

act-1

INT. PASTOR JAMES POOR HOUSE - MORNING

We see a man sitting on the arm of a couch in what looks like the guest room or den. We see charts papers and a map on the walls. The man is looking at some papers in a business briefcase. We see that the title on the paper reads (It Has Begun - Community outreach) He looks at the papers then puts them in the trash can. He sits for a moment as if he's thinking about something deep. After a few seconds, the man gets up and walks to the window. He stands there looking out until he's interrupted by a knock on the door. The man turns and looks at the door but never says a word. It seems as if he really doesn't want to know what's on the other side of it. He walks over to the door and opens it up. We see KEISHA (19) his daughter, standing in the doorway. PASTOR JAMES (45) stands there waiting for Keisha to speak. Keisha seems a little hesitant to say something at first but soon blurts out.

KEISHA

Umm, yeah, I'm going to need you to take me to school today. Mom's (pause) still, sleep.

Pastor James walks over to the door and looks at Keisha.

PASTOR JAMES

Did you forget already?

A look comes across Keisha's face as if she just recalled something. Keisha lets out a deep breath.

KEISHA

So what I got to walk now on top of everything else?

Pastor James gives Keisha a fake smile that seems as if it was hard to do.

PASTOR JAMES

Just give me a couple of days. I'll figure something out.

Pastor James closes the door and walks back to the window. He stops midway there. Something in the corner of the room catches his attention.

CUT TO:

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FLASHBACK SCENE:

INT. PASTORS JAMES BIG HOUSE KITCHEN - MORNING

3 YEAR AGO FLASHES ON THE SCREEN:

We see a woman cooking eggs and bacon DENA (50). The T.V. and radio are on as she cooks. She is humming along and doing a little dance while glancing between the television and the food she's cooking. Pastor James comes into the kitchen followed by Keisha.

PASTOR JAMES

Somebodies in a good mood this morning.

DENA

Your observation of the obvious never ceases to amaze me.

After doing a couple more moves she crosses her arms and looks at Pastor James and Keisha. Keisha looks at Dena knowing Dena is dying to say something.

KEISHA

What is it mom cause you're being way too extra this morning?

DENA

See that's the problem with the world today. It's so rare to see someone happy that when we do, it's strange. God gave me another day, and instead of letting the enemy steal my joy. I've decided to take control of every day. Happy every day is my goal no matter what.

KEISHA

All I'm saying is remember that when them grades come around next term.

PASTOR JAMES

Well, I think it's a very strong position to take. Being a demonstration of the power, I love it.

Dena gets back to cooking. She turns the radio up a little more. An old song starts playing that they used to listen to when they were younger.

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PASTOR JAMES

I will never understand how you can listen to the radio and watch T.V. at the same time. It baffles the mind.

Dena looks over at Pastor James and twirls the spatula around. Just then Jewels comes downstairs. Jewels walks over to the table where Keisha is.

DENA

Don't be hating on my superpowers sweetheart. Just cause you forgot how we use to party doesn't mean I have.

PASTOR JAMES

What are you talking bout women? I'm the one that put the bust in the move.

JEWELS

Hold that thought.

Jewels grabs a plate some bread meat and eggs. Keisha looks at Jewels plate.

KEISHA

Somebodies got the munchies

Jewels smiles at Keisha and walks off back to his room.

JEWELS

Ok you can resume.

Pastor James looks over at Keisha with eyebrows raised.

KEISHA

No.

Pastor James looks over at Keisha.

PASTOR JAMES

Should I show her how it's done?

KEISHA

Absolutely not, no move busting or showing how anything is done. I can't stress that enough.

Pastor James starts to stand up doing little moves as he does.

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KEISHA

What are you doing? She's Jedi mind  
tricking you again dad.

PASTOR JAMES

She challenged me, sweetheart, I'm  
from South East. We never back down  
from a battle.

Dena and Pastor James start doing some old dance moves.  
Keisha is looking at them both as if they've lost their  
minds. The camera goes back and forth between them dancing  
and Keisha saying funny remarks. Pastor James and Dena are so  
into what they are doing they don't hear anything Keisha is  
saying. We see Jewels come down the steps. He sees what's  
going on, turns around and walks right back up the steps.

KEISHA

Oh my God, I can't un-see this.

We see them do a couple more moves and then cut back to  
Keisha.

KEISHA

It's being burned in my brain. I hate  
that I can't look away.

More moves then cut back to Keisha who by this time is  
standing up walking to the front door.

KEISHA

I'm just going to hitch-hike to  
school. Thank you both for the chills  
this morning and I'm pretty sure this  
qualifies as some form of traumatic  
stress, I'm not even playing.

Keisha walks out the door and we turn back to Pastor James  
and Dena.

PASTOR JAMES

I'm about to shut it down with my  
signature move.

All we see is Pastor James hop up then hit the floor. The  
camera focuses on Dena's expression. She has a look on her  
face like she could feel the pastor's pain.

DENA

Is your leg suppose to look like that?

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We hear Pastor James voice.

PASTOR JAMES  
Call somebody.

DENA  
You definitely shut it down.

Dena bins overlooking down on Pastor James. We don't see Pastor James but we can hear him moaning.

DENA  
James, James, I won. James

CUT TO:

INT. PASTOR JAMES POOR HOUSE - DAY

We see Pastor James standing in the same spot smiling. Just behind him in the doorway we see Dena. She looks as if she's getting over a hangover.

DENA  
James, James.

Pastor James turns and looks at Dena. The smile leaves his face.

DENA  
Where's Keisha?

Pastor James looks at her as if he can't believe she would even ask.

PASTOR JAMES  
I imagine on her way to school.

Dena looks as if she's a little foggy.

DENA  
What's today?

Pastor James turns without answering and walks the rest of the way to the window. Dena stands there for a moment then walks off. The camera shows a pair of crutches in the corner of the room. We see Pastor James open up a book he's been writing in. The title on the first page says "It Has Begun".

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE KEISHA'S HOUSE - MORNING

We see Junie walking out of Angel's house. Junie looks over at Keisha who is just sitting down on the steps. Junie seems as if he's trying to work up the courage to say something. Junie walks over to Keisha slowly and just kind of stands there for a moment. Keisha never looks at Junie she just sits there in a little daze. Junie clears his throat and says.

JUNIE

Yo, you good Keisha?

Keisha gives Junie a look as if to say "what do you think".

JUNIE

I feel you.

Junie looks as if he's about to walk off. In a low voice, we hear Keisha say.

KEISHA

Same ol thing, different day.

Junie looks, then starts to walk a little closer to Keisha and leans on the wall next to her. Junie looks at Keisha with a concerned look on his face.

JUNIE

Maybe you (interruption)

Keisha looks over at Junie. Keisha has an upset look on her face.

KEISHA

What I want to know is, how you going to take a pitcher with some, random chick? She grabbing him all on his junk, and I'm not supposed to get mad.

Keisha just shakes her head. Junie looks as if he wants to say something but is not sure what to say. As soon as Junie starts to say a word Keisha interrupts again and says.

KEISHA

And on top of that, his dumb butt posts it so everybody can see it. Disrespectful as hell.

Keisha sits there for a couple of seconds not saying a word.

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JUNIE

Well, I have to go do something for Angel.

Keisha doesn't say anything again she just has an angry look on her face. Junie looks as if he's not sure if he should walk off yet or not. We see Pastor James come to the door and look out. Pastor James says to Keisha.

PASTOR JAMES

Do you want me to call you a cab?

KEISHA

I'm ok, I can use my app.

Junie Looks at Pastor James and says.

JUNIE

Hello sir.

Pastor James looks at Junie as if he doesn't even want to say anything. Pastor James walks back into the house. Junie's about to walk off but before he can do anything Keisha stands up and looks at her house.

KEISHA

On top of all that, I got to deal with the soap opera in there.

Junie looks as if he's thinking for a few seconds and then comes up with an idea.

JUNIE

I know what you need?

Keisha looks at Junie, she sits down in one of the chairs next to her front door, Keisha starts looking off into space again. Junie sits in the chair next to her. Junie looks at Keisha with a big smile on his face.

JUNIE

You need a fun day.

Junie has a big goofy smile on his face. Keisha has a look on her face like she really doesn't want to hear it.

JUNIE

I'm serious. Today should be all about having a good time. I could show you, if you want.

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Keisha looks at Junie up and downs as if she doesn't trust one word he's saying.

KEISHA

I'm not messing with you, Junie.

JUNIE

Look, you're not the only one dealing with hard-core life stuff. The only difference is we used to it around here, your not. That also means we have the solution for it.

Keisha gives Junie a funny look.

KEISHA

What solution is that, sex?

JUNIE

What, no, I mean yes, but no that's not what I'm talking about.

Junie looks at Keisha just to make sure she wasn't saying yes to sex.

KEISHA

No!

JUNIE

You're tripped. I'm talking about this.

Junie goes into his pocket and pulls out a little notepad. He dangles it in front of Keisha.

KEISHA

And what's that?

JUNIE

This is the key to life. Every time I do something I really enjoy, I write it down. It's literally the official book on how to enjoy life on a budget.

KEISHA

I don't even want to know what's in that.

Junie gives Keisha a look as if to say "stop playing".

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JUNIE

Anyway look, it's Friday.

KEISHA

It's Wednesday.

JUNIE

It's Wednesday. You ain't got no job.

KEISHA

I have school.

Junie takes a deep breath then looks at Keisha.

JUNIE

I'm going to need you to work with me  
a little.

KEISHA

I'm sorry I just got a lot on my mind.  
Sounds good but I'm probably going to  
have to catch you next time.

A look of disappointment comes across Junie's face. Just then Keisha's older brother JEWELS (23) comes outside Keisha's house. He looks at Keisha.

JEWELS

What's wrong with you?

KEISHA

What's not wrong.

Jewels starts peeping Junie out.

JEWELS

Slim, you thought about what I said?

Junie appears to be a little intimidated by Jewels. His demeanor changes a little from fun to reserved. Junie just stands there not saying anything.

JEWELS

I'm saying, you're out here, rocking  
the same shit every other day. That's  
bad for your self-esteem.

Jewels digs in his pocket and takes out his cell phone. As Jewels looks through his phone he says.

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JEWELS

Your mom's come back yet?

Junie looks a little un eased when Jewels ask that question.

JUNIE

She's had to go out of town for a few days.

JEWELS

She had to go out and get high you mean.

Keisha gets upset at how Jewels is talking to Junie and tries to stop the conversation.

KEISHA

Chill out. You always go too far.

JEWELS

And you don't go far enough. I'm just being real with slim. Yhall act like cause you ignore a problem it goes away.

Jewels looks over at Junie and shrugs his shoulders.

JEWELS

Am I saying something wrong?

Junie just stands there frozen, not saying anything.

JEWELS

So what's up?

Junie cuts his eye at Keisha then at Jewels. Junie is embarrassed and feeling the pressure. It seems as if he's about to say yes when Keisha stands up and walks next to Junie. Keisha looks at Junie and gives him a little shove on the shoulder. Then she looks at Jewels.

KEISHA

Maybe next time. We're about to go have some fun.

Junie looks at Keisha with a surprised look on his face. Jewels just shakes his head. Jewels looks at Junie.

JEWELS

Slim you can't be serious.

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JUNIE

We kind of already had it planned.

Jewels starts walking to his car and looks back at Keisha.

JEWELS

Love you big head.

KEISHA

Love you too.

Jewels gets in his car and takes off. As he does Junie looks at Keisha.

JUNIE

Thanks, oh and it's cool if you don't really (interruption)

KEISHA

Yooo, relax, I can really use a fun day about now.

Junie looks as if he can't believe what Keisha is saying.

JUNIE

For real? (pause) That's what's up.

KEISHA

Stop acting so pressed.

Keisha looks at her house, then at Junie and they start to walk off.

JUNIE

I know exactly what we can do.

KEISHA

Alright, but if it's dumb I promise you Junie.

JUNIE

Trust me.

KEISHA

Famous last words.

CUT TO:

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act 2

CUT TO:

INT. PASTOR JAMES CHURCH - EVENING

Pastor James walks into the building and looks around. He flips the lights on. Pastor James sees a few drops of blood on the floor. Pastor James walks deeper into the church. As he turns the corner to go into the sanctuary he sees a person sitting in the back of the church. The person seems as if they are watching something on their phone over and over. We can hear the sound of the video that's being played. Pastor James can't make out who it is. Pastor James walks a little closer to the place where the person is sitting. Pastor James sees that it's his son Jewels. Pastor James sits down in the chair behind Jewels. Pastor James can see that Jewels has been crying. Pastor James says in a low calm voice.

PASTOR JAMES

I would ask if everything is alright  
but,

Jewels doesn't say anything. He wipes the tears from his eyes and keeps looking into space. Pastor James looks at Jewels leg then tries again to talk to Jewels.

PASTOR JAMES

If you want I can have your mother  
look at that leg.

Jewels still doesn't say anything. Pastor James stands up and pats Jewels on the shoulder. Pastor James is about to walk off when Jewels says.

JEWELS

I've been sitting here trying to pray  
but I can't.

Pastor James stops and looks at Jewels. Pastor James takes a seat next to Jewels. Pastor James doesn't say anything he just listens to what Jewels is saying.

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JEWELS

I feel like a hypocrite. Like I don't pray until I need something.

PASTOR JAMES

I know for a fact most of us are guilty of that.

The room get's quiet for a moment, Jewels looks at his father and says.

JEWELS

I don't think I'm going to be around much longer.

A very disturbing look comes across Pastor James's face.

PASTOR JAMES

I know things may seem (interruption)

JEWELS

It's not a maybe, it's just a matter of time. It's no running, no hiding. no options.

Pastor James is listening with concern.

PASTOR JAMES

What did you do Jason?

Jewels turns and looks straight ahead.

JEWELS

Remember granny used to say, you can't play in the mud and not get dirty.

Jewels stands up and takes a couple of steps. Then he turns and looks at Pastor James.

JEWELS

You know what's crazy. Everything that I thought was important yesterday, it really don't mean shit right now.

Pastor James just listens and nods his head.

JEWELS

The crazy part is, I couldn't see that yesterday.

Jewels takes a deep breath looks at his father and says.

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JEWELS

It's not safe here. Some really hard-core people are coming. They're killers pops. When they don't find me here they will kill everyone they do find. I'm sorry I brought this to your house.

Pastor James seems as if he's thinking about what Jewels said. Pastor James takes a deep breath.

PASTOR JAMES

Never give up son.

JEWELS

I ain't say I was going to make it easy for em. They gonna have to earn it if they want me.

Jewels looks around the church.

JEWELS

I'm worried about you guys.

PASTOR JAMES

There's more of us, than it is them. If they come, they will see a demonstration of true power.

Pastor James starts to tear up. He stands and walks over to a dusty altar.

JEWELS

All that wrong I've done. Try to do something right and this happens.

Pastor James stands in front of the altar for a moment then takes out his handkerchief and dusts the top of it off. Jewels has his eyes full of tears.

JEWELS

Pray for me dad.

PASTOR JAMES

I'm sorry I lead you all here. I thought God (interruption)

Jewels sees the pain his father is in.

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JEWELS

You said God told you to come right.

Pastor James just looks at Jewels.

JEWELS

Then own it. God don't make mistakes,  
we do. What did you think was going to  
happen? Lucifer got a job too.

Jewels starts walking away, Pastor James bangs his fist on  
the alter a couple of times and starts preaching hard.

PASTOR JAMES

Mans no can't stop God's yes. I don't  
care if it's a billion of them. let  
Pharaoh come. The Lord Himself is my  
shelter, He's my protector. LET EM  
COME!

Jewels starts walking out. The camera follows Jewels. He can  
still hear his father preaching as he leaves.

PASTOR JAMES

YOU ARE ANOINTED AND MY GOD SAYS,  
TOUCH NOT MY ANOINTED AND DO MY  
PROPHETS NO HARM. LET EM COME! MY GOD  
SAYS FEAR NOT, NOT START FEARING AT A  
CERTAIN POINT! SOMEBODY BETTER TELL  
GOLIATH I GOT A SLINGSHOT AND ONE ROCK  
AND I'M NOT AFRAID.

CUT TO:

INT. SHANK AND DENA - NIGHT

The room is dark. We see a light come on and Dena sitting on  
the edge of the bed. She looks as if she's still sleepy. She  
gets up and walks around the bed to the dresser. She looks at  
her face and lets out a sigh. Dena looks down in a chair next  
to the dresser and sees a liquor bottle under some clothes.  
Dena looks at the bottle for a moment. All of a sudden it  
dawns on Dena that she sees a man's shoe. Dena looks up and  
sees Shank standing in her bed room. Shank's neck has a  
bandage around it. Shank also has a gun pointed at Dena. Dena  
screams a little but as soon as she does Shank looks at her  
and says.

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SHANK

Shhhhhh. We don't want this to get messy. I'm not here to hurt you. Don't scream and I will tell you what's going on. If you scream, I'm going to hurt you really bad. That would be a shame.

Dena is visibly shaken up. She is shaking and has a lot of nervous energy.

DENA

Who are you? What are you doing in my house? We don't have any money.

SHANK

Come here.

Shank is over by the window. Dena starts to walk over to him slowly. Dena gets over by the window and stands there.

SHANK

Look out there and tell me what you see.

Dena looks at Shank first then she looks out the window. Shank gets right behind her talking to her in her ear. Shank points to a group of men standing around outside. Then Shank points to a man dressed in all black outside.

SHANK

You see them. Now look over there, see him. They're all over the place right? You know why?

Dena shakes her head no, and in a very soft voice Shank can barely hear she says.

DENA

No.

SHANK

We are all looking for your son.

DENA

Jason?

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SHANK

Jason was your son. The one you raised and helped with homework. No, no I'm talking about the one the streets got a hold of. The one the streets raised into Jewels. That's who we looking for.

Dena is looking around at the different people she's starting to see outside. We can see Shank looking at the side of her face.

SHANK

Your son killed a very powerful man's brother.

Dena backs away from the window and looks as if she's about to have a panic attack.

DENA

What are you doing here? He would never. What are you talking about?

SHANK

Yes he would, and he has.

Dena tries to get herself together. Dena takes a few deep breaths. Dena looks over at the bottle of liquor still sitting in the chair. Shank see what she's looking at.

SHANK

Do you want it?

Dena takes a second to get her composer. Dena looks at Shank and says.

DENA

What are you going to do to him?

SHANK

I'm not going to do anything. However, the person who employs me will most likely kill him.

Dena drops her head and tries to fight back the tears. Dena sits down in the chair and starts rocking back and forth.

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DENA

Oh God, no no, no. Jesus help us. Lord  
no.

Just then we hear a knock on the door. Shank looks at the door then looks at Dena. Shank gets close to Dena's ear and says.

SHANK

I could care less what happens. It's  
on you how this plays out.

Dena gets up and walks to the door. Shank walks next to her. Shank goes in the closet door and puts his gun up to it. Shank gives Dena a cold look as she opens the door a little. It's Pastor James.

PASTOR JAMES

We need to talk.

Pastor James walks into the bedroom and sits on the bed. Dena comes in and sits down next to him. Dena's eyes look over at the closet door.

DENA

Not right now.

PASTOR JAMES

It's important. It's about Jason.

DENA

I already know.

A puzzled look comes across Pastor James face.

DENA

He called me earlier and told me  
everything.

Pastor James puts his head down and says.

PASTOR JAMES

If you want to talk or pray with me  
I'll be over at the church.

Pastor James lifts his head up and looks at Dena in her eyes. Dena is looking at Pastor James as if she wants to tell him something. Dena looks at the closet once more and puts her head down.

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DENA

Maybe later, my head is killing me right now.

PASTOR JAMES

Of course.

Pastor James stands up and looks at Dena.

PASTOR JAMES

Maybe when this is all over we can go to that jazz club we used to go to. Sit in the back and people watch. I miss that.

Dena looks at Pastor James and smiles.

DENA

I would love that, so much.

PASTOR JAMES

Okay, it's a date.

DENA

It was wonderful hearing you preach again. I can't tell you how much I've missed that.

Dena looks at Pastor James as he walks out of the room. We can see her looking as if she may never see him again. Dena goes over to the door and closes it. She just stands there for a moment. She hears Shank in back of her says.

SHANK

Good girl. Now, where were we?

Dena seems as if she's a little stronger than before. Dena looks over at Shank and says.

DENA

So what does he want with me?

SHANK

Nothing, it's not you he's after. You, your all mine.

Shank rubs the back of his hand on Dena's face. Then Shank whispers in her ear.

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SHANK  
I'm going to love this.

CUT TO:

INT. PASTOR JAMES HOUSE - NIGHT

TWO WEEKS LATER FLASHES ON THE SCREEN:

We see Keisha walking down the hallway looking through Junie's book. Music is playing in the house. Pastor James is back in the bedroom. Dena is over by the bedroom window looking out. She has bandages on her face. Keisha walks into the room with them and goes up to Pastor James. She hands Pastor James Junie's book.

KEISHA  
Does this make sense to you?

Pastor James looks at the cover of the book. It says "It Has Begun" on it. Pastor James eyes get big. He quickly starts to look through the book. He can't put it down. Pastor James yells out.

PASTOR JAMES  
My God, Keisha!

SCREEN GOES BLACK.