

to me again.

DEON  
I'm not gonna lie to you.

ALANI  
You need to leave Deon.

Deon reaches in his pocket, counts out \$600 to give to Alani.

DEON  
Here.

ALANI  
I can't take that.

DEON  
You don't have food in the house Alani.

ALANI  
You're right, but I do have values and pride. I don't want that drug money. Now get out Deon.

DEON  
Can I say goodbye to Jayden?

ALANI  
He's your son.

### Scene # 3

ALANI'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM

Alani sits on the sofa, wearing the same clothes from the night before. She is disheveled, eyes puffy. She's obviously been crying. The duffel bags from the night before are still in the living room. Alani's phone BUZZES. She retrieves it from the coffee table and sees several missed calls from Will. There's a sudden KNOCK at the door. Alani cautiously heads to the door. She peeps through the peephole of the door. She sees the back of someone's head and is unable to make out who it is.

ALANI  
Who is it?

DEON

It's me Alani.

Alani slowly opens the door. An awkward silence. Deon attempts to step inside. Alani puts her hand up to stop him.

ALANI

I've been trying to reach you for days.  
What do you want?

DEON

My phone was disconnected. Alani, I  
fucked up. Can we talk?

ALANI

What's there to talk about Deon?

Deon notices that Alani looks a mess.

DEON

Are you okay?

ALANI

(sarcastic)

No I'm not okay. Jayden's been taken  
and your fucking friend Will, I think he  
wants to kill me.

Deon forces his way into the house and shuts the door behind him.

DEON

What the fuck do you mean Jayden's  
been taken? And Will wants to kill you?

ALANI

What're you? A parrot? You heard what  
I said.

DEON

What's going on with Jayden?

ALANI

CPS came by last night and apparently  
your son decided it was a good night to  
experiment with weed.

DEON

Where the fuck would he get weed from?  
And why was CPS here at night?

ALANI

It's the hood Deon. You can get weed on our front porch. And CPS... I don't know... it's not like they punch a clock down there.

DEON

What do you mean Will wants to kill you?

ALANI

Because he wants his coke back?

DEON

What coke?

ALANI

The night you two came here, Will planted kilos of coke in the house.

DEON

Will hid coke from me? How? When?

ALANI

You lied to me. You told me you weren't in the fucking game. I don't know when he hid the coke. Maybe when we walked out of the room.

DEON

So just give him the coke back.

ALANI

I am.

DEON

You don't need to be involved in this. Give it to me, I'll give it back to him.

ALANI

I don't have it here with me.

DEON

Then where is it?

ALANI

I gave it to Veronica for safe keeping since CPS has been doing welfare checks on my house.

DEON

What can I do?

ALANI

I don't know Deon. You got bigger problems.

DEON

What're you talking about?

ALANI

You know the story that's been all over the news. The one with the drug dealer and his daughter.

DEON

Yeah...I know the one.

ALANI

Will told me you killed them.

DEON

Why would he tell you that? I didn't kill those people. He did.

ALANI

Were you with him?

Deon hesitates. He doesn't answer.

ALANI (CONT'D)

Never mind. I don't want to know. Just know that if you were, whether you pulled that trigger or not, they'll still fry you.

DEON

I don't know what to do Alani.

ALANI

I'm gonna give Will back his coke 'cause I don't want nothin' to do with this shit. And this is Chicago. Seven out of ten murders in the hood never get solved. Let's just hope this is one of them.

DEON

What're you gonna do about Jayden?

ALANI  
I'm gonna get him back.

DEON  
Maybe I can help.

ALANI  
I can't use your help Deon. If it ever comes out that you killed those people...

DEON  
...I didn't kill them!

ALANI  
Or if you were even with the people that killed them. I'll never see Jayden again and Will said that if they catch you guys, he's gonna say I was part of planning it. You need to stay away Deon. For Jayden's sake. For my sake.

Deon looks at Alani and knows that she's right.

DEON  
I don't know how to fix this, but when I do... is there a chance?

Alani looks at Deon lovingly, knowing there's a slim chance, but even that's a chance that she's hoping for.

ALANI  
There's always a chance.

Deon kisses Alani. Alani kisses him back. He breaks the kiss and walks out.