

"TRAGEDY BEFORE GLORY"

by

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W.G.A. (WEST)

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BLACK SCREEN

SUPER: "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him! - Luke 11:13"

FADE IN SLOW:

EXT. - WASHINGTON, D.C. - PRESENT DAY - AFTERNOON

SLOW JAZZ MUSIC is playing. ESTABLISHING AERIAL VIEW of the WHITE HOUSE, LINCOLN MEMORIAL, and the towering WASHINGTON MONUMENT. The CAMERA PANS OVER the CITY and then FOCUSES on ANACOSTIA PARK.

A large crowd of hundreds of people with their children are enjoying the festivities of a church celebration. The CAMERA FOCUSES on a BANNER that reads: CHRIST OF LOVE CHURCH ANNUAL CELEBRATION.

The CAMERA NOW FOCUSES on four children. As the CAMERA CLOSES IN the MUSIC FADES OUT and the NOISE of the crowd becomes apparent. One of the children is excited; his name is KEVIN RHINEHART. He is a tall, well built, sixteen year old black male. Beside him is his best friend TYRONE MITCHELL, who is a fifteen year old black male. With the boys is ANGIE MITCHELL, a sixteen year old black female. She has a loving relationship with KEVIN RHINEHART. Then there is nine year old ANGELICA MITCHELL, a precocious black female who looks like a little princess.

KEVIN

(to Angie)

Come on, let's go to where the games are. I want to win you a big teddy bear.

As they walk, Angie gawks at Kevin and smiles. She has puppy love in her eyes.

ANGELICA

(politely)

Kevin, can you win something for me, too?

KEVIN

I'll try my best, Sweetheart.

TYRONE

(with pride)

You leave that up to me, Princess
...I'll win you the biggest stuffed animal they've got.

They approach the game area and as Kevin puts money down and receives three balls, Tyrone walks away towards the next game booth where he lays out his money and is handed four plastic rings to throw around the rubber ducks in the water. Angelica stays with Kevin as he throws the first ball and knocks down the three bottles.

CARNIE
(yelling)

We have a winner!

KEVIN
(turning to Angie)

Well go ahead, pick any prize
you want, Boo.

Angie's eyes focus on a large teddy bear with a red heart around its neck. As the Carnie gives Angie the teddy bear, Kevin feels his pants being tugged on. He looks down as little Angelica points to a big green dragon that she likes. Kevin smiles at Angelica, reaches for the second ball, tosses it up into the air to himself and throws it with power knocking down the three bottles the Carnie just set up. Kevin celebrates with a victory dance.

KEVIN

Yesssss!

CARNIE
(yelling)

Here we go again...another winner!

Kevin gets a big hug from little Angelica.

KEVIN

Tell me what you want, Precious.

Angelica firmly points at the dragon with an adorable smile.

ANGELICA
(to the Carnie)

You better give me that big dragon
right there....that's my dragon
friend.

The Carnie hands it to her, she puts one hand around the dragon, and one around Kevin's neck and kisses his cheek.

KEVIN

Okay girls, how about we go
get something to eat?

ANGIE

That sounds good to me.

ANGELICA

Me too...I want corndogs and blue
cotton candy.

As they turn around to leave, Tyrone is standing there with the smallest prize in the carnival; it's a little yellow rubber duckie. Angelica grins at him as he smiles sheepishly and gives it to her.

ANGELICA

I love it...I can put my dragon
in bed at night and this duckie
can take baths with me in the tub.

Angelica reaches up to hug Tyrone.

CUT TO:

EXT. -- ANACOSTIA PARK - SAME TIME

We see four children sitting at a wooden bench; their food is almost finished; Angelica has a corndog in one hand and cotton candy in the other. Tyrone, Angie, and Kevin are eating hamburgers and french fries.

ANGIE

(sincerely)

Kevin, this whole day was so
nice...I don't know how to thank
you...can you please tell your
parents that me and Tyrone said
we really appreciate the activi-
ties today?

KEVIN

You can tell them yourself,
they're right behind you.

MR. and MRS. RHINEHART, Kevin's father and mother approaches the bench. MR. LIONEL RHINEHART is the pastor of the Christ of Love Church and this celebration is something he's been doing for over twenty years. He is a black man forty years old, tall, intelligent looking and handsome wearing a nice suit with a clergy collar on. His wife MELODY RHINEHART is a thirty-eight year old black woman, very attractive, elegantly dressed, shapely, and has a vivacious character.

MELODY
(kindly)

Hello everybody...having a good time?

ANGELICA
We are having the best time of our lives...at least me because Kevin won me this big dragon...
(pointing to it)
...and Tyrone won me this yellow duckie.

Angelica picks up the rubber duck and squeezes it and it SQUEAKS LOUDLY as Tyrone looks a little embarrassed.

REV. RHINEHART
(to Angie)
How are your mother and father doing?

Angie puts her head down in embarrassment and begins shaking her head side to side slowly.

ANGIE
(glumly)
Still no change Reverend...
I just can't get through to her.

MRS. RHINEHART
Don't feel daunted, Angie. Things like this take time.

TYRONE
You're right Mrs. Rhinehart...
I keep encouraging Angie to go slow...my mother likes to make up her own mind.

ANGELICA
But my daddy likes God.

REV. RHINEHART
I'm sure he does, Angelica...your father has always been very helpful to our church...I only wish your mother felt the same way.

KEVIN
(said in jest)
Okay now, Dad, no sermons please... you want to join us for a quick snack?

REV. RHINEHART

No thank you, Son. We ate a little while ago.

MRS. RHINEHART

You go on and enjoy your meal... will you all be staying for the sermon?

ANGIE

No ma'am, we have to leave in a little while.

REV. RHINEHART

You'll be staying won't you, Kevin?

KEVIN

Yes sir, I'll be back before it starts.

Mr. and Mrs. Rhinehart LEAVE the area. Angelica looks up at a large balloon that got away from a child.

ANGELICA

(looking up)

I want to get me one of those pretty balloons.

Tyrone stands up and takes Angelica's hand.

TYRONE

Come on, Princess, I'll take you to find some balloons...

Tyrone winks at Kevin and Angie.

TYRONE (CONT'D)

...we'll be back in a half hour.

Tyrone now begins walking away with Angelica.

KEVIN

(kindly)

You look so so fine, and I had a great time today...but then again, it's always like heaven and great whenever I am near you.

ANGIE

(soft and sweet)

That touches my heart, Kevin. I don't have to tell you...I think you know by now that I enjoy being with you, too...you truly complete me, Baby boy.

KEVIN

Do you think I'll ever get your mother to approve of me?

ANGIE

(rebelliously)

It doesn't really matter if she approves or not.

KEVIN

Why?

ANGIE

(fussy)

Because what really matters is what I feel and want. She's my mother and I love and respect her, but I'm getting too damn old to have her living my life.

KEVIN

What kind of life do you want to live?

ANGIE

I want to live the kind of life that your mother and father have.

KEVIN

And that is?

Angie rolls her eyes and twists her neck.

ANGIE

Don't be sly now...Stevie Wonder could see the love between your mother and father. I may be young, but as a female, I can notice that deep love everytime your dad looks at your mother.

Kevin looks into Angie's eyes with a loving gaze.

KEVIN

What do you feel when you see
my eyes looking at you?

ANGIE

Do you really want to know?

KEVIN

Yes, Boo.

ANGIE

Come and hold my hand.

Kevin takes Angie's hand and they walk about ten feet to a big shady tree. Angie leans back against the tree, as Kevin stands close to her and puts his hand on the tree.

KEVIN

Come on girl...don't go soft
on me now.

Angie very tenderly places her finger across his lips and holds her finger against his lips.

ANGIE

I feel like your eyes are
focused solely on me. I feel
my heart beat so loudly that I
think my heart is going to
burst right out of my chest.
When my eyes meet your eyes I
hear music that isn't even play-
ing, and your smile can melt an
iceburg.

KEVIN

Wow, Baby, I wish I could express
lovely words like that.

ANGIE

Boy, I'm not looking for a poet...
just say what flows naturally.

KEVIN

Well, I love you to life, Angie.

He puckers up his lips and kisses her ever so gently, and when he finishes his kiss, he pulls back slowly as Angie's eyes are closed locked into a moment of love. Angie opens her eyes slowly and begins to smile coyly.

ANGIE

You've made it so simple to
fall crazy in love with you.

There's a LOUD POP, both Kevin and Angie jump only to see Angelica giggling as she holds ten big, colorful balloons.

ANGELICA

Tyrone is waiting by the front
gate. He said it's time to go.

KEVIN

(to Angie)

I'll walk a couple of blocks
with you. I got to get back for
the sermon.

CUT TO:

EXT. - STREET - MINUTES LATER

Tyrone and Angelica are walking ahead when they stop for the traffic light and wait for Angie and Kevin to catch up to them. Angelica is holding the dragon in one hand and the balloons in the other. Angie is holding her teddy bear in one hand while Kevin is holding her other hand. The street is full of heavy traffic. Tyrone notices that the walk sign is FLASHING as they all begin to cross the street. We hear a LOUD HORN. The CAMERA FOCUSES on a bus that has stopped short causing the truck behind it to ram forcefully into the back of the bus. The truck is then rear ended which sets off a mass car pile up. One vehicle driven by an old man veers around the pile up of cars in order to avoid the impact. In his panic he's unable to apply his brakes which sends him into a straight path towards Angie who is not paying attention. As Tyrone attempts to get out of the path of the car he notices that Angelica is not with him. In one split second Angelica sees the car heading directly for Angie.

ANGELICA

(screaming)

Angie! Watch out!

IN SLOW MOTION Angelica drops her dragon and lets go of her balloons, and jumps in mid air towards Angie and Kevin knocking them out of the way of the oncoming car. The driver sees the children and in a split second avoids Kevin and Angie as he SCREECHES to a halt. CAMERA ROLLS IN NORMAL SPEED as Kevin and Angie realize what just happened and grateful to be alive, they begin to smile at each other only to be violently shocked into the grim awareness of the SCREAMING and YELLING of Tyrone in a SHRILL ECHO of agony LOUD and

clear, they hear Tyrone's words.

TYRONE
(screaming and crying)
Angelica! Oh God no!

SLOWLY, Angie looks to her left and sees a tiny shoe a few feet away from her as this is happening. Angie lets go of Kevin's hand as her HEAD PANS the AREA seeing many people running towards her from all directions. She sees the faces of the people as they SCREAM and YELL. Angie looks toward Tyrone who is also YELLING. Angie hears nothing. Realizing what's going on around her she quickly comes back to normal thinking. She sees on the street what seems to be less than a nano-second, Angelica lying motionlessly in a large pool of blood. Her body is contorted, her right hand is under her body, her left leg is going in the opposite direction of her right leg. There is blood coming from her ears, mouth and nose. She faintly twitches in the midst of this ghastly tragedy.

QUICK CUT TO:

EXT. - MITCHELL'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - SAME TIME

We see a black male, age forty, tall and handsome sitting across from his wife, a black female, age thirty-five, very pretty with a good shape. They are drinking ice tea and relaxing when they hear the sounds of the CRASH. They now hear the many SIRENS that are responding.

MAN
(putting down his drink)
Oh my God...did you hear that?

WOMAN
(putting down her drink)
I know people are hurt, let's get down there.

They both jump up and run towards the scene of the accident.

QUICK CUT TO:

EXT. - ACCIDENT SCENE - SAME TIME

We see many police cars and police personnel as well as numerous ambulances and firemen and fire trucks. Several firemen and paramedics are administering care to Angelica. Tyrone is holding Angie and sternly watching the paramedics at work.

TYRONE

(whispering softly to Angie)
Don't let her die, Lord, she's
just a little girl.

Tyrone's quiet time with God comes to a quick halt when he hears the SCREAMS of his MOTHER and FATHER who are being physically restrained by the police, as they try to get to Angelica. We see for the first time that the two people that were on the porch who came running to help are in fact the parents of Angie, Tyrone, and Angelica. The parents are putting up an incredible fight to get to their daughter. One MAN in a dark brown suit approaches them.

MAN

Calm down please...your daughter
is seriously injured, but not
dead.

Both parents stop and look at him.

MAN

My name is Doctor Walker and
I saw the entire accident.
This little girl pushed another
young girl out of harms way and
took the full impact of the car.
She has some broken bones that
I could see. I don't know how
bad her internal injuries are.
They will find out at the hospital.

The WOMAN looks up and at the same time Angie makes eye contact with the WOMAN. Angie pulls Tyrone and lets out a SCREAM.

ANGIE

(screaming)
Mommie, daddy, it wasn't our
fault!

Angie now collapses into her parents arms. By that time, Tyrone runs up to help with Angie. The doctor on the scene puts some smelling salt under her nose, and she responds quickly.

SARAH

(holding Angie)
Okay, Baby, don't worry...
(tears pouring down)
...she's going to be alright.

TYRONE

(to Angie)

It's not our fault, the car was out of control. There was nothing you could do.

ANGIE

(wailing in tears)

Don't tell me that! Didn't you see how fast Angelica acted?

(slowly and sadly)

She knew it was going to happen, I wasn't paying attention...it's all my fault!

ROBERT

(compassionately)

Look up, Angie, they're putting Angelica in the ambulance. She's not going to die...I tell you she's not going to die.

Sarah lets Angie go, and turns to Robert.

SARAH

Why didn't they take us in the ambulance?

ROBERT

The doctor thought it would be better if we went to the hospital ourselves, while they worked on our baby inside the ambulance. He just figured it would be better if we weren't in the way.

Their attention now FOCUSES on another COMMOTION nearby. The police are trying to stop Reverend Rhinehart from entering past the crossing tape. Finally, the reverend ENTERS through. He walks directly to Sarah and Robert.

REV. RHINEHART

(breathing heavily)

Kevin just told me what happened. I can't believe this...they were just at the celebration. They were having such a great time.

The reverend looks downward, and now picks up a broken, dirty, and bloody dragon with cotton protruding out that Angelica was so happy to have only minutes earlier.

SARAH

(to Tyrone)

I can't believe you all disobeyed me.

(angrily)

Had you'd listened, this wouldn't have happened --

TYRONE

(really mad)

Maybe so, Momma, but you take this with you, no matter what you say we are a good, loving, God fearing family. Yes we disobeyed you, but for all the right reasons --

SARAH

(exasperated)

Don't you dare talk to me that way ever again!

Sarah swings and SMACKS Tyrone's face LOUDLY.

ANGIE

(with tears)

Me next, Momma. Hit me next since my brother and sister came along to help me. To make me happy to share what's in my heart.

Robert reaches out and delicately places both of his hands around the hand that Sarah just hit Tyrone with.

ROBERT

(to Sarah)

Honey, I know what you're going through right now...but do not raise your hands to her...

(slowly removes his hands)

...hitting her is not going to change a damn thing that happened today. Let's go to the hospital.

REV. RHINEHART

Robert, that's a great idea. You and Sarah go to the hospital. I'll take Tyrone and Angie back with me to the church where we can pray.

Sarah violently moves toward Reverend Rhinehart and has to be held back by Robert and the police.

SARAH
(screaming)

The devil be with you! My kids
are not going with you, and we
don't need any help from you! Go
on back to your wife and church!

Robert turns and whispers into Sarah's ear.

ROBERT
This is no good Sarah. Let's go
back to the house and get our
car. Angelica really needs us
right now.

Sarah looks directly into Robert's eyes and sees his hurt. Sarah nods to him. Angie and Tyrone walk behind them, as they walk away from the scene. The CAMERA FOCUSES on the family as everything becomes silent. The CAMERA FOLLOWS them as the many people in the street step aside to let them by, as they walk, Reverend Rhinehart YELLS to them. The CAMERA NOW FOCUSES on the painful and hurt looking FACE of Sarah, as we HEAR Reverend Rhinehart's conversation, which is OFF SCREEN and during his dialogue the CAMERA is constantly on Sarah's FACE as his words bring contortions of sadness and agony.

REV. RHINEHART (O.S.)
Robert, listen to me. Melody
and Kevin along with the entire
congregation will be praying
for Angelica. Please call if you
need me for anything. My entire
family will be at your call.

Tears begin to quietly pour down from the eyes of Sarah.

CUT TO:

INT. - MITCHELL'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Sarah is still in a state of shock. Robert is now the strength of the family. He is holding his composure and is in a take charge mood. Robert takes a sweater off a hook in the closet and hands it to Sarah.

SARAH
What's this?

ROBERT
It's your sweater in case it gets
cold in the hospital.

TYRONE

Are we going with you, Dad?

ROBERT

No, Son. You stay here for now with Angie. Right now I don't know what's going to happen, so stay put by the phone and wait for my call.

ANGIE

Daddy, I want to call grandma Chapman.

SARAH

You don't need to be calling her.

Angie again stands up to her mother.

ANGIE

(assertively)

Oh, yes I do. Tell me, Momma, why do you demand so much respect from us when you don't even respect your own mother?

ROBERT

Hush up Angie. This isn't the time for this.

ANGIE

Sorry Daddy, but if my baby sister dies...then everything in this life changes, then you tell me what would be a good time to talk to my grandmother.

Angie looks at her mother.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

(to Sarah)

If I could have talked to you, and you would've listened, this may not have happened...

(passionately)

...I swear to God. That's right, I said God! I will never lie to you again, Momma. I'm going to tell you what's in both my heart and mind for the rest of my life.

Robert now takes Sarah's hand and they WALK OUT the door.

CUT TO:

INT. - MITCHELL'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Robert is driving as Sarah stares out the passenger side window. Sarah seems to be in a withdrawn state. Robert notices and tries to ease her tension.

ROBERT

Sarah, my love...don't allow anything that Angie said cause you more pain. None of us know what to do.

Sarah shakes her head, doesn't speak, her eyes make contact with the reflection of herself at the window she is staring at. The CAMERA CLOSSES IN on her EYES as she begins a FLASH BACK.

EXT. - MITCHELL'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - LATE EVENING -
FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

JAZZ MUSIC is playing. Robert is sitting on his front porch. He has a forty ounce bottle of beer in his hand. Out comes Sarah with a cute little dress on. She looks down at Robert and sits next to him.

SARAH

(concerned)

You're not yourself tonight Robert.

ROBERT

I got a lot of things on my mind, Sweetheart.

SARAH

(exhaustive sigh)

Okay...feel like taking a walk?

ROBERT

(looking off into the distance)

Why you want to take a walk in this heat?

SARAH

So I can talk to my man.

ROBERT

Funny...I don't see much of a man.

SARAH
 (placing arm around him)
 Please...don't do this to your-
 self.

Sarah sees the look on Robert's face; it is a look of a discouraged man.

ROBERT
 (raising his voice)
 I lost my damn job today...you
 call that being a man?

SARAH
 (concerned)
 Oh, Baby, it's not your fault...
 We can't control the downward
 trend this country is taking.

ROBERT
 (standing up)
 Oh, I see...I'll just tell the
 children to tighten their belts
 until things get better.

Robert throws the beer bottle, it CRASHES LOUDLY into the quiet street.

SARAH
 (spoken sternly)
 Why would you do that...Don't
 you dare embarrass me out here
 in front of the neighbors.

Robert looks sheepish, he gets up, walks into the front yard, picks up a broom and shovel that is laying against the wound up hose. He smiles at Sarah, and walks toward the broken glass. Sarah watches him as he sweeps up the mess; she watches him walk back to the house, empties the glass into the garbage can, and replace the broom and shovel to where they were. Robert lets out a HEAVY SIGH, as Sarah walks over to him.

SARAH (CONT'D)
 Kids, me and dad are taking a
 walk...we'll be back in a few
 minutes.

Sarah goes back to Robert, holds his hand, and they begin to walk.

CUT TO:

INT. - MITCHELL'S HOUSE - ANGIE AND ANGELICA'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME - FLASHBACK SEQUENCE.

Lots of bright colored teddy bears of different sizes can be seen stacked on top of each other next to Angie and Angelica's bunk bed. Angelica is asleep on the lower bunk hugging onto her Hello Kitty doll. Posters of animated characters cover the four walls of the room. The room is very neat and clean with toys and electronic gadgets everywhere. Angie chats on a cell phone near an oak wood bookshelf with several books on it. She sits in a plush reclining chair chatting animatedly.

ANGIE

I'm sorry, Kevin...but right now the only way we can hang out is at school.

QUICK CUT TO:

INT. - KEVIN'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME - FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

We see Kevin lying on his bed, he stands with the phone in his hand. His room is decorated with sports posters and trophies.

KEVIN

When are you going to stand up to your momma?

ANGIE (V.O.)

Mister Kevin Rhinehart! I'm only sixteen years old...and all I've ever did since I was born is listen to my mother and father.

KEVIN

I'm sorry, Boo...I just want to be with you so much more.

QUICK CUT TO:

INT. - ANGIE AND ANGELICA'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME - FLASHBACK SEQUENCE.

ANGIE

Awww...that's sooooo sweet.

The CAMERA FOCUSES on Angelica. Her eyes are open and she is listening intently to Angie's conversation. Angelica starts to turn over as she closes her eyes, but she is all ears.

KEVIN (V.O.)

Can I meet you for lunch tomorrow?

ANGIE

You better meet me for lunch
sucker...besides, I got a
secret to tell you.

CUT TO:

EXT. - ANACOSTIA PARK - SAME TIME - FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

Immaculately manicured grass can be seen throughout the park. Couples are holding hands, kissing, and embracing all around the park. Wooden benches and tables are stationed in the center of the park where families are eating and watching battery operated DVD players and televisions. The lake nearby is well lit as a family of ducks SQUAWK and beautiful white swans float on top of the water, as Sarah and Robert are seated quietly on the bench. Sarah stands, puts one leg on the wooden bench, and with her hand lifts Robert's chin forcing him to face her.

SARAH

(gently)

Come on Baby...talk to me...
tell me what's wrong.

ROBERT

Everything is wrong...what happened
today never entered my mind.

SARAH

What are you talking about? I
don't understand.

ROBERT

I've worked at the plant for
sixteen years...never a day out
sick...never missed a day due to
snow, blizzards or whatever
other natural disasters hit us.

SARAH

Do you think that the economy
can't be looked at as a natural
disaster?

ROBERT

That don't mean nothing to me...all
I ever worked for was to put a
roof over our heads and food on
the table.

Robert stands and pulls Sarah to him. A long beat as they stare into each other's eyes. Then they begin to walk.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

I've never worked for a Caddy,
Rolex or a large screen television.

SARAH

I respect you as a man for that...
the children and I really
appreciate being your first
priority.

ROBERT

(hurt)

I gave so much that I never
thought they'd let me go...as
a matter of fact I always
thought I would be the last man
standing.

SARAH

What did they tell you?

ROBERT

The usual...you've been a good
employee...but we're scaling
down and we're dismantling your
department.

Robert stops walking, lets go of Sarah's hand, picks up a
soccer ball that rolled in his direction, and kicks it back
to two little children. The children continue to keep kicking
the soccer ball.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

No, Robert, you're not in our
future plans...and that was
their reply!

SARAH

Damn...that's cold and wrong!

ROBERT

There are a lot of words that
describe it, but the story still
comes out the same...I lost my
job.

SARAH

But you haven't lost your family...
lets head home and get you a good
night sleep...tomorrow the problem
will be the same, but you'll look
at it with a new perspective.

Sarah embraces Robert and kisses him. He smiles at her and kisses her right back. Their kiss is interrupted by a young couple.

GIRL

Excuse me...can I ask you a question?

SARAH

Sure you can.

GIRL

How long have you been married?

SARAH

What makes you think we're married?

BOY

(smiling)

That's what I said...you don't even know if they're married or not.

GIRL

No...they are married...I can see the way she looks into his eyes.

SARAH

Okay...you got us...we've been married twenty years.

GIRL

This is my boyfriend Roger...my name is Nora and we got engaged last week. I just love this man so much...and I hope that after twenty years we will be just as happy as you both.

SARAH

How sweet of you...I wish you both all the happiness that true love brings.

As Sarah and Robert continue walking, once more they hear the VOICE of Nora.

GIRL

Do you have any children?

Sarah puts her head on Robert's shoulder, as Robert places one hand around her waist, and with the other hand he raises it extending three fingers.

CUT TO:

INT. - MITCHELL'S HOUSE - ANGIE AND ANGELICA'S BEDROOM -
SAME TIME - FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

Angie is still talking to Kevin when she hears her brother Tyrone call her name.

TYRONE (V.O.)

(yelling)

Angie, do you have my damn phone?

ANGIE

There goes Tyrone...I have to hang up. I'll see you tomorrow.

Angie CLICKS the phone off and hides it under Angelica's blanket. Angelica jumps up letting Angie know she wasn't sleeping.

ANGELICA

Ooooh...I'm telling Tyrone.

ANGIE

Hush you little tattletale.

ANGELICA

You're not suppose to be talking to Kevin.

ANGIE

You better not say a word to Tyrone or I'll never take you to the ice cream truck again.

ANGELICA

Tyrone won't be mad, they are best of friends.

There's a KNOCK on the door. Tyrone ENTERS. Tyrone suddenly moves his eyes and neck around the room anxiously looking for something. He then speaks to Angie.

TYRONE

Now, Sis...have you seen my cell phone?

ANGIE

(a little nervous)

No...I haven't...and as messy
as your room is, I bet your
stupid phone is in there, fool.

Tyrone looks at Angelica.

TYRONE

(smiling)

Sweetheart, have you seen Angie
with my cell phone?

ANGIE

(acting tough)

Don't ask her no questions...
get out of my room and go find
your dumb phone.

TYRONE

(to Angelica)

Hey, little Princess...I will
give you five dollars if you
will help me find my phone.

Tyrone looks around the room while Angie SILENTLY MOVES
HER LIPS at Angelica, telling her don't say a word. Angelica
shows Angie the phone while Tyrone's back is turned to her,
and she puts it in her robe pocket.

ANGELICA

Let me see your five dollars
and I will find it for you.

Tyrone takes out some money and shows her a five dollar bill.
He places it on the book shelf.

ANGELICA (CONT'D)

(pointing to the bed)

You sit here and be quiet, the
only thing that should be open
is your ears.

As Tyrone sits, his view of his bedroom is obstructed. The
CAMERA FOLLOWS Angelica as she ENTERS Tyrone's room. She
quickly puts his phone under a pile of shirts that are on
the floor. WE FOLLOW her as she quickly runs downstairs,
picks up the house phone, and dials Tyrone's cell phone
number.

QUICK CUT TO:

BACK TO ANGIE AND ANGELICA'S BEDROOM - FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

Tyrone and Angie are sitting. Tyrone is now all ears as he hears the MUFFLED SOUND of his PHONE RINGING. He stands up and walks into his bedroom following the TUNE from his phone. He looks under the shirts and excitedly grabs the phone from underneath. Angelica played him like a fiddle.

TYRONE

(yelling)

I got it, Princess...you can hang up the phone!

ANGELICA (V.O.)

Okay, suckerrr!

TYRONE

Huh?

ANGELICA (V.O.)

Okay, Brotherrr!

His phone STOPS RINGING.

TYRONE

(to self)

Damn, I thought I checked under that pile of shirts.

There's a KNOCK on his door. Angelica is all smiles.

ANGELICA

You got it?

Tyrone picks her up and carries her back to her bedroom, tucks her in and kisses her on her forehead.

TYRONE

Goodnight, Princess...thanks for helping me.

As Tyrone begins to leave he stops to talk to Angie.

TYRONE

Are you going to meet Kevin for lunch?

ANGIE

I think so...why?

TYRONE

He can give us a ride home from
(MORE)

TYRONE (CONT'D)
 school...and drop us off a block
 from the house.

ANGIE
 Sounds great to me...we'll wait
 for Kevin by the bus stop.

ANGELICA
 Can I come, too?

TYRONE
 You know you can't come, Princess
 ...you're on a different bus.

Just then the door opens up downstairs. We hear Sarah's VOICE.

SARAH (V.O.)
 We're home kids, is everything
 okay?

TYRONE
 We're good, Mom.

END OF FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

Sarah jumps out of her skin when Robert touches her shoulder.

SARAH
 (loudly)
 What's wrong?

ROBERT
 Nothing's wrong, you've just
 been so quiet...We're almost
 there.

Sarah points to a SIGN that says EMERGENCY ROOM ENTRANCE.
 Robert attempts to enter the area while waiting for the
 oncoming traffic to pass him by.

CUT TO:

INT. - EMERGENCY ROOM - SAME TIME - PRESENT DAY

Doctors and nurses are talking and standing around the I.C.U.
 desk when Robert and Sarah rush through the doors. One of the
 doctors stand in front of them as they approach. Sarah is
 almost falling apart with fear. Robert once again takes
 charge of the situation.

ROBERT

Doctor, can you please help us?
Our daughter was flown here about
a half hour ago. She was hit by
a car.

DOCTOR

Yes, I know the case. I was one
of the doctors who worked on her
when they brought her in.

SARAH

(looking worried)

Can I please see my baby?

Sarah now loses it; almost collapsing. Both the doctor and
Robert grab her. Sarah SCREAMS.

SARAH (CONT'D)

I want to know where she is! I
want to hug her. I want to
bring my baby back home!

One of the nurses bring Sarah over a cup of water and try
to aid Robert and the doctor with the frantic Sarah.

NURSE

Please drink a little of this
water and try to compose your-
self.

Sarah takes the water and starts to drink it. She's looking
around at her surroundings. She grabs tightly onto Robert
who looks directly at the doctor.

ROBERT

What can you tell us, doctor?

DOCTOR

By the time your daughter arrived
we had a full triage waiting, they
rushed her up to surgery. If you
go to the fifth floor, the nurse
at the station will be waiting
for you; she'll advise you on
what's going on right now.

Robert now walks toward the elevator with Sarah and presses
the button, as the door opens, they ENTER.

CUT TO:

INT. - ELEVATOR - SAME TIME

Sarah is crying and holding onto Robert. Robert gives her a firm shake causing Sarah to stop crying.

ROBERT

Look at me, Sarah. You got to be strong for Angelica.

SARAH

I can't Robert...I've never had anything like this to happen to anyone in my family. Now it's happened to my little girl.

ROBERT

(strongly)

We will get through this no matter what. I promise you we will get through this.

The elevator stops and the door opens. Sarah notices how quiet it is. THE CAMERA SHOWS Sarah CLUTCHING Robert's HAND tightly as they approach the nurses station.

ROBERT

I'm sorry to bother you. My name is Robert Mitchell and this is my wife Sarah. Our daughter is in surgery right now. Can you please help us?

NURSE

(standing)

Come with me, please. I'll take you to our waiting room and explain what's going on.

CUT TO:

INT. - WAITING ROOM - SAME TIME

The door opens and Robert, Sarah and the nurse ENTER the waiting room. There is SOFT CLASSICAL MUSIC playing. The room is nicely decorated, there are couches and chairs as well as telephones. Sarah and Robert sit on the couch and look at the NURSE.

NURSE
(smiling)

My name is Miss Leaks and I'm assigned to the surgery unit. I'm sorry I don't have the answers that you are looking for...so let me make this as easy as I can. Your daughter was brought in here in extremely critical condition. The emergency room doctors called the neurosurgeon who felt the need to immediately relieve the pressure of her brain swelling.

ROBERT

Is my baby still in surgery right now? Can you tell us anything else?

NURSE

She's been in surgery for the past fifteen minutes. Her type of surgery can take hours. Outside this room is a chapel...it's non-denominational so anyone can pray there.

SARAH

(painfully)

Will my baby live?

NURSE

Ma'am, I'm so sorry I can't answer that, but we have the best doctors in the country here. I know for a fact that they will do all they can to keep your little girl with us.

ROBERT

Can we get something to eat while we wait...or should we just sit here and wait?

NURSE

There's a cafeteria on the first floor, it's open until eight p.m. every night.

SARAH

I can't eat anything, Robert...

(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)

I just want to be with my little girl.

NURSE

I'll be by my station if you need anything...please let me know. The doctors will be down to talk to you as soon as they finish in the operating room.

The nurse leaves as Robert embraces Sarah tightly.

ROBERT

Come on, Sarah, let's go to the chapel.

Sarah pulls back.

SARAH

(forcefully)

I'm not going into any chapel, and I'm certainly not going to pray.

ROBERT

(pleadingly)

Sarah, this isn't about you and God. This is about our baby girl. Is it too much to ask you to bend your knees and pray for our baby?

Sarah turning her back and walking towards the window speaking with her back turned. With the CAMERA P.O.V. we see the FRONT of Sarah with Robert standing BEHIND her looking at her. There are tears coming down Sarah's cheeks as she closes her eyes.

SARAH

(flatly)

Robert, you know I refuse to pray ...no matter who or what is involved, and that is between me and God.

CUT TO:

INT. - CHAPEL - SAME TIME

The door opens and Robert ENTERS. There's a cross on the wall and a kneeling stand in front of it. Robert kneels and interlocks his fingers together to pray while closing his eyes.

ROBERT

(passionately)

Dear God, please take the time to hear my prayer. You are a loving, forgiving, and above all, merciful God. My prayer is not for me, but for my little girl...

CUT TO:

INT. - WAITING ROOM - SAME TIME

Sarah is staring out the window when she HEARS the VOICE of Angelica, as she goes into a FLASHBACK.

ANGELICA (O.S.)

(in an echo)

I'm here, Mommie...I'm scared
...come get me.

EXT. - SCHOOL - LATE AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

We see lots of children coming out of school and walking with their bookbags to their assigned buses. This is a middle school, the CAMERA FOCUSES on Angelica as she looks for her sister Angie. She sees Angie talking to Tyrone by the front gate. Angie notices Angelica coming in her direction.

ANGIE

(smiling)

How was your day, Sweetie?

ANGELICA

(complaining)

It was good until that fool Jamira stuck his fingers on my wet painting I made for you --

TYRONE

Tell us about it later, Princess, here comes your bus.

The bus pulls up, Angelica gets on and takes her seat, she opens her window to talk to Angie.

ANGELICA

Hurry home so I can spend my five dollars at the ice cream truck... I will buy you both something.

CUT TO:

INT. - GROCERY STORE - SAME TIME - FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

There we see Sarah paying the grocery bill to the cashier, then leaving with two bags. She EXITS.

CUT TO:

EXT. - STREET - SAME TIME - FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

We FOLLOW Sarah as she goes to her car, opens her door, and puts the groceries in. She now ENTERS the car and drives off.

CUT TO:

EXT. - SCHOOL - SAME TIME - FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

As the bus pulls away we see Kevin pull up with his father's van. It's a white van used for church functions. On the sides it reads CHRIST OF LOVE CHURCH. Tyrone ENTERS into the back seat as Angie ENTERS the passenger seat. Kevin is all smiles. His smile now gets deadly serious.

KEVIN

(nervous)

What's wrong Angie?

ANGIE

(upset and loud)

Do I look upset to you?...Tell me...do I look upset?

TYRONE

Damn Angie, chill out --

ANGIE

Mind your damn business Tye!

KEVIN

(getting loud)

Hold up, hold up, why the hell you trippin'?

ANGIE

Trippin'! You trippin' knuckle-head fool...why didn't you come with the other car?

KEVIN

Ease up, my dad's got the whip ...These are the only wheels available.

ANGIE

(to Kevin)

I pray my mother is at home...
cause if she sees us all in this
ugly van...she's going to blow
it up with you in it.

Tyrone gives a sardonic laugh..

KEVIN

What's so funny momma's boy?

TYRONE

Ain't nothing funny...but
Angie's right...if Ma Dukes
sees you with us she'll fire
a rocket propelled grenade
through this door and it will
explode in your ass.

KEVIN

Calm down, calm down...I'll
take the back roads home.

Kevin pulls away from the curb. He's on a quiet street with a four way stop sign; he looks both ways and proceeds just as Sarah pulls up to the stop sign. The DESIGN on the van immediately attracts her attention.

CUT TO:

INT. - SARAH'S CAR - SAME TIME - FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

We see Sarah look into the van as she gets a good look of Tyrone in the back and Angie in the front. Sarah is extremely angry.

SARAH

(out loud to self)

Oh no I didn't see my damn
children in that van!

Sarah now turns and follows the van.

CUT TO:

INT. - VAN - SAME TIME - FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

Kevin is all smiles as he takes out a religious CD and begins to play GOSPEL MUSIC. He knows Angie loves the GOSPEL SOUND and smiles at her delightfully. As they proceed toward Angie's house, Kevin is seemingly more confident.

Tyrone turns around, looks out the back window of the van, he sees his mother, and she doesn't look happy. Tyrone's eyes are magnetized on his mother's car.

KEVIN

Can you just feel that Jesus
is with us?

TYRONE

I don't know about Jesus...but
I can tell you one thing...the
devil is with us and that's for
sure.

ANGIE

Why are you talking about Satan?

TYRONE

Because Satan is right behind
us driving momma's car.

KEVIN

Damn it man! What do you want
me to do?

ANGIE

(spoken quickly)

Pull to the side...maybe she
doesn't know it's us.

As Kevin pulls to the side, Sarah pulls right behind them.

TYRONE

Jesus help us...Satan ain't
missed a trick.

We see Sarah EXIT her car, slam the door with aggression,
walks with a fast pace with an angry looking appearance
toward the van. Kevin steps out to talk to her.

KEVIN

(timidly)

Good afternoon, Mrs. Mitchell...
I was just passing by the school
and offered a ride to Tyrone and
Angie.

SARAH
 (pointing a finger at him)
 Don't you ever lie to me again,
 boy...my children take the bus to
 and from school...they don't need
 no damn ride!

Sarah snatches open the van door and begins to YELL at her children.

SARAH
 (yelling)
 Get the hell out of this van
 now!

TYRONE
 Momma, we --

SARAH
 Now!

ANGIE
 (low tone)
 Yes, ma'am.

Angie and Tyrone EXIT the van, and walk toward their mother's car. Sarah now turns her rage toward Kevin.

SARAH
 If I told you one time, I've
 told you a hundred times...
 stay away from me, my family,
 and especially my daughter!

KEVIN
 (pleadingly)
 Mrs. Mitchell, I'm sorry, ma'am,
 but I have only the utmost
 respect for you and --

SARAH
 (still raging)
 That's a bold faced lie...you
 lie just like your daddy...boy,
 the apple don't fall far from
 the tree...you hear me child?

Kevin puts his head down and looks hurt, as he listens to Sarah berate his family.

SARAH (CONT'D)
 Don't put your head down...
 (MORE)

Sarah grabs Kevin's chin and raises his head to make eye contact with him.

SARAH (CONT'D)
 ...trying to act all innocent...
 your entire family aren't
 nothing but liars...I'm not
 impressed with the good reverend
 Rhinehart...and his bullshit!

KEVIN
 (sulking and sad)
 I'm sorry, ma'am. I'll leave.

Sarah puts her hands on her waist, and watches an embarrassed, brokenhearted Kevin get back into the van. Sarah watches him as he starts to pull away.

SARAH
 (bitterly)
 That's right...go ahead, get
 the hell out of here, don't let
 me see you again...especially
 around Angie!

Sarah now turns to the children who are looking at her in astonishment.

SARAH
 Don't you look at me...get
 your butts into that car...and
 don't you say nothing to me!

Tyrone and Angie look at each other for a quick moment and then they both decide to get into the back seats of the car away from Sarah's reach. Not a word is said as Sarah ENTERS the car and pulls away.

CUT TO:

INT. - HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - PRESENT DAY

Sarah comes back from her FLASHBACK. She has tears spilling down her face, as she notices the door open, and ENTERS Robert. Robert sits down on the couch looking very glum. Sarah is seated next to him.

ROBERT
 I just checked with the nurses
 station.

Sarah
 What did they say?

ROBERT

It's far too early to hear anything, but when the doctors are finished they will notify us.

SARAH

(snuggling with Robert)
I'm so cold...hold me in your arms, Robert.

Sarah places her head on Robert's chest. He wraps his arms around her, as they both close their eyes. The radiant SUN SHINES through the window onto them FROM BEHIND.

CUT TO:

INT. - HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The three doctors ENTER the waiting room as both Sarah and Robert give the doctors rapt attention as they wait nervously.

DOCTOR

Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, I'm Doctor Stevens.

Pointing to the other two doctors.

DOCTOR STEVENS (CONT'D)

This is Doctor Marcus and Doctor Jamison, they assisted me with operating on Angelica.

ROBERT

Is my baby alive? Is she going to be okay?

DOCTOR STEVENS

Right now she is alive and in the intensive care. I want to be able to explain her condition, they will take your questions.

ROBERT

I'm so sorry to interrupt...please go ahead.

DOCTOR STEVENS

I could go on and give you many medical terms about what happened to both Angelica's brain and body, but that would only confuse you both; so I'll make it as facilitated

(MORE)

DOCTOR STEVENS (CONT'D)
as possible. Doctor Jamison will
start as he is our orthopedic
specialist.

Both Sarah and Robert turn to doctor Jamison attentively.

DOCTOR JAMISON
We have found and repaired four
broken bones in Angelica's right
leg. Luckily there were only scrapes
and abrasions on the left leg; both
arms also had some scrapes and
abrasions. So, at this time we see
no problem of her making a full
recovery from the fractures and
compound fractures that jutted
through her skin. Our x-rays also
indicate no damage to her spinal
column.

SARAH
Thank you doctor for looking at
her in the street and seeing all
that blood. I thought for sure
her injuries were far worse than
you explained.

DOCTOR STEVENS
Mrs. Mitchell, I'll let Doctor
Marcus continue.

DOCTOR MARCUS
I specialize in serology, and
during the past seven hours in
surgery Angelica required six
pints of blood...almost the
same amount that's in the human
body.

ROBERT
(quizzical facial posture)
I don't understand...what exactly
does that mean?

DOCTOR MARCUS
There was a lot of bleeding...
both at the scene and during the
operation.

SARAH

Operation? What type of operation
did she have to go through?

DOCTOR MARCUS

I'll leave that to Doctor Stevens
...he's the head of neurology.

Both Sarah and Robert now turn their attention back to
Doctor Stevens.

DOCTOR STEVENS

As I begin to explain to you
what happened to your daughter's
brain, if either of you don't
understand...just stop me right
there and I'll explain it to you.

SARAH

(very apprehensive)

Okay, doctor. We will try our
best not to interrupt you. But
if we do, please excuse us...
we're both worried to death.

DOCTOR STEVENS

Angelica suffered a large fracture
on the top of her head indicating
that she was lifted into the air
on impact...and as she returned
from the impact she landed head
first.

Sarah cringes and MOANS as Robert closes his eyes and fist
tightly.

ROBERT

Oh my God.

DOCTOR STEVENS

That impact caused the skull to
crack and the brain to swell...
thank God that the doctor on the
scene addressed what injuries he
saw which helped to relieve the
stress to her body.

SARAH

Will she be alright?

DOCTOR STEVENS

Let me continue my assessment. At the time she was brought into this hospital her brain had swelled considerably. That pressure had to be relieved. We put her into an induced coma...and we drilled three holes into her head; two on the top, and one at the base of the brain.

ROBERT

Now you're starting to lose me. Is there any chance of her recovering?

DOCTOR STEVENS

Yes, but to what extent...I can't answer that.

SARAH

What can't you answer?

ROBERT

(frustrated)

It seems like we're no better off than it was when she was lying in the damn street.

DOCTOR STEVENS

Mr. Mitchell, the brain is like a computer...it can shut down at any time. Especially when an injury of this magnitude is inflicted on it. As I said...right now I am only concerned on how much damage was done to it by the swelling.

SARAH

(pointedly)

So, you're not able to answer our question...will our baby live?

DOCTOR STEVENS

(softly)

I really don't know. Myself and my staff have done all we can...now it's up to God.

SARAH

(flustered)

God didn't operate on my baby
...you did!

DOCTOR MARCUS

Excuse me, but if me or any
member of my family was brought
into this hospital with these
types of injuries...I would want
no other doctor but Doctor Stevens
to operate on them.

ROBERT

Thank you doctor...we're happy
that Doctor Stevens, you, and
Doctor Jamison have worked so
hard to help our baby girl.
We're not mad, but like my wife
said...we're scared to death.

DOCTOR STEVENS

I understand, but let me give you
some advice...over the next ten
days I would be in that chapel as
much as possible because there are
some things that science and medi-
cine can't predict. That's why I
leave these things in the hands of
God.

The three doctors begin to leave, as Sarah stands and smiles,
then hugs them all. Robert gets up and shakes their hands
with gratitude.

CUT TO:

INT. - HOSPITAL - RECEPTION AREA - PRESENT DAY

Robert is standing next to Sarah as she is on the phone with
Tyrone.

SARAH

Tyrone, I'm so sorry for slapping
you. I don't know why I did that
...I guess I fell apart seeing
Angelica in the street not moving.

TYRONE (V.O.)

Momma, I'm not trippin'...I
forgave you long before you
called...

SARAH

Where's Angie?

TYRONE (V.O.)

She's right here next to me.

CUT TO:

INT. - MITCHELL'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

We see Tyrone hand Angie the phone.

ANGIE

(starts crying)

How's my baby sister?

SARAH (V.O.)

They operated on her and did all they could to relieve the pressure on her brain. They put her in a coma...and right now they are trying to reduce the swelling of the brain.

Upon hearing this Angie puts her hand over her mouth and starts crying uncontrollably. Tyrone hugs her and takes the phone from her.

TYRONE

Ma, Angie's taking this really bad.

QUICK CUT TO SARAH:

Sarah has tears coming from her eyes..

SARAH

I called Grandma and Grandpa. They're on the way to pick you both up right now...I don't want you to be alone tonight.

TYRONE (V.O.)

Where are you and dad going?

SARAH

Nowhere, we will be here all night and all day tomorrow. I'm not leaving my little girl.

Robert walks over and motions for Sarah to give him the phone. Sarah then hands him the phone.

ROBERT

I want to tell you both something very important...put the phone on speaker.

QUICK CUT TO TYRONE:

Tyrone puts the speaker phone on. Angie lifts her head to listen.

TYRONE

Go ahead, Dad. You're on speaker.

ROBERT (V.O.)

I heard your mother talking to you both...What she didn't tell you is that we are a strong, loving, resilient, black family that will get through this. I want you both to know that there will be no finger pointing as to who's at fault. I believe in God...so do you both and Angelica. Please get on your knees tonight and pray every day that our Lord and Savior sends her back home.

Both Tyrone and Angie eyes are glossy with tears.

ANGIE

Thank you, Daddy.

TYRONE

(overlapping)

Thanks, Dad.

There's a KNOCK on the door and Tyrone YELLS.

TYRONE

Who is it?

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)

It's me, Grandma.

Angie smiles and acts excited.

ANGIE

Keep talking to daddy. I'll get the door.

TYRONE

It's Grandma, Dad...She's here
to get us.

QUICK CUT TO ROBERT:

ROBERT

Hold on a minute.

Robert places his palm over the phone and talks to Sarah.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Your mother is at the house now. Do
you want to talk to her?

Sarah nods her head yes and takes the phone.

SARAH

Hi, Baby. Put Grandma on the
phone.

QUICK CUT TO TYRONE:

We see Angie walking in with her GRANDMOTHER, RUTH CHAPMAN.
She is a sixty-five year old woman, well spoken, well dressed,
and of medium build. GRANDMOTHER walks directly over to
Tyrone.

GRANDMOTHER

(smiling)

Come here, Sugar.

Grandmother tightly squeezes Tyrone with a loving embrace
and sloppy LOUD KISS. Tyrone embraces her and is very happy.
He hands her the phone after turning off the speaker.

TYRONE

(to grandmother)

It's Momma.

GRANDMOTHER

Hello, Sweetheart.

SARAH (V.O.)

I'm so glad you're there. Where's
Daddy?

GRANDMOTHER

He's in the car waiting for us.
I told Angie to get some stuff
together...but we'll come back
and forth as needed.

QUICK CUT TO SARAH:

Sarah looks somber and there's a small lapse of time where nothing is said.

GRANDMOTHER (V.O.)

Honey, are you there?

SARAH

(gravely)

Yes, Mom, I'm here. It's just that there's no words to say... yet I want to talk to you.

GRANDMOTHER (V.O.)

We'll talk tomorrow. I'll be at the hospital with Daddy, Angie, and Tyrone.

CUT TO:

INT. - REVEREND RHINEHART'S HOUSE - MORNING

Reverend Rhinehart, Melody, and Kevin are having breakfast.

KEVIN

I think last night was the longest night I ever had. I couldn't stop my mind from racing.

REV. RHINEHART

This was your last week for school. Your marks are great and your attendance was great. I see no reason why you can't take today off. Go back upstairs and go to sleep. Take today off.

KEVIN

I'd like that, Dad, but you always taught me not to lie...as soon as I got up from my nap I would find a way to get to see Angie.

MRS. RHINEHART

Sweetheart, your father and I are going to the hospital to see how the baby is doing. I'm sure Angie will be there...you don't need to worry. You can come with us.

Kevin stands as tears fall down his face.

REV. RHINEHART
What's wrong? What's bothering
you?

KEVIN
(depressive)
Life can change in a heartbeat.
All night I badgered my mind with
the thought...thinking what if I
bought Angelica an ice cream cone.
Those extra minutes may have
prevented this tragedy from
happening.

MRS. RHINEHART
(admonition)
That's not true, Kevin. Our
family dedicates our life faith-
fully to God. No ice cream cone
can replace faith or preordainment.

Melody stands with a napkin and dries Kevin's tears as she
hugs and kisses him.

KEVIN
Thanks, Ma. I'd like to sleep
till noon time if I can.

Kevin EXITS as Melody pours the Reverend a cup of coffee.
Then she pours herself a cup and sits next to him.

MRS. RHINEHART
Lionel, what are we going to do
with Kevin when we get to the
hospital?

REV. RHINEHART
What do you mean...what are we
going to do?

MRS. RHINEHART
If Sarah tells us to leave...how
will Kevin react?

REV. RHINEHART
(indignantly)
There's a chapel in that hospital.
I know...I've been there numerous
times. No one, not even Sarah
Mitchell can put me out of the
house of God.

MRS. RHINEHART

(fussily)

Don't you be naive. It's never been about God. It's always been about you. You'd think by now she'd let bygones be bygones.

REV. RHINEHART

Normally I'd say you're right... God knows we've both tried to make peace with this lady.

MRS. RHINEHART

(pointedly)

You know it's not peace she wants.

REV. RHINEHART

Let's just pray that right now she wants her daughter more than revenge.

Melody looks at him as she has an awestruck appearance. She rolls her eyes, purses her lips with displeasure and sips her coffee.

CUT TO:

INT. - GRANDMOTHER AND GRANDFATHER CHAPMAN'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

Grandmother and GRANDFATHER CHAPMAN are having breakfast with Angie and Tyrone. GRANDFATHER, LEVAL CHAPMAN is tall and thin at sixty-six years old weighing one hundred eighty-five pounds. He has grey hair and glasses. He's soft spoken and laid back.

TYRONE

I feel good today. I feel it in my bones that Angelica will be alright.

GRANDFATHER

I prayed hard to the Lord most all night long...asking Him to give us back our little angel.

GRANDMOTHER

Tyrone, we always have to turn to God when times get tough. You see, Baby, every person in this world has tough times and tragedies...but many don't turn to God.

Angie smiles politely and shakes her head.

GRANDMOTHER

Why are you shaking your head
child?

ANGIE

(disappointment in voice)
Over the last hour since we've
gotten up...I've heard the word
God about twenty times...but in
our house we can't even mention
His name.

GRANDMOTHER

How old are you now?

ANGIE

(smiling)

Oh Grandma, you know I'm sixteen.

GRANDMOTHER

Do you remember you wanted to
have a personal talk with me
and I told you wait until you
turned eighteen?

ANGIE

Yes I do, but I'm still not
eighteen.

GRANDMOTHER

That's a good point...but life
can change in a second and I
feel that you've earned this
talk you want to have so badly.

ANGIE

Can we go to the lake by the
park to talk? I've got so many
questions...we could be there
for eternity.

GRANDMOTHER

That's fine. I'll take my cell-
phone along in case someone
tries to reach us.

Grandmother looks at Grandfather.

GRANDMOTHER (CONT'D)

Leval, we'll try to be back here by twelve o'clock. If we're not back; please call me on my cell phone as we want to be back and ready to go to the hospital for the one o'clock visiting period.

GRANDFATHER

I gotcha.

TYRONE

Grandpa, we can stop by our school and inform the principal that we won't be in this week due to a family crises. We'll even go by Angelica's school and inform them of Angelica's condition.

GRANDFATHER

Let's get it to going then. We all got a lot to do before we get to the hospital.

Grandfather stands and kisses Grandmother.

GRANDMOTHER

You be careful out there on that road.

Grandfather turns and puts his arms around Tyrone's shoulders and they WALK OUT the door.

CUT TO:

INT. - HOSPITAL - MID MORNING

For the first time we are in the Intensive Care room with Robert and Sarah. They are seated and staring at the bed where Angelica is. WE NOW SEE Angelica hooked up to three machines. Her head is completely covered in bandages. She is in a coma and unresponsive to anything. Doctor Stevens ENTERS the room. He walks over and checks Angelica's chart. He smiles reassuringly at Robert and Sarah.

DOCTOR STEVENS

Okay now, that's what I like to see.

ROBERT

I don't understand, Doctor. What are you looking at?

DOCTOR STEVENS

Her vital signs. They seem to be stabilized.

SARAH

What happens now?

DOCTOR STEVENS

Her brain stopped swelling. As a matter of fact the swelling seems to be going down.

ROBERT

Oh thank God. I don't think I can pray any harder than I did anymore.

DOCTOR STEVENS

Kids have a great way of coming back. Your baby is a fighter, and all indications show me that she has the will to come back. It's too early to predict anything, but all the signs are good.

SARAH

What can we do to help her?

DOCTOR STEVENS

Touch her hands, speak to her, she knows who you are. She can hear you.

SARAH

Do you really think she can hear us even though she's in a coma?

DOCTOR STEVENS

(very cordially)

Good morning Angelica. It's Doctor Stevens. You relax now... Your mommie and daddy are here. You're doing great, Sweetheart... keep on fighting. I'll let your mommie and daddy talk to you now.

As Doctor Stevens LEAVES we see Robert and Sarah approach the bed. Sarah turns her head as tears roll down her cheeks. She softly takes Angelica's hands.

CUT TO:

EXT . - ANACOSTIA PARK - SAME TIME

Angie and her grandmother are seated on a wooden bench by the lake.

ANGIE

Grandma, I can never understand why Momma refuses to pray, to love God, or to go to church. It's something our family has done since I was born. I need to know what caused my mother to walk away from God when no one else in the family, not even my father, sees things her way.

GRANDMOTHER

My little girl. What I will tell you is going to change your mind about your mother...trust me, it's not God your mother is running from.

ANGIE

(faintly)

Okay, Grandma.

Angie starts to cry.

GRANDMOTHER

Why are you crying, Child?

ANGIE

I'm afraid what I'm going to hear is going to be scary and hurtful.

GRANDMOTHER

I tell you what...if it's too much for you I'll stop and when you're ready we'll begin again.

ANGIE

Okay, Grandma, you got a deal.

GRANDMOTHER

What you didn't know all your life is that your mother loved going to church.

QUICK FLASHES

-- WE NOW SEE a younger Sarah in church joyfully SINGING an inspiring and powerful HYMN at the top of her lungs. The congregation sways side to side with their hands in the air PRAISING THE LORD.

-- As the CAMERA WIDENS WE SEE a younger Lionel behind Sarah SINGING the HYMN with her and the choir.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

GRANDMOTHER (CONT'D)

Your mother had one great love
in her life and way back then it
wasn't your father...

(beat)

...After church Lionel Rhinehart
and your momma were inseparable.
The whole congregation thought
they were going to get married.
That's something your momma also
wanted very much...Lord, that
child was so in love.

CAMERA FOCUSES on Angie who looks surprised at what she is hearing.

ANGIE

Grandma, you mean the Reverend
Rhinehart and my mother was
boyfriend and girlfriend?

GRANDMOTHER

Sure enough they were together
for over ten years. Your momma
used to tell me how they loved
reading the bible and how they
wanted to change things here in
D.C.

ANGIE

What kind of change did they
want to make?

GRANDMOTHER

They wanted a church to help the
people, feed the poor, have
clothing drives, and help the
youths in the community to find
peace in God.

ANGIE

That's so caring, but get back
to what happened, Grandma.

GRANDMOTHER

Put your hand on your heart.

Angie does it.

GRANDMOTHER (CONT'D)

What do you feel?

ANGIE

I feel it beating.

GRANDMOTHER

Keep your hand on it, Child,
and think of Kevin. Now what
do you feel?

Angie smiles.

ANGIE

It's beating faster, Grandma.
You know how I feel about Kevin.

GRANDMOTHER

Your heart plays many tricks on
you. It races back and forth, it
feels sad when someone you love
dies or you hear something sad.
The worse part about your heart
is when your love is over and
it breaks.

ANGIE

How did my mother's heart break?

GRANDMOTHER

Baby, the first time was when your
momma came home crying, I rushed
over to her. I first didn't know
what happened. I was looking at
her to see if she was hurt.

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

WE SEE a younger Sarah crying in her mother's house. The
CAMERA STAYS FOCUSED on the younger Sarah as Grandmother
tries to console her.

GRANDMOTHER

What's the matter, Sarah? What happened to you?

SARAH

Oh, Momma, we were taking a walk and went into the park. As we were walking on the grass a kite fell from the sky crashing right in front of us. Lionel picked it up and turned around looking for who it belonged to.

GRANDMOTHER

Take it easy, Honey...What happened next?

SARAH

(crying)

I'll tell you what happened. There's a new family that moved in the neighborhood a few weeks ago. They have a spoiled daughter named Melody. She was in the park with her father who preaches.

GRANDMOTHER

Slow down. I don't understand what's happening. Why are you crying?

SARAH

Momma, as she ran up to us to get the kite...she stopped and looked at Lionel in his eyes and his eyes locked on hers. It was like a lightning bolt struck him. I wanted to die.

GRANDMOTHER

Why you're all upset? Did Lionel say anything to you about her?

SARAH

Oh, Momma, he didn't have to. It was written all over his face.

END OF FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

CAMERA NOW FOCUSES BACK ON Angie who looks confused.

ANGIE

Why did my mother feel so inadequate? She is a beautiful lady with confidence and style. She's intelligent and she's got everything a man would want.

GRANDMOTHER

She sure got all those things... except she can't control her heart. Really, Child, no one can.

ANGIE

I can, Grandma.

GRANDMOTHER

Your momma told me that she forbade you to go to that church celebration. But your heart won over your mind because all you wanted to do is see Kevin.

Angie looks a little sad.

ANGIE

I know, Grandma.
(pouting)
I caused Angelica to get hurt.

GRANDMOTHER

No you didn't. Before I get to talking about this let me finish my story about your mother and Reverend Rhinehart.

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

CAMERA AGAIN FOCUSES on a younger Sarah at her mother's house. Sarah comes downstairs and sits at the table with her mother.

SARAH

Momma, I need your help.

GRANDMOTHER

What's wrong, Baby?

SARAH

Lionel wants to talk to me tonight. I've been praying and praying and praying. I love him, Momma...and I don't want to lose him.

GRANDMOTHER

Sarah, if the good Lord has different plans for you, then you will have to make adjustments in your life and make God's will your will.

SARAH

(sharply)

No, Momma, that's not good enough for me. If God takes Lionel from me all that will show me is that there is no God.

GRANDMOTHER

(looking disturbed)

Don't ever talk bad about Jesus! As I told you; it's not you talking...it's your broken heart.

CUT TO:

EXT. - STREET - LATER THAT NIGHT - FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

WE SEE a younger Lionel talking to Sarah. She is crying, but trying to be strong.

LIONEL

Sarah, I never intended to fall in love with Melody.

SARAH

You can push me away after ten damn years of our life together? What about our plans?

LIONEL

Sarah, I'm gonna make every one of our plans come true; only not with you.

SARAH

Why are you treating me so cruel after ten years together?

LIONEL

Because we can argue about this forever and not be any closer than we used to be. I've fallen in love with Melody. I didn't know it was going to happen...I didn't

(MORE)

LIONEL (CONT'D)

plan on it. It just happened. I prayed to God for direction and He pointed me toward Melody. I never cheated on you. You know I've never chased women...It just happened, that's all there is to it. You'll see, you will meet the man of your dreams and finally be happy with compatibility. You'll have beautiful children and enjoy the happiness that we've talked about.

SARAH
(bitterly)

To hell with you! You can keep Melody, your God, and do whatever the hell you want with your damn life! You will never see me in a church where you are or any other church for that matter!

Sarah starts to walk away.

LIONEL

Sarah wait. I'm sorry, don't leave this way.

Sarah continues to walk and with her hand she waves him off with her middle finger extended. She does not talk or turn around.

END OF FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

The CAMERA NOW FOCUSES BACK to Angie. She has big tears coming down from her saddened eyes.

ANGIE

(sadly and softly spoken)
Oh my poor mother. I don't know how she could stand all those times of pain. Grandma, why didn't she ever tell me this? Why the secret?

GRANDMOTHER

(pointing her finger at Angie's heart)
It's that heart of hers. See, Child, your mother took it very bad and never fully recovered from the loss of Lionel.

ANGIE

Tell me, Grandma, did she ever love my father?

GRANDMOTHER

Yes, she loves your father, but she'll never admit to it... because if she did, then Lionel was right.

ANGIE

What do you mean right?

GRANDMOTHER

Lionel told your mother she would find a true love and she did.

(beat)

That true love is your father.

ANGIE

I don't understand this at all.

GRANDMOTHER

If she admits to loving your father and being happy with three loving children, then Lionel was correct and your mother's grudge will never let that happen. See, it's easier to turn your back on someone you think you love, than to turn your back on God.

ANGIE

I see, by doing what she does she will never say she was wrong and Lionel was right.

GRANDMOTHER

(smiling)

There you go, Girl...You are much more mature than I thought you were.

ANGIE

All this time I thought she hated Kevin...but what you told me, Grandma, tells me a different story.

GRANDMOTHER

Now you got it, Pumpkin? Lord knows I've talked to your mother a million and one times. She's never changed her thinking, so be good to her and have patience. She's gonna need all the support she can get with Angelica.

Angie stands along with her Grandmother. Angie hugs her tightly and begins to cry again.

GRANDMOTHER

Go ahead and cry, Pumpkin. It will make you feel better. What happened to your sister was an accident. Sure enough it wasn't your fault. I know you love God. Trust in Him and pray. He will guide you in the right direction.

ANGIE

I will, Grandma. I promise you this...I will not turn from God, but I will turn to Him. I will give my mother comfort and do my best to get her through this.

The grandmother begins crying as she hears Angie's words.

GRANDMOTHER

Praise the Lord, Child. He will not leave you.

ANGIE

(with a wide smile)

First thing I will give praise for is God giving me the greatest grandma in the world.

They start to walk out of the park when Grandmother's phone RINGS. Grandmother gets the phone and sees that Grandpa is calling. They stop as Grandma answers the phone.

GRANDMOTHER

Hello.

GRANDFATHER (V.O.)

We're at the house. When are you coming home?

GRANDMOTHER

Right now...as a matter of fact
we are walking out of the park.
We'll be there in five minutes.

CUT TO:

INT. - REVEREND RHINEHART'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Reverend Rhinehart, Melody, and Kevin are all seated in the
family room.

REV. RHINEHART

Well Kevin, you called for this
meeting...so let's hear what you
have on your mind.

KEVIN

Mom, Dad...I know that the
Mitchell family is suffering...
and both of you know that Angie's
my Boo.

MRS. RHINEHART

Son...Dad and I never had this
conversation with you...but
you are at the age where your
heart takes over and no words
will ever make you see things
our way. You need to take a
walk with your father and he
will explain the reason that
Angie's mother is not only
against God...but she's against
us as a family also.

KEVIN

(adamantly)

I don't buy that, Mom. Why us?
What did our family ever do to
them? You know Angie, Tyrone,
and Angelica are sweet, loving
friends of mine. I hope to marry
Angie one day.

MRS. RHINEHART

Hold your horses right there...
That's my cue to leave. I'll
leave you to talk with your
father.

Melody stands up and LEAVES the room. Kevin looks at his father baffled.

KEVIN

What does all this mean, Dad?

REV. RHINEHART

It's a long story, Son.

KEVIN

Start from the beginning...
I'm all ears.

CUT TO:

INT. - HOSPITAL - ANGELICA'S ROOM

We see Sarah and Grandmother sitting in chairs near Angelica's bed. Robert, Grandpa, Tyrone, and Angie are looking down at Angelica.

TYRONE

She looks so sweet and
innocent.

Tyrone touches Angelica's hand and bends over and WHISPERS in her ear.

TYRONE (CONT'D)

I'm so proud of you. The way
you pushed Angie out of the way.
My little Angelica...You gave your-
self up for your sister. Remember
what God said...There is no
greater love than those that give
up their lives for another...Only
you're not gonna die. We all need
you to come back little Princess.

Tyrone kisses Angelica on the cheek. Angie now talks to Angelica.

ANGIE

Oh, my little Angel...My sweet
baby sister. You know I love
you with all my heart and soul.

Angie begins to cry.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

You gave up your whole life to
help me. When you get better...

(MORE)

ANGIE (CONT'D)

I'm going to ask you, my Angel...
why...

Angie is touched on her shoulder by Robert.

ROBERT

Angie, why don't you and Tyrone
go down the hall to the chapel
and tell Jesus what you want
for Angelica.

ANGIE

(hugs Robert)

I want her to come home, Dad.
I want my baby sister back.

As Tyrone and Angie LEAVE, Grandmother and Grandfather
approach the bed.

GRANDFATHER

You know, Child...It was my
idea to name you Angelica...
because when you were born
and I first saw you; you
looked just like an angel.

Grandfather bends down and kisses her cheek. As tears flow
from his eyes, he whispers softly to her.

GRANDFATHER (CONT'D)

Come back to us, my Angel.
This family can't be complete
without you.

He kisses her again and lets Grandmother take his place.
Grandmother approaches Angelica's bed wiping tears from her
eyes.

GRANDMOTHER

Angelica, my Child...Grandma
is praying hard to Jesus and
asking Him to send you back to
us.

Grandmother looks OUT THE WINDOW UP towards Heaven.

GRANDMOTHER (CONT'D)

The Lord knows that I've thanked
Him every day for each and every
blessing bestowed upon our family
...I know that evil is also at

(MORE)

GRANDMOTHER (CONT'D)
 work. It's funny, Child...how the world loves to blame God for everything that goes wrong in our lives. Some people take evil so personal that they never go to God...but that's not me, Sugar. Grandma never lies and I promise you this...God is going to hear my supplications and send you back to us...and I hope when you open your eyes you will see God's great Love and Glory.

Robert wraps his arms warmly around Grandmother. While they are embracing, Robert smiles with a facial expression of bliss.

ROBERT
 (to Grandmother)
 Mother Chapman...That was beautiful. How about you, me and Papa Chapman go to the chapel and praise God.

Robert and Grandmother release their embrace. They begin walking towards the door as Grandfather follows behind. Grandfather stops at Sarah's chair and reaches out his hand for Sarah to take it. Sarah doesn't take his hand.

GRANDFATHER
 (softly)
 Come with us, Sarah...it will help you feel better.

Sarah looks glum and shakes her head no. Robert, Grandmother, and Grandfather continue to walk towards the door and EXIT as Sarah continues shaking her head no. Sarah now stands and walks to the bed. She gingerly picks up Angelica's hand and warmly rubs it. She whispers in Angelica's ear.

SARAH
 Baby...everybody is here for you...I know you heard them all. You heard Tyrone tell you how proud he is of you. For a second I forgot how brave my baby is...so I want you to know I'm so proud of you, too.

Sarah smiles and kisses her gently. Sarah deeply inhales and exhales with a sigh.

CUT TO:

INT. - REVEREND RHINEHART'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - LATER

REV. RHINEHART

So...that's it son.

KEVIN

Wow...Good grief, Dad...I guess that's more than enough.

REV. RHINEHART

I hope this made a lot of things clear for you.

KEVIN

It certainly has, Dad...I can understand why Mrs. Mitchell hates us...but what I can't understand is why she would turn from God. The way I see it... it wasn't God's fault...It was yours.

REV. RHINEHART

Son...you're not the first person to feel that way. I've done Sarah wrong...but that's almost twenty years ago...and I've been happy every day that's been spent with you and your mother.

KEVIN

You said I was almost a man... and in some ways I understand. I'm glad you told me about your past with Mrs. Mitchell... it clears up a lot of my confusion.

Kevin turns his head towards the direction of the kitchen and YELLS to his mother.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Mom!

MRS. RHINEHART (O.S.)

What is it, Kevin?

KEVIN

Can you come back in here, please?

Melody ENTERS the room with a cup of coffee in her hand and sits down on the couch placing the cup on the coffee table.

MRS. RHINEHART

I see you've finished your talk...
what can I do to help?

KEVIN

I got the entire story from dad...
and I'm fine with it. Dad is the
pastor of our church and the way
I see it...you and dad started the
church to help people.

MRS. RHINEHART

Are you saying we should help the
Mitchell's?

KEVIN

That's exactly what I'm saying.
Mrs. Mitchell has to deal with
dad in her own way...but the
rest of the family has to trust
in God!

REV. RHINEHART

What do you suggest, Son?

KEVIN

Well...most of the congregation
already knows about the accident...
what they don't know is that Mr.
Mitchell has lost his job. Can we
hold a yard sale?

REV. RHINEHART

That's a great idea, Son...we
will also use the proceeds from
the annual celebration we had.

KEVIN

(smiling)

Thanks so much, Dad.

MRS. RHINEHART

I like it, Son. I like the idea
a lot. I will speak to the ladies
from our church and we can sell
cake, candy, cookies, and all sorts
of things...we can make this a
complete community celebration.

KEVIN

I also ask this of both of you...I'd like to go see Angelica as a family... because in case you forgot...I was standing next to Angie at the time of the accident. If Angelica didn't sacrifice herself...Both me and Angie could be dead today.

Melody looks at Reverend Rhinehart and nods her head yes.

CUT TO:

EXT. - ANACOSTIA PARK - DAYTIME

Sitting in a serene scenery by the lake reading her bible is Angie. It's a beautiful day and all is so Heavenly in the park. A HAND TOUCHES Angie's SHOULDER. Angie turns around and sees Kevin and immediately she is both happy and excited and gives him a very warm and inviting smile.

KEVIN

Hi, Sweetheart!

ANGIE

Hello, Baby...come sit next to me.

Kevin sits next to her and takes her Bible.

KEVIN

Any news yet? How's Angelica doing?

ANGIE

(sighing)

The same...it's been that way for the last six days.

KEVIN

(putting the Bible down)
We need to talk, Boo.

ANGIE

(quickly and concerned)
Is everything okay?

KEVIN

Last night when I talked to you on the phone...I wanted to tell you that I know why
(MORE)

KEVIN (CONT'D)

your mother seems to hate my family.

ANGIE

(serious)

I think I had the same talk with my grandmother about the same thing...my mother...oh, Kevin, it seems so sad for her as she never could get over the love she had for your father.

KEVIN

After my father talked to me... I felt he was at fault...but after I told him that...he asked is it a bad thing that he's been so happy with me and my mom for the past twenty years.

ANGIE

Do you think this could ever happen to us? It frightens me to think I could ever lose you, Kevin...you mean the world to me.

KEVIN

I can't speak for my father... but I can for myself. Angie... you are my reason, sweetest reason for living...my reason to do well in this world...to be the confident man you would marry...the man to build a family with.

ANGIE

I believe you, Kevin...and, like you...I can't speak for my mother. I refuse to spend my life worrying that some other girl might catch your eye and take you away from me.

Kevin lovingly gazes into Angie's eyes and kisses her lips.

ANGIE

I already know where my love is..

(MORE)

Angie touches her heart.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

It's right here...and the way I feel right now is like you feel...I want to be your wife...I want to have your babies...and once we're out of school we can talk about our lives a lot more. Right now I can't seem to get Angelica out of my mind.

KEVIN

That's another thing I wanted to talk to you about. My family is going to give all the proceeds from the annual celebration we just had to your family.

(big smile)

My mom is getting the women of the congregation together to raise money for your family.

ANGIE

(surprised)

Your mother is going to do that for us?

KEVIN

Yeah...she doesn't have any hard feelings towards your mother... she told me yesterday she only prays your mother and her could be friends.

ANGIE

(smiling)

Boy...I'm so surprised!

KEVIN

Don't be...my mom feels the pain your mom is going through right now...she knows Angelica also saved my life...she wants to do all she can to help.

ANGIE

(looks at the lake)

This sounds too good to be true. Come on, Boo...let's take a walk by the lake.

They get up, hold hands and start a romantic stroll along the lake. After a few feet Kevin stops and takes Angie carefully into his arms.

KEVIN

I love you, I love you, I love
you... I can say that a
million times and in my mind I
have not told you enough.

Angie is staring at Kevin with a big goofy smile. She kisses him, they continue their walk and just like her mother and father in an earlier flashback scene at this park, Angie puts her head on Kevin's shoulder.

CUT TO:

INT. - REVEREND RHINEHART'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

The room is filled with many women of different ethnicities and ages. There's coffee, fruit, and danish pastries on the table. Melody ENTERS the room with an electronic organizer and punches buttons as she addresses the ladies.

MRS. RHINEHART
(warmly)

Okay, now ladies...let's get
this meeting going.

Melody looks at her organizer and then at the ladies.

MRS. RHINEHART (CONT'D)

Annette and Kathy...you both
will be handling the crocheting.

ANNETTE

We got you Melody...we've
already made over twenty items.

MRS. RHINEHART
(surprised)

Twenty already? That's so fast!

KATHY

When you told us what you needed
...we got right on it.

ANNETTE

None of the goodies will cost
more than ten dollars...with
all the excess we will have...

(MORE)

ANNETTE (CONT'D)

it will cost us nothing to make at least fifty pieces...at ten dollars apiece. That's five hundred dollars profit.

MRS. RHINEHART

(looking towards another lady)
Lencia, you're going to do all the baking, right?

LENCIA

Yes, ma'am...myself and all the women in our baking club are anxious to get started. We will be baking cakes, croissants, cupcakes and cookies.

MRS. RHINEHART

Okay, stop right there...you got my mouth watering.

LENCIA

Melody, my dear, when I told Mr. Hodggers what you were doing for the Mitchell's little girl... his store donated four hundred pounds of flour. Another lady from our club has gotten Mr. Mobley to donate all the fresh fruit for our cakes and pies.

MRS. RHINEHART

That's wonderful!

LENCIA

Mr. Mobley was devastated... he said he witnessed the accident and can't believe the Mitchell's daughter is still alive...he wishes he could do more.

MRS. RHINEHART

(checking organizer)
Debbie and Lorraine, you handle the barbecuing.

DEBBIE

Melody, this barbecue will be talked about for many years to come.

LORRAINE

My husband talked to Lyle Rogers at the meat store...who talked to his distributor. We'll have over a hundred pounds of short ribs... pork for our chili...um...a hot barbecue eating contest...and his company will also supply us with all the hamburgers and hot dogs.

Melody looks at her organizer briefly, then back to another lady.

MRS. RHINEHART

Carol, have you handled the bread and rolls?

CAROL

Yes, we got them all...Marcus said his boss is donating over three hundred dollars in bread, rolls, paper plates and cups... they know about the accident.

Carol opens her purse and takes out a check.

CAROL (CONT'D)

This check is for a thousand dollars...it seems like the entire neighborhood is rallying for little Angelica.

Carol hands the check over to Melody and hugs her.

MRS. RHINEHART

I don't know what to say...so many times people couldn't wait to write about the negatives of Washington, D.C., I guess all that we do that's positive isn't newsworthy.

Another lady suddenly speaks.

LADY #1

(defensively)

We don't care what people think ...all that matters is this little baby gets well.

MRS. RHINEHART

That's right...this isn't about
(MORE)

MRS. RHINEHART (CONT'D)
 the Nation's Capital...it's about
 one of our own needing help.

Another lady stands up to address the ladies and Melody.

LADY #2
 I got forty families in the
 community all doing garage
 sales...I expect many more by
 this weekend.

MRS. RHINEHART
 (smiling)
 Adrienne, that is fantastic...
 This is going to be so successful
 ...I'm so happy and proud of all
 of you.

Melody CLAPS her hands. All the ladies APPLAUD as Adrienne
 SHOUTS.

ADRIENNE
 God is good!

All of the ladies and Melody SHOUT.

LADIES AND MRS. RHINEHART
 (simultaneously)
 All the time!

CUT TO:

INT. - CHRIST OF LOVE CHURCH - AFTERNOON

The Reverend is comfortably seated behind his desk when Melody
 ENTERS the office. Behind her is a very well dressed black
 male in his forties.

MRS. RHINEHART
 Lionel, this is James Hendricks
 ...He owns the can company on
 Connecticut Avenue.

Reverend Rhinehart stands and shakes hands with Mr. Hendricks.

REV. RHINEHART
 Please sit down.

Reverend Rhinehart looks at Melody and then back to Mr.
 Hendricks.

REV. RHINEHART (CONT'D)
Would you like something to drink,
Mr. Hendricks?

MR. HENDRICKS
Yes, please...some juice if you have
it.

REV. RHINEHART
Sounds good to me...I'll have the
same.

MRS. RHINEHART
Two juices coming up.

Melody turns and EXITS.

REV. RHINEHART
I must admit that I don't know
why you wanted to speak with me
...as there is nothing my congrega-
tion can do to help you or your
business.

CAMERA FOCUSES on Mr. Hendricks who smiles.

MR. HENDRICKS
On the contrary Reverend...It's
my company that comes with the
offer of help. It seems that
when I started out in the canning
business fifteen years ago...I
had a great opportunity to learn
the ends and outs of running a
successful factory. The gentle-
man who taught me the most is
Mr. Robert Mitchell...I was
sorry I couldn't take Robert with
me when I left to start my own
business.

Melody ENTERS with a tray with two glasses of orange juice
on it. She hands one to Reverend Rhinehart and one to Mr.
Hendricks.

REV. RHINEHART
Melody, please sit down...I
think you would like to hear
this...Please continue Mr.
Hendricks.

Melody takes a seat next to her husband.

MR. HENDRICKS

While reading the Washington Times...I was shocked to see what happened to the Mitchell family's little girl...but they never said he lost his job...He is just the type of man I am looking for to run my entire factory. He is loyal, knowlegable, and dependable...I've seen this for the many years I have known him. I would like the church to set up a meeting with me and Mr. Mitchell...This way I can offer him the job of factory foreman with a lucrative pay base...I also want to make a charitable donation of ten thousand dollars to the Mitchell family...and extend whatever assistance his family needs in their present crises.

REV. RHINEHART

Hallelujah! You are a blessing from Heaven...Thanks be to God! The Lord does work in mysterious ways!

MR. HENDRICKS

(humbly)

I feel what you are saying, Reverend...and Mr. Mitchell has been very important to my development as a C.E.O. of my business...He's been my gift from our Lord Jesus Christ. I could have never forgotten his efforts to help me when I started out...I believe in sowing and reaping.

REV. RHINEHART

I'll set up the meeting for Wednesday...Mrs. Rhinehart and myself will be going to the hospital on Tuesday. I am sure Mr. Mitchell will be elated and amazed to hear your name once again in this life...and I'll leave it up to you to make him the offer.

MR. HENDRICKS
One more thing, Reverend.

REV. RHINEHART
Sure. What is it?

MR. HENDRICKS
How's their little girl doing?

REV. RHINEHART
She's still in a coma.

MRS. RHINEHART
It's so sad, Mr. Hendricks...
She may not survive the accident
at all.

Mr. Hendricks stands to leave.

MR. HENDRICKS
I believe like your husband does.

MRS. RHINEHART
Oh? And how is that Mr. Hendricks?

MR. HENDRICKS
That God works in mysterious ways!

Mr. Hendricks thanks the Reverend and Mrs. Rhinehart and
EXITS.

CUT TO:

INT. - HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - EVENING

Reverend Rhinehart and Melody are seated. Melody is reading
a magazine and the reverend is reading his bible.

MRS. RHINEHART
Lionel, I sure hope that this
ordeal will come to a happy end-
ing...I don't know what I would
do if that was Kevin lying there.

REV. RHINEHART
All we can do is extend our love
and support...and show the family
that they are not alone.

MRS. RHINEHART
We've already accomplished that...
were you able to speak to Robert
about the job offer?

REV. RHINEHART

I thought it over and decided I would do it tonight...I'm really perplexed as to how to approach the subject.

MRS. RHINEHART

Why?

REV. RHINEHART

It's such a tragic time in their lives...and if that baby doesn't pull through...then no amount of good news will cheer them up.

MRS. RHINEHART

God will work it out for them in His good time...I pray God gives you the wisdom to know what to say at the right time.

A NURSE ENTERS the room.

NURSE

Reverend and Mrs. Rhinehart... you can go into the chapel now.

REV. RHINEHART

Thank you so much.

They both stand up and EXIT.

CUT TO:

INT. - CHAPEL - SAME TIME

As Reverend Rhinehart and Melody ENTER the chapel, they see Robert kneeling at the altar. Reverend Rhinehart approaches and puts his arm on Robert's shoulder. Robert looks up with a weary smile.

ROBERT

(appreciatively)

Reverend Rhinehart...Melody...thank you so much for coming by...your prayers are very much appreciated.

MRS. RHINEHART

Robert, we've been so upset since the accident...we wanted to give you and Sarah all the time you needed with Angelica.