

SOUL HOUR

EP.1 THE JOHNSON SISTERS

Written by

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Based on the Banita Jacks Case

TEASER

INT. AMBER JOHNSON'S HOUSE - BEDROOM DOOR - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Dark and dirty. The only source of light is some candles. Multiple piles of trash and clothes are everywhere.

A record player SKIPS AND SCRATCHES in the distance.

AMBER JOHNSON(35), Black, a heavy-set woman in a dirty white T-shirt and head wrap, rocks in a chair as she stares at the bedroom door.

DAVINA JOHNSON(17), Black, the eldest sister, struggles to TWIST the door handle. She BANGS ON THE DOOR.

DAVINA (O.S.)
(weak)
Mom, please...

Amber walks to the door and unlocks it. She punches Davina multiple times. Davina SCREAMS in pain from each blow.

Amber exits the room, her t-shirt covered in blood. She locks the door and erratically duct tape it shut. She sits back down in her chair and rocks.

END OF FLASHBACK.

INT. RADIO STATION - HALLWAY - NIGHT

A slim corridor with shag blue carpet. Posters of several BLACK RADIO PERSONALITIES(20's-30's), line the wall. Large glass windows break up the flow of the posters.

ATTICUS "ATT" PIERCE(24), Black, our timid ghost whisperer, struts with his headphones on. He vibes to the MUSIC.

INT. RADIO STATION - BREAK ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

A small kitchenette. Atticus opens the fridge. His MUSIC suddenly STOPS. He peeks down the hallway. A DOOR SLAMS SHUT.

ATTICUS
Hello?

He shuts the fridge.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)
Hello...

Another DOOR SLAMS SHUT. He reaches for a nearby broom and raises it, ready to strike.

INT. RADIO STATION - HALLWAY - NIGHT

He turns to his left and collides with CYAN BAKER(23), Black, the lovable stoner who likes to eat, drops the takeout food. They SCREAM.

CYAN

Bitch, what the fuck! Why, you got a broom bout to bust my head open!

Atticus drops his broom and helps Cyan pick up the takeout food off the floor.

ATTICUS

What took you so long?

CYAN

I had to take the train, remember?

Atticus picks up a container.

He rolls his eyes. He looks at his friend, but in the window, CARL "THE MAN" EUGENE WATTS(53), Black, a frail ghost with milky white eyes in a tan prison uniform, smiles creepily.

Atticus SCREAMS as he jumps back.

CYAN (CONT'D)

What!

Cyan drops his container of food. Atticus points to the window. Before Cyan can turn around, Carl shimmers away.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. RADIO STATION - BROADCAST ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

A high-tech room with microphones, control boards, and switches everywhere. Atticus and Cyan devour their Chinese food as they scroll on a laptop.

INSERT: DC OBITUARIES WEBSITE.

CYAN
Was it him?

ATTICUS
No.

Cyan scrolls to the next person.

CYAN
How about him?

ATTICUS
No.

CYAN
Have you seen this guy before?

ATTICUS
No.

CYAN
One-word responses are crazy.

Cyan scrolls to the next person.

CYAN (CONT'D)
Him?

INSERT: AN OLDER BLACK MAN(75), photo.

ATTICUS
No.

Cyan SLAMS his laptop shut.

CYAN
I'm bored. We're never gonna find this guy. So can we get outta here?

ATTICUS
I need to find him.

He reopens the laptop.

CYAN

I thought you didn't like looking for ghosts. Isn't that why you wear the headphones everywhere? To block them bitches out.

ATTICUS

Yeah.

CYAN

One-word responses are still crazy.

ATTICUS

Just shut up and help me--

Cyan SIGHS. His phone DINGS. He checks his phone.

CYAN

Hell yeah! We've just got invited to a party.

ATTICUS

You mean you've been invited.

He points to Cyan.

CYAN

Here you go...

ATTICUS

I'm not going.

CYAN

Why?

ATTICUS

(sarcastic)

I dunno. I saw a pretty scary ghost less than an hour ago, and I want to figure out who or what it is and what he wants.

CYAN

Bullshit! Yo ass just don't wanna be around people.

ATTICUS

Not true.

CYAN

Now, all of a sudden, you wanna deal with ghosts.

(MORE)

CYAN (CONT'D)

I remember a few years ago, you didn't want anything to do with ghosts, spirits, or specters.

ATTICUS

Two things can be true at the same time. I don't want them in my personal and professional lives.

Cyan gets up and grabs Atticus's jacket from the coat rack. He throws his jacket on his lap.

CYAN

C'mon--

ATTICUS

No.

CYAN

I know you see ghosts and stuff, but you gotta start seeing the joys of being alive.

Atticus turns to Cyan with a disgusted look on his face.

ATTICUS

You gotta lay off the weed...

CYAN

I haven't smoked yet. That was from the heart, bookie.

Cyan taps Atticus on the shoulder.

Atticus rolls his eyes then focuses back on the laptop.

CYAN (CONT'D)

Well, I'm goin, and you'll be here all alone. Who knows, maybe that ghost will come back and scare you shitless...again.

Atticus gets up, grabs his jacket, and shuts the laptop.

ATTICUS

Fine. I'm ready.

Cyan pinches Atticus's cheeks.

CYAN

Yay, bookie.

ATTICUS

I hate you.

They exit.

INT. RADIO STATION - HALLWAY - NIGHT

CYAN
I love you, too.

Atticus locks the door.

ATTICUS
FYI, you're paying the train fare
both ways.

CYAN
Deal.

They shake hands.

INT. TRAIN STATION - TRAIN CAR - NIGHT

Packed with PASSENGERS(30's-70's). Atticus and Cyan tightly
onto a pole. Atticus wears his headphones.

CYAN
So, she was my sneaky link...

He drones on, but Atticus scrolls through his phone, and
selects a song.

SONG: "VIRGO'S GROOVE" BY BEYONCE.

The train shakes as it moves through the underground tunnels.
The lights flicker. Atticus watches them flicker again.

The MUSIC CUTS OFF, and a NEW SONG PLAYS.

SONG: "LOVING YOU" BY MINNIE RIPERTON.

Atticus checks his phone, but it still shows the Renaissance
album cover.

INSERT: RENAISSANCE ALBUM COVER.

Atticus tries to pause the music, but it won't pause.

MARIE(85), Black, a kind elderly southern belle ghost, sits
next to NICOLE(25), Black, her guarded granddaughter.

Marie smiles at Nicole. She looks up at Atticus and then
shimmers next to him.

Atticus focuses his attention on the ground. The MUSIC STOPS.

MARIE

I know you can see me.

Atticus doesn't respond.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Stop pretending you can't see or hear me.

ATTICUS

(whispers)

Leave me alone.

Cyan turns to Atticus.

CYAN

Huh?

He sees Atticus's lips move.

CYAN (CONT'D)

Never mind...

Atticus WHISPERS to Marie.

ATTICUS

Did you need something?

MARIE

No.

ATTICUS

You're just hanging around her?

MARIE

She's my granddaughter.

Atticus doesn't respond.

MARIE (CONT'D)

You're not very friendly.

She crosses her arms.

ATTICUS

Are you ready to crossover? You got any unfinished business?

MARIE

That's Nicole. She's pregnant. She doesn't know it yet.

ATTICUS

Congrats to her.

Marie rolls her eyes.

MARIE
You suck at this.

ATTICUS
Thanks, lady...

MARIE
I'm Marie. I wish I could've met my
great-grandchild.

ATTICUS
I'm sorry.

MARIE
Don't be. What's nine months when
you have all of eternity, right?

ATTICUS
Fair enough.

MARIE
I hope it's a girl. Nicole said she
would name the baby after me if
it's a girl.

ATTICUS
That's sweet.

MARIE
If I were still alive, the world
would know how proud I'd be.

He smiles at her.

The train SCREECHES to a halt.

ATTICUS
This is my stop.

MARIE
Take care.

Atticus and Cyan exit.

EXT. WASHINGTON DC - STREET - NIGHT

A cold winter night snow powders the ground. The WIND BLOWS.

CYAN
What happened on the train?

ATTICUS
Just a kind old lady...

CYAN
See, they aren't all scary, huh?

Atticus rolls his eyes. They continue their walk.

EXT. WASHINGTON DC - NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

An older urban paradise with a rich and deep history. Full of townhouses, apartments, homes, and corner stores decorated with colorful graffiti, trash, beat-up cars, yet perfectly manicured lawns.

Atticus stops. He stares intensely at an older, unkempt house that's eerily still.

CYAN
Atty c'mon!

He taps Atticus.

CYAN (CONT'D)
What're you lookin at?

ATTICUS
That house...gives me weird vibes.

CYAN
C'mon, Leilani's waiting on us.

They walk down the street. Atticus doesn't break his concentration on the house.

INT. HOUSE PARTY - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

It's a total rager full of beautiful BLACK PEOPLE(20's). They dance and grind on each other. This party is niggas on niggas on niggas.

MUSIC BLASTS from speakers. Weed and hookah smoke fill the air. Lights strobe and pulse to the BEAT OF THE MUSIC.

Cyan takes his coat off and puts it on a nearby coat rack. He rubs his hands together.

CYAN
The baddies is out!

TRACY GILBERT(23), walks past Cyan with a drink in her hand.

TRACY

Hey Cyan...

She waves and smiles at him before she struts off.

CYAN

What's up, Tracy?

Cyan follows behind her. Atticus stands by the door. He makes his way through the party. People bump and shove him.

ATTICUS

Excuse me...

He bumps into MALE PARTY GUEST(20's). Atticus continues his way through the party.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

Excuse me...

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

A vintage seventies style. Various bottles of alcohol and snacks sit on the table and counters. More weed smoke fills the air.

LEILANI "LEI" WASHINGTON(25), Black, a confident and educated bad bitch, sips her cocktail as she sits at the dinner table.

LEILANI

Atty! You made it! Come here, take a seat! Where's Cyan?

She gestures to a chair.

ATTICUS

Hey...he's somewhere.

She stands and aggressively hugs him. He doesn't hug her back, which makes it awkward. They both sit down.

LEILANI

So, how was your day?

ATTICUS

I don't wanna talk about it.

Cyan walks to the duo, which startles Atticus. He takes the cocktail out of Leilani's hand and downs it.

LEILANI

Really? You couldn't say hi first?

CYAN

Finishing a vodka lime soda is how
I greet people.

Atticus shakes his head.

LEILANI

(to Cyan)

What did you do to him?

CYAN

I didn't do shit but get him here.

Atticus and Leilani roll their eyes.

LEILANI

(to Atticus)

Then what's wrong?

CYAN

(obnoxious)

Did you tell her about the ghost
you saw?

Atticus hits Cyan's arm and SHUSHES him. Partygoers look in
their direction, confused.

LEILANI

Do you need a muzzle?

CYAN

No.

ATTICUS

Yes!

Cyan SMACKS his teeth and walks to the counter to eat snacks
and make cocktails.

LEILANI

So...you saw a ghost today?

ATTICUS

I don't wanna talk about it with
everyone around.

LEILANI

Don't worry about it. Whatever is
bothering you, I'm sure things will
get better. If not, blame Cyan.

Atticus CHUCKLES. Cyan walks back to the group with three
drinks in hand.

CYAN

I heard that.

He holds the drink in his face.

ATTICUS
Who's this for?

CYAN
Nigga, you! Loosen up.

Atticus GROANS as he pushes the drink away.

ATTICUS
(to Leilani)
I don't mean to be weird...

LEILANI
Weird is good, sweetie...sometimes.

Leilani and Cyan CLINK their drinks and finish them.

DENARIUS (O.S.)
Is this VIP?

DENARIUS BLACKWELL(29), Black, dark-skinned, tall, and muscular with impeccable style, enters in a Hampton University shirt and jacket.

Leilani hugs him, and Atticus turns around.

LEILANI
You finally made it!

Atticus stares at him.

LEILANI (CONT'D)
Guys, this is my friend Denarius--

CYAN
You went to Hampton? It's Bowie State all day, baby.

DENARIUS
You sure you wanna rep a school that's lost two basketball championships to us?

Cyan SMACKS his teeth.

LEILANI
Big mouth over here is Cyan.

She points at Cyan.

LEILANI (CONT'D)
And the quiet one is Atticus.

She points at Atticus.

DENARIUS
It's nice to meet you.

Denarius shakes Cyan's hand. Denarius focuses on Atticus.

DENARIUS (CONT'D)
Aren't you the host of Soul Hour?

ATTICUS
Yes. How'd you--

DENARIUS
Lei told me. I'm a big fan.

ATTICUS
Thanks.

DENARIUS
You've got great taste in music.

An awkward silence falls on the duo.

LEILANI
Cyan, can you show Denarius where
he can put his coat?

CYAN
Sure.

Cyan escorts Denarius out of the kitchen. Denarius turns around and eyes Atticus up and Down with a smile.

DENARIUS
It was really nice talking to
you...Radiohead.

Leilani nudges Atticus with her elbow.

LEILANI
So...

ATTICUS
So what?

LEILANI
Do we like him?

ATTICUS
Who? Him? No!

LEILANI
Why not? He's cute and single.

ATTICUS
Is he gay?

LEILANI
Yes.

Atticus shakes his head.

ATTICUS
It doesn't matter. My life is too
hectic to worry about who's cute
and single.

Leilani puts her hand on his shoulder.

LEILANI
You know that's not true.

ATTICUS
Lei, I see ghosts, literal dead
people, and it's scary. I can't
just...date anyone. You never know
who might linger around them.

LEILANI
Was the one you saw today scary?

Atticus pauses.

LEILANI (CONT'D)
Atty?

He shakes out of it.

ATTICUS
He was...sorry, I need a minute.

Atticus walks off. Leilani watches him leave.

EXT. HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Atticus steps outside. He EXHALES as he scans the
neighborhood. He sees the old, run-down home with dead bushes
and grass. There's junk on the driveway. He takes small steps
towards it.

Denarius walks to Atticus.

DENARIUS
Your friend talks a lot...

Atticus GASPS and jumps, which startles Denarius a bit.

DENARIUS (CONT'D)

My bad, I didn't mean to scare you.

The moonlight shines on Atticus and Denarius.

ATTICUS

It's okay.

Denarius looks up at the sky.

DENARIUS

It's a beautiful night.

They lock eyes, but Atticus looks away then at the sky.

ATTICUS

It really is...

Denarius smiles as he stares at Atticus.

DENARIUS

Where you from?

ATTICUS

I'm from Alexandria, but I moved here for college. How bout you?

DENARIUS

I grew up down the street.

ATTICUS

Really?

Denarius walks and stands next to Atticus.

DENARIUS

Yeah.

Denarius inches closer to Atticus. He points to the left.

DENARIUS (CONT'D)

You see the house on the corner with all the plastic flamingos in the yard?

ATTICUS

Yeah.

DENARIUS

That's my mom's house.

ATTICUS

It's a cute house.

DENARIUS

Thanks. I'll tell her you said that. Why're you out here when the party's in there?

ATTICUS

I'm not a big fan of parties.

DENARIUS

I don't mind parties, but I'd rather be at home.

The WIND BLOWS. Atticus shivers. Denarius takes off his jacket and hands it to Atticus.

DENARIUS (CONT'D)

Here.

ATTICUS

No, I can't take this. I don't want you to get sick.

DENARIUS

I'm fine. I like the cold.

Atticus takes the jacket and puts it on.

ATTICUS

Thanks.

A BEAT.

DENARIUS

Anytime. How do you know Leilani?

ATTICUS

We met our freshmen year of college in math class. We tried cheating off each other.

Denarius LAUGHS.

DENARIUS

That sounds like her, and I wouldn't peg you as a cheater.

ATTICUS

Well, when it comes to math, I'm gonna cheat.

DENARIUS

What? Math is the best subject.

They LAUGH.

ATTICUS

Not for us. She's also my roommate.
How do you know her?

DENARIUS

I've known her a few months, but--

A GLASS BREAKS.

CYAN (O.S.)

You got me fucked up!

Atticus and Denarius turn around.

DENARIUS

What was that?

Leilani storms outside.

LEILANI

Atty, help! Cyan's fighting!

ATTICUS

What? Okay! I'm coming.

They all race into the house.

ATTICUS (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Cyan, no! Put him down! Cyan!

MORE GLASS BREAKS.

LEILANI (O.S.)

This isn't our house! Stop!

EXT. STREET - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

DIAMOND JOHNSON(15), DESTINY JOHNSON(6), and DEJA JOHNSON(5),
Black, in dirty white cloths, shimmer in the middle of the
street. They hold hands as they concentrate on Atticus.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. TOWNHOUSE - ATTICUS'S ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Highly organized and clean, several crates of vinyl, CDs and, tapes lay on the floor. Posters of famous black musicians cover the walls and ceiling.

Atticus lies on his bed with his headphones on. He scrolls on his laptop. His MUSIC stops. He slowly peeks his head over the laptop.

ATTICUS

Hello?

His bedroom window BURST open. He gets up to close it.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - STREET - NIGHT

Diamond, Destiny, and Deja stare at him. He shuts his window.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - ATTICUS'S ROOM - NIGHT

The girls shimmer inside.

DIAMOND

Can you see us?

Atticus nods.

DIAMOND (CONT'D)

Good, he told us you could help us.

ATTICUS

Who told you that? Who're you?

DIAMOND

I'm Diamond, and these are my sisters, Deja and Destiny.

Deja and Destiny wave.

ATTICUS

Hi...nice to meet you. I think.

DIAMOND

Can you help us?

ATTICUS

Why do you need my help?

DEJA

He said you could help us.

ATTICUS

Do you know how you died?

The girls shake their heads no.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

Are you girls lookin for something
or someone?

DESTINY

Our Dad.

ATTICUS

Is he dead, too?

DESTINY

We don't know. We haven't seen him
for a long time.

ATTICUS

You gotta give me something.

He sits on his bed.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

Were you killed?

The girls shrug. Suddenly, they tremble. Their skin rots and
turns green, and their eyes turn milky white. Atticus GASPS.
He closes his eyes.

They shimmer in front of his face.

DIAMOND

Help us!

DESTINY & DEJA

Help us!

They brush past him. The wind knocks him on his back. He
lands on his bed. They shimmer away.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - ATTICUS'S ROOM - DAY

Atticus jolts awake in his bed.

ATTICUS

Holy shit.

He gets out of bed. He stares at the spot the girls last
stood at. He exits.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cleanish with cheap, outdated, and eclectic furniture.

Leilani and Cyan, in their pajamas, sit on the couch and watch the news. Cyan eats cereal focused on the screen.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

Four bodies were discovered in the house. The body of the oldest child was found in a bedroom sealed off. While the other three were found in a bathroom...

ATTICUS

What's this?

CYAN

Some lady killed her daughters.

ATTICUS

What?

LEILANI

Some brutal shit.

Cyan spoons more cereal in his mouth. Atticus slaps the back of Cyan's head.

INSERT: THE EXTERIOR OF AMBER JOHNSON'S HOUSE.

ATTICUS

No fucking way!

LEILANI

What?

CYAN

(mouthful)

What?

ATTICUS

That's the house from last night.

LEILANI

What house?

ATTICUS

The creepy one across the street from the party.

He sits on the couch, takes the remote from Cyan, and TURNS UP THE VOLUME.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

The bodies have been identified as Davina, Diamond, Deja, and Destiny Johnson, all minors. Police has their prime suspect in custody...

INSERT: A PICTURE OF THE SISTERS TOGETHER.

ATTICUS

Oh my God!

He pauses the TV.

LEILANI

What?

ATTICUS

I know them.

CYAN

You do? How? You don't like people.

ATTICUS

I met them last night.

LEILANI

You met their gho--

ATTICUS

Ghosts. They asked for my help.

CYAN

Really?

He shovels more cereal in his mouth.

ATTICUS

Leilani, you gotta take me to that house, please.

LEILANI

I can't take you to a crime scene.

ATTICUS

Please...

LEILANI

Atty, I just made Inspector I can't fuck this up. I...

ATTICUS

Please.

She SIGHS.

LEILANI

Fine...gimme ten minutes, and I'll take you.

ATTICUS

Really?

LEILANI

Yes, but whatever you do, please don't embarrass me.

Leilani walks upstairs. Atticus follows behind but turns around and grabs Cyan by his shirt.

ATTICUS

You can't be left alone.

Atticus drags him upstairs.

EXT. AMBER JOHNSON'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

A total rundown with dead grass, boarded-up windows, and trash everywhere. MEDICAL and POLICE PERSONNEL(30-50's), are everywhere. Police tape hangs on the fence. Several NEIGHBORS(10-70's), stand on the sidewalk.

Leilani parks her car. Atticus hops out and races to the front yard. He stops behind the yellow caution tape.

Three HAZMAT WORKERS(40's), wheel three bodies in body bags out of the house. Atticus GAGS at the foul smell.

Diamond, Destiny, and Deja shimmer next to him.

DEJA

Is that us?

ATTICUS

I think so.

HAZMAT WORKER(40's), wheels out the fourth and final body.

DESTINY

Is that Davina--

DENARIUS (O.S.)

Sir, please step back...

The sisters shimmer away when Denarius enters in a crisp black suit with a gun on his hip. Atticus turns around.

DENARIUS (CONT'D)

Hey...Radiohead?

ATTICUS

Hi...

DENARIUS

What're you doing here?

Denarius flashes his badge to the Hazmat Workers.

ATTICUS

I saw the news.

DENARIUS

It's terrible. Did you know them?

Atticus shakes his head no.

ATTICUS

What're you doing here with a badge and gun...now that I hear myself, I sound pretty stupid.

Denarius CHUCKLES.

DENARIUS

You're not stupid. I'm a Detective. I just got assigned to this case.

ATTICUS

Oh. Do you and Lei work together?

DENARIUS

Now we do since she got her promotion. Didn't she tell you?

Hazmat Worker wheels a body past the men. Denarius bows his head out of respect for the bodies.

DENARIUS (CONT'D)

Yep. We work homicide...

ATTICUS

That sounds depressing.

DENARIUS

A little bit. But at least I can get all these monsters off the streets.

Denarius drones on.

Atticus turns toward the house. Another HAZMAT WORKER(40s), removes a large board from a window.

Davina's ghost walks to the window in bloody and dirty clothes and stares blankly.

Atticus follows the direction of her eyes and turns to the other side of the street.

Carl stands on the street. Atticus and Carl lock eyes. Carl flashes a creepy smile at Atticus and waves.

Tears flow from Atticus's eyes. His vision blurs. Atticus struggles to stand. Blood drips from his nose. He takes SHORT, HEAVY BREATHS. He collapses.

EVERYONE SOUNDS DISTORTED.

CYAN

Atty!

Cyan and Leilani run to Atticus.

LEILANI

What happened?

Atticus focuses on Carl, who waves at him.

DENARIUS

I don't know.

Atticus passes out. Denarius holds him.

DENARIUS (CONT'D)

Everybody make some room.
Radiohead, can you hear me?

LEILANI

Atticus!

CYAN

Atticus! Atty!

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. TOWNHOUSE - ATTICUS'S ROOM - DAY

Atticus wakes up in his bed. He scans his bedroom before he gets out of the bed.

ATTICUS

How'd I get home...hello?

Leilani enters.

LEILANI

Atty! You're awake. Cyan, he's up!

She hugs him.

ATTICUS

What happened?

LEILANI

You passed out.

Cyan enters. He sits on the bed.

ATTICUS

What?

LEILANI

Yeah, I was talking to one of the neighbors. The next thing I know, I saw you hit the ground.

ATTICUS

How long was I out?

LEILANI

Three days.

ATTICUS

Three days!

LEILANI

We wanted to take you to the hospital, but we know how much you hate them...isn't that right, Cyan?

She SLAPS the back of Cyan's head.

CYAN

Ow.

They all sit on his bed.

LEILANI

Can you tell us what happened?

ATTICUS

It happened so fast, but I remember the bodies being wheeled out, and the three youngest girls appeared next to me.

He looks at Leilani.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

But when Denarius showed up, they vanished. Then I saw the oldest staring out the window.

He scratches his head.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

I saw the same creepy man from the studio. Then everything went black.

Leilani hugs him.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

What about the girls? Did you find anything out?

LEILANI

It's confirmed their mother killed them. The bodies are so badly decomposed that it's believed she killed Davina last summer and killed the others shortly after. I am waiting to hear back from the Coroner's office to confirm.

ATTICUS

Do you know how they died?

LEILANI

Not yet.

ATTICUS

Why'd she kill them?

LEILANI

No motive yet. She keeps muttering to herself, but no one can understand her.

Atticus lays down on the bed.

ATTICUS

The girls didn't remember who killed them. They must've been asleep or something before.

LEILANI

The brain tries to protect itself from trauma.

CYAN

So they blocked it out?

LEILANI

Maybe.

ATTICUS

This is crazy. Why wait almost a year to contact me?

CYAN

Maybe time moves differently in the spiritual world than it does here.

Leilani and Atticus flash confused expressions at Cyan.

CYAN (CONT'D)

What? Y'all would know that if you read your Bibles.

They ignore Cyan.

ATTICUS

What else do you know?

LEILANI

Well, Amber hasn't lawyered up. I don't think she knows what's going on. She's totally out of it.

ATTICUS

So she's not gonna be any help.

CYAN

Why do you wanna help them?

ATTICUS

I don't know...

Atticus CRIES.

LEILANI

Oh, sweetie.

CYAN

Atticus? What's wrong?

LEILANI

Talk to us.

ATTICUS

I'm overwhelmed. I've never dealt with murder and evil spirits before. I wanna keep the girls away from him.

Leilani wraps her arms around him while Cyan rests his head on Atticus's shoulder.

LEILANI

I'm really sorry. You shouldn't be the one to clean up Amber's mess.

CYAN

Maybe this is a sign.

ATTICUS

A sign?

LEILANI

Yeah. You can be their closure.

ATTICUS

I can?

LEILANI

You can only do your best.

ATTICUS

I'm trying, but they kept saying they were told I could help them. A man told them where to find me.

CYAN

A man? Maybe it was some other medium. Think of it like customer service. He transferred them over to you.

They stare at him. Leilani rolls her eyes.

LEILANI'S PHONE RINGS.

LEILANI

Just...just go get my phone.

Cyan exits. He returns and hands Leilani her phone. She answers it.

LEILANI (CONT'D)
Washington, how can I help you?

She exits the room.

CYAN
What I say wrong?

ATTICUS
Nothing. I appreciate you.

CYAN
Aww, thanks, bookie.

They hug.

LEILANI (O.S.)
Huh. Huh. Yeah. Okay, thanks.

Leilani reenters.

LEILANI (CONT'D)
Y'know, I love you, and I wanna
help you. So, I cashed in a couple
of favors; we can see Davina's body
at the coroner's office.

ATTICUS
(hesitant)
Really?

CYAN
(disgusted)
Really?

LEILANI
The catch is...I told Phillip that
Cyan would give him a dime bag.

CYAN
What!

LEILANI
I didn't stutter. Let's get dressed
and head over there so Atty can do
his thing.

INT. POLICE STATION - CORONER'S OFFICE - HALLWAY - DAY
A simple corridor with dim lights adorned with plaques.

Leilani KNOCKS on the door.

PHILLIP(30), Black, in scrubs, opens the door.

PHILLIP
You got it?

Both she and Cyan nod.

PHILLIP (CONT'D)

Good.

CYAN

Best weed in all of DC.

Phillip shuts the door behind him.

LEILANI

You ready?

PHILLIP

She's on the examiner's table.

Cyan pulls the weed from his jacket pocket and hands it to Phillip. He takes and opens the bag. He INHALES DEEPLY.

PHILLIP (CONT'D)

This some good shit.

Phillip closes the bag.

PHILLIP (CONT'D)

Alright, you got bout fifteen minutes till my boss gets back.

Phillip opens the office door.

Leilani subtly taps her nose. Cyan winks.

CYAN

(excited to Phillip)

Hey, you gonna smoke now?

Phillip nods.

CYAN (CONT'D)

Lit.

Cyan wraps his arm around Phillip. They walk down the hall. Leilani and Atticus watch them.

LEILANI

All right, go in.

ATTICUS

You're not coming?

LEILANI

Someone's gotta guard the door.

Atticus opens the door.

LEILANI (CONT'D)

Hurry, you don't have a lotta time.

Atticus enters the office and shuts the door.

INT. POLICE STATION - CORONER'S OFFICE - DAY

Clean and sterile with over a dozen silver locker doors. In the center of the room, a white sheet covers Davina's body. SMOOTH JAZZ plays from a speaker.

Atticus stands by the examiner's table. He looks down at Davina's body under the white sheet.

The MUSIC STOPS and SCRATCHES. The MUSIC switches to "SOMEONE WALKING BEHIND YOU" by The Vogues.

Davina's ghost shimmers behind Atticus as a rotten corpse. Atticus turns around. He jerks backward.

ATTICUS

Are you Davina?

DAVINA

Why're you near my body?

ATTICUS

Because I'm here to help you.

DAVINA

I didn't ask for your fucking help.
Mind your own business.

ATTICUS

It's my business when your sisters
show up at my house.

Atticus moves away from Davina.

DAVINA

Leave them out of this!

ATTICUS

I know who killed you.

DAVINA

(sarcastic)
And I don't?

ATTICUS

Why would your mom--

DAVINA

She killed me because of a man!

The LOCKER DOORS SHAKE AND RATTLE.

ATTICUS

Huh? Why?

DAVINA

Your fake compassion doesn't work on me.

ATTICUS

I'm not faking anything. Davina, who're you talking about?

DAVINA

My stepdad.

ATTICUS

Davina...

DAVINA

I was gonna graduate. I had friends. I had a life, and she stole it from me!

The lights flicker.

ATTICUS

What do you mean?

DAVINA

Stop pretending to care.

The LOCKER DOORS UNLOCK.

ATTICUS

I do care. I wanna help you and your sisters.

DAVINA

I'm so tired of hearing that shit! We were forgotten! No one cared.

ATTICUS

I know, and I'm sorry, but you'll get justice. All of you will. It takes time.

DAVINA

She deserves to die.

ATTICUS

Her dying won't bring you and your
sisters back.

DAVINA

He told me you'd say that.

ATTICUS

Who told you that?

Davina focuses on the left corner of the office. The lights
flicker when Carl shimmers into the room.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

What...

Atticus turns around. Carl smiles at Atticus. Carl walks
closer to Atticus and Davina. Atticus SCREAMS.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

Help!

INTERCUT - CORONER'S OFFICE/HALLWAY

Leilani stands with her back to the door. She jumps at
Atticus's SCREAM.

LEILANI

Atty? What's wrong?

Leilani struggles to open the door.

LEILANI (CONT'D)

Atty!

She BANGS on the door.

LEILANI (CONT'D)

Open the door!

ATTICUS

Back up!

Carl inches closer.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

Help! Leilani! Help!

CARL

No one can help you.

Carl backs Atticus against a wall. Leilani BANGS on the door.

LEILANI (O.S.)
Atticus! Open the door!

The room shakes. The lockers swing open. The bodies slide out and fall onto the floor, each with a hard THUD.

CARL
No one can help you.

DAVINA
You'll know the pain I felt.

More bodies tumble out of the lockers. Atticus curls into the fetal position.

CARL
They belong to me!

Carl LAUGHS. Davina's body levitates from the table, then SLAMS back down three times.

LEILANI
Atticus!

Carl and Davina shimmer away. The room returns to normal. SMOOTH JAZZ plays again.

The door opens, and Leilani bursts in.

LEILANI (CONT'D)
Atticus!

Leilani runs to Atticus and shakes him. Atticus opens his eyes and runs out of the office.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. POLICE STATION - LAWN - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

A modern building with large windows and abstract angles and curves. A giant flag pole with the American and Washington D.C. flags waves proudly in the air.

Atticus VOMITS. Leilani chases after him.

LEILANI
Atticus! Atticus!

She stands behind him.

Atticus VOMITS one last time. Leilani rubs his back. He turns around and wipes his mouth.

LEILANI (CONT'D)
What happened? Are you okay?

ATTICUS
We have to find the girl's
stepfather. He's the reason why
they're dead.

LEILANI
What? Are you sure? How?

ATTICUS
Davina told me.

LEILANI
Whoa. Okay. Um...lemme get Cyan,
and we can go.

Leilani enters the station. Atticus stares at the sky.

INT. LEILANI'S CAR - DAY

Leilani focuses on the road. Cyan comforts Atticus in the back seat.

ATTICUS
She's so angry and confused. She
believes that her mom killed her
because of her stepdad.

CYAN
Then what?

ATTICUS

The ghost from the station and at her house was there. He said that Davina belongs to him.

Leilani stares at Atticus through the rearview mirror.

LEILANI

Ghosts can own other ghosts?

ATTICUS

I guess. I'm not sure.

CYAN

How're you gonna ID this guy?

ATTICUS

I wish I knew, but being so close to him, I've never felt so much evil or hatred before. Whoever he is, he's holding Davina back.

LEILANI

What about her sisters? Are you still seeing them?

ATTICUS

I haven't seen them in a while.

LEILANI

Y'know, Att, I'm trying to piece all of this together, but nothing's making sense. Why them? Why you? Why their stepfather? Why now?

Atticus EXHALES.

ATTICUS

We talk to Amber.

LEILANI

I doubt she's ready to talk.

Leilani looks at Atticus through her rearview mirror and raises an eyebrow.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - ATTICUS'S ROOM - NIGHT

Atticus changes into an oversized, comfy hoodie. Cyan KNOCKS on the door, opens it, and enters.

CYAN

Whatcha doing?

ATTICUS

Going to work?

CYAN

Why?

ATTICUS

Because I have bills.

Cyan sits on the floor.

CYAN

I get that, but you've been through a lot in the last few days.

ATTICUS

I know, but I have to work.

CYAN

I understand, but I'm talking about the ghosts of it all.

ATTICUS

I'm sorry, but part of me wants to help the girls.

Atticus puts on his shoes.

CYAN

That's great, but you don't know what you're up against.

ATTICUS

I know. But right is right.

CYAN

And evil is evil. For as long as I've known you, you've hated your gift. You've probably ignored countless ghosts who needed your help, so why now? Why get yourself caught up in this?

Atticus grabs his laptop and places it in his backpack.

CYAN (CONT'D)

Atticus listen to me.

Atticus continues to pack.

CYAN (CONT'D)

Att?

Cyan stands up.

CYAN (CONT'D)

Atticus Jontavius Michael Pierce,
listen to me!

ATTICUS

What!

CYAN

This is a murder case. If you
continue to dig, you'll appear on
the police's radar. You'll be
questioned when you know more than
the police. This could ruin your
career. Your life!

ATTICUS

I know that!

Cyan steps back.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

I fuckin know that. I'm scared
shitless. But I wanna help.

CYAN

I know. But we can't lose you.

Atticus hugs Cyan.

ATTICUS

Thank you... Now, can I go to work?

CYAN

Yes.

Atticus exits the room.

INT. POLICE STATION - DENARIUS'S DESK - NIGHT

Neat and highly organized with minimal personal effects.
Leilani and Denarius examine the crime scene photos.

DENARIUS

According to the autopsy, Davina
died first from blunt-force trauma
to her head. A report shows she
suffered from starvation.

LEILANI

It seems out of all the girls, she
got it the worst.

DENARIUS
This is just tragic.

LEILANI
Very. Did we ever get a motive?

Leilani holds a crime scene photo of Davina's room.

DENARIUS
No, not yet.

LEILANI
What about the girl's stepfather?

DENARIUS
Whatta bout him?

LEILANI
(nervous)
What if he was the motive? What if
he caused all of this?

DENARIUS
Where'd you get that idea from?

Leilani STUTTERS when she speaks.

LEILANI
Ya see...I figured...I...

Denarius takes notice of Leilani's body language.

DENARIUS
Don't lie to me.

Leilani SMACKS her teeth.

LEILANI
(under her breath)
Atticus.

DENARIUS
Who?

LEILANI
Atticus...

DENARIUS
Radiohead?

Denarius LAUGHS but stops when he notices a serious Leilani.

DENARIUS (CONT'D)
You're being serious, aren't you?

Leilani nods.

DENARIUS (CONT'D)
How'd he come up with that theory?

LEILANI
When there's chaos, blame a man.

She LAUGHS awkwardly.

DENARIUS
Okay...I can look into it.

Leilani grabs the photos of the girls and spreads them on Denarius's desk. Denarius TYPES on his computer.

DENARIUS (CONT'D)
Ok, I found something. Davina has a different dad than her sisters.

Leilani gets closer to him and leans in.

DENARIUS (CONT'D)
Roger Williams, thirty-four, still lives in the city. He's listed as Davina's father. He signed the birth certificate.

LEILANI
What about the other three?

Denarius TYPES on his computer.

DENARIUS
I found a Nicholas Holloway, but he died almost two years ago.

Leilani grabs her bag and her keys.

LEILANI
Let's visit Roger. I'll drive.

EXT. ROGER WILLIAMS'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Leilani and Denarius walk up the steps. Leilani KNOCKS on the door and backs away.

ROGER WILLIAMS(34), Black, a deadbeat, opens the door.

ROGER
Can I help you?

DENARIUS

Good evening, sir. I'm Detective
Blackwell and this is my partner,
Inspector Washington...

They show their badges. Denarius CLEARS HIS THROAT.

DENARIUS (CONT'D)

We're here to discuss your
daughter, Davina, and her sisters.

ROGER

Whatta bout her?

Roger steps outside and closes the door behind him.

DENARIUS

What's your relationship with her?

ROGER

It's aight. We don't talk much.

DENARIUS

When was the last time you saw her
and her sisters?

ROGER

It's been years. I wasn't around to
take care of her.

He shrugs his shoulders.

ROGER (CONT'D)

I tried coming around more when
Davina got older, but Amber started
dating Nick and wouldn't let me. I
think he's jealous of me.

Leilani and Denarius shoot concerned glances at each other.

ROGER (CONT'D)

What's going on? They okay?

Leilani tenses at his response.

LEILANI

You don't know?

ROGER

Know what?

DENARIUS

I'm sorry to tell you this, sir.

Denarius steps closer to Roger.

DENARIUS (CONT'D)

Davina's body was found four days ago, along with her sisters.

ROGER

What? Where's Amber?

Roger backs away and hits the door with his back.

DENARIUS

We have reason to believe Amber murdered the girls last summer.

Roger WAILS. Leilani tries to comfort him, but he jerks back. He opens the door and SLAMS it shut.

Leilani and Denarius stand and listen to him WAIL.

INT. ROGER WILLIAMS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Roger grabs the TV remote and turns it on. He flips through channels and finds the news. Davina and her sisters are plastered on the screen.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

Still no updates on the Amber Johnson case involving the death of her four children...

INSERT: A PICTURE OF THE SISTERS TOGETHER.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

They were found in their home just four days ago. According to medical examiners, the girls have been dead for over a year...

Roger drops the remote and steps back slowly.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. TOWNHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NEXT DAY

Atticus, half-asleep, enters with his headphones on. Denarius, in pajama pants and a wife-beater tank top, exits the kitchen with a cup of coffee.

DENARIUS
Morning, Radiohead.

Atticus jolts awake. He gawks over Denarius's perfect muscular body. He takes off his headphones.

ATTICUS
Mornin...

DENARIUS
How was the show last night? I'm
sorry I couldn't tune in.

Atticus throws his backpack on the floor.

ATTICUS
It's okay. Thanks for the support.

Denarius sits on the couch.

DENARIUS
Coffee?

He gestures his coffee to Atticus.

DENARIUS (CONT'D)
I didn't drink out of it.

ATTICUS
No, it's okay. Thanks though. I'm
sorry but...what're you doing here?

DENARIUS
Lei and I worked late last night.
She let me crash here. I hope
that's okay with you.

Atticus nods.

DENARIUS (CONT'D)
Am I asking you too many questions
this early?

Atticus nods again.

Leilani enters in her pajamas.

LEILANI

Good morning. How was the show?

She walks to Atticus and pinches his cheeks.

ATTICUS

It went well.

He swats at her.

LEILANI

Sorry, we missed it. We were working on the Johnson case.

Atticus looks down at the floor.

LEILANI (CONT'D)

Perk up. I made breakfast.

Denarius LAUGHS.

DENARIUS

She made cereal with berries.

LEILANI

And bananas, can't forget those.

Denarius sips his coffee then takes a seat on the couch.

ATTICUS

Any new developments? Wait, where's Cyan? He's usually up by now.

Atticus sits on the couch.

LEILANI

He spent the night at Tracy's.

ATTICUS

Oh...okay.

Denarius scoots closer to Atticus. Leilani grins.

LEILANI

The girls had two different dads.

DENARIUS

Well, Davina has a different father than the other three. He's still alive. The younger three's father, Nicholas, died about two years ago.

LEILANI

This is all so complex--

DENARIUS

It gives me a headache.

ATTICUS

I have a headache.

They CHUCKLE.

LEILANI

Exactly.

DENARIUS

We need to look at different
databases to get clarification.

DENARIUS'S PHONE RINGS. He grabs it off the table.

DENARIUS (CONT'D)

Detective Blackwell speaking...

Denarius walks into the kitchen. Leilani walks closer to
Atticus. She shakes him. THEY WHISPER.

LEILANI

Atty! He scooted closer to you!
He's so into you.

ATTICUS

Lei, it's too early to be playing
matchmaker right now.

LEILANI

It's never too early to find you a
boyfriend, but I saw you checking
him out.

ATTICUS

Was not.

LEILANI

Was too.

ATTICUS

Was not.

LEILANI

Yes, you were. You're blushing.

ATTICUS

No, I wasn't, and black people
can't blush.

Denarius runs back into the living room.

DENARIUS

We gotta go.

LEILANI

Why, what's up?

DENARIUS

Nixon called. He wants us at the station to get more information from Amber.

Leilani stands up.

LEILANI

I'll get dressed.

She runs upstairs to her room.

ATTICUS

You can't go dressed like that.

DENARIUS

I carry a go bag, just in case.

Denarius goes behind the couch and shows it to Atticus.

ATTICUS

You can use my room to change.

DENARIUS

Thanks.

ATTICUS

The first door on the right. You can't miss it.

He runs up the stairs and looks back at Atticus.

DENARIUS

Thanks.

Atticus looks away and blushes.

INT. SUBWAY CAR - NIGHT

Almost empty. Atticus sits alone with his headphones on, MUSIC BLASTS from them. The train SCREECHES to a halt. The door opens. Nicole enters, and Marie follows behind.

They sit in the seat across from him. Marie waves at him.

Atticus slightly nods. Marie shimmers next to him.

MARIE
It's a girl.

She SQUEALS.

ATTICUS
Really?

MARIE
She just found out she's pregnant.

ATTICUS
That's great. Congratulations.

MARIE
Can you talk to her for me?

Marie nudges him. He removes his headphones from his ears.

ATTICUS
(to Nicole)
When're you due?

NICOLE
Huh?

ATTICUS
Are you pregnant?

NICOLE
Who's asking?

He turns to Marie. She nods to him.

ATTICUS
Um...

MARIE
You're losing her, and you better
come up with something quick. She
carries a taser.

ATTICUS
I know you're pregnant because your
grandmother, Marie, told me.

NICOLE
Is this some sick game?

ATTICUS
No. I swear.

Nicole gets up to walk away.

MARIE

Mention her tattoo. It's on her
left arm. It's my name.

ATTICUS

Wait! Marie...

Nicole turns around.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

You've got your grandmother's name
tattooed on your left arm.

NICOLE

How do you know that?

ATTICUS

Cause she told me. Marie told me.

Nicole slowly walks back to Atticus. She reluctantly sits.

NICOLE

How? Who are you?

ATTICUS

I'm Atticus. I know your
grandmother. She's next to me.

Nicole looks around.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

I know what you're gonna say: she's
been dead for a year. Blah. Blah.
Blah. But she wanted me to tell you
that she misses you and you'll be a
wonderful mom.

Nicole tears up.

NICOLE

(hoarse)

Really?

ATTICUS

Yeah...she wants you to keep the
promise you made to her. Name the
baby after her.

Marie sits next to her.

NICOLE

I'm having a girl?

Nicole holds her stomach. Atticus nods.

Marie puts her hand on his shoulder.

MARIE

(Atticus mouths the words)
Atticus, repeat after me...when I
got sick, you took it hard. But it
never stopped you from being with
me every single day...

ATTICUS

You've grown so much since the day
I died, and I want you to know I'll
always be with you.

Nicole CRIES. Marie kisses her on the cheek. Nicole then
touches her cheek.

The TRAIN SCREECHES TO A HALT.

NICOLE

Thank you...

She bear hugs him.

The train doors open. Nicole walks to the door. She turns and
smiles at Atticus. He nods and smiles.

MARIE

Is that a smile I see? It felt
good, didn't it? You have a gift,
so don't run from it. You can help
so many people.

Atticus nods to her. She shimmers next to Nicole.

The train starts. He takes a seat. The INTERCOM TINGS ON.

TRAIN CONDUCTOR (V.O.)

*Turn around and look at me. There
is someone walking behind you...*

Atticus looks up to the intercom. The lights flicker again.

TRAIN CONDUCTOR (V.O.)

Turn around, and look at me...

Davina shimmers at the end of the train. Atticus slowly turns
his head to her.

TRAIN CONDUCTOR (V.O.)

*Turn around, and look at me...
Turn around, and look at me...
Turn around, and look at me...*

She shimmers away the lights return to normal.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cyan enters with many takeout food bags.

CYAN
I'm home! I brought dinner!

He waits for a response.

CYAN (CONT'D)
Lei! Atty! Hello?

He puts the food on the table.

CYAN (CONT'D)
Hello...

He plops down on the couch.

CYAN (CONT'D)
They know I can't be home alone.

He opens the takeout bags and eats the meals. He turns on the TV and reclines his feet.

EXT. FLOYD'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

An older house in a rough condition. Atticus walks to the front door. HE KNOCKS.

FLOYD(65), Black, in his work uniform, opens the door.

FLOYD
What?

ATTICUS
Hi, sorry to bother you. I'm
investigating your neighbor, Amber
Johnson. I was--

FLOYD
I already told the police
everything I know.

He tries to shut the door, but Atticus holds it open.

ATTICUS
Please, sir.

Floyd steps out on the porch and shuts the door behind him.

FLOYD

My wife called CPS a few times when she stopped seeing the girls at the bus stop.

ATTICUS

Oh...

FLOYD

It's tragic what happened to them.

Floyd sits on his patio chair.

ATTICUS

Do you know if anyone tried contacting the police, CSI, CIA, or the FBI?

FLOYD

CSI? CIA? FBI? Please, no one cares what happens to us.

He gestures for Atticus to take a seat. Atticus sits.

ATTICUS

Why?

FLOYD

Look around. This old black neighborhood has some secrets that scare those ole uppity white folks.

Floyd rocks in his chair.

ATTICUS

I understand. What can you tell me about Davina?

FLOYD

She was beautiful. Her boyfriend loved her. He came by--

ATTICUS

Boyfriend? She had a boyfriend?

FLOYD

Yeah. He used to camp out a couple of nights after she stopped going to school.

ATTICUS

How do you know all of this?

FLOYD

Word travels fast. We look out for each other. Well, we used to...

ATTICUS

What about Amber?

FLOYD

Even her crazy ass.

ATTICUS

Was she always like that?

Floyd LAUGHS.

FLOYD

No, not always. But one day, she was different.

ATTICUS

Could you tell something was wrong?

FLOYD

Not at first. But when my wife stopped seeing the girls and the neighbors started talking, I knew something was wrong.

ATTICUS

Did you ever think they were dead?

Floyd pauses.

FLOYD

No. But the smell was unbearable. We thought it was a dog or cat, but who would've thought four girls?

ATTICUS

Thanks for talking to me. I bet all of this is hard knowing this happened next door to you.

Floyd shakes his head in disappointment.

Atticus makes his way down the porch steps.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

What's Davina's boyfriend's name?

FLOYD

AJ.

Floyd nods before he enters his home. He turns around.

Atticus walks down the sidewalk.

EXT. AMBER JOHNSON'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - NIGHT

He stops in front of the house, which is blocked off with yellow police tape and a hazmat tent. The fence is decorated with the girl's pictures, flowers, candles, and toys.

Atticus walks closer to the memorial. He admires a picture of the sisters in a group hug.

INSERT: A PICTURE OF THE GIRLS ON CHRISTMAS MORNING.

He scopes around before he walks to the front yard.

EXT. AMBER JOHNSON'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Atticus GAGS from the smell of rotten flesh that's stained the house.

ATTICUS

Here goes nothing...

The DOOR CREAKS open. Atticus enters.

INT. AMBER JOHNSON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The FRONT DOOR SLAMS SHUT. Atticus jumps.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

INT. AMBER JOHNSON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dark and dirty with little to no furniture.

Atticus tries to open the door, but it won't budge. He BANGS on the door.

He uses his shirt to cover his nose and mouth. He turns on his phone's flashlight. He walks around. He comes to the stairs. There's childlike graffiti all over the walls. He climbs the stairs.

INT. AMBER JOHNSON'S HOUSE - STAIRS - NIGHT

ATTICUS

Hello...Davina? Diamond? Destiny?
Deja? Anyone?

INT. AMBER JOHNSON'S HOUSE - DAVINA'S ROOM - NIGHT

He pushes the door open. He shines his flashlight into the room. In the center of the room, there's an outline of a human body, and in the middle, there's a large blood stain.

ATTICUS

Oh my god.

His phone's flashlight glitches. His phone PLAYS "SOMEONE WALKING BEHIND YOU" by The Vogues.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

Davina, I know you're here. This
song plays whenever you're around.

He searches the room. He touches the graffitied walls.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

I'm not scared of you...

Davina, as a rotten corpse with milky white eyes, shimmers behind him. Atticus turns around.

DAVINA

You should be!

He SCREAMS and drops his phone.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Cyan sound asleep on the couch with a takeout container on his chest. The TV PLAYS SOME TRASHY REALITY TV SHOW.

Leilani enters. She stops at the couch and rolls her eyes. She grabs the remote and turns off the TV.

LEILANI

Cyan, wake up.

She nudges him awake.

CYAN

(groggy)

What?

She hangs her jacket on the coat rack.

LEILANI

Atty! I'm home!

CYAN

Why're you so loud?

LEILANI

Where's Atticus?

CYAN

I thought he was with you.

LEILANI

No...I thought he was with you.

Cyan springs up from the couch.

CYAN

Whatcha mean?

Leilani calls him. She waits for an answer.

ATTICUS (V.O.)

Hi, sorry I can't answer your call.
Leave a message after the--

She hangs up.

LEILANI

Voicemail.

Cyan grabs his phone off the table and calls him. He waits for an answer.

CYAN
C'mon, Atty, pick up...

LEILANI
Does he work today?

CYAN
No.

ATTICUS (V.O.)
Hi, sorry I can't answer your call.
Leave a message after the beep.

The VOICEMAIL BEEPS.

CYAN
Att, call us.

Cyan hangs up.

CYAN (CONT'D)
Lei, something's wrong.

LEILANI
I agree.

They pace around.

CYAN
Wait, let's check his location.

Leilani opens her phone to check his location.

LEILANI
Fuck!

CYAN
What? What's going on?

LEILANI
You're not gonna believe this.

CYAN
What?

Leilani shows Cyan her phone screen.

INSERT: ATTICUS'S EXACT LOCATION AT AMBER JOHNSON'S HOUSE.

LEILANI
He's at Amber Johnson's house.

CYAN
What the fuck?

LEILANI
We gotta get him.

They run to her car.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Leilani races to her car and UNLOCKS IT. She calls Denarius.

CYAN
Who're you calling?

LEILANI
Denarius.

They enter the car. The car STARTS and SCREECHES OFF.

INT. AMBER JOHNSON'S HOUSE - NIGHT - SAME

Atticus backs away.

ATTICUS
Stay back!

DAVINA
I thought you weren't afraid of me.

She LAUGHS at him.

ATTICUS
I'm not!

DAVINA
You're such a fucking liar.

ATTICUS
Why're you doing this? It's time to
move on. Find your peace.

She LAUGHS again.

DAVINA
You're in my home.

ATTICUS
I know, but I want to help you get
away from him. He's evil; once you
do, I'll leave you alone.

DAVINA
You're only calling him evil
because he challenges you. He
challenges everything.

ATTICUS
He's using you.

DAVINA
Liar!

The HOUSE SHAKES and RUMBLES.

DAVINA (CONT'D)
He told me you'd say that. He told
me you would say anything to make
yourself feel important and dismiss
us and how we feel!

ATTICUS
Like how the world dismissed you!

DAVINA
Watch yourself!

ATTICUS
I care about you, whether you
believe it or not...I know AJ did.

The HOUSE SHAKES and RUMBLES again.

He takes several steps back.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)
AJ was the love of your life. You
know he came here almost every day
waiting for you.

Davina fights back tears. The HOUSE SHAKES and RUMBLES AGAIN.

DAVINA
Keep his name out of your mouth.

Atticus extends his hand to comfort her, but she pulls away.

DAVINA (CONT'D)
He would've been a great dad.

ATTICUS
You were pregnant?

She holds her stomach.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)
Davina, I'm so sorry.

DAVINA
I was only a few weeks before I got
locked in this room.

ATTICUS
Davina, I'm so sorry that all of
this happened to you. Did your
sisters know?

Davina looks away.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)
All of this can end if you find
your peace and move on.

The HOUSE RUMBLES again.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)
Peace for all of you! Deja,
Diamond, Destiny! Find your peace.
Be free of this darkness.

Carl and the sisters shimmer into the room. The girls are
blindfolded and bound in chains. He holds the girl's chains.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)
Oh my god...

CARL
Not quite. Davina come.

Carl SNAPS his fingers, and Davina shimmers next to him.
He CHUCKLES.

DIAMOND
Help me!

Diamond lunges forward, but Carl pulls her chains back.

CARL
Bad girl, Diamond.

ATTICUS
Let them go!

CARL
Or what?

ATTICUS
Leave her alone!

Carl pulls the chains again.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

Let her go!

CARL

Stay out of my family affair.

ATTICUS

They're not your family!

INT. LEILANI'S CAR - NIGHT

She races through DC traffic. CAR HORNS BLARE at her.

CYAN

Lei, watch out!

She makes a sharp turn.

LEILANI

We're almost there.

Another CAR BEEPS at her. She flips DRIVER(65), off.

INT. AMBER JOHNSON'S HOUSE - DAVINA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Atticus backs himself against the wall.

ATTICUS

Why you're doing this to them?
You're hurting them.

CARL

Children need direction.

ATTICUS

This is not how you direct anyone,
let alone kids. You're a monster.

CARL

Thank you...

He pretends to bow to Atticus.

ATTICUS

Davina, Diamond, Destiny, Deja,
He's preying on what happened to
you. Be free from this. Your Dad is
waiting for you.

DESTINY

He is?

Destiny's blindfold vanishes.

ATTICUS

Girls, this is not worth it. Being angry isn't worth it.

A light creaks through the corner of the room. Everyone stares at the light.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

I know what your mom did was unforgivable and cruel. But hating her won't bring you back.

The light glows brighter. Diamond's blindfold vanishes.

CARL

Stop! What're you doing?

ATTICUS

Your mother's already suffering. I think...no, I know she's suffering.

Deja's blindfold and chains vanish.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

There's love for you here but more love up there. Go into the light. Be with your Dad.

The light grows brighter.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

I know how badly you missed him.

Diamond and Destiny's chains disappear. They walk closer to the light.

CARL

Come back here!

The house SHAKES and RUMBLES.

ATTICUS

You've lost your power over them.

DIAMOND

I see him, Daddy!

DESTINY & DEJA

Daddy!

They wave at him.

EXT. AMBER JOHNSON'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - NIGHT - SAME

Leilani's car pulls up to the fence. She and Cyan hop out and run to the front door.

ATTICUS (O.S.)

(muffled)

You've lost your power over them.

Leilani opens the door. They race inside.

INT. AMBER JOHNSON'S HOUSE - DAVINA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Carl uses his hand to block the light.

CARL

Your father isn't there! He's not!

DESTINY

I see him. Daddy!

The sisters wave at him. They hold hands as they walk towards the light.

ATTICUS

Wait!

The sisters look back at Atticus.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

What's your favorite song?

The sisters look at each other.

DIAMOND

Soon As I Get Home. Our Dad used to sing it to our Mom all the time.

They enter the light and disappear.

Their GIGGLE ECHOES THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE.

The light fades away.

CARL

No! What have you done!

The HOUSE SHAKES AND RUMBLES one last time.

ATTICUS

Davina, it's not too late for you.

He extends his hand to her.

She angrily looks at him. Carl and Davina shimmer into the darkness. Their milky white eyes gleam one last time.

CARL (V.O.)
This isn't over...

Leilani and Cyan race into the bedroom.

LEILANI
Atticus!

They hug him. Cyan slugs him in the arm.

CYAN
Atticus Jontavius Michael
Pierce! What the fuck were
you thinking!

LEILANI (CONT'D)
Have you lost your fucking
mind? What the fuck!

They rush him out of the room.

CYAN (CONT'D)
What happened?

ATTICUS
Deja, Diamond, and Destiny crossed
over they're in a better place.

INT. AMBER JOHNSON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

LEILANI
That's wonderful. How bout Davina?

ATTICUS
(disappointed)
She's still with that man...

CYAN
Don't be hard on yourself. At least
you saved the little ones.

LEILANI
Cyan's right. Take this as a win.

EXT. AMBER JOHNSON'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - NIGHT

They walk out of the house. Denarius arrives, his gun drawn.

DENARIUS
Leilani...what's going on?

LEILANI
Oh, um false alarm.

DENARIUS

Are you sure? You scared me with that phone call.

LEILANI

I'm sorry I overreacted.

Denarius puts his gun away.

DENARIUS

Radiohead, what's going on? You know this is still an active crime--

CYAN

Alright, that's enough, c'mon, Att.

Cyan takes Atticus to the car. Atticus looks back at Denarius. Denarius grabs Leilani by her shoulder.

Cyan and Atticus get inside the car.

DENARIUS

What's going on?

She pulls away from him.

LEILANI

He was paying his respect.

DENARIUS

By going inside a crime scene?

LEILANI

He didn't go inside.

DENARIUS

I saw you. I saw him--

LEILANI

Look, I gotta take them home. We'll talk about this later.

Leilani walks to her car. She gets inside. Denarius watches them drive off. He looks back at the house. Then back at them halfway down the street.

DENARIUS

What're you hiding, Radiohead?

END OF ACT SIX

TAG

INT. RADIO STATION - BROADCAST ROOM - NIGHT

Atticus and Cyan sit at the control board. Atticus adjusts the buttons while Cyan stuffs his face with ramen noodles.

ATTICUS

Alright, everyone, this was another successful Soul Hour...

INT. POLICE STATION - DENARIUS'S DESK - NIGHT - SAME

Denarius and Leilani listen to the show on his phone as they sort through files and crime scene photos.

INSERT: A MUGSHOT OF AMBER JOHNSON IN ALL-WHITE CLOTHES.

ATTICUS (V.O.)

But before we go, I want to honor the Johnson sisters...

INT. RADIO STATION - BROADCAST ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Cyan adjusts some of the controls.

ATTICUS

Davina, Diamond, Destiny, and Deja, we love and miss you, but we know you're in a better place. This song's for you...

He presses a button on the control board.

SONG: "SOON AS I GET HOME" BY FAITH EVANS.

He somberly nods his head to the music. He admires a framed photo of the sisters by the control board. He sheds a tear. Cyan hugs Atticus.

SUPER: IN LOVING MEMORY...

INSERT: THE PHOTO OF THE JACKS SISTERS.

END OF SHOW