

INVISIBLE LINE

Episode 101

Cries for help

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Based on book

Lightning Strikes Twice

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INT. MELINDA'S BEDROOM - DAY - PAST

MELINDA, 16, AA, sits on her bed and talks to her new boyfriend on the phone. Her child with Ronan lies on the bed beside her asleep.

RONAN, 18, AA, touches the back of Melinda's head. She fans him off, but never looks at him. The third time he pulls a gun from his waist band and places it at the back of Melinda's head.

Melinda takes her hand and reaches back to get him off of her. Not knowing he has a gun.

MELINDA

Ronan why you keep--

The gun goes off. Melinda falls back on the bed. The phone falls from her hand to the floor. CRAIG,17, screams through the phone Melinda's name. Ronan exits the room.

EXT. OUTSIDE - DAY - PAST TO PRESENT

A life squad in orange tint races up the road lights blaring. Half way past the color of the squad brighten up as in time laps from past to present.

INT. HOSPITAL TRIAGE - DAY - PRESENT

MAGGIE, 52, CC, stands and chats with a MELANIE 56, CC.

MAGGIE

I know that was a disruptive patient.

Maggie goes over and looks at Melanie computer, she starts to type.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Here, type this in the box, and it will be fine.

MELANIE

Thanks, Maggie.

MAGGIE

You're welcome, honey.

Maggie walks out.

INT. HOSPITAL OFFICE - DAY

Maggie walks into the office and looks around.

INT. HOSPITAL HALL WAY - DAY

TONYA BROWN, 42,AA, female walks with pamphlets in her hand.
JAMES HUCKLEBERRY, CC, mid 30s. Comes up to Tonya.

JAMES

Hey, Tonya. Can you register the patient in room 11, he's ready for discharge.

TONYA

Yep I'm on it. Let me put my things in the office.

JAMES

Thanks.

TONYA

No problem.

James walks away. CLAREANCE ROSS, CC, male late 20s, walks past Tonya.

CLAREANCE

Tonya, loving that hat on you girl.

Tonya models her hat.

INT. HOSPITAL TRIAGE - DAY

MELANIE looks into the hall at Tonya and Clareance. She watches as Tonya models her hat.

INT. HOSPITAL HALL WAY - DAY

TONYA

Thank you.

CLAREANCE

Yes, honey. Work.

INT. HOSPITAL OFFICE - DAY

Tonya comes in the office. She's startled by Maggie. Tonya screams and drops the pamphlets in her hands. They both pick up the pamphlets.

MAGGIE
Honey, I didn't mean to startle
you.

TONYA
Girl, you scared the crap out of
me.

MAGGIE
You so funny.

TONYA
Not funny, you got me shaken!

Tonya holds her hand up.

MAGGIE
Sorry about that. What are these?

Maggie looks at one of the pamphlets.

TONYA
Informational brochures.

MAGGIE
Information about what?

TONYA
Some of the kids at camp deal with
some serious issues. So we make
sure we have helpful information to
give them.

MAGGIE
Issues like what?

TONYA
Anything from abuse, neglect and
suicidal thoughts.

MAGGIE
Wow so young with so many problems.

TONYA
Yeah it can be pretty sad.

MAGGIE
I bet. Oh yeah, I almost forgot
what I came in here for. Angela
called and wanted me to speak to
you about something.

TONYA

Sounds serious. James just asked me to register room 11 he's ready for discharge.

MAGGIE

I'll have Melanie take care of it.

Maggie calls over her radio to Melanie.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Melanie I need you to register room 11.

Melanie can be heard over the radio.

MELANIE

I heard James ask Tonya to register that room.

MAGGIE

I need to meet with Tonya. So can you please just go and do it.

MELANIE

You're the boss.

Maggie lets go of the radio button.

MAGGIE

Man, it would be easier if I could just say and people around here would do.

TONYA

Ohhhkay. So, what's this meeting about?

MAGGIE

Sorry about that. We need to talk about the dress code.

TONYA

What about it?

MAGGIE

It's been brought to my attention that there's a concern with you wearing your hats and scarfs to work.

TONYA

Let me guess Melanie? Why is she always in my business? What's the problem?

MAGGIE

Before we go any further, I want to make sure I am in line with your culture. Is wearing hats and scarves-

TONYA

Head wraps.

MAGGIE

Yes. Is that a part of your culture?

TONYA

You do know my hair is not like yours?

MAGGIE

Obviously.

TONYA

There are women in my culture that wear hats and wraps for different reasons. I can't say it's a cultural thing for me, but it's important to me.

MAGGIE

With that said, to settle the issue, I need you to refrain from wearing hats and wraps to work.

TONYA

I'm not in agreement. I can push this as a cultural issue.

MAGGIE

Okay let's compromise. No hats, but you can wear your wraps and everyone is happy.

TONYA

Are we finished? I have a meeting during my break.

MAGGIE

Yes. Thanks for being so understanding, Tonya.

Tonya leaves the office.

INT. BOARD ROOM - DAY

BOARD MEMBERS, 5 individuals, sit around large table and chat amongst themselves. Tonya enters the room. EUGENE O'DONNELL, 50s, stands up to greet her.

EUGENE

Tonya, thank you for coming on such short notice.

TONYA

I'm glad to be here.

Tonya sits. SUSAN FARR, 40s, begins to speak.

SUSAN

I've asked to have this meeting to discuss the camps budget.

TONYA

Are we over budget?

SUSAN

It's good. We have enough money to cover all the campers and get the supplies needed.

TONYA

That's great!

SUSAN

Don't get excited yet. I feel your compensation is too high.

TONYA

Why is that?

SUSAN

I don't think you're doing enough to earn that amount.

TONYA

Oh, so getting and training volunteers, writing permission slips, and traveling to mail them isn't enough? Writing the curriculum and meeting with people to get funding-

EUGENE

But-

TONYA

Finding a camp; teaching a course;
finding and distributing resources
for the kids and their families;
not to mention, meeting many of the
children during the week after camp
is over; plus hiring a team
including you, is not enough work?

SUSAN

I'm just saying, I feel the amount
is to high.

EUGENE

Let me interrupt. Tonya I feel you
do above and beyond. Before we make
any decisions on this subject,
let's reconvene next week.

INT. HOSPITAL OFFICE - DAY

Tonya walks in the office. Maggie is at her desk.

MAGGIE

How was your meeting?

TONYA

Fine!

MAGGIE

You don't sound like it.

Tonya picks up the pamphlets and places them on her desk.

TONYA

Don't worry bout it. I need to
focus on work and getting ready for
summer camp, not what people think
I should or shouldn't be doing or
receiving.

MAGGIE

Okay well if you want to talk about
it I'm here. Change of subject.
Guess what?

TONYA

What?

MAGGIE

Ryan is taking me out for a nice
dinner tonight.

TONYA

That's good, I'm glad to hear you guys are working things out.

MAGGIE

Yes, you know that man can't get enough of me, but I mean, who could?

TONYA

You right.

Tonya looks at the clock on her computer.

TONYA (CONT'D)

My work here is done. I've got to run. I have to pick up the camps t-shirts from Griffin's.

MAGGIE

You're getting shirts from Griffin's?

TONYA

Yeah, what's wrong with that?

MAGGIE

Nothing. Nothing. I'm just worried about their pour little skin.

TONYA

Sorry we can't get them from Sax.

MARCUS BROWN, AA, 40S Tonya's husband enters the office.

TONYA (CONT'D)

Hey, babe. What are you doing here?

MARCUS

I had Tony drop me off so I can ride with you to Griffin's.

TONYA

Aaaw thanks babe, since you're here, I have a box of information near the lobby you can grab.

MARCUS

I'll grab it.

TONYA

Oh Marcus, this is my co-worker Maggie. Maggie, this is my husband Marcus.

MAGGIE

Nice to meet you. I've heard so much about you.

Marcus reaches to shake her hand. She holds out her ring hand to show off her nice size wedding ring. They shake hands.

MARCUS

Hope it's all been good. Nice ring. Looks like your husband knows how to take care of you.

Maggie giggles.

TONYA

Maggie I'll see you when I get back. I'm headed out.

MAGGIE

Okay honey. Enjoy camp.

Tonya and Marcus exit the office. Maggie looks over some papers. She gets a text from her husband. It reads "Hey, I'm staying in the office late tonight. See you when I get home. Don't forget to take RJ to meet Mr. Willis."

Maggie places her phone on the desk. She rolls her wedding ring around her finger while looking out the window. She notices Marcus as he places the box in the car.

Maggie looks away sad and notices one pamphlet left on the floor. She picks it up.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I could have used one of these as a child. I probably can use it now.

EXT. GRIFFIN'S CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Marcus and Tonya exit the store as they carry large cardboard boxes. They walk to their car.

TONYA

Can you believe it? The shirts are in. We are one step closer to camp day.

MARCUS

It would've been nicer if the shirts were finished yesterday like we paid for them to be.

Marcus sits the boxes on the ground near the trunk of the car.

TONYA
Be nice, old grouch.

MARCUS
Come here, I'll show you an old grouch.

TONYA
Don't make promises you can't keep!

MARCUS
I keep my promises. You know it.
Plus you owe me an award for carrying these heavy boxes.

Marcus loads a box in the trunk.

TONYA
I can think of a few things.

MARCUS
Let's get somethin to eat, then I can take you on over to my place?

TONYA
Is that your sexy talk?

Marcus pushes up on Tonya.

MARCUS
Is it working?

TONYA
Yes!

Marcus kisses Tonya's forehead. She laughs. A FEMALE CUSTOMER, 30s, exits Griffin's she carries two medium size cardboard boxes. She drops one of the boxes. Marcus rushes over to help her.

MARCUS
Let me help you with those.

CUSTOMER
Thank you so much. I should have brought help.

MARCUS
No problem. Where are you going?

CUSTOMER
My car is right over there.

Marcus follows Customer to her car. He helps her put the boxes in. Tonya watches in discomfort.

CUSTOMER (CONT'D)
I can't thank you enough for your help.

MARCUS
Not a problem. Anytime.

Marcus walks back over to Tonya.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Ready to go?

TONYA
Yeah, let's go.

MARCUS
You alright?

TONYA
Of course.

They get in the car and drive off.

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

RYAN 40s, Maggie's husband, cc pulls into the driveway of his house. He gets out the car, reaches in the backseat and grabs his brief case. He hold his keys in his hand and walks to the door.

INT. MAGGIE'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Maggie places dishes in the sink. Her sons RYAN "RJ" JR, 12 and MAZE, 10, sit at the table. Ryan enters the room.

RYAN
Hello.

MAZE
Hey, dad.

RJ
Sup.

RYAN
Sup? When did we start talking like that?

RJ
Hello.

RYAN
That's more like it. How was your meeting with Mr. Willis?

RJ
Mom didn't take me.

Ryan walks over to Maggie.

RYAN
Why didn't you get RJ to the meeting with Mr. Willis?

Maggie places her hand up to stop Ryan before answering.

MAGGIE
Boys, why don't you go up to your room?

The boys exit the room.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
I didn't take him, because I had to make a few stops after work.

RYAN
That's not a good excuse. I set up these meetings for a reason. The goal is for our boys to have a bright futures, and we don't need any hindrances.

MAGGIE
Yeah. I know.

RYAN
I'm not sure you do. We talked about this before, but it doesn't seem like you understand. I'm working so these boys can be successful.

MAGGIE
Ryan.

RYAN

I need them to have great influences with connections that will help groom and develop them.

MAGGIE

If it was that important to you, you should not have stayed late at work or stood me up for our dinner date.

RYAN

Is that what this is about. What's more important a dinner date or extra work to allow us to afford this house, our cars, or those shopping sprees you love so much.

MAGGIE

Did you forget, I work a full time job too?

RYAN

Mag, you know what-- never mind. I'm going to bed.

MAGGIE

I made you dinner.

RYAN

I already ate.

Maggie turns frustrated and continues to wash dishes.

INT. BROWN'S HOME KITCHEN - NIGHT

Tonya makes dinner. CHILDREN run around the house. KEISHA BROWN, 16, Tonya and Marcus's daughter enters the kitchen.

KEISHA

Mom, can I go out with Tiff tonight?

TONYA

Where exactly are you and Tiffany going?

KEISHA

To the mall and maybe the movies.

TONYA

Do you have movie money?

KEISHA
Dad gave me some.

Marcus enters the room.

TONYA
You told this child she could go
out tonight? The night before camp?

MARCUS
Yeah, I thought it was fine. It's
not even late.

KEISHA
You might as well say yes, Mom.

MARCUS
Let her go.

TONYA
Who's all going? It better not be
any little boys going.

KEISHA
Mom, it's not.

Tonya ponders.

TONYA
Go ahead.

KEISHA
Thank you.

Keisha exits the room.

TONYA
I swear that child is going to be
the death of me.

MARCUS
What are you worried about? She's a
good kid. When she wants to be.

They laugh.

TONYA
You're right. Taste this.

MARCUS
Could use a little more salt.

TONYA

What! This is perfect. That's why your blood pressure is always high.

MARCUS

Whatever. Do you have everything ready for camp tomorrow?

TONYA

Ready as I can be. I hope I didn't forget anything.

MARCUS

Don't worry. Everything is going to work out like before. Have faith.

TONYA

I do. I just sometimes get caught up remembering the team telling me I wasn't qualified or educated enough to run the camp.

MARCUS

And you saw what happened. They couldn't move forward without you.

TONYA

Right? How'd they think they were going to high-jack my mission?

MARCUS

They couldn't. Let's eat. We got a big day tomorrow. And I got plans for tonight.

EXT. CAMPSITE BASBALL FIELD - DAY

KIDS play softball.

EXT. CAMPSITE BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

TEN KIDS play basketball.

EXT. CAMPSITE SWIMMING POOL - DAY

NINE KIDS sit on the edge of the pool. A LEADER teaches one CHILD in the pool how to stroke.

EXT. CAMPSITE HORSE PATH - DAY

INSTRUCTORS and KIDS ride a path on horse back.

EXT. CAMPSITE ROPES COURSE - DAY

CHILDREN are harnessed on the ropes course one KID, 12, AA sits on the edge of the dock. He's afraid to zip.
COUNCILOR, 18, CC is encourages him.

COUNCILOR

You can do it.

KID

I can't. It's too high.

COUNCILOR

Don't look down. Scooch to the edge. It will be OK.

The kid screams and Zips across the campsite.

INT. CAMPSITE CLASS ROOM - DAY

Marcus teaches a boys to men class to a group of CAMPERS.

MARCUS

Men, personal hygiene is important.

Marcus's alarm goes off. He looks at the time.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Alright guys get cha stuff. It's time to switch.

CAMPER BOY 1, preteen and CAMPER BOY 2, preteen, gathers their things.

CAMPER BOY 1

Oh yeah! It's time for basketball.

CAMPER BOY 2

I don't know why you so excited, Imma school you, fool.

CAMPER BOY 1

That's what you think, and I ain't yo fool!

The boys get in each other's face.

CAMPER BOY 2
I'll punk yo ass on the court.

CAMPER BOY 1
Back up out my face. Mr. Marcus,
you better tell this fool.

CAMPER BOY 2
Tell me what?

MARCUS
Didn't we just have a discussion
over this? It don't make you a man
because you can get up in another
man's face. If y'all gon play ball
then play ball. If you gon fight
then I'll get the gloves. But I'm
gon finish it. Now, what do you
want to do?

The boys get quiet.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
I didn't think so. Now get to the
court. I better not hear no more
arguing or all y'all gon square up
with me. Understood?

ALL THE BOYS
Yes, Mr. Marcus.

The boys head out the room. WILLIAM, 15, AA, hangs back.
Before Marcus walks out William taps him on the shoulder.

MARCUS
Hey William. You better keep up
with your group.

WILLIAM
Mr. Marcus, can I talk to you for a
minute?

MARCUS
What's going on?

WILLIAM
It's bad.

MARCUS
Did somebody here do something to
you?

WILLIAM
No, it's problems at home.

MARCUS
Okay, I'm listening.

WILLIAM
I hear you speak about being a man,
but I don't know how to do that
with all the problems I have.

MARCUS
What are your problems?

WILLIAM
My dad is mad at my mom, so, he
don't have nothin to do wit me. My
mom always mad. It's like she hates
me or somethin. She call me bad
names all the time. It's startin to
get to me. How can I be a man if no
one loves me enough to show me?

MARCUS
Man, I understand that feeling. You
do have people that love you. I
love you. You have me to show you.

EXT. CAMPSITE BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

Tonya stands at the fence and watches the campers play
basketball. She counts the kids. She looks at her clip board.
She stops LARRY,56,AA.

TONYA
Oh my goodness. Larry! Larry!

LARRY
What's up Tonya?

TONYA
Where is William?

LARRY
I don't know. He didn't show up
with his group.

TONYA
Lord. I'm gonna straggle that
child.

Larry chuckles.

TONYA (CONT'D)
If he shows up, call my phone
please. I'm going to go look for
him, again!

LARRY
Alright.

Tonya walks away. Larry turns back to the boys on the court.

LARRY (CONT'D)
Come on, now. No cheating.

INT. CAMPSITE CLASS ROOM - DAY

Marcus looks at the clock.

MARCUS
Here's what I'm gonna do; because
of the time and I know my wife and
how she keeps her schedules. I'll
come get you before each of your
sessions and we can talk more about
the process. And look at some
options for change. Because that
starts with you.

WILLIAM
I need that.

MARCUS
With that said, you better go find
your group before they send the a
search squad, if Tonya hasn't
already.

WILLIAM
You right. She yelled at me the
last time I walked off.

William runs towards the exit.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
If I run into her on my way, you'll
vouch for me right?

MARCUS
I got you. You better run. I see
her coming up the road. She looks
like she's on the hunt.

WILLIAM
Ahh man. Thanks again, Mr. Marcus.

Tonya yells across the lot.

TONYA
William! Boy, why I'm I looking for
you again?

William runs across the field.

WILLIAM
I was with Mr. Marcus.

Marcus walks not far behind him.

MARCUS
Babe, he was with me. Come on over
here let me talk to you.

Tonya walks over to Marcus.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
How you doing? You look tired.

Tonya lays her head on Marcus's shoulder.

TONYA
I'm tired. I walked this entire
campsite looking for that boy?

MARCUS
At least you got your exercise in.

TONYA
What you saying? I need more
exercise?

Marcus laughs.

MARCUS
You said it. I didn't.

They play box and laugh. Tonya's phone rings.

TONYA
Hello. Slow down. I can't
understand. What happened?

She listens.

TONYA (CONT'D)
Where are you now?

MARCUS
What's the problem?

TONYA

Lisa, calm down or you're gonna make it worse. Now, breathe and tell me where you are.

MARCUS

Oh my goodness, what's going on?

Tonya turns from Marcus who continues to interrupt as she tries to listen.

TONYA

OK. Where is Shay? Go to the door and tell her I'm coming.

Tonya hangs up the line and heads for the door.

MARCUS

What do you need me to do?

TONYA

Go make sure the groups switch when they are supposed to.

MARCUS

What's going on?

TONYA

Something triggered Shay. She locked herself in the bathroom.

MARCUS

Alright get over there. Call me if you need me.

TONYA

Will do, love you.

As they walk away, Marcus runs into BEN, 57, CC, male.

BEN

Tonya's in a hurry.

Ben and Marcus shake hands and hug.

MARCUS

Yeah. She focused. There is a girl having some issues.

BEN

You know what's wrong? Can I do anything to help?

MARCUS

Naw, Tonya will fill me in later.
I'm headed over to the cafeteria to
get a group to class. We can walk
and talk.

Ben and Marcus head in another direction.

INT. MAGGIE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Maggie sits at the dinner table and reads a book. RJ and Maze
run through the kitchen. RJ has a baseball glove on.

MAZE

Mom, I can't find my baseball
glove.

MAGGIE

It's in your closet on top of the
tote.

Maze runs off.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Where are you all going?

MAZE

We're going to play ball with the
Stevenson's.

Ryan enters the room.

MAGGIE

I didn't know you all were going
out.

RYAN

Yeah. I'm taking them to play ball
with Kevin and Kyle.

MAGGIE

Well give me a minute to change and
I'll go with you all.

Maze enters the room.

MAZE

Found it.

RJ

It's about time. Let's go.

The boys exit the house.

RYAN

No bother. We're already running behind. We're supposed to be there in ten minutes. Besides, you can make that run to the grocery store. Oh, and we're low on water.

He kisses Maggie on the forehead and exits the room. Maggie sits and looks dishearten.

INT. GIRL'S CABIN - DAY

Tonya opens the cabin door. She hears SHAY, 15, bang on the walls and screaming.

TONYA

Shay, it's Mrs. Tonya.

SHAY

I hate this world. I don't want to live no more.

TONYA

Tell me why.

SHAY

Go away. I need to be alone.

TONYA

You and I both know I'm not going anywhere, so tell me what's goin on.

No response.

TONYA (CONT'D)

Don't make me kick this door down.

SHAY

Mrs. Tonya, you don't know what he's doing to me.

TONYA

What who's doing to you?

SHAY

He'll kill me if I told. What does it matter anyway? Can't nobody do nothing for me.

TONYA

I can't help if you don't tell me who's hurting you?

SHAY

He--

TONYA

He who?

SHAY

Mrs. Tonya you don't understand.

TONYA

What don't I understand?

SHAY

The mess I'm dealing with?

Tonya looks around for a place to sit. She sits on the floor with her back to the bathroom door.

TONYA

Can I tell you a story?

Shay doesn't respond.

TONYA CONT'D)

Are you safe in there?

SHAY

Yeah. I'm just sitting hear listening to you.

TONYA

When I was 16, I went downtown to meet my ex boyfriends new girlfriend Shalonda.

SHAY

Oh wow! That sounds crazy.

TONYA

I thought that would get your attention. That's the day I met Mr. Marcus and his younger sister Melinda. Who was about your age.

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY - PAST

It's the mid 1980's and TEEN TONYA,16 and SHALONDA,16, are in a confrontation when they walk past TEEN MARCUS,17 and MELINDA,14,AA.

TONYA

Girl, go on somewhere.

SHALONDA

You don't tell me what to do.

TEEN TONYA

You won't stop calling my phone.
You don't wanna fight. I gave you
Charlie. Now what, you worried he
wants me?

SHALONDA

Girl bye, Charlie mine. Fighting
you ain't worth my time or energy.

TEEN TONYA

But constantly bothering me is? Can
you stop following me?

TEEN MARCUS

(To Teen Tonya)
Hey girl. Whatcho name is?

Teen Tonya looks his way, smiles and continues to walk.

TEEN MARCUS (CONT'D)

Sis, you know who dat girl is?

MELINDA

No. I ain't never seen her before.

TEEN MARCUS

I can't believe she just walked
past me like that. I saw her check
me out.

MELINDA

Boy, you think every girl checking
you out.

TEEN MARCUS

They are. Did you forget who I am?

Teen Marcus chases after the girls. Shalonda continues to
follows Tonya. Marcus catches up to the girls and startles
them.

TEEN MARCUS (CONT'D)

You need a boyfriend?

TEEN TONYA

No. I need you to back up.

TEEN MARCUS

Where you headed?

TEEN TONYA

Home.

TEEN MARCUS

You new around here?

TEEN TONYA

No, I live in Lawndale.

TEEN MARCUS

Where is Lawndale?

TEEN TONYA

You askin a lot of questions from
someone you don't know.

TEEN MARCUS

I'm trying to get to know you.

TEEN TONYA

I gotta get to the bus stop.

TEEN MARCUS

Can I walk with you?

TEEN TONYA

It's a free country. You can go
where you want.

TEEN MARCUS

Who says that?

TEEN TONYA

It is a free country, right?

TEEN MARCUS

Right. Can I get yo number?

TEEN TONYA

I'm good.

TEEN MARCUS

How can I get to know you if I
can't call you?

TEEN TONYA

That's sounds like a personal
problem to me.

TEEN MARCUS

Y'all know each other?

TEEN TONYA

Yeah, whatever you want to call it.
She's always blowing up my phone.

TEEN MARCUS

Cool, she can vouch for me, cuz you
know I'm Marcus Brown.

TEEN TONYA

I'll have her call you for me,
Marcus Brown.

The bus pulls up. Tonya steps on the bus.

TEEN MARCUS

Aye, what's your name?

Tonya smiles and gets on the bus. Marcus walks back around
the corner.

MELINDA

Did you get those digits?

TEEN MARCUS

No, she wouldn't give them to me.

MELINDA

What's her name?

TEEN MARCUS

That's funny you ask. I don't know.

MELINDA

What do you know?

TEEN MARCUS

I know I'm going to make that girl
my wife.

MELINDA

You don't even know her name. How
are you gonna make that girl yo
wife?

TEEN MARCUS

Don't worry, you'll see.

INT. GIRL'S CABIN - DAY - PRESENT

SHAY

Mrs. Tonya, you played hard to get.

TONYA

No, you heard who I said I met that day right?

SHAY

Yeah that had to be terrible.

TONYA

It was, and I didn't wanna be bothered by another guy playing stupid games. Especially knowing Shalonda.

SHAY

I get that, but what does that have to do with anything?

TONYA

Let me finish. One day Shalonda called me with Marcus on three way.

SHAY

Really? You kept talken to her?

TONYA

Are you gonna let me finish?

EXT. CAMPSITE FIELD - DAY

Children walk throughout the camp. Marcus and Ben make their way across the field. A few kids pass them by. REGGIE,10 walks past them.

CAMPER BOY

Hey, Mr. Marcus.

MARCUS

Hey, Reggie. You enjoying camp?

CAMPER BOY

Yes sir.

Reggie runs off.

BEN

It's great what you and Tonya are doing for these kids.

MARCUS

If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't be here. This is our way of giving back to the community.

BEN

A camp was a great idea allowing you to reach more kids at once.

MARCUS

Right. I wish I could get them to apply themselves and utilize the help. Back when I was coming up, we didn't have this type of opportunities.

BEN

Did you forget how you were growing up?

MARCUS

Oh yeah, reflect on me.

BEN

You definitely had this potential. Just no guidance. It took a while to pull that out of you, but now you're here and can teach these kids how not to make the same mistakes.

MARCUS

That's the goal. Teaching them they have a choice other than jail, gangs or teenage pregnancies.

TWO GIRLS walk by in short shorts.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

I take it you didn't pay attention to the dress code?

GIRL ONE

What! This ain't bad.

MARCUS

Go change before Mrs. Tonya sees you and loses her mind.

GIRL TWO

All these rules.

Girls walk away.

MARCUS

Man, we have to enforce the dress code.

Marcus and Ben Laugh.

BEN
How's everything at home.

MARCUS
Everything's good. I'm happy. We're happy.

BEN
That's good. I'm glad you guys are doing well.

MARCUS
Yeah. You and I both no it hasn't always been like that.

BEN
You guys have come a long way.

MARCUS
You telling me.

INT. GIRL'S CABIN - DAY

Tonya and Shay sit on the floor on opposite sides of the door.

SHAY
Okay, I'm listening.

TONYA
When Marcus and I started dating Melinda and I became close. She trusted me enough to share a deep secret.

INT. CITY APARTMENT BEDROOM - NIGHT - PAST

Teen Tonya sits on Marcus's bed and reads a book. Melinda enters the room.

MELINDA
Tonya, can I tell you something?

TEEN TONYA
Hey Melinda, I was hoping I got to see you. What's going on?

MELINDA
Can you keep a secret?

TEEN TONYA
Depends on what it is.

Melinda jumps on the bed next to Tonya. She watches the shadow underneath the door.

MELINDA

I got to be quiet. He's looking for me.

TEEN TONYA

Who's looking for you?

MELINDA

Sshh. Tyrone.

TEEN TONYA

Why is Tyrone looking for you?

MELINDA

That's the secret I want to tell you about.

TEEN TONYA

What is it?

MELINDA

Every night my brother--

Melinda gets emotional.

TEEN TONYA

Melinda what's going on?

MELINDA

He comes in my room for sex.

TEEN TONYA

What! Why haven't you told Marcus?

MELINDA

He told me he'd kill me if I did.

TEEN TONYA

I can't keep this a secret. I have to tell Marcus.

MELINDA

Marcus can't do nothin. He's been abused by him too.

TEEN TONYA

What?

MELINDA

Not like me. They fight. Marcus been knocked out by him.

TEEN TONYA

What did your momma do?

MELINDA

Nothing. She don't care about me or Marcus. Tyrone can do whatever he wants.

MARISSA, 17, AA Melinda's sister, burst through the door and startles Melinda and Tonya.

MARISSA

What cha'll talken about?

MELINDA

Oh, we was just talken about a fight Marcus had.

MARISSA

Oh, Why Tyrone pacing back and forth past here? Tonya you got something goin on with him?

TEEN TONYA

No! I'm waiting for Marcus.

MARISSA

Melinda you stayin in here with her?

MELINDA

Yeah. I'll keep her company till Marcus gets home.

MARISSA

Oh ok. You bet not forget that rule.

MELINDA

I didn't, don't worry bout me.

MARISSA

Girl, please. I ain't worried bout you. Well I'm out. Carry on.

Marissa walks out the room and closes the door behind her.

TEEN TONYA

What was that about?

MELINDA

Wait-

Melinda gets up and goes to the door and listens. She goes back to the bed next to Tonya.

MELINDA (CONT'D)

She was being nosy. That was her way of saying, I bet not tell nobody what's going on in this house.

TEEN TONYA

I get it. I get it, my family got that same dumb ass rule.

Tonya and Melinda sit on the bed and watch the shadow underneath the door.

INT. GIRL'S CABIN - DAY - PRESENT

SHAY

We got that same rule. The what goes on at home, stays at home rule.

TONYA

Are you ready to talk about what's going on?

SHAY

I want to know more about Mr. Marcus's sister. What happened to her?

TONYA

You know from Mr. Marcus sharing he had a ruff childhood.

SHAY

Yeah, I listen to him. His life sounds like mine now.

TONYA

Because of the abuse from their mother and her boyfriends. Melinda was destined to fall for an abusive guy.

INT. CITY APARTMENT - DAY - PAST

Melinda enters as she holds her face. Teen Marcus sits on the couch and watches TV.

MELINDA

Hey. What are you doing home?

TEEN MARCUS

I can't just chill a minute?

Melinda attempts to make her way out of the room before Marcus notices her busted swollen lip.

MELINDA

You don't ever just chill. Try again. You waitin on Tonya to call?

TEEN MARCUS

You funny. You think you know me.

Melinda walks away but teen Marcus notices blood on her face.

TEEN MARCUS (CONT'D)

Hold up. What's wrong with yo face? You had a fight or something?

MELINDA

Shish. I guess you can say that.

TEEN MARCUS

Who you let get close enough to hit you in yo mouth?

Melinda drops her head.

TEEN MARCUS (CONT'D)

Ah hell naw. That nigga put his hands on you? No the fuck he didn't.

Marcus paces the floor.

TEEN MARCUS (CONT'D)

Where he at? I got something for that motherfucker.

MELINDA

Calm down. That's why I didn't want to talk to you. You get all mad. It's aright. He said he was sorry.

TEEN MARCUS

Yeah, he gon be sorry.

Marcus rushes out the door.

INT. GIRL'S CABIN - DAY - PRESENT

SHAY

I would have fought for my sister too. No guy should be putting his hands on no girl.

TONYA

That's true. But if a guy has a distorted view of love, bad things can happen.

SHAY

What are you saying?

TONYA

While Mr. Marcus was trying to save his sister, he was abusive to me.

SHAY

I can't believe that. I see y'all around here all lovey dovey.

TONYA

Yeah, that's now. But there was a time before Christ.

SHAY

Finish telling me about it.

EXT. CAMPSITE FIELD - DAY

BEN

What did you call me out here for?

MARCUS

I was wrapped up with Tonya and Shay I almost forgot what I needed.

TAMICA 15, AA and GIRL 14, AA walk up.

TAMICA

Hey, Mr. Marcus.

MARCUS

Hey, Tamica. How's camp life?

TAMICA

It's good. Way different from the hood. The bugs are off the chain.

MARCUS

I got my Off. You want me to spray you down?

TAMICA

Please. I don't know if I can take another bite.

Marcus spays the small bottle empty.

MARCUS

That's the rest of this bottle. The nurses station has a bunch. Go get you some.

TAMICA

Thanks, my momma told me you were a good guy. She said she knows you well.

MARCUS

Oh yeah, what's her name?

TAMICA

Corinda.

Marcus looks lie he seen a ghost. He stands to the side with Tamica. They have a private short conversation. The audience does not hear what they say. Tamica and her friend walk away.

BEN

What was that about?

MARCUS

Basically, what's done in the dark always comes to the light?

BEN

That's true.

MARCUS

Well, darkness showed up.

INT. GIRL'S CABIN - DAY

TONYA

Shay, I could tell you more stories, but I'm hungry.

SHAY

Yeah, I'm getting hungry too.

TONYA

Let's walk and talk to the cafeteria. How does that sound?

There is a silence. Shay opens the bathroom door. Tonya stands to her feet and hugs her.

EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY

Tonya and Shay walk across the field.

TONYA

Are you ready to share about that break down?

SHAY

It's all good.

TONYA

Lies. It maybe good now, but something is going on. I can't help if you don't talk.

SHAY

My momma said if I say anything, the people was gon put me and my sister in a foster home.

TONYA

Why would that be a bad thing?

SHAY

She said foster homes are worse than where we are, so I'd better suck it up.

TONYA

So your mother is either causing the problem or know who is?

SHAY

Both. Her nasty boyfriend beats and rapes me. I was a virgin Mrs. Tonya. I can't date because he said I'm his and he'd kill me if I cheated on him. My mother is his girlfriend. He sits up there like he some kinda King and she let's him.

TONYA

Child, I need to help get you and your sister out of there.

SHAY

I don't wanna go somewhere worse.

TONYA

Foster homes are not like what your mother said. She used that to scare you from reporting her mess.

SHAY

How do you know? Were you in a foster home?

TONYA

No, Mr. Marcus and I are Foster parents. Now that's not to say all foster homes are good cuz there's some messed up people out here, but for the most part, many are upstanding and wanting to help.

SHAY

I didn't know that.

TONYA

Why would you? That's not something we walk around talken about. Some of the children we care for are here at camp.

SHAY

Can me and my sister go home with you?

TONYA

I wish I could, but I can't.

SHAY

Why not?

TONYA

Because that would be kidnapping, and we would go to jail.

SHAY

For helping someone?

TONYA

Yeah. I have to take the proper steps. I'll call my caseworker. She can come to camp and start an investigation. It's possible they'll take you and your sister to a home after you leave camp.

SHAY

As long as we don't have to go back there. Please help us.

TONYA

Go to the bathroom and wash your face. Then get you something to eat. When children's services gets here, you have to be truthful and strong. This is the way you're fighting for yourself and your sister. Shay you did good.

SHAY

Thank you, Mrs. Tonya.

TONYA

You're welcome. Oh, by the way for the rest of camp I'll be meeting with you one on one each day, okay?

Shay opens the door to the building as Tonya walks in the other direction and pulls out her phone.

EXT/INT. MAGGIE'S ENTRANCE - EVENING

Maggie walks to front door with a few grocery bags in her hands. She takes out keys, and unlocks the door. She goes in and hangs her purse on coat rack. She hears Ryan and the boys talking in the kitchen.

MAGGIE

Hey could someone come give me a hand with the groceries?

INT. MAGGIE'S FAMILY ROOM - EVENING

MAZE

Dad, did you see that throw RJ did?

RYAN

Yes, that was a great throw RJ. I knew you had it in you. Maze that hit was powerful.

MAZE

That bat stung my hands. I almost dropped it.

INT. MAGGIE'S KITCHEN - EVENING

Maggie places the bags on the kitchen counter.

MAGGIE
Amazing. I've got a house full of
boys and no help.

INT. MAGGIE'S STAIRCASE - EVENING

Maggie walks up the stairs. Halfway up Maggie's eyes fill with tears.

INT. MAGGIE'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Maggie sits down on her bed and places her face in her hands. Ryan enters the room.

RYAN
Mag, I've got a few things from
work to take care of. I'll be back
later. The boy's are going next
door for a bit.

Maggie looks over her shoulder.

MAGGIE
Fine.

Ryan exits.

Maggie sees the pamphlet from work on the nightstand and picks it up. She flips through then balls it up and throws it in the trash.

Maggie reaches and gets pills from her drawer. She takes the pills with a drink of water. She lies back on the bed.

Maggie's eyes close and her hand falls limp off the side of the bed.

INT. CAMPSITE LODGE - EVENING

Marcus stands in front of the lodge. All CAMPER are present.

MARCUS
Soldiers for Christ!

CAMPERS
Amen!

MARCUS
Did you all have a great day?

CAMPERS
Yeah!

MARCUS
I'm glad to hear that. So, What are
some of the things you learned
today?

A BOY raises his hand.

BOY 1
I learned when you are afraid, you
can put on the full armor of God to
help you get through.

MARCUS
Yes that's true. Any one else.

GIRL 1
In the reptile class, I got to hold
a snake. The lesson said God made
all the creepy things on the earth.
That thing was creepy.

MARCUS
You better than me, I don't do
snakes. Any one else.

WILLIAM
Mr. Marcus a rumor about you has
spread around, and I want to know
if it's true.

MARCUS
What is it?

WILLIAM
Some of us were told you were in a
gang.

MARCUS
That's true.

The kids begin to awe and whisper.

WILLIAM
I didn't think you would tell us
the truth.

MARCUS
Why not?

WILLIAM

Because of this camp and all.

MARCUS

Later in the week I'll be sharing more about me. For now, anybody else with something they learned or did today?

BOY 2

I rode a horse. It was big.

MARCUS

Were you scared?

BOY 2

Yeah, cuz I was high.

MARCUS

I was scared the first time I rode a horse too.

BOY 3

I learned to play as a team.

GIRL 2

I learned how to swim.

MARCUS

That's awesome. You guys have learned and done a lot today. Tomorrow you'll have more lessons and fun things to do.

INT. CAMPSITE CABIN - EVENING - LATER

Tonya and Marcus sit together on a bunk bed.

TONYA

Wow. This day has been good and hard.

MARCUS

Yeah, but you are well equip to handle anything thrown at you.

TONYA

That's easy to say. I wasn't expecting to hear how Shay was being abused.

MARCUS
Aren't you glad you had the
resources to help.

TONYA
I am. I'm also glad we have each
other to lean on.

MARCUS
We are strong together.

TONYA
You got that right. I got one
complaint.

MARCUS
Oh, no complaining.

TONYA
No this is important.

MARCUS
What's your complaint?

TONYA
These camp beds are uncomfortable.
I want my bed.

They laugh

INT. MAGGIE'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Maze enters and finds his mother unconscious. He shakes her
to wake her up.

MAZE
Mom, it's time for dinner. Mom,
wake up. Mom, wake up. Mom, wake
up.

Fade out

End