

game night

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INT. – LIVING ROOM - DUSK

The camera pans around the tastefully decorated room. As the camera passes the window we see a spectacular view of the New York City Skyline at sunset. The camera pans across the coffee table littered with different board games. There's Pictionary, Gestures, Jenga etc. There's also a chessboard and a couple of decks of playing cards. The camera pans across the mantle. There are family photos. The camera lingers on a picture of 4 young men at a graduation. The intercom phone rings. The hand of **VIVIAN BRAITHWAITE**, 30, professionally dressed is wearing a Williams-Sonoma apron, answers. Vivian knows how to take care of everybody but herself.

VIVIAN
Hello, yes send them up.

She heads to the kitchen.

INT. – KITCHEN

There is a mountain of food. Everything has been expertly prepared. She stirs and tastes and is pleased with the results. The doorbell rings.

INT. – LIVING ROOM

Vivian opens the front door. There are 3 women standing there. All are somewhat surprised that it's Vivian that opened the door.

VIVIAN
Hi.

They all exchange air kisses with Vivian as they pass her. Vivian is suddenly conscious of how disheveled she must look. The ladies all sit on the couch and stare at Vivian.

VIVIAN
He's not home yet. I um...

The oven timer goes off, just as the intercom phone rings. Vivian is doesn't know which one she should answer.

CIARA
I'll greet. We don't want you to burn anything.

Vivian returns to the kitchen

INT. – KITCHEN

Vivian takes a turkey out of the oven. She puts in a tin of macaroni and cheese. She's exiting the kitchen as Dante Culpepper enters. They bump into each other.

DANTE

I'm sorry.

VIVIAN

No, me I'm in a fog.

DANTE

Wow, this is... wow.

VIVIAN

Got a little carried away.

DANTE

You should get carried away at my house. I mean....

VIVIAN

Yeah. Could you watch the food?

She exits. Dante is alone in the kitchen.

DANTE

I can't cook.

INT. – BEDROOM

Vivian enters and sits on the bed exhausted. The phone rings, she lets the machine answer.

FEMALE VOICE

Hey baby, I was hoping we could have a repeat of last weekend. Did you get your strength back? Call me.

Vivian is pissed. She struggles with whether or not she should erase the message. She decides not to. Suddenly she gets a searing pain in her stomach. She sits up and moves to the end of the bed to try and get up. The pain is so intense it knocks her to her knees. She then gets a sharp pain in her head. Then just as suddenly the pain goes away. She slowly gets up and sits back on the edge of the bed. She makes a phone call.

VIVIAN

CeCe, pick up....Cecelia Ann...Where are you?
I'm just calling to see how you're doing. I'm at D's, call me. Oh! I spoke to mommy she loved the birthday present "we" sent her. You owe me for your half. Where did you go? Call me. Love you.

She hangs up. The bedroom door opens its **Dr. DEMOND DEVRY**. Everybody calls him D. He's carrying his doctor bag and a laptop. They greet each other warmly. He puts his laptop and doctor bag into the closet and changes out of his suit into more comfortable clothes.

D

You did some serious damage in that kitchen. Bad day?

VIVIAN

CeCe and Angelo. Did I leave a pair of jeans here?

D

I made a special drawer for you.

VIVIAN

The key and my own drawer. Don't hurt yourself.

Vivian opens the drawer takes out her jeans. She sees a pair of panties in "her" drawer that aren't hers. She doesn't say anything. They both finish changing in silence.

VIVIAN

Can you talk to him?

D

Viv...

VIVIAN

He trashed my sister's place this morning, I had to leave work to help her clean up.

D

Was she hurt?

VIVIAN

I don't know. She's gotten good at hiding bruises.

D

Maybe we should do like an intervention or something. Why don't you tell her to stay away from him?

VIVIAN

If it were that easy...

D

What...

VIVIAN

Could you make a salad? Since Angelo is a vegetarian,
I kind of went hog wild and put meat in everything.

D

Funny...

VIVIAN

Yeah, I'm a queen of comedy.

D

You ok?

VIVIAN

Migraine.

He kisses her on the forehead and exits. Vivian sits on the bed, picks up the phone and then puts it down. She goes to the dresser rummages through the drawer and takes out one of D's monogrammed dress shirts and puts in on. She picks up her cell phone from the dresser and clips it on to her jeans. The house key that D gave her is on the dresser; she picks it up and puts it in her pocket. She checks her self in the mirror, and then exits.

INT. – LIVING ROOM

The party has picked up steam. On the couch around the coffee table 5 people play an intense game of Jenga. In another part of the room 4 people sit at a card table playing Spades. In another part there is a spirited game of Gestures taking place, men against the women. The room is littered with drinks and food. We follow Vivian as she greets and kisses various people in the room. There are more women than men, at D's house there usually are. There are two women sitting in a corner hunched over a chessboard. One of them puts her hand on a piece starts to move it, then changes her mind.

INT. - KITCHEN

D is cooking. He's cutting up French bread. He's making croutons from scratch. **LYMON HANKS**, 30, is leaning up against the refrigerator drinking a beer staring at the wall lost in thought. Dante is searching through the cupboards.

DANTE

I want something to snack on.

D

Here ... snack on some collard greens.

Hands him a heaping plate of collard greens.

DANTE

Is there pork in this?

D covers the pot, hiding the big ham bone.

D

No.

D and Dante stare back and forth at each other and at Lymon, who is oblivious to what's going on. D walks over and stands in front of Lymon and stares into his eyes.

LYMON

Do my feet look like they're in stirrups? Stop examining me.

D returns to cooking. The guys hum and bop to the music. A big smile breaks out over Lymon's face. He looks around to see if anyone is in earshot.

LYMON

I'm gonna be a daddy.

DANTE

(mouth full of food)

Brenda's pregnant?

They both grab and hug him and pepper him with congratulations.

LYMON

Back up you're getting collard juice all over me.

D

This is beautiful, our first baby. I'm gonna be a Godfather.

DANTE

How come you get to be Godfather?

D

I make more money than you. How's she feeling?

LYMON

Great, she's great. I got a really good feeling this time.

D returns to the pan. The croutons are almost done. Dante and Lymon are mesmerized by the transformation of the bread into croutons.

LYMON

Can we keep it on the DL, for a little while?

DANTE

Of course...

D

No problem.

Vivian enters.

DANTE

I've never seen anyone make croutons before.

LYMON

I thought they just came in a bag.

D

Peasants.

VIVIAN

Brenda back from London yet?

LYMON

Back and gone. Chicago, then Phoenix and points west she'll be back home Saturday.

VIVIAN

Don't she know how dangerous it is to leave a player like you alone?

LYMON

I don't know who you been talking to but I ain't the player around here.

ANGELO LEBLANC, 30 enters. He's a smooth talking powderkeg.

ANGELO

Hey.

DANTE

There's the man.

They exchange "brother hug's". He leans forward to kiss Vivian she stops him.

VIVIAN

I have a cold. (not really)

ANGELO

You should have the good Doc fix you up. Speaking (more)

of which, I need to holler at you for a minute, can we go in the back.

DANTE

What you got, what's wrong?

ANGELO

Your momma gave me another rash.

D and Angelo exit kitchen. Vivian shoots a look at D, he understands.

DANTE

Why is he always talking about my momma?

LYMON

I hate when he does that too. I love your momma ... her rates are so reasonable.

Dante storms out of the kitchen.

LYMON

She does tend to nickel and dime you on the extras...

Vivian is staring at Lymon

LYMON

Do I have a booger?

VIVIAN

I'll deal with you later.

INT. - BEDROOM

D

We need to talk

ANGELO

Me first.

Angelo opens his coat. Blood is seeping through his pants around his thigh.

ANGELO

Need a little help with this. I got shot.

D goes into the closet for his doctor bag. Angelo has a blood-soaked towel wrapped around his leg; D removes it and starts examining the wound.

D

You haven't brought some dumb shit into my house.

ANGELO

I need to lay low for a while. Ow!!! Fuck that hurts!!

D

Take deep breaths, I gotta find the bullet.... You were shot at close range. The bullet went right through. You need sutures. Sit.

ANGELO

Can't you just wrap it for now?

D

Wrap it... this ain't a fajita, you got shot.

Reluctantly he attempts to wrap the wound.

D

What happened?

ANGELO

Well....

D

I'm sorry I forgot, I'm not supposed to ask about such things. We really need to get you to a hospital.

ANGELO

Yeah... well...

Dante enters, hand on zipper headed for the bathroom. He stops cold at the sight of Angelo's blood.

D

Call 911.

Dante picks up the phone.

ANGELO

No!

Angelo leaps across at Dante and grabs the phone out of his hand.

ANGELO

CeCe's dead.

INT. – LIVING ROOM

Jenga blocks crumble onto the table. People gathered around erupt into laughter as they make the culprit take a shot of Tequila. The two Chess players are studying the board. The other starts to move a piece. She then withdraws her hand. Card player #2 takes a bite of apple pie, as he's chewing he's struck by the rather nasty taste. Not very discretely he pulls the food out of his mouth, it's a piece of ham.

INT. - BEDROOM

ANGELO

We were arguing she ran into the bedroom and came out shooting. I had to protect my-self I shot back. It was a mess, I got scared and came here.

D

You just left her there...Oh God, Viv.

Dante picks up the phone again

ANGELO

Put the phone down man.

Angelo pulls out his gun

ANGELO

Please just put the phone down...

Dante puts the phone down. D and Dante are stunned.

ANGELO

We gotta come up with a solution. ...I can't go to jail, you know what'll happen to me ... I swear it was self-defense. You know she was my heart.

Dante picks up the phone again. Angelo charges Dante and hits him over the head with the gun. He falls down and he's bleeding badly.

ANGELO

Now look what you made me do. Take him into the bathroom and fix him up.

D lifts Dante up and they move into the bathroom. Angelo closes the door. His bandage has started to come loose. His pants are still down. He pulls himself together and

straightens up the room. He puts the bloody things under the bed. He looks around the room to make sure things are in order. Angelo opens the bedroom door and calls Vivian over. He whispers something in her ear. She looks at him somewhat suspiciously as she makes her way over to the CD player to turn down the music.

ANGELO

I'm sorry to interrupt your games, but I need a little help pulling off a prank. If everybody could just come into the bedroom for a quick minute this would really help me out.

Card player #1

Come on Angelo, we're right in the middle of a hand.

ANGELO

(playfully)

The quicker you get your ass up, the quicker you can get back to losing. By the way I got next.

ANGELO

Rachel, Ciara that chessboard ain't goin nowhere.

VIVIAN

What's going on? Where's D?

ANGELO

Stupid ass Dante cut his hand on something, D's in the bathroom putting a bandage on it.

People file in to the bedroom and find various places to sit or lean.

ANGELO

Somebody open the bathroom door.

Dante and D are let out of the bathroom. Dante's head has been bandaged.

VIVIAN

I thought you said he cut his hand.

ANGELO

Hand head tomato tomoto.

Angelo produces his gun.

VIVIAN

What are you doing with that?

ANGELO

Viv, come over here for a second.

He taps the side of her hip with his gun, we here a slight clank. The shirt is covering whatever is underneath.

ANGELO

I need to take that.

She lifts her shirt to reveal her cell phone.

VIVIAN

What do you need my phone for?

ANGELO

Patience all will be revealed. I would appreciate it if everyone would donate all phones and pagers to the cause. Viv, grab that basket and collect from the congregation. Don't forget the phone by the bed. You have my word as a gentleman that they will be safely returned.

Vivian collects all the phones and pagers and hands the basket to Angelo.

ANGELO

Thank you Vanna. Everybody sit tight.

He motions for Lymon, D and Dante go into the living room. As Angelo closes the bedroom door, he gives a smile and a wink to the crowd.

INT. – LIVING ROOM

LYMON

Who are we playing a joke on?

Angelo pulls a small book out of his pocket.

ANGELO

This is CeCe's diary, it's in code but from what I could gather one of you was fucking my woman.

D

Have you just completely lost it?

ANGELO

Not yet.

D

You kill somebody we cared about....

LYMON

...Wait hold he killed somebody?

INT. – BEDROOM

A couple of other people are listening at the bedroom door. Vivian emerges from the bathroom, she's trying to open a bottle of Advil.

INT. – LIVINGROOM

LYMON

If this is supposed to be a prank, it ain't funny.

ANGELO

Neither is this.

Angelo opens his coat showing his bloody pants.

LYMON

Give me one of those phones.

Lymon goes for the wastebasket with the phones in them. Angelo grabs Lymon by the throat and sticks the barrel of the gun in his mouth. Nobody moves, nobody breathes. The bedroom door opens. It's Vivian.

VIVIAN

Guys what's going on?

Angelo pushes Lymon down onto the couch and charges the door brandishing the gun.

ANGELO

Close that door...

Vivian slams the door shut

ANGELO

Anyone else who opens this door gets shot in the face.

D

All this because you think somebody slept with CeCe.

ANGELO

Not “somebody”, one of you. You guys are my partners
It’s killing me to think one of you was creeping on me.

LYMON

What makes you think it was one of us?

Angelo flips to an entry in the diary.

INT. - BEDROOM

People are searching thru dresser drawers. Someone looks under the bed finds the bloody towel and shows it to Vivian.

VIVIAN

Oh God!! We gotta get help. Keep looking.

Vivian is searching in the closet. She spots D’s laptop and takes it out. She plugs it into the now empty jack. She sets the laptop on the bed as people gather around. She turns the computer on and it begins making all those start up noises. They cover it with blankets and pillows.

INT. – LIVING ROOM

ANGELO

She wrote this Sunday, 11pm. “Hey girl Do Right just left, my legs are still shaking, damn that brother knows how to bump. I gotta end this thing with Tyson. I have no illusions about a future with Do Right, Tyson would never let it happen. He’s ready to throw down when a stranger looks at me. If I hooked up with one of his best friends, Tyson would loose his mind.”

Angelo looks up from the book and studies their faces.

ANGELO

The way I figure Do right is one of you and I guess that makes me Tyson, although I’m not sure why she gave me that name.

D

Maybe cause you used her face as a punching bag.

ANGELO

So which one of you backstabbing Muthafuckers is Do Right?

INT. - BEDROOM

Vivian is at the keyboard. They are trying to figure out which website to go to for help. People are whispering suggestions. Nothing is working. They get an instant message. It reads ‘‘Hey lover, I can be there in 10 minutes.’’ It’s from one of D’s ‘‘friends’’. Vivian takes a deep breath and begins her response.

INT. – LIVING ROOM

Phone starts ringing and continues to ring until answered

ANGELO

She wouldn’t tell me who it was, but one of you will.

D

Did she die over this bullshit?

ANGELO

She died because she betrayed me. What’s wrong with your answering machine?

D

It’s the intercom phone. The Doorman’s calling to tell me someone’s on the way up, more hostages for you.

Angelo answers the phone.

ANGELO

Yeah...

Angelo listens then he begins to chuckle. He hangs up phone and heads to the bedroom.

ANGELO

Remind me to give your Doorman a big tip. Get up.

DANTE

(his head is pounding)

Can I get some aspirin or something?

Angelo opens the bedroom door.

INT. - BEDROOM

People still huddled around the laptop are startled. He orders the guys inside the bedroom.

ANGELO

All you stupid asses, get into the bathroom. Not my guys.

They all crowd in. Angelo shows everyone in the bathroom his gun. He then reaches into his pocket and pulls out two clips. He shows everyone they are full of bullets.

ANGELO

I don't want to hear one sound.

He closes the bathroom door. He motions for the guys to move back into the living room.

DANTE

All this back and forth, up and down is making me dizzy.

ANGELO

Cops are on the way up. Take all purses, jackets and put them in the closet.

The guys follow instructions still in a state of disbelief. Angelo goes over to the TV, turns it on pops in a DVD, it's "Black Cesar." He orders everyone to sit down as he takes a final look around the room. He opens the bedroom door and leaves it open. He issues one last warning to the people in the bathroom.

ANGELO

Not one word.

Angelo picks up a couple of half-empty beer bottles and hands them out.

LYMON

Man give it up.

ANGELO

Not till I get what I came for. If you let me do things my way, we'll all get out of this alive, well most of us anyway. We all know that somehow, I'll get away with this shit. It's just the nature of the beast.

The door bell rings

ANGELO

Look like you're having fun. I know I sure as fuck am.

Angelo opens the door. There are 2 **UNIFORMED OFFICERS.**

COP #1

Good evening, sir.

ANGELO

You guys are a little late for the party.

COP #2

We got a call about some trouble. May we come in?

ANGELO

Absolutely. Everybody's gone it's just us.

Angelo produces his badge. It's a gold shield. Angelo is a Cop.

COP #2

I'm sorry detective. Some woman called says she got an email from somebody who was being held hostage.

ANGELO

That's new! At least your 5 will be easy for this call.

COP #1

Yeah! At least!!

Cop #1 is taking a look around. He can see into the bedroom, he sees the laptop still sitting on the bed. Cop #2 is staring at the TV.

COP #2

Is that the "Hammer"? What movie is this?

ANGELO

"Black Cesar." What you know about Fred Williamson?

COP #2

My uncle Rocco turned me on to him when I was a kid.

COP #1

Sir what happened to your head? Your bandage is kinda bloody, there's blood over here on the floor.

DANTE

I fell off my bike on the way over here.

COP #1

You should have that looked at.

DANTE

He's a doctor.

D

I'll give him a fresh bandage he'll be okay.

ANGELO

You out of the 2-3, I know Capt. Salinsky from my academy days, he's a ball buster.

COP #2

Never have truer words been spoken.
Enjoy the movie.

They leave.

ANGELO

It's my world boys. Somebody better come clean.

D

CeCe...It wasn't self-defense was it?

Angelo walks over and gets right in D's face. D doesn't back down.

ANGELO

You the one?

Angelo's hand tenses on his gun. He backs away from D and goes to the bedroom door.

ANGELO

Let Vivian out.

She emerges from the bathroom

VIVIAN

People are crying and praying. What's going on?

Angelo brings her in and makes her sit down next to D.

ANGELO

Hold on to her.

D puts his arms around her.

ANGELO

D and CeCe betrayed our love and trust. I confronted her with it, things got out of control.

We hear a gunshot. In slow motion, we see a woman slam up against the wall holding. We cut back to Vivian who feels the same stomach pain as she did earlier. We hear another gunshot, we cut back to the woman, she's been shot in the forehead. She slumps against the wall and slides down. Cut back to Vivian who's head is leaning back. She's felt the gunshot to the head and then suddenly the pain is gone. Vivian's eyes fix on Angelo, she try's to get up but D is holding onto her.

ANGELO

What you know about this?

Angelo pulls the diary out of his pocket and tosses it at Vivian.

VIVIAN

What are you doing with my diary?

INT. – LOBBY OF BUILDING

The 2 Cops are passing the **DOORMAN**

DOORMAN

The party too loud in 46C?

COP #1

The parties over, there were only a few guys upstairs.

DOORMAN

None of those people have left. I ain't moved all night.

COP #1

I can believe that.

DOORMAN

Every time 46C has a party, the complexion of the building changes, if you know what I mean. I notice when they come so I would definitely notice when they leave, if you know what I mean. (to a passing tenant) How are you this evening Mrs. Lapicki? (back to the Cops) You gotta go past me to get out of this building and none of those people have gotten past me, if you know what I mean.

The Cops ponder for a moment and then head back to the elevator. When they get on the elevator. **MRS. LAPICKI** an elderly semi-blind woman is on the elevator. She's trying to press her floor and in the process has lit up many buttons.

INT. – LIVING ROOM

Angelo is sobbing uncontrollably.

ANGELO

Why didn't she tell me? What did I do?

The guys are trying to calm Angelo and get the gun out of his hand. Angelo puts the barrel of the gun in his mouth.

D

We'll get you help. Don't do this.

D walks over to Angelo with his hand out. Angelo takes the gun out of his mouth and hands it to D. Angelo crumbles to the floor.

D

Dante take this.

As he's passing the gun back to Dante, Vivian pushes past Dante and grabs the gun out of D's hand. She points the gun at Angelo. He stands and backs away till he hits a wall.

VIVIAN

It's CeCe's diary, Do Right is Lymon.

LYMON

Viv...

VIVIAN

Shut up! She's my sister you think I don't know.

She moves closer to Angelo

VIVIAN

Apologize for hurting her.

Before he begins to speak, she shoots him exactly the way he shot CeCe. He's dead. The room is silent. Vivian hands the gun to Dante. She walks over to pick up CeCe's diary. She walks toward the front door. Vivian turns around and faces the guys. She reaches into her pants pocket and takes out D's house key. She tosses it on the floor. Doorbell rings.

Blackout