA

Maybe I am dangerous. Maybe I was around Andrew too long.

DR. MORGAN

Patricia please continue with your story. You got me very much interested now. I mean as I said it is a very powerful story.

PATRICIA

Well, basically, he fooled me. I thought he was on his way to recovery. He was going to his Anger Management courses, we were going to marriage counseling, and I actually thought he was part of that very small percentage of men that turn around. The beatings completely stopped for about six weeks. He didn't even raise his voice to me.

DR. MORGAN

So, there were no beatings for six weeks? How about the yelling and verbal abuse?

PATRICIA

Nothing. . . I mean he still had those nightmares but that was it.

DR. MORGAN

So what happened after the six weeks were over?

PATRICIA

I don't know. He just seemed to snap like all of a sudden. I remember everything that happened that day like it was yesterday. It's a day I will never forget. It was a Friday and Andrew had the day off. . .

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PATRICIA AND ANDREW'S HOME - AFTERNOON

Patricia is now showing quite a bit, and she is in her third trimester.

She wobbles around the house, dusting and cleaning. Andrew is sitting at the dining room table looking notably upset. Patricia gets her purse and attempts to leave.

ANDREW

Where the hell are you going?

PATRICIA

I'm going for a check-up. I am pregnant Andrew, remember?

ANDREW

Yeah, but is it really my baby? Shit, the way you were running the streets with those two whores makes me wonder. Now close your mouth and don't say shit, because I know everything.

PATRICIA

Andrew, me and my friends practically grew up together. I mean . . .

ANDREW

(Cuts Patricia off)

I don't care! I told you I don't want you associating with them! You never listen to me! You're a stupid bitch!

PATRICIA

Andrew, how can you say you're not sure if you're the father? That's a terrible thing to say to me. All you have to do is count back to the night you viciously raped me. That's the only time we have done it without protection.

ANDREW

I never raped you. You're my wife, so how could I have raped you? I can have you when I want. But, like I said, I don't know if that's my baby because you're a whore. Shit, I might need to call Maury.

PATRICIA

Andrew I don't have time for this. I need to go see my Doctor. I can't miss these appointments.

ANDREW

I don't give a damn about an appointment! Now sit your ass down and shut up! You don't call the shots here, I do.

PATRICIA

Andrew, I'm leaving right now.

Patricia walks to the door to exit. Andrew rushes over and slams the door before she can exit.

PATRICIA

Andrew, please!

ANDREW

(Pushes Patricia)

I said sit your ass down! Don't make me repeat myself.

Patricia does what she is told.

PATRICIA
(Sits on the couch)
Andrew, we need to talk.

ANDREW
Talk about what?

PATRICIA
This marriage, this relationship.

ANDREW
What about this marriage?

PATRICIA
I can't take this shit anymore. I
don't know, I thought you would
change, but you will never change.

ANDREW
What the hell are you talking
about?

PATRICIA
I want out of this marriage.

ANDREW
(Kicks over a chair)
You're not going anyplace. There's
no place for you to run and no
place for you to hide, because I
will find you. You are going to be
my wife "until death do us part"
just like you said in your wedding
vows.

PATRICIA
Andrew you really need to get some
help.

Andrew goes to the back and then comes back with a small
black bag.

He places the bag on the kitchen table and flops himself on a
chair. He takes a revolver out of the small black bag.

ANDREW
(holds up the revolver)
This is my help right here bitch!

Andrew pours some ammo onto the coffee table.

PATRICIA
(Extremely frightened)
Andrew, what are you doing?

ANDREW

You see, this gun holds six
bullets.

He sets aside bullet #1.

ANDREW

I have this one for your ugly ass!

He sets aside bullet #2.

ANDREW

I have this one for your dumb-ass
father!

He sets aside bullet #3.

ANDREW

I have this one for your stupid-ass
mother!

He sets aside bullet #4.

ANDREW

I have this one for your ugly-ass
friend, Yvette!

He sets aside bullet #5.

ANDREW

I have this one for your bitch-ass
friend Vanessa. Shit, I should put
two bullets in her ass!

He does not put the sixth bullet aside, but he does load it
into the gun. He spins the chamber.

PATRICIA

Andrew, please stop playing with
that thing and put it away.

ANDREW

Last but of course not least, this
last bullet is for me. That's right
bitch, I am not afraid to swallow
one of these.

PATRICIA

Come on, Andrew, please stop this;
you're scaring me.

Andrew puts the gun to his own head.

ANDREW

You don't think I'll do myself?

Patricia gets up and slowly walks towards Andrew. She is risking her own life and the life of her unborn child to prevent Andrew from blowing his head off.

Andrew pulls the trigger four times. There is a distinct CLICK each time.

ANDREW

I got two more shots. One will take me out.

Andrew pulls the trigger one more time, for the fifth time. Once again, fortunately, there is just a CLICK. Patricia continues to walk slowly towards him and puts her hand out.

PATRICIA

Andrew, please give me the gun. I love you, and I don't want to lose you.

ANDREW

(Points it at Patricia)
Don't you come any closer! This one will not be a click!

PATRICIA

(Slowly backs up)
Okay, Andrew, I'm backing up.

ANDREW

You want to leave me just like those other two useless whores I was married to. I'm not letting that happen again. No way! If you go, it's going to be in a Body Bag.

PATRICIA

Andrew, I'm not leaving you. I told you I love you. Baby, I'm not going anywhere.

ANDREW

Bullshit! Now sit your ass down, lying bitch!

PATRICIA

Andrew, I'm serious, I'm not lying.

Andrew puts the gun down on the table. He gets up, pauses right in his tracks, turns around, picks the gun back up, and puts it in his waistband.

ANDREW

(Waving his finger)

You want to leave me, you
ungrateful slut? I'll go pack your
shit!

Andrew leaves, at least briefly. Patricia takes out her cell phone.

She takes the business card that Officer McNeil gave her out and dials the number on it.

PATRICIA

(Barely above a whisper)

Hello Officer McNeil this is
Patricia Robinson... I said
Patricia Robinson... No I can't
talk much louder... Yeah he's here
right now... Yeah and he has a gun
this time so please hurry!

Patricia hangs up but then picks up to call her parents.

PATRICIA

(still whispering)

Daddy he's at it again... Yeah
please hurry! Yes, I called them
already... But daddy he has a...

Suddenly, Andrew appears from around the corner, startling Patricia. She quickly hangs up the phone.

ANDREW

Who the hell were you talking to?

PATRICIA

My father Andrew, I can still talk
to my parents right?

ANDREW

Not on my phone and he better not
bring his ass over here to pick you
up. I said you're not leaving.

PATRICIA

Andrew I'm a little confused. I
thought you said you were packing
up my shit so I can leave.

ANDREW

I changed my mind so go sit your
ass down! You're not going
anywhere!

PATRICIA

(sits down)

This has got to be some sort of
kidnapping or unlawful detention.

ANDREW

This ain't no damn kidnapping,
you're my wife! Look, you can call
it what you like but you better not
leave.

Patricia just stands there momentarily, so Andrew forces her
to sit in the seat.

ANDREW

You seem to have forgotten your
most important wedding vow.
Remember when you said, "Until
death do us part?" I believe in
that vow. Those other two whores I
married forgot about that vow too.

PATRICIA

Andrew I think you're forgetting
that there are other vows that go
with that, and I think they're all
equally important. I believe, in
fact I know, "to love and to honor"
comes before that.

ANDREW

Yeah right Patricia, whatever! I
said that it's the most important
one to me, because the only thing
that should separate us is death.

PATRICIA

Look Andrew, I'm tired of trying to
please you. You don't appreciate
anything I do for you. Sometimes
you treat me like a Queen and those
are our best times together. Other
times you treat me like street
trash. You're like a Doctor Jekyll
and Mr. Hyde. Every day I wake up I
wonder which one you're going to
be.

ANDREW

Bitch, you need to stop watching all them damn talk shows and reading them stupid novels. You definitely need to stay away from those two crazy-ass friends of yours because they fill your head with all this shit. They try to make you believe I am some sort of monster, and you feed into that bullshit.

PATRICIA

Well I am really starting to believe what everyone is telling me about you and I don't just mean my friends and my parents. Andrew you will never change and I will never have any peace here. I don't want the baby coming up in a volatile environment. The vicious cycle stops here!

ANDREW

(Strikes Patricia)

Shut up! If my mother talked to my father like you're talking to me she would have been picking up her teeth. He taught me to do whatever it takes to control a woman. I used to hate him for hitting my mother. Later on when my mother pulled me away from him I started hating my mother. Once I started dating, everything he told me started making sense. I think these nightmares are him talking to me.

PATRICIA

So, your father taught you to abuse women basically, right?

ANDREW

He kicked my ass often too to toughen me up. He said I was not going to be no punk. He said if I couldn't control a woman by any means necessary then I am less than a man.

PATRICIA

Andrew, you really need some help, and I don't think you're going to get it from that Anger Management Program.

ANDREW

You better not tell me what I need! I need a woman who does what she's told and shuts the hell up!

PATRICIA

Well, I called the police, Andrew, and they are on the way. My daddy is probably on the way too, and you know he wants to whoop your ass!

ANDREW

Big deal, you called the police! I'll be right back out, and your ugly ass will be right here waiting for me, just like always. I told you, nobody else wants you. And I got something for your father!

PATRICIA

Not this time, Andrew. I'm pressing charges on you this time. I just can't handle this anymore. I guess maybe then you can get the help you need.

ANDREW

I'll make you pay for all the shit you put me through!

PATRICIA

Andrew, the shit I put you through?

ANDREW

Yeah, you heard me bitch!

PATRICIA

I will not live in fear of you. Furthermore, I am not a bitch or a whore. I am a strong and beautiful African-American woman. You see, Andre, I do believe in the Lord. I have taken your best shots. But you have not and will not break my spirit. Now I am going to wait here for the police to get here then I am going to gather up my things and go.

(MORE)

PATRICIA (cont'd)

When you get out this time I will
not be coming back. I don't want
this anymore.

Andrew begins to choke Patricia.

PATRICIA

(Gagging, barely audible)
Andrew, I can't breathe!

ANDREW

I told you, "Until Death Do Us
Part," and I meant it! So, if you
want to leave me, Maybe I should
kill your ass!

Patricia struggles and fights to get Andrew off her, but she
appears to be slowly fading out. She reaches for the gun in
his waistband. Suddenly, there is a POP. Andrew loosens his
grip and drops to one knee.

ANDREW

(Holding his stomach)
You shot me bitch!

He tries to grab Patricia again. Patricia starts pulling the
trigger repeatedly but the gun is empty and only clicks as
Andrew collapses.

Patricia screams and jumps around with the gun still in her
hand. Officer McNeil, Officer Powell and several other
uniformed officers bust into the apartment with guns drawn.

OFFICER McNeil

Patricia put the gun down! Patricia
wisely drops the gun.

PATRICIA

He was going to kill me!

Officer Powell kneels down and checks Andrew's pulse. She
looks up at the other officers and shakes her head no meaning
there is no pulse. She gets up and approaches Patricia with
her handcuffs out.

OFFICER POWELL

(Shakes her head)
Patricia I know you're pregnant but
I have to do this. It's standard
procedure to cuff all suspects.

OFFICER McNeil
 (Talks on his two-way)
 Dispatch this is Officer McNeil,
 roll rescue to this location for a
 man down and unresponsive with at
 least one gunshot wound. Possible
 one eighty-seven. Response is code
 three. One female suspect in
 custody.

DISPATCHER (V.O)
 Confirming, the male is down and
 the female is in custody?

OFFICER McNeil
 That's affirmative Dispatch!

Officer Powell handcuffs Patricia with her hands in front of
 her.

PATRICIA
 (Still hysterical)
 He was going to kill me!

Officer Powell reads Patricia her rights.

PATRICIA
 He was going to kill me!

Patricia's father comes running into the apartment with his
 bat.

CHARLES
 Did that son of a bitch hurt my
 daughter?

Charles peers over and sees Andrew laying on the floor in a
 puddle of blood.

CHARLES
 Oh my God, what happened?

PATRICIA
 Daddy he was going to kill me!

CHARLES
 Baby don't say anything else!

Officer McNeil takes the bat from Charles and starts moving
 him slowly back out of the apartment.

CHARLES
 Wait wait wait! Why are you all
 arresting my daughter?

OFFICER McNeil

Your daughter is a suspect in the shooting of Andrew Robinson. Now you are welcome to come down to the station but this Apartment is now officially a crime scene and therefore off limits. Two Paramedics rush in to attempt CPR on Andrew, but it appears to be too late.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DR. MORGAN'S OFFICE AT THE PRISON - LATE AFTERNOON

We go back to Dr. Morgan's office, where Patricia is telling her story. Patricia is visibly upset and crying.

PATRICIA

That's pretty much it. Now I am here doing time for it. I had a baby boy who I named Marcus since I have been incarcerated.

DR. MORGAN

Where is Marcus now?

PATRICIA

My parents have been taking care of him. They bring him here for me to see him sometimes. Now I do love Marcus Doctor Morgan but every time I see him I see Andrew. He favors Andrew a lot. Marcus also reminds me of the vicious rape. I never told anyone but you about how he was really conceived. Not even my parents. At first I didn't want him to see me in here but my parents said it was important to bond with him and establish a relationship with him. He's already starting out with no father.

DR. MORGAN

How does that make you feel? I mean it seems to me that raising Marcus is going to be a big challenge of course knowing what you went through and having him constantly reminding you of Andrew.

PATRICIA

Well I would never take my anger out on him or abuse him, that's for sure. I hope he never experiences or witnesses the violence I experienced or the violence his father obviously experienced. I will raise Marcus right and teach him to respect women and treat women well. The vicious cycle ends here.

DR. MORGAN

How does finally telling your story make you feel?

PATRICIA

Oh God Doctor Morgan it feels great. It feels like I just lifted a huge weight off my shoulders. I guess I really wanted to tell it all along but didn't know how.

DR. MORGAN

Well it's certainly one of the more powerful stories I have heard. So do you feel there are any long-term effects from the abuse and if so what do you feel they are?

She looks at the Doctor sort of confused.

PATRICIA

Well I do have nightmares about Andrew coming after me.

DR. MORGAN

Those are probably similar to Andrew's nightmares ironically. They may never go away.

PATRICIA

I wish they would go away. I'm getting used to them though and they don't really bother me as much anymore. I still feel like it was self defense. I kind of feel like Sharon Walker in a way. Andrew is gone forever and will never put me or any other woman through this again. I just wish I didn't have to be here for it.

(MORE)

PATRICIA (cont'd)

I think if the cops would have got there a little sooner they would have seen Andrew choking the life out of me.

DR. MORGAN

(Writing notes)

I see.

PATRICIA

So what is your assessment or should I say diagnosis of me? Am I crazy?

DR. MORGAN

Oh no Patricia I think you're fine. I think you're very strong and should be able to get through this.

PATRICIA

This program is brand new right?

DR. MORGAN

Well it's new to this prison but it has been fairly successful in other prisons throughout the country. You just made it through the very first and most important step in the program. Telling your story. You feel ready to tell it to the group?

PATRICIA

Yeah I feel like I can tell it to the world.

Dr. Morgan looks at his calendar

DR. MORGAN

When would you like to tell your story? Hold on, it looks like I will be gone a couple of days next week but I will be here Monday Wednesday and Friday.

PATRICIA

Let's make it Monday. I don't want to wait too long.

DR. MORGAN

(Writes on the calendar)

Okay should I pencil you in or ink you in?

PATRICIA
What difference does it make?

DR. MORGAN
Well if I put you down I don't want
to hear that four letter word come
out of your mouth.

PATRICIA
I'm sorry Doctor Morgan but I do
curse sometimes.

DR. MORGAN
I'm not talking about a four-letter
curse word I'm talking about the
one that's even worse around here.
P-A-S-S.

PATRICIA
You won't hear me say that, I feel
ready to do this.

INT. THE WOMEN'S PRISON - MONDAY MORNING

Patricia has just finished telling her story to the group.
There isn't a dry eye in the joint except for Doctor
Morgan's.

There is a pause and silence for a few minutes. Suddenly the
silence is broken with applause. The women give Patricia a
standing ovation.

DR. MORGAN
I hope you all are applauding
because it was a powerful story and
not because she killed Andrew.

INT. THE WOMEN'S PRISON - ABOUT ONE MONTH LATER - MORNING

Patricia is with her LAWYER, a black female, 30 years old.
Two prison guards are also present and stand by with a
watchful eye.

PATRICIA
I hope you have some good news for
me. I am tired of this hell hole.

LAWYER
Right now I actually do have some
wonderful news for you.

PATRICIA
What is it?

LAWYER

I personally wanted to take the opportunity to tell you that you have successfully completed this program and have been scheduled for release.

PATRICIA

(Getting excited)

Released from the program or released from prison?

LAWYER

Actually you will be released from both. You already completed the state mandated program. You will be receiving a full pardon from the Governor. Patricia you will be fully exonerated.

PATRICIA

Oh my God that's so great!

LAWYER

It seems Andrew liked to tape you in your home. I guess it was his way of keeping an eye on you. He actually had quite a bit of footage, from a small surveillance camera. The camera was rolling the day of the shooting. It was sitting in the evidence room at a precinct for all this time. An officer booked it into evidence and it was sitting in a box all this time.

PATRICIA

None of that will go public right?! I mean it won't end up on the internet

LAWYER

Well, I am pretty sure it will stay private. But there is a bigger picture here. You will soon be free!

PATRICIA

Praise the Lord! Hallelujah! I can't wait to see Marcus, my best friends and my mom and dad!

Patricia jumps for joy, hugs her Lawyer and begins to cry.

LAWYER

I am very proud of you. You deserve this. Congratulations.

INT. EVENING SCOPE NEWS PROGRAM STUDIO - THE NEXT AFTERNOON

GOVERNOR WALSH, Dr. Morgan, the News Reporter, ROBERT CASSIDY, Patricia, Carol and the Lawyer are in a large television studio.

ROBERT CASSIDY

(Looks into the camera)

Good evening I am Bob Cassidy and this is the Evening Scope News Program. My guests include: Governor Walsh, Doctor Morgan from Hanford Women's Correctional Facility and Carol and Patricia who were recently released from Hanford under a new rehabilitation program. I guess I'll start with you Doctor Morgan. How successful do you feel this state mandated program will be?

DR. MORGAN

I think the program has great potential. I mean it's a fairly new program for our facility so I cannot give you numbers or statistics but it has been successful in other states.

ROBERT CASSIDY

What do you feel will be the key to making your program more successful than other rehabilitation programs? We all know that many of these programs fail.

DR. MORGAN

Well I'm sure you would agree that we cannot just lock criminals up without giving them some sort of extensive and intensive rehabilitation. Prison alone will not address the physical and psychological trauma many of these women deal with.

ROBERT CASSIDY

What do you tell skeptics who don't believe any program can help these criminals?

(MORE)

ROBERT CASSIDY (cont'd)

Why should society live in fear of these pedophiles, rapists and serial killers that you all insist on putting in these programs and releasing?

GOVERNOR WALSH

Look our prisons are already full. We continue to spend millions of dollars building more prisons. At the rate we're going there will be twice as many prisons as schools and colleges. That puts a heavy burden on our state. We feel it is of utmost importance to find programs like this so we can rehabilitate and successfully return prisoners back in society.

ROBERT CASSIDY

Now you two young ladies were tried and convicted in a court of law for taking the lives of your husbands. Now that's murder. Would any of you like to comment?

PATRICIA

Yes I would.

ROBERT CASSIDY

Go ahead umm Carol?

PATRICIA

No it's Patricia. I would like to say you left out one very important piece of information. They were our abusive husbands. We paid for what we did even though our sentences were shortened. This program has helped us cope with the mental anguish and pain we feel for what happened. Many of us were imprisoned by our husbands for many years and in most cases killed them only in self defense.

ROBERT CASSIDY

Why don't these women just leave?

CAROL WITHERSPOON

It's not always that easy Mr. Cassidy.

DR. MORGAN

There are many reasons women stay with there abusive husbands. Some believe their husbands will change, some are literally brainwashed by their husbands and some simply have nowhere else to go or nobody else to turn to. The psychological abuse can be life long. I have seen some of them whose state of mind could be likened to a "shell shocked" war veteran. Those of course would not be released.

GOVERNOR WALSH

Myself, my staff and an independent civilian review board check and review the files of every inmate set for release early from any program. We reject many files. For instance there was a third female that did very well in the program that we could not release.

ROBERT CASSIDY

Why?

GOVERNOR WALSH

She went back to her abusive husband specifically to kill him. She was charged with premeditated murder. This is not giving women the green light to kill their partners.

ROBERT CASSIDY

I would like to thank all of you for talking with The Evening Scope News Program. I wish you two young ladies luck. In our next segment we will be talking to some high level Police Officers on the subject of police misconduct in the black community. We'll be right back after a commercial break so please stay tuned. Okay folks that's a wrap.

PATRICIA

What the hell is your problem?

DR. MORGAN

Patricia no!

PATRICIA

Well he just demonized us on national television! We already been through enough bull...

DR. MORGAN

(cuts Patricia off)

Patricia!

PATRICIA (CONT.)

. . . Crap!

ROBERT CASSIDY

Hey, I'm just doing my job. Those were tough questions that needed to be asked. Now I am sorry if I offended you. This segment is over. The network will return here in 30 seconds.

CAROL WITHERSPOON

(Pulls Patricia's arm)

Come on, Patricia, let's go. He ain't worth it.

DR. MORGAN

(Gathers his papers)

Let's get going. We don't want any trouble.

The Governor leaves. The Doctor walks out with the girls. Patricia turns round and tries to head back, perhaps to curse Robert out. Doctor Morgan and Carol grab her and escort her out. The Police Officers arrive for the next segment and are seated.

ROBERT CASSIDY

(Adjusts his tie)

Boy am I glad to see you guys. I thought I was going to have to call you guys up here earlier. I bet that one will end up right back in prison.

DR. MORGAN

Patricia you have got to control that temper.

CAROL WITHERSPOON

Yeah, girl, don't trip so much.

INT. A BATTERED WOMEN'S SHELTER - ONE WEEK LATER - EVENING

Patricia is concluding her speech to a group of battered women. We PAN around the room slowly, showing their bruised faces.

Ironically, it's the same shelter that is run by Gina Perkins. Carol is also there.

PATRICIA

Remember what I said tonight. Every fifteen seconds a woman is abused in this country. Domestic Violence is one of the leading causes for injuries to women ages fifteen to forty-four. There are over two thousand women in prisons and correctional facilities for killing their abusive husbands.

CAROL WITHERSPOON

Ladies don't become a statistic or a victim. Make a change in your life because he won't change.

GINA PERKINS

(Clapping her hands)

Thank you for coming out. Your speech was very powerful.

The battered women give Patricia and Carol a STANDING OVATION.

GINA PERKINS

I have good news for all of you. Patricia has been kind enough to bring us copies of her best seller: "Deceptive Vows." She will be at the back table autographing copies. I read the book and it is certainly a wonderful book.

PATRICIA

My publicist told me that some Producers want to make my book into a movie.

Once again there is LOUD APPLAUSE.

PATRICIA

They were going to change the title to "A Scorned Woman" but I actually like "Deceptive Vows" better.

(MORE)

PATRICIA (cont'd)

Hey, as long as they tell the story like the book and compensate me fairly for it, I don't care if they call it "Shitty Vows."

The women all LAUGH.

PATRICIA

No, seriously, ladies, this goes beyond the money, fame, and glory. Now I do feel fortunate to have all this success, but I still have a mission. I promise to stay focused on that mission with "Military-Like" diligence.

The women once again give Patricia a STANDING OVATION.

PATRICIA

I want to introduce you all to my father, Charles, my mother, Donna, my son, Marcus, and last but definitely not least, my two best friends, Yvette and Vanessa. My family and friends have been there for me throughout this whole ordeal. I couldn't have made it without their continuing support and prayers.

The women APPLAUSE as Patricia signals her family and friends to stand up. Patricia, Carol, and Gina make their way to the back.

They shake hands and hug their way to the back. Patricia sits at the table and begins signing and giving out books. The women practically mob her.

CAROL WITHERSPOON

Well, I sure hope I can get a book or movie deal.

PATRICIA

Maybe you will, and perhaps you won't. But what matters is that we stay focused and on course with the mission and objective at hand. Which is to keep trying to save lives, one victim at a time. Speaking of mission, I have decided to get closer to God. This whole ordeal has really opened my eyes, and I realize God has blessed me.

EXT. ATLANTIC STATION - DAY

Patricia steps out of a Limo and onto a red carpet with Charles, Donna, Marcus, Yvette, Vanessa, and Carol.

They all stand there a while, looking up at the movie Marquee that reads: "DECEPTIVE VOWS." A tear streams down Patricia's face. People are YELLING PATRICIA'S NAME.

INT. A CHURCH - DAY

Patricia is in church, sitting in the first row. She is with Charles, Donna, Marcus, Yvette, Vanessa, and Carol.

There is a small crowd in the church. The choir and congregation sing, "AMAZING GRACE."

FADE OUT