BOYS AT THE LIGHT

RAH | AUDITION SIDES

SIDE 1 · DINNER WITH ASIA

Rah enjoys an evening out with Asia and reveals his influence in the community.

Original screenplay excerpts · action and dialogue preserved.

CUT TO:

38 **INT. RESTAURANT - TABLE - NIGHT** 38

Asia is undercover assigned to getting in deep with Rah A huge drug dealer in the city of Baltimore. Rah has taking a liking to her and wants to be more than just friends. This is complicating matters for Asia. They are in a restaurant. This environment gives **ASIA** a chance to look like she belongs in **RAH'S** world. Surrounded by his people, she attempts to fit in. She listens closely, letting the others talk while she measures every detail. Rah watches Asia when she is not looking, trying to decide whether her interest in him is real. **MOOK** (29) comes to the table.

RAH

296 This my man Mook I was telling you about. 296

ASIA

297 Heard way too much about you Mook. Feels like I know you already. 297

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MOOK

298 Same here, How you doing? 298

Ty-Ty is setting at a near by table. Rah wants to meet him.

CUT TO:

39 **INT. RESTAURANT - BATHROOM - NIGHT** 39

Asia gets up and goes to the bathroom. She locks the door so nobody can get in. She then goes into the stall. She lifts her shirt and fixes her wire that's underneath. She reads a text message. in the bathroom,

CUT TO:

40 **INT. RESTAURANT - TABLE - NIGHT** 40

Back at the table, small shifts in Rah's tone make the conversation feel less casual. She's been gone too long and Rah's mind is starting to wonder. The tension is subtle enough that nobody else notices it.

RAH

299 Yo give me a sec. I'll be right back. 299

Rah gets up from the table and walks towards the bathroom to see if Asia is okay. She walks out and meets him mid

restaurant.

RAH (CONT'D)

300 You good? 300

ASIA

301 Sure. 301

Rah looks at her as if he's sizing her up.

RAH

302 You were gone a while. 302

ASIA

303 Let me find out you missed me. I like that. 303

Asia knows she has to get whatever Rah is thinking out of his mind. She gives him a kiss. Rah likes that and his guard goes down is it pertains to her immediately after. As the walk back to the table Rah looks over towards the bar and notices two guys looking at Asia's butt.

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CUT TO:

41 **INT. RESTAURANT BAR - NIGHT** 41

Rah and Asia walk over to the bar.

RAH

304 You drinking? 304

ASIA

305 A glass of wine, Red. 305

As Rah makes his way to the bar people keep trying to talk with him. Asia just watches him as he moves. The bartender stops everything he's doing to wait on Rah. He brings the drinks back. Asia looks at him.

ASIA (CONT'D)

306 Everyone treats you like a movie star or something. 306

RAH

307 These my peoples. Whatever you need it's done you feel me. 307

ASIA

308 Oh I'm feeling you. 308

Rah looks over to the other side of the room. He walks over to have a conversation with the guys who were staring at Asia. We see everything from Asia's POV. Rah comes back and says.

RAH

309 Time to go. 309

ASIA

310 Is everything alright? 310

RAH

311 It's cool just ready to leave. 311

CUT TO:

42 **EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT** 42

Small groups gather beneath the parking-lot lights, shaking hands, exchanging numbers and making plans to meet again the following day. Little by little, the crowd begins to thin. Car doors close. Engines start. People pull away.

Boy's At The Eighteen 1-3

ASIA and RAH linger near the edge of the lot, finishing their conversation after everyone else has started to leave.

RAH

312 Hope you had a good time. 312

ASIA

313 I did, thank you for saving me from another boring night at the house. 313

A passing car sweeps its HEADLIGHTS across them. For a brief second, Asia is completely illuminated. Exposed. Then- Darkness again. Asia casually looks toward the street. **A BLACK VAN** sits parked near the corner. Engine running. Windows dark.

RAH

314 Are you okay? You've been acting strange all night. 314

ASIA

315 To keep it real my stomach been hurting. 315

RAH

316 Why didn't you say something? 316

ASIA

317 Well you showing me a good time I didn't want to be that person. 317

RAH

318 Oh, I was starting to think you was on some BS. 318

ASIA

(rubbing his hand)

319 Never, I really like being around you. I not a huge people person, but you I like, I promise... (kissing his cheek) everything is better than good. 319

Rah gives a little smile.

CUT TO:

43 **EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT** 43

Once alone, Asia takes a breath and watches Rah leave. She knows the operation has moved forward, but she also knows he is harder to read than expected. Agent Taylor and Agent Flowers are seated in the black van with tinted windows. They laugh at Rah and talk about how good Asia is doing as a new Rookie Agent. They take a pic of the crew.

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AGENT FLOWERS

(snapping picks)

320 I gotta admit...Agent Asia is doing a good job. 320

AGENT TAYLOR

321 Better than I expected being as though she's a rookie. 321

FADE TO BLACK.

Yes. This scene needs to tell us that Wayne isn't just angry-he is **tired of being reduced to the worst thing that ever happened to him**. That's where the power is. His frustration should feel justified even when his attitude is rough.

44 **INT. GROUP HOME - WAYNE'S BEDROOM - DAY** 44

WAYNE lies across his bed scrolling through his phone, headphones around his neck. A KNOCK at the door. He doesn't look up.

BOYS AT THE LIGHT

RAH | AUDITION SIDES

SIDE 2 · RECRUITING SPEEDY

Rah approaches Speedy at the intersection and makes him an offer.

Original screenplay excerpts · action and dialogue preserved.

TY-TY

385 You don't even know who her brother is. 385

Rel looks at him.

A beat.

REL

386 Fuck him. 386

CUT TO:

48 **EXT. SQUEEGEE STREET - DAY** 48

SPEEDY works the line of cars at the red light, squeegee in one hand, spray bottle in the other. He finishes a windshield and collects a few dollars just as a DARK SEDAN rolls to a stop beside him. Speedy looks over. RAH is behind the wheel. TY-TY sits in the passenger seat. Speedy approaches cautiously. Rah lowers the window.

RAH

387 Been hearing some good things about you. 387

Boy's At The Light ep 1-3

Speedy says nothing. His eyes move to Ty-Ty.

TY-TY

388 This Rah. Dude I was telling you about. 388

SPEEDY

389 I know who he is. 389

Rah smiles slightly. He likes that answer.

RAH

390 Then you probably know I don't waste my time talking to everybody. 390

Speedy waits.

RAH (CONT'D)

391 Ty-Ty says you the one keeping these boys together out here. Making sure everybody eats. Keeping people from doing stupid shit. 391

Speedy shrugs.

SPEEDY
392 We look out for each other. 392

RAH
393 Exactly. 393

Rah studies him.

RAH (CONT'D)
394 That's leadership. 394

Speedy doesn't respond.

RAH (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
395 I can use somebody like that. 395

The traffic light turns GREEN. A HORN sounds behind them. Rah ignores it.

RAH (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
396 Come talk to me. 396

Speedy looks at him.

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RAH (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
397 One conversation. That's all I'm asking. 397

Another horn. Rah puts the car in PARK. Ty-Ty grins. Rah steps out and closes the door behind him. Cars immediately begin pulling around them. Rah leans casually against the car as if he has all the time in the world.

RAH (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
398 You don't like what you hear, you come right back out here and keep washing windows. 398

Speedy glances at the cars moving around them. Then back at Rah.

RAH (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
399 But you know this ain't forever. 399

Speedy's expression hardens.

RAH (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
400 City already looking for ways to shut this down. Corners getting hotter. Police getting tired of complaints. 400

A beat.

RAH (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

401 So what happens when you can't make money out here anymore? 401

Speedy looks down at the few crumpled bills in his hand.

SPEEDY

402 You talking future. I'm still trying to make it past today. 402

Rah's expression changes. For the first time, he isn't selling. He understands. Rah slowly nods.

RAH

403 Yeah. 403

A beat.

RAH (CONT'D)

404 I remember what that feel like. 404

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Speedy looks at him. Rah reaches into his pocket. Doesn't pull anything out. Just makes the point.

RAH (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

405 Tell you what. 405

Speedy waits.

RAH (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

406 Five hundred dollars. 406

Speedy has a serious look on his face.

SPEEDY

407 For what? 407

RAH

408 For an hour of your time. 408

The serious look disappears.

SPEEDY

409 You gonna give me five hundred dollars just to sit down and talk to you? 409

RAH
410 That's it. 410

Speedy studies him, suspicious.

SPEEDY
411 What's the catch? 411

Rah smiles.

RAH
412 You smart. 412

He opens the driver's door.

RAH (CONT'D)
413 There ain't one. 413

Rah starts to get in, then looks back at him.

RAH (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
414 But I got a feeling once you hear what I'm offering- 414

Boy's At The Light ep 1-3

A beat.

RAH (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
415 -you ain't gonna wanna come back to this corner. 415

Rah gets in. Ty-Ty looks at Speedy through the passenger window. Rah pulls away. Speedy remains in the street, squeegee hanging at his side. He looks down at the handful of singles he's made all morning.

Five hundred dollars.

That number is suddenly hard to ignore.

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE FROM BLACK:

49 **EXT. WEED STRIP - NIGHT** 49

Taz walks away from the corner, still heated. She looks back once. Then pulls out her phone and FACETIMES DREY. He answers.

DREY (ON PHONE)
416 What's up? 416

BOYS AT THE LIGHT

RAH | AUDITION SIDES

SIDE 3 · AT ASIA·S HOUSE

Rah meets someone from Asia?s family and senses tension beneath the conversation.

Original screenplay excerpts · action and dialogue preserved.

87 **EXT. PLAYGROUND BASKETBALL COURT - LATE AFTERNOON** 87

The court is crowded. KIDS run full-court. A dice game moves near the fence. OGs joke along the bleachers. RAH stands by an open car trunk, giving out clean T-shirts, shorts, and sneakers to the OGs.

RAH

703 Nah, that shirt too big on you. You gon' look like you borrowed it. 703

OG

704 Better big than tight. 704

The OGs laugh. Rah hands over the last pair of sneakers, shuts the trunk, and turns. He sees Speedy coming through the gate. A LITTLE KID dribbles near the sideline. Rah takes the ball gently from him.

RAH

705 Lemme borrow that for a second. 705

Rah steps up and launches a HALF-COURT SHOT. The ball hits the rim, bounces high - Speedy catches the rebound. Rah looks at him.

Boy's At The Light ep 1-3

RAH (CONT'D)

706 You ready? 706

Speedy nods, holding the ball.

CUT TO:

88 **INT. ASIA'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - EVENING** 88

ASIA'S COUSIN stands in front of a small mirror. He checks a concealed recorder beneath his shirt, adjusts his collar, and rehearses the calm expression of somebody who has just come home after doing time. Below him, Asia paces in the living room. She keeps looking toward the front door, trying to steady her breathing.

A car door closes outside. Asia freezes. She looks up the stairs. Her cousin gives her a small nod and heads toward the steps.

CUT TO:

89 **INT. ASIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER** 89

RAH stands in the doorway, waiting. ASIA comes from the

living room, smiling as she grabs her purse.

ASIA

707 I'm ready, baby. I'm ready. As they start toward the door, ASIA'S COUSIN comes down the stairs. 707

ASIA (CONT'D)

708 Oh, that's my cousin I was telling you about. 708

The cousin approaches Rah with his hand out. Rah shakes it.

COUSIN

709 What's up, my guy? 709

RAH

710 Ain't shit. Just chilling. 710

COUSIN

711 Man, I'm just getting back out here. Trying to figure shit out. 711

Boy's At The Light ep 1-3

RAH

712 Yeah, I heard. How long you been gone? 712

COUSIN

713 Ten years, seven months, four days... and a few hours. 713

Rah and the cousin chuckle.

RAH

714 That's what's up. 714

COUSIN

715 I ain't gonna hold you, man. Maybe we can hook up sometime. We can rap. 715

RAH

716 That's cool. Get my number from your cousin. I'll get up with you. 716

COUSIN

717 Aight. That's what's up. Y'all be safe. 717

Rah and Asia start toward the door.

COUSIN (CONT'D)

718 Oh yeah, man, I heard about you too. 718

(MORE)

COUSIN (CONT'D)
Heard some good things about you.

The cousin starts naming men he says he knew while he was locked up. Every name is somebody Rah knows to be a snitch.

RAH
719 Yeah, I know them dudes. But I wasn't even fucking with those dudes like that. 719

Asia catches the tension immediately and steps in.

ASIA
720 Boy, we got to go. I'll see you when I get back. 720

Asia notices Rah still looking uneasy.

ASIA (CONT'D)
721 Baby, don't pay him no mind. He institutionalized. 721

RAH
722 Yeah, he more than that. But I'm good. 722

Boy's At The Light ep 1-3

CUT TO:

90 **EXT. ASIA'S HOUSE - FRONT STEPS - CONTINUOUS** 90

Rah and Asia walk down the steps. Rah reaches for Asia, but she gently moves his hand away. Rah looks back at the house, uneasy.

FADE TO BLACK.

91 **EXT. PLAYGROUND BASKETBALL COURT - LATE AFTERNOON** 91

RAH'S car pulls away from the court. SPEEDY stands near the fence with folded money in his hand. JORDAN and WAYNE walk up.

JORDAN
723 Yo, what the fuck? What's up with that? 723

SPEEDY
724 What you mean, what's up with that? 724

JORDAN
725 Man, what you mean what I mean? You 725
(MORE)