BARS

"PILOT - Night of the Square Table"

Written by
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FADE IN:

INT. DONOVAN’S BEDROOM – DAY

THE BEDROOM IS DARK AND CLUTTERED. BOTH MALE AND FEMALE CLOTHING ARE SPEWED ACROSS THE ROOM. AN EMPTY LIQUOR BOTTLE LIES TURNED OVER ON THE NIGHT STAND SPILLING ONTO THE FLOOR. A CELL PHONE BEGINS TO RING. DONOVAN EVANS, 20’S, AFRICAN AMERICAN, STRETCHES HIS HAND TO THE NIGHT STAND FISHING FOR THE PHONE. HE CLEARS HIS THROAT AND PUTS THE PHONE TO HIS FACE.

DONOVAN

Hello?

ROB (O.S.)

(surprisingly)
Damn D it’s two o’clock and you still sleep? What the hell you do last night?

FLASHBACK:

INT. DONOVAN’S BEDROOM – NIGHT

DONOVAN HAVING SEX WITH GIRL IN DOGGYSTYLE POSITION. GIRL PLEASURABLY MOANING.

BACK TO PRESENT:

INT. DONOVAN’S BEDROOM – DAY

DONOVAN

Naw man I was just about to get up.

INTERCUT:

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE – DAY

ROBERT “ROB” BLAYLOCK, 20’S, AFRICAN AMERICAN, SIFTING THROUGH CLOTHING RACKS AT A DEPARTMENT STORE.
ROB
Okay so you do realize SMOOVE’S graduation is at seven o’clock right? And I wanna get a good seat ‘cause you know white people show up early for that kinda shit.

INT. DONOVAN’S BEDROOM – DAY
DONOVAN
I’ll be at your house around six.

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE – DAY
ROB PLACES A SHIRT UP TO HIS CHEST AS HE LOOKS IN THE MIRROR.

ROB
Are you sure ‘cause I can find another way to get there?

INT. DONOVAN’S BEDROOM – DAY
DONOVAN INTERRUPTS.

DONOVAN
Rob I said I’ll be there, just be ready.

ROB (O.S.)
Alright man just checking, peace.


DONOVAN
Hey you get up, you gotta go.
GIRL MOANS IN DISREGARD.

GIRL
Five more minutes.

DONOVAN
(to girl, sternly)
Hey for real you gotta get up! I got some stuff to do before I go to the graduation tonight.

GIRL ROLLS OVER TOWARDS DONOVAN.

GIRL
Okay okay since you wanna kick me out now. I see how it is.

GIRL CRAWLS OUT OF THE BED AND WALKS TOWARDS THE BATHROOM COMPLETELY NAKED. DONOVAN’S EYES FOLLOW HER. GIRL LOOKS BACK AT DONOVAN.

GIRL (CONT’D)
Funny, last night you didn’t want me to leave.

DONOVAN NONCHALANTLY SHRUGS HIS SHOULDERS THEN SCROLLS THROUGH HIS PHONE.

CUT TO:

INT. SMOOVE’S TOWNHOUSE - DAY

SHAWN “SMOOVE” MACLAIN, 20’S, AFRICAN AMERICAN, IS IN THE KITCHEN SEASONING FOOD AND LISTENING TO THE RADIO WHILE RAPPING INTO A PAIR OF TONGS.

SMOOVE
It was all a dream, I use to read Word Up magazine. Salt’n’Pepper and Heavy D up in the limousine.

SMOOVE’S FIANCEE NICOLE ENTERS AND TURNS THE RADIO VOLUME DOWN. SMOOVE ABRUPTLY TURNS AROUND TO HER.
SMOOVE (CONT’D)
Babe you killing my vibe. I was
getting my Diddy bop on.

SMOOVE DIDDY BOPS.

SMOOVE (CONT’D)
Take that, take that, take that.

NICOLE FOLDS HER ARMS.

NICOLE
You need to hurry up and finish
seasoning those wings so you can
start getting ready, you have to be
up at the school in a couple hours.
I don’t know why you chose to have
a party over here anyway when you
know this house ain’t that big! And
who you expect to clean up after
you and all your lil’ friends?

SMOOVE LAUGHS SLIGHTLY THEN WALKS OVER TO NICOLE TO EMBRACE
HER.

SMOOVE
Baby, baby, baby. Can a man just
get one day without you fussing at
me about something? It is my
graduation day you know.

SMOOVE LEANS IN AND BEGINS KISSING NICOLE ON HER LIPS,
CHEEKS, AND NECK.

SMOOVE (CONT’D)
Plus, I plan on doing you so good
later tonight you might just wanna
get up and clean. And then fix me
something to eat. And then clean
those dirty dishes.

SMOOVE LAUGHS. NICOLE FREES HERSELF FROM HIS ARMS THEN LEANS
ON THE COUNTER.
NICOLE
Look. Ain’t nobody thinking about no party, and ain’t nobody thinking about no sex, I’m thinking about these bills that need to be paid. Hopefully with your degree you can get a real job now ‘cause the Home Depot ain’t cutting it no more.

NICOLE EXITS THE KITCHEN. SMOOVE SIGHS AND SHAKES HEAD. HE TURNS THE RADIO VOLUME BACK UP, GRABS THE TONGS, AND CONTINUES WHERE HE LEFT OFF.

SMOOVE
You know very well who you are...

CUT TO:

EXT. ROB’S HOUSE – DAY
DONOVAN PULLS UP AT ROB’S HOUSE IN A GREEN TRICKED OUT 1970 CHEVELLE SS AND BEGINS BLOWING THE HORN.

CUT TO:

INT. ROB’S HOUSE – DAY
GRANDMOTHER GETS UP FROM HER SEAT IN FRONT OF THE TV TO PEEP OUT THE WINDOW. SHE TURNS AROUND AND CALLS TO ROB UPSTAIRS.

GRANDMOTHER
Robert, Donovan’s outside blowing for you.

ROB YELLS FROM UPSTAIRS.

ROB (O.S.)
Okay, I’ll be down in a minute.

GRANDMOTHER RETREATS BACK TO HER SEAT LAUGHING AT TV. ROB RACES DOWN THE STAIRCASE.

ROB (CONT’D)
So granny what do you think?
ROB MODELS HIS OUTFIT WITH VARIOUS POSES. GRANDMOTHER LAUGHS.

ROB (CONT’D)
Nice right?

GRANDMOTHER
Ooooo you sure do look good baby. You know it should be you walking across that stage with Shawn, lord knows I wish you were.

ROB
Aw granny, if I go to school then how will I take care of you?

GRANDMOTHER LOOKS PUZZLED.

GRANDMOTHER
I just don’t understand how you can have a job and be off as much as you are.

ROB WALKS OVER AND KISSES GRANDMOTHER ON THE FOREHEAD.

ROB
That’s the good thing about being the manager, I set my own hours.

HORN BLOWS FROM OUTSIDE. ROB GRABS SOME PEPPERMINTS FROM A CANDY BOWL AND HEADS TOWARD THE DOOR.

ROB (CONT’D)
Well I’ll see you later granny, don’t wait up. Love ya!

GRANDMOTHER
Love you too baby. And don’t forget to play my lotto numbers. I want the power play too.

ROB EXITS HOUSE AND GETS INTO THE CAR WITH DONOVAN.
EXT./INT. DONOVAN’S CAR - DAY

ROB
What up bruh, you good?

THE TWO EXCHANGE A HANDSHAKE.

DONOVAN
Yeah I’m straight.

DONOVAN PULLS AWAY FROM ROB’S HOUSE.

DONOVAN (CONT’D)
Remember the chick we met at the mall last Saturday? She came through last night.

ROB
You hit?

DONOVAN GIVES ROB AN ASSURED LOOK.

DONOVAN
C’mon now.

THE TWO LAUGH. DONOVAN THEN REACHES TO TURN THE RADIO VOLUME UP. A TOP 40’S RAP SONG PLAYS ON THE RADIO.

RAPPER (ON RADIO)
Now let me see you do that bobble head girl, don’t play with it aaayyy...make love to it aaayyy...’cause you so thick aaayyy.

ROB LOOKS AT THE RADIO WITH A LOOK OF CONFUSION.

ROB
What are we listening to?

DONOVAN
I don’t even know, that’s the radio station.
DONOVAN TURNS THE RADIO VOLUME DOWN.

ROB
They’ll play anything on the radio now man, shit’s crazy!

DONOVAN
You’re right, but that’s the kinda music people wanna hear so what can you do.

ROB
I’m telling you D, you’re missing out on your calling.

DONOVAN Sighs.

DONOVAN
So how often do we have this conversation?

ROB
Naw man I swear.

(then)
It could be like the time we all did the talent show that one year. No lie, I just wanted be seen on stage so the chicks would holla at me. And Smoove, that nigga energetic ass was just the hype man. You were the only one that had real talent, me and Smoove both knew it.

DONOVAN SHAKES HIS HEAD IN DISBELIEF.

ROB (CONT’D)
And you’re creative as hell too. You could probably write a hit just like that (SNAPS finger) bruh!
DONOVAN
Yeah but everybody and they’re mama a rapper now. And you already know I wouldn’t be doing none of that cookie cutter rap.

ROB
But see that’s what would separate you from everybody else. They expecting one flavor from us. We come in on some other shit, BAM, we got ‘em!

DONOVAN LAUGHS SLIGHTLY.

ROB (CONT’D)
What’s funny?

DONOVAN
You. Tryna be serious.

ROB SHOWS A LOOK OF DEFEAT.

ROB
Whatever man.

DONOVAN
Anyway, you got Pandora on your phone right? Play something.

ROB SCROLLS THROUGH HIS PHONE AND SELECTS A SONG. THE TWO NOD THEIR HEAD TO THE MUSIC.

INT. GYMNASIUM - LATER THAT DAY

THE GYM IS FILLED WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY WAITING FOR THE GRADUATION CEREMONY TO BEGIN. DONOVAN AND ROB WALK INTO THE GYMNASIUM AND MANAGE TO FIND SEATS NEAR THE FRONT ROW JUST AS POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE BEGINS. THE GRADUATES MARCH IN. CAMERAS FLASH AND CHEERS BEGIN. SMOOVE WALKS DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF DONOVAN AND ROB. THEY BOTH CHEER FOR HIM.
DONOVAN
Alright Smoove!

ROB POINTS AT SMOOVE.

ROB
I see you big homie!

SMOOVE LOOKS TOWARDS DONOVAN AND ROB AND GIVES THEM A HEAD NOD WHILE THROWING UP THE PEACE SIGN WITH BOTH HANDS. THE CROWD CONTINUES TO CHEER AS MORE GRADUATES MARCH IN.

CUT TO:

INT. GYMNASIUM ATRIUM - DAY

THE NEW GRADUATES ARE SEEN TAKING PICTURES WITH FRIENDS/FAMILY AND CONGRATULATING EACH OTHER. DONOVAN AND ROB RENDEZVOUS WITH SMOOVE AND HIS FAMILY OUTSIDE OF THE GYM.

ROB (CONT'D)
(to Smoove, yelling)
Smoove!

SMOOVE LOOKS AROUND. HE SEES DONOVAN AND ROB THEN WALKS OVER TO THEM.

ROB (CONT'D)
Congrats bruh!

SMOOVE
‘Preciate it baby!

ROB AND SMOOVE EXCHANGE A HAND SHAKE.

DONOVAN
You think you’re the shit now huh?

SMOOVE LAUGHS AS HE AND DONOVAN EXCHANGE A HAND SHAKE.

SMOOVE
Damn right!

DONOVAN
So how you feel?

SMOOVE SIGHS.
SMOOVE
Like somebody can finally get off
my back now!

SMOOVE TURNS AND LOOKS AT NICOLE WHILE GIVING HER A FAKE
SMILE. DONOVAN AND ROB ALSO TURN TO LOOK AT HER. NICOLE
NOTICES THE TRIO STARING. DONOVAN AND ROB JOIN IN ON THE FAKE
SMILE. ROB ADDS A WAVE.

DONOVAN
Ohhhh.
(then)
Well you got the credentials now so
the sky’s the limit.

SMOOVE RUBS HIS HANDS TOGETHER.

SMOOVE
I know, might start a lil’ business
venture or something.

ROB PLACES HIS HAND ON SMOOVE’S SHOULDER.

ROB
(to Smoove)
I can definitely see us being
business partners.

SMOOVE ABRUPTLY LAUGHS.

SMOOVE
Man shut up.

DONOVAN AND SMOOVE LAUGH. BENJAMIN “TREY” JOHNSON III,
CAUCASIAN, 20’S, WALKS OVER TOWARDS THE TRIO TO GREET SMOOVE.

TREY
Shawn what up bro, we did it!

SMOOVE
I know baby, congrats!

SMOOVE AND TREY EXCHANGE A HANDSHAKE.
SMOOVE (CONT’D)
You still coming over to the crib later for the party right?

TREY
Aw yeah I’m there for sure.

SMOOVE
That’s what I like to hear. And don’t forget to bring the CD I asked you about too.

TREY
I got you man.

SMOOVE
Oh yeah, it’s a two chick minimum also to enter. I don’t wanna have a sausage fest on my hands.

TREY LAUGHS.

TREY
Cool, not a problem.

SMOOVE
Bet. Well I’ll see you later then.

TREY
Peace bro.

TREY AND SMOOVE EXCHANGE A HANDSHAKE. TREY THEN DEPARTS FROM THE TRIO.

ROB
Who’s the white boy?

SMOOVE
Aw that’s Trey. Real cool dude and smart as hell too, he just stays high all the time though. He was the one that helped me get through calculus.
ROB SHAKES HIS HEAD WITH A LOOK OF CURIOSITY ON HIS FACE. DONOVAN LOOKS AT HIS WATCH.

DONOVAN
(to Smoove)
Well I gotta get out of here man, you know my sister’s in town. But everybody said congrats though. And I’ll probably be through your spot around 11.

ROB
Yeah granny said congrats too.

SMOOVE
That’s the business. I’ll catch up with y’all later tonight then.

SMOOVE EXCHANGES HANDSHAKES WITH DONOVAN AND ROB. DONOVAN AND ROB EXIT THE GYM ATRIUM AND WALK BACK TOWARDS DONOVAN’S CAR.

EXT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

ROB
Finally, I can get out this shirt and tie.

ROB TAKES HIS SHIRT OFF TO REVEAL A WIFE BEATER.

ROB (CONT’D)
Oh yeah, can you drop me off over on Rainer Street?

DONOVAN
Rainer Street? Who you know on the south side?

ROB
I got people bruh, I’m nationwide.

DONOVAN
Right...
DONOVAN AND ROB GET INTO THE CAR AND DRIVE OUT OF THE PARKING LOT.

CUT TO:

EXT./INT. DONOVAN’S CAR - DAY
DONOVAN IS DRIVING AS ROB SCROLLS THROUGH HIS PHONE.

ROB
Man Sheena and Ashley both wanna come to the party tonight. You think I could pull that off?

DONOVAN
What, having two chicks in the same spot? I mean it’s possible but I wouldn’t wanna deal with it.

THE TWO LAUGH. ROB SHAKES HIS HEAD IN AGREEMENT.

ROB
You’re right.

ROB SIGHS.

ROB (CONT’D)
Pimpin’ ain’t easy D but somebody’s gotta do it. That’s where I step in.

(then)
So you bringing anybody?

DONOVAN
Negative. You know I like keeping my options open.

(then)
Oh but that does remind me, I need to hit up ALICIA and tell her about the party.

DONOVAN PULLS OUT HIS PHONE AND PLACES A CALL.
ROB
You ever hit that?

DONOVAN SIGNALS TO ROB TO BE QUIET WHILE HE PLACES THE CALL.

DONOVAN
(into phone)
Hey I was just calling to invite you to Smoove’s graduation party at his crib later tonight. I’ll text you the address in case you decide to come. Holla at me when you get the message. Peace.

DONOVAN HANGS UP THE PHONE.

ROB
So you did hit that right?

DONOVAN
Naw man I told you we’re just cool. That’s my home girl, plus she has a boyfriend.

ROB
And? You know you could hit it if you really wanted to. What is she, blackenese or something?

DONOVAN LAUGHS.

DONOVAN
Exotic is all I know. And yeah she is fine, but I never said I wouldn’t hit. I’m just not making an effort to do so.

ROB
Man if I had a friend who looked like that, I would’ve gave her the “D” on day one.
DONOVAN LAUGHS.

ROB (CONT’D)
Wait, you’re not one of those down
tlow brothers are you?

DONOVAN AND ROB PULL UP IN FRONT OF A HOUSING PROJECT.
DONOVAN PUTS THE CAR IN PARK THEN LOOKS AT ROB AND POINTS TO
THE DOOR.

DONOVAN
Get the fuck out.

ROB LAUGHS.

ROB
Alright man I’ll see you at the
party tonight.

DONOVAN
Alright bruh. Peace.

THE TWO EXCHANGE A HANDSHAKE. ROB EXITS THE CAR AND WALKS
TOWARDS THE HOUSING PROJECT AS DONOVAN PULLS OFF.

CUT TO:

INT. DONOVAN’S PARENT’S HOUSE – NIGHT

DONOVAN’S MOTHER IS IN THE KITCHEN COOKING AND CHATTING WITH
DONOVAN’S SISTERS SHEILA AND VICKI. SHEILA AND VICKI ARE
SIPPING ON WHITE WINE AND LAUGHING. DONOVAN ATTEMPTS TO SNEAK
INTO THE KITCHEN SLOWLY SO NO ONE CAN HEAR HIM.

MOTHER
Hello Donnie.

DONOVAN DROPS HIS ARMS TO HIS SIDE AND STANDS WITH A LOOK OF
CONFUSION ON HIS FACE. HIS TWO SISTERS TURN AROUND.

SHEILA
Brother!

VICKI
Brother!

SHEILA AND VICKI RUN TO DONOVAN.
DONOVAN
What up what up.

DONOVAN HUGS SHEILA AND VICKI.

DONOVAN (CONT’D)
I see y’all didn’t waste any time
to start the party.

VICKI
Whatever boy, I’ve had a long trip.

SHEILA REFILLS HER GLASS OF WINE.

SHEILA
Exactly. And I’m on stay-cation so,
cheers.

SHEILA LIFTS HER GLASS IN THE AIR. THEY ALL LAUGH.

SHEILA (CONT’D)
You want a glass?

DONOVAN
Naw I’ll pass. I’m not really the
wine type.

SHEILA
Suit yourself.

DONOVAN MAKES HIS WAY OVER TO HIS MOTHER AND GIVES HER A HUG.
DONOVAN’S MOTHER KISSES HIM ON THE CHEEK.

DONOVAN
What’s up mama.

MOTHER
Oh nothing, just glad to have all
of my children in one place. You
know, you could come out here more.

DONOVAN SIGHS.
DONOVAN
I know, I know. I’ve just been working a lot.

MOTHER
I understand.

(then)
How was the graduation? I know Shawn was excited.

DONOVAN
It was real nice, Smoove showed out as usual.

MOTHER
That’s so good for him and his little family. He has the cutest little boy.

VICKI
So Donnie, have you thought about school again?

DONOVAN
(hesitantly)
Yeah I’ve thought about it.

VICKI
And?

DONOVAN
And I’m gonna go back.

(then)
One day.

SHEILA
We know you are Donnie because take it from me, you don’t want to be my age making minimum wage. Going back to school was the best thing I could’ve ever done.
VICKI
And you only have what, three semesters left? That’s nothing.

DONOVAN INTERRUPTS.

DONOVAN
Ladies, can we please change the subject?

MOTHER
Now girls take it easy on your brother, he just got here.

DONOVAN
Thanks mama!

DONOVAN WINKS AT HIS SISTERS.

MOTHER
I saw Tiffany’s mom at the grocery store yesterday and she said that Tiffany would be home tomorrow. Are you going to bring her over?

SHEILA
Oh so the band’s getting back together huh?

SHEILA AND VICKI LAUGH.

DONOVAN
We’re going out tomorrow night so we’ll see where it goes. (then)
And naw, I don’t think we’re gonna make it out here.

MOTHER
Well just tell her I said hello.
DONOVAN
I will.
   (then)
So where’s dad at?

VICKI
In the other room watching the
game.

DONOVAN
Okay, I’m gonna go holla at him for
a second.

DONOVAN EXITS THE KITCHEN AND ENTERS THE FAMILY ROOM WHERE
HIS DAD IS SITTING IN A RECLINER WATCHING A BASKETBALL GAME.
DONOVAN GOES OVER TO HIS DAD AND PATS HIM ON THE SHOULDER.

DONOVAN (CONT’D)
What’s going on dad?

DONOVAN’S DAD ACKNOWLEDGES HIM BUT QUICKLY LOOKS BACK AT THE
TV.

DAD
Hey son.

DONOVAN
So, who’s winning?

DONOVAN TAKES A SEAT ON THE ADJACENT COUCH.

DAD
Lakers by 6.
   (then)
It says it right there on the
screen son.

DONOVAN
(hesitantly)
Yeah I can see that, I was just
tryna make conversation.

DAD CONTINUES LOOKING AT THE TV.
DAD
You know, I couldn’t help but to
overhear you all in the kitchen and
if you can see things so clearly
then you would clearly see that you
need to finish school.

DONOVAN STARES BLANKLY AT THE TV.

DAD (CONT’D)
Or I don’t know, maybe you actually
enjoy making $7.50 at Value Foods.
That is what they’re paying you
right?

DONOVAN SIGHS.

DONOVAN
See this is why we never talk
because you always have something
negative to say. Nothing I ever do
is good enough for you.

DAD PAUSES THEN TURNS TO DONOVAN.

DAD
What have you even done?

DONOVAN SITS FOR A MOMENT THEN STORMS OUT OF THE ROOM. HE
HUGS HIS MOTHER AND SAYS GOODBYE TO HIS SISTERS ON THE WAY
OUT.

DONOVAN
I’m gone. I’ll see y’all Sunday at
church maybe.

SHEILA
What, what’s going on?

VICKI
What happened?
DONOVAN
Nothing I just have to get out of here. Love y’all.

DONOVAN EXITS THE HOUSE AND WALKS TOWARDS HIS CAR. HIS MOTHER SOON FOLLOWES BEHIND HIM.

MOTHER
Donnie.

DONOVAN KEEPS WALKING.

MOTHER (CONT’D)
(sternly)
Donovan!

DONOVAN TURNS TO HIS MOTHER.

DONOVAN
No, I just can’t do it ma. I can’t!

DONOVAN PACES BACK AND FORTH.

MOTHER
Donovan, your father loves you and just wants what’s best for you. We all do. He just has a strange way of showing it.

DONOVAN
I’m not Sheila and I’m not Vicki. I tried, it just wasn’t for me.

MOTHER
We just want to see you happy Donnie, that’s all. So whatever it is that makes you happy, then I’m happy.

DONOVAN TAKES A MOMENT TO COOL OFF. HE LOOKS TO THE SKY AND LETS OUT A HUGE SIGH.

DONOVAN
Thanks ma.
DONOVAN AND HIS MOTHER HUG.

MOTHER
Take care of yourself son, I love you. And be careful tonight at that party. If you drink too much then stay put, don’t try to drive.

DONOVAN
I love you too ma, and I will.

DONOVAN’S MOTHER WALKS BACK TOWARDS THE HOUSE AS DONOVAN GETS INTO HIS CAR AND DRIVES AWAY.

CUT TO:

INT. SMOOVE’S TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

THE PARTY IS IN FULL EFFECT. THE MUSIC IS LOUD. GIRLS AND GUYS ARE STANDING AROUND DRINKING, CONVERSING, AND DANCING. ROB IS PLAYING DOMINOS WITH TWO OTHER GUYS. SMOOVE ENTERS THE PARTY FROM THE BACK DECK CARRYING A PLATE STACKED WITH CHICKEN WINGS AND WEARING AN APRON THAT SAYS “KISS THE COOK.” HE STOPS TO TALK TO A GIRL.

SMOOVE
Aye taste this right here girl.

SMOOVE HANDS THE GIRL A CHICKEN WING. THE GIRL TAKES A BITE. SMOOVE SHAKES HIS HEAD WITH ASSURANCE.

SMOOVE (CONT’D)
Yeah, you like that don’t you.
That’s my mama’s secret hot sauce baby. We gon’ bottle that up!

SMOOVE GIVES THE GIRL A SEDUCTIVE LOOK.

SMOOVE (CONT’D)
Mmm. And you too.

SMOOVE WALKS AWAY FROM THE GIRL AND MAKES HIS WAY TOWARDS THE KITCHEN. HE NOTICES A GUY PUTTING A BEVERAGE ON THE COFFEE TABLE.
SMOOVE (CONT’D)
Put a coaster under that player,
that came from IKEA!

SMOOVE CONTINUES TOWARDS THE KITCHEN AND SEES A GIRL NOT DRINKING HER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE. HE LOOKS INTO HER CUP.

SMOOVE (CONT’D)
You gotta drink all of that, don’t baby sit it.

SMOOVE WINKS AT THE GIRL THEN CONTINUES TOWARDS THE KITCHEN. HE WALKS PASS ROB PLAYING DOMINOS. ROB TAKES A SIP FROM HIS CUP THEN STANDS UP AND SLAPS THE TABLE.

ROB
Domino muthafuckas! What!

ROB COLLECTS HIS WINNINGS AND CELEBRATES. DONOVAN ENTERS THE PARTY. ROB NOTICES HIM.

ROB (CONT’D)
Oh shit, D in the house!

DONOVAN WALKS OVER TO ROB. THE TWO EXCHANGE A HANDSHAKE.

ROB (CONT’D)
(to Smoove, yelling)
Smoove, shots!

SMOOVE SIGNALS FOR THE TWO TO COME TO THE KITCHEN. DONOVAN AND ROB HEAD TOWARDS THE KITCHEN. SMOOVE POURS THREE SHOTS OF TEQUILA. DONOVAN AND SMOOVE EXCHANGE A HANDSHAKE.

SMOOVE
What took you so long?

DONOVAN SIGHS AND SHAKES HIS HEAD.

DONOVAN
Long night man, long night. I’ll tell y’all about it later. I do need a drink though.
SMOOVE
You know I got that covered.

SMOOVE HANDS DONOVAN AND ROB A SHOT GLASS. THE TRIO HOLD THE SHOT GLASSES UPWARD.

SMOOVE (CONT’D)
You fellas ready?

DONOVAN AND ROB BOTH NOD IN AGREEMENT.

SMOOVE (CONT’D)
To a great night!

THE TRIO ALL DOWN THE SHOTS THEN SLAM THE SHOT GLASSES ON THE COUNTER. LOOKS OF ANGUISH POUR OVER THEIR FACES. ROB BEGINS COUGHING UNCONTROLLABLY.

SMOOVE (CONT’D)
(to Rob, amused)
You alright sweetheart?

ROB SHAKES HIS HEAD NO THEN RETREATS TOWARDS THE BATHROOM.

SMOOVE (CONT’D)
(to Rob, yelling)
You better not throw up my tequila!

DONOVAN LAUGHS.

DONOVAN
That’s your boy.

SMOOVE
Yeah but you knew him first?

SMOOVE GRABS TWO BEERS AND HANDS ONE TO DONOVAN. DONOVAN OPENS IT AND TAKES A SIP.

DONOVAN
Nice turnout bruh.

SMOOVE
Yeah I know, and best of all Nicole’s not here.
DONOVAN
I noticed. How’d you manage to pull that off?

SMOOVE
Easy, I just started an argument with her.

DONOVAN
About what?

SMOOVE
Oh I just accused her of fucking some guy at her job.

DONOVAN LAUGHS.

DONOVAN

SMOOVE
I’ll admit it got pretty nasty, but nothing I can’t clean up.

SMOOVE TAKES A SIP OF BEER.

SMOOVE (CONT’D)
I mean you know how Nicole can be.

DONOVAN
Yeah she is a buzz kill at times.

SMOOVE
Aye watch it. That’s the future Mrs. Maclain you talking about. I love her crazy ass.

THE TWO LAUGH. A CURVACEOUS GIRL WITH A SHORT DRESS WALKS BY. DONOVAN AND SMOOVE BOTH STARE AT HER BUTT.

SMOOVE (CONT’D)
See, that’s what I’m talking about.
DONOVAN
Hell yea, she could definitely get it.

SMOOVE PUTS HIS ARM AROUND DONOVAN’S NECK AS THEY SCAN THE PARTY.

SMOOVE
It’s gonna be a good night D, I can feel it.

ALICIA THOMAS, 20’S, AFRICAN AMERICAN/PUERTO RICAN, ENTERS THE PARTY AND SCANS THE ROOM FOR DONOVAN. SHE SEES HIM AND WALKS TOWARD SMOOVE AND DONOVAN. SMOOVE NOTICES HER.

SMOOVE (CONT’D)
Aye is that the girl you showed me on Facebook coming this way?

DONOVAN LOOKS AROUND FOR ALICIA. HE IS SHOCKED WHEN HE SEES HER.

DONOVAN
Oh yeah, yeah that’s her.

DONOVAN ADJUSTS HIS SHIRT TO MAKE HIMSELF MORE PRESENTABLE.

SMOOVE
Damn! Please tell me you hit.

DONOVAN
No I didn’t, we’re just cool.
That’s all.

SMOOVE LOOKS AT DONOVAN AND SHAKES HIS HEAD IN DISAPPOINTMENT.

SMOOVE
I’m just saying, if I had a friend who looked like that, we would be fucking like jackrabbits.

ALICIA REACHES SMOOVE AND DONOVAN JUST AS SMOOVE FINISHES HIS STATEMENT. DONOVAN INTERRUPTS.
DONOVAN
Hey you made it.

DONOVAN AND ALICIA HUG.

ALICIA
Did you ever doubt me?

DONOVAN
Of course not, I just never heard back from you.

ALICIA
Well you know I like to keep my options open. Isn’t that what you say?

DONOVAN AND ALICIA LAUGH. SMOOVE CLEARS HIS THROAT LOUDLY TO INTERRUPT THEIR LAUGH.

DONOVAN
Oh yeah, Alicia this is my boy Smoove.

ALICIA
So you’re Smoove?

SMOOVE
As a baby’s bottom.

SMOOVE GRABS ALICIA’S HAND AND KISSES IT. ALICIA LAUGHS SLIGHTLY.

ALICIA
Well baby’s bottom Smoove, I just wanted to tell you congrats and I wish you the best of luck in the future.
SMOOVE
Thank you. I 'preciate you coming out to help celebrate with us this evening.

ALICIA
Yeah well it’s rare that I have a Friday night off so I thought hey, why not enjoy it.

ROB RETURNS FROM THE BATHROOM. HE IS SURPRISED WHEN HE SEES ALICIA STANDING WITH DONOVAN AND SMOOVE.

DONOVAN
(to Rob)
You alright man?

ROB CLEARS HIS THROAT.

ROB
Yeah I’m good, it just went down the wrong pipe.

SMOOVE SHAKES HIS HEAD IN DISAPPOINTMENT.

SMOOVE
Don’t they have laws against giving alcohol to children.

DONOVAN LAUGHS.

DONOVAN
(to Smoove)
C’mon man take it easy on him.

DONOVAN (CONT’D)
(then to Rob)
Rob this is my home girl Alicia. Alicia this is my other boy Rob.

ALICIA AND ROB EXCHANGE A HANDSHAKE.
ALICIA
Nice to meet you Rob.

ROB
Nice to meet you too. And may I add that your 307 Facebook pictures don’t do you any justice.

DONOVAN INTERRUPTS AND BEGINS BACKING UP AWAY FROM THE GROUP.

DONOVAN
Okay well...we’re gonna grab a couple drinks and...holla at y’all later.

(then to Alicia)
Sound good?

ALICIA NODS HER HEAD YES.

DONOVAN (CONT’D)
Great.

ALICIA
It was good meeting you.

SMOOVE
Same here.

ROB
You too.

DONOVAN AND ALICIA DEPART AND HEAD TOWARDS THE KITCHEN. DONOVAN OPENS THE REFRIGERATOR TO REVEAL AN ASSORTMENT OF BEVERAGES.

DONOVAN
So what do you drink? We got clear, brown, beers, some kind of red punch—you name it.

ALICIA
A beer will be fine.
DONOVAN

Cool.

DONOVAN GRABS A BEER AND USES A BOTTLE OPENER ON HIS KEY-RING TO OPEN IT THEN HANDS IT TO ALICIA. ALICIA SHAKES HER.

ALICIA

(amused)
Alcoholic.

DONOVAN

What, the bottle opener? I just like to be prepared.

ALICIA

Oh is that what it is?

DONOVAN

Of course.

THE TWO LAUGH.

DONOVAN (CONT’D)

So you wanna go out on the deck where it’s a little bit quieter.

ALICIA

Yeah that’s fine.

DONOVAN AND ALICIA EXIT THE KITCHEN TOWARDS THE DECK.

EXT. SMOOVE’S TOWNHOUSE DECK - NIGHT

THE NIGHT IS WARM. THE MOON AND STARS ARE SHINING BRIGHTLY. DONOVAN CLOSES THE SLIDING DOOR BEHIND HIM AS ALICIA WALKS OVER TO THE RAILING AND LEANS ON IT.

ALICIA

It feels so good out here tonight.
DONOVAN
Yea it does. Gotta love this time of year.

ALICIA
Only because you get to see lil’ hoochies walking around half naked.

DONOVAN
Hell yeah I’m a guy, what can I say?

THE TWO LAUGH. DONOVAN TAKES A SIP OF BEER.

DONOVAN (CONT’D)
I’m really glad you got a chance to make it. I wasn’t really sure if you were gonna come or not.

ALICIA SIGHS.

ALICIA
Well at first Brandon and I had plans but then some of his boys came into town and now they’re all kicking it. So I told him that if he was going to hang out with his friends then so was I.

DONOVAN NODS HIS HEAD.

DONOVAN
I feel you.

ALICIA
Then he asked what friends, so I told him it was you, then we got into an argument because he doesn’t think we’re just friends.

(MORE)
So, here I am.

DONOVAN

Aw man, I’m sorry to hear that. I didn’t mean anything by inviting you. Hell, he and his boys could’ve come too.

ALICIA LAUGHS.

ALICIA

I know but that’s how he is. He won’t believe that we’re just friends.

DONOVAN

I definitely know what you mean.

CUT TO:

INT. SMOOVE’S TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

SMOOVE AND ROB ARE STANDING AROUND TALKING TO TWO OTHER GUYS. SMOOVE IS IMITATING BASKETBALL MOVES.

SMOOVE

So I was like “C’mon boy you don’t want none. You gon’ learn why they call me Smoove.”

SMOOVE PRETENDS TO DO A CROSS-OVER THEN A JUMP SHOT.

SMOOVE (CONT’D)

Then I crossed him and went up for the “J.” SPLASH! Game baby!

(then, to guys)

You know I was suppose to go pro right?
TREY ENTERS THE PARTY WITH TWO CAUCASIAN FEMALES. ALL THREE OF THEM APPEAR LOST. ROB NOTICES THEM AND POINTS THEM OUT TO SMOOVE.

ROB
Aye your boy just came in.

SMOOVE LOOKS TOWARDS THE DOOR.

SMOOVE
Oh shit, they look messed up too. C’mon lets go over there.

SMOOVE AND ROB END THEIR CONVERSATION WITH THE TWO GUYS THEN WALK OVER TOWARDS TREY AND THE TWO GIRLS.

SMOOVE (CONT’D)
Trey what up!

TREY
Bro...

TREY WALKS OVER TO SMOOVE AND ROB. THE THREE EXCHANGE HANDSHAKES. TREY THEN WHISPERS TO THEM.

TREY (CONT’D)
I’m so fucked up. And they are too.

TREY LAUGHS.

SMOOVE
Well I hope y’all saved room because the night’s still young.

(then)
So introduce me to your friends.

TREY
Well this one is my cousin Sarah and this is her friend.

TREY LOOKS AT THE FRIEND.
TREY (CONT’D)
And I don’t remember her friend’s name.

TREY LAUGHS.

ROB
That’s alright, names aren’t important tonight.

SMOOVE
He’s right. So why don’t you ladies go with my man Rob and he’ll get y’all some drinks.

ROB GRINS THEN ESCORTS THE TWO GIRLS TO THE KITCHEN. SMOOVE AND TREY WALK AND TALK.

SMOOVE (CONT’D)
Man what are y’all on?

TREY
I swear man we smoked like eight joints. That shit ain’t normal.

SMOOVE LAUGHS.

SMOOVE
And I thought I was messed up.

TREY
I don’t even know how we made it over here.
(then)
Oh, and feel free to holla at my cousin or her friend if you want.

SMOOVE STOPS DEAD IN HIS TRACKS.

SMOOVE
C’mon man that’s your family.
TREY
I know, that’s why I’m giving you
the go ahead.

SMOOVE
(hesitantly)
Naw man I couldn’t.

TREY INTERRUPTS.

TREY
Smoove. You’re my boy. It’s all
good.

TREY POUNDS HIS CHEST TWICE OVER HIS HEART. SMOOVE LOOKS
PUZZLED.

SMOOVE
Thanks, I guess.

TREY
(abruptly)
Oh yeah and I didn’t forget.

TREY PATS HIS BODY. HE PULLS A CD OUT OF HIS BACK POCKET.

TREY (CONT’D)
This is for your boy.

TREY HANDS THE CD TO SMOOVE.

SMOOVE
Aw ‘preciate man, I had forgot
about it. I’m gonna go take it to
him. You go get a drink and I’ll
catch up with you later.

SMOOVE WALKS AWAY FROM TREY AND HEADS TOWARDS THE DECK.
EXT. SMOOVE’S TOWNHOUSE DECK - NIGHT

DONOVAN AND ALICIA ARE OUTSIDE ON THE DECK TALKING. SMOOVE EXITS THE PARTY AND APPROACHES THEM.

SMOOVE
Sorry to disturb you two lovebirds
but I just wanted to give you
something D.

SMOOVE HANDS DONOVAN THE CD. DONOVAN HESITANTLY TAKES IT.

DONOVAN
What is this?

SMOOVE
It’s a beat CD, got it from my boy Trey! I told him how you were dope on the mic and all, he makes beats so, wah-lah!

DONOVAN
Okay, I’ll hang on to it.

DONOVAN PUTS THE CD IN HIS BACK POCKET. SMOOVE PLACES HIS HAND ON DONOVAN’S SHOULDER.

SMOOVE
All I ask is that you give it listen, maybe it’ll inspire you. Who knows?

DONOVAN
Smoove, I said I would listen to it. We’ll talk about it tomorrow.

SMOOVE
Alright. Well I’ll let you two get back to what you were doing.

SMOOVE LAUGHS AS HE WALKS BACK INTO THE TOWNHOUSE.
ALICIA
You were sort of rude.

DONOVAN
You don’t know Smoove. He can be over the top sometimes for no reason.

ALICIA
He was just excited that’s all.
(then)
So that’s a beat CD? Do you sing or something?

DONOVAN
No, no, no. I don’t do anything.

ALICIA LOOKS AT DONOVAN IN DISBELIEF.

DONOVAN (CONT’D)
Well, the three of us kind of formed a rap group back in high school. Did a couple talent shows but nothing serious. Smoove just thinks I’m a good writer. He and Rob try to convince me to pursue it at least twice a week. Nothing major.

ALICIA
I feel like if you truly have a talent then you shouldn’t let it go to waste.

DONOVAN NODS IN AGREEMENT. HE TAKES ANOTHER SIP OF BEER AND LOOKS TOWARDS THE NIGHT SKY FOR A MOMENT THEN LOOKS BACK AT ALICIA.
DONOVAN
Yeah, you’re right.

CUT TO:

INT. SMOOVE’S TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

THE PARTY HAS DIED DOWN AND THINNED OUT. A FEW PEOPLE ARE PASSED OUT IN VARIOUS PLACES. A COUPLE IS IN THE CORNER KISSING. DONOVAN, SMOOVE, ROB, TREY, AND ALICIA ARE SITTING AROUND AT A CARD TABLE TALKING.

DONOVAN
And so he’s all like, “Oh I guess you enjoy working at Value Foods making minimum wage.”

THE GROUP REACTS IN SHOCK.

DONOVAN (CONT’D)
Yeah. So after that I just got up and walked out.

ROB
Shit, I don’t blame you. I would’ve done the same thing.

ALICIA
No, he’s still your father so you have to respect him.

DONOVAN
It’s just always something with him, that’s why we never talk.

DONOVAN SHAKES HIS HEAD IN DISAPPOINTMENT. TREY TAKES A HIT FROM A BLUNT AND PASSES IT TO ROB.

TREY
The Fresh Prince said it best, parents just don’t understand.
THE GROUP LAUGHS.

TREY (CONT’D)
No seriously. My parents want me to go into the family business but it’s just not for me. I got dreams man, and I’m gonna chase ‘em.

THE GROUP NODS IN AGREEMENT. EVERYONE SITS SILENT.

SMOOVE
(abruptly)
I look at it like this. If you not paying my bills or tryna elevate me to the next level, then you shouldn’t have anything to say to me about how I choose to live my life. Just like when I busted my knee, it ruined all chances of me going to the league-plus I had a baby on the way. Yeah people talked behind my back but I just tuned it out and did what I thought was best for me and my soon to be family. At the time I couldn’t see it, but I knew our situation would eventually change. So you just gotta do what’s best for you in the end, fuck everybody else.

THE GROUP IS SILENT. ROB TAKES A HIT FROM THE BLUNT.

ROB
Wow, that was deep.

ALICIA
Yeah I’m inspired.

SMOOVE SITS SILENTLY.
SMOOVE
(abruptly)
Well you know I’m like a black Dr. Phil. People always coming to me for advice.

THE GROUP LAUGHS.

DONOVAN
Right...

THE LAUGHING DECREASES.

SMOOVE
Y’all wanna do shots?

EVERYONE DECLINES SMOOVE’S OFFER.

DONOVAN
Smoove it’s like 3:30 in the morning man, I think the party’s over.

SMOOVE
Aw c’mon y’all, I was gonna make a toast.

EVERYONE STILL DECLINES.

SMOOVE (CONT’D)
Well I’ll take one by myself.

SMOOVE POURS HIMSELF A SHOT OF TEQUILA THEN STANDS UP AND HOLDS THE SHOT GLASS UPWARD.

SMOOVE (CONT’D)
Everybody hold your cups up.

EVERYONE HOLDS THEIR CUPS UPWARD. TREY LOOKS AROUND FOR A CUP BUT CAN’T FIND ONE SO HE HOLDS THE BLUNT UPWARD.
SMOOVE (CONT’D)
Alright. This is to each of us. May we all continue to do what’s best for ourselves and hopefully get the chance to live out our dreams; whatever they may be. Cheers!

SMOOVE TURNS UP HIS SHOT AS THE REST OF THE GROUP TURN UP THEIR CUPS. TREY TAKES A HIT FROM THE BLUNT. THEY ALL SIT BACK RELAXED IN THEIR CHAIRS. THE CAMERA ZOOMS OUT TO SHOW THE ENTIRE GROUP.

TREY
This is some good weed Rob. You know where I can get more of it?

FADE TO BLACK.