

She looks at him.

MIKE (CONT'D)  
Dad's back day!

Ashley shyly smiles.

ASHLEY  
Okay.

He looks over to Dahlia who gives him a questioning look.

MIKE  
Just one day. She'll be back in  
class tomorrow. We gotta celebrate.  
Bring it in girls.

DAHLIA  
(smiles)  
Okay.

Mike embraces the girls tight, one in each arm. We pull away from the tableaux of the happy moment. RING.

On the counter Dahlia's phone rings. She breaks away to go answer.

ANGLE ON phone screen which reads "Ronnie."

MIKE  
You need that?

She clicks it to voicemail.

DAHLIA  
No, today's our day.

She flashes him a smile. But when he turns a shadow crosses her face and she powers down her phone.

35 EXT. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - DAY

35

Parker approaches a group of rough-n-tumble junkie types who appear in various states of recovery. Smoking butts, drinking coffee in typical N.A. Program fashion.

An AFRICAN AMERICAN GUY in a hoodie spots him and shrugs his shoulders.

NA GUY  
Shit man. Get your cracker ass  
outta here!

PARKER

Whoa wait slow down G. Tawana's gone missing. Have you seen her round, heard anything?

NA GUY

I don't owe that bitch anything, no alimony don't let nobody tell you different. Why would I keep tabs on that skinny ass cunt anyhow.

The prostitute Parker saw in the housing project from the opening walks by. She looks up at him in cracked out confusion and waves invitingly.

PROSTITUTE

Man, I just saw you.

PARKER

One day at a time...

Parker's phone pings. He checks a message.

"Ashley Montrose missed school again today."

PARKER (CONT'D)

Dammit.

He picks up his phone and calls Dahlia. Straight to voicemail. He hangs up and turns back to Corey.

PARKER (CONT'D)

I gotta split. Let me know if you catch word on your old lady.

He thinks silently for a moment, then makes tracks.

36

INT. DAHLIA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - NIGHT

36

Parker walks down the hallway leading to Dahlia's door.

Parker walks up to the door and knocks. Music drowns out the sound from inside. He pounds harder and after a few moments Dahlia opens it up surprised to see him. She is tugging at a robe to conceal her state of undress.

DAHLIA

Parker...

PARKER

Can I come in?