

THE DEVIL'S IN THE COATTAIL'S

"Bleed Me Dry"

PILOT EPISODE

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FADE IN:

INT. OVER PACKED PRISON - COMMON AREA - EVENING

It seems like every low life piece of nothing is spending the next ten to five years in lockup. They might as well look at it as a cheap getaway, with the lovely obscene graffiti decorating the walls and delicate vulgar screams filling the air. It's classy!

Our hero, DEREK STRIDER, early thirties, super athletic build, plays with a deck of torn up cards. Despite being one of the larger guys here, he's cautious with his eye contact.

The inmates notice Derek. They smell the addicting scent of fresh blood. SHAVO, a leader in this herd of sheep, can't keep his eyes off Derek. He motions for the homies to surround this fish bait.

SHAVO

Hey, what you playing there man?

Shavo's accent is thick with Mexican touches of angry passion. Derek doesn't hear him.

SHAVO (CONT'D)

Hey man, are you trying to diss me?
What's up?

Shavo stands in front of Derek. Alone, he can't take on Derek. But he isn't alone. He has seven other homies standing by his side.

DEREK STRIDER

I'm not playing anything.

SHAVO

Nah, it looks like you're playing
go fish.

Shavo's peeps' chuckle. Derek realizes he's surrounded and outgunned. He stands up to leave but they block his exit.

SHAVO (CONT'D)

Hey man, that's twice. Where you
going? I just want to talk. I'm
new here. Come on a, take a seat.
Don't be rude.

Derek looks for a guard. He spots one in the distance. The guard smiles at Derek then turns his back to him. Derek is riding solo. Shavo spots who he was looking at.

SHAVO (CONT'D)
 These guards a, I hate em'. They
 act like such big shots. But you
 know what man, in no time, I'll be
 out of here with my girl and guess
 what... they'll still be here
 holding their dicks. You know what
 I mean?

Derek nods his head "yes."

DEREK STRIDER
 I can relate.

SHAVO
 To which part a?

DEREK STRIDER
 A little of both.

SHAVO
 Ha. I like you. I wanted to ask
 you for a favor.

Shavo sits across from Derek.

SHAVO (CONT'D)
 Is that cool?

DEREK STRIDER
 Normally I would say it depends,
 but maybe it's because of your
 friends I'm open to hearing you
 out.

SHAVO
 Hmm. Okay. Well, it ain't no big
 thing. I just want your autograph.

DEREK STRIDER
 My autograph?

SHAVO
 Yeah, your John Hancock. I want
 it. I'm a fan. Huge one. You're
 Derek Strider. Number thirteen
 right?

DEREK STRIDER
 Yeah.

SHAVO
 Ohhh snap! I told you guys! Me
 and my girl use to watch you play
 all the time G. Go Bobcats!

DEREK STRIDER
 Oh...

Derek laughs a little.

SHAVO
 What? What is it?

DEREK STRIDER
 No, I'm just relieved I guess.

SHAVO
 Why? What did you think we were
 gonna do?

DEREK STRIDER
 Nothing. I'd be happy to give you
 an autograph.

SHAVO
 Cool.

Shavo takes out a pen and hands it to Derek.

SHAVO (CONT'D)
 Why don't you sign one of those
 cards. My name's Shavo.

Derek signs it and hands it to Shavo. Shavo is grinning ear
 to ear.

SHAVO (CONT'D)
 Look at that, "to Shavo and his
 girl." My girl's gonna go crazy
 over this.

Derek gets up to go. The inmates block his way again.

SHAVO (CONT'D)
 Hey man, where you going?!

DEREK STRIDER
 I was going back to my cell.

SHAVO
 What about my friends? You don't
 got time to give them an autograph?

DEREK STRIDER
I didn't realize they wanted one.

SHAVO
I don't want to put you at an inconvenience but damn man, why do you gotta be like that? You don't care about your fans?

DEREK STRIDER
Relax. I signed yours.

SHAVO
Man, don't tell me to relax! Who the hell do you think you are?

Shavo stands up and slams his autographed card on the table.

DEREK STRIDER
Give me the pen. I'll sign them.

SHAVO
How about I give you my signature?

DEREK STRIDER
I didn't think you were anyone.

The inmates laugh at Shavo.

SHAVO
Man, I heard about you. I heard you don't care about anyone but yourself. I heard for the right price you'd do anything. Is that true man? Is what they say true? You ever throw a game for money? Ever get on your knees and take it for money?

DEREK STRIDER
I don't need this.

Derek turns away from Shavo. It's the wrong move. Shavo grabs Derek's arm. Derek takes a swing at Shavo. He's quickly overwhelmed by the inmates.

It seems like everyone wants a piece of Derek. The guards let this beat down go on for a minute then rush in.

Derek lies on the floor with a busted lip. The damage has been done. The jail is in riot mode. Shavo spits on Derek as he's dragged away from him.

SHAVO
 You ain't nothing! Nothing! This
 is the real world bitch!

CUT TO:

INT. PRISON VISITING AREA - A LITTLE LATER

Inmates are scattered around a small cafeteria like area with their family and friends talking to them. Derek is being guided in to a table where CARLA ANDERSON, thirty, an attractive geeky tomboy waits for him.

CARLA ANDERSON
 I like the look.

She motions to his busted lip. The guard cuffs him to the table.

DEREK STRIDER
 I thought it would be nice to spice
 up my image before I get out of
 here tomorrow.

CARLA ANDERSON
 Was that a joke?

Derek can't contain himself.

CARLA ANDERSON (CONT'D)
 Wooooow.

She hands him a candy bar.

CARLA ANDERSON (CONT'D)
 I'll have to tell your parents
 about that one.

Derek looks away from her.

DEREK STRIDER
 You think they'll be here to pick
 me up?

She doesn't answer.

DEREK STRIDER (CONT'D)
 It's okay.

CARLA ANDERSON
 I'm sorry---

DEREK STRIDER
No. Don't be. It'll work out.

CARLA ANDERSON
I tried to get time off at my job,
but they won't let me switch
shifts.

DEREK STRIDER
It's fine Carla. This might be
better. When I get out of here, I
don't want to wait around. I'm
running for it.

She looks at her watch.

DEREK STRIDER (CONT'D)
You gotta go?

CARLA ANDERSON
Yeah.

DEREK STRIDER
The doctor took a long time
checking me out.

She stands up.

CARLA ANDERSON
I'm leaving you some money. You
gave it to me years ago in case of
a rainy day. I want you to have it
back. It's not a lot, I've had a
few rainy days myself, but it
should get you by for awhile.

DEREK STRIDER
You know you're gonna have to let
me repay you right. How about
dinner? Solid foods, no candy.

Derek smiles. Carla laughs.

CARLA ANDERSON
Another one. Hmm, we'll see.

She starts walking away.

DEREK STRIDER
We don't have to call it a date.
It could just be friends meeting.

CARLA ANDERSON
I never called it a date.

DEREK STRIDER

Okay.

Derek yells to her---

DEREK STRIDER (CONT'D)

But you could if you wanted too!
Think about it.

(Under his breath)

God knows it's crossed my mind a
few times.

The Guard shows up and takes Derek back to his cell.

CUT TO:

EXT. STATE PRISON - DAY

Derek is collecting his belongings and heading out of the prison.

GUARD

You got a ride?

Derek looks around outside. No one is waiting for him.

DEREK STRIDER

No.

GUARD

Well, two years is a long time.
Maybe they forgot to get you. It
happens.

Derek leans against the wall for a second. The outside world is a lot for him to take in.

GUARD (CONT'D)

You can't wait here. The bus stop
isn't far.

DEREK STRIDER

Right.

Derek starts walking down the street.

GUARD

Hey, what are you going to do now?

DEREK STRIDER

I promised myself if I made it out
of here alive I'd get it all back.

GUARD

You mean play football again? The money? The girls? Live the dream?

The Guard's trying not to laugh at Derek.

DEREK STRIDER

It was never about any of that. All I ever wanted was to help my family and friends by doing what I love. My heart was in the right place but maybe my mind wasn't. I'm still standing. I'm not done yet. People will see that. They'll believe in me again.

GUARD

Who's ever gonna believe in you again? Remember how much hate mail we got after you crippled that girl? You're not exactly a safe bet buddy.

DEREK STRIDER

I'll make it right. I'll find a way.

GUARD

On your way to the top, don't forget to check in with your probation officer. You're not out of the clear yet.

The Guard spits on the ground and heads back in the prison. Derek makes his way to the bus stop. He sits down on the bench holding a plastic bag with his personal belongings. A police bus filled with new inmates drives by him. Then the bus shows up. Derek gets on it.

CUT TO:

INT. HALF WAY HOUSE - PROBATION OFFICE- A LITTLE LATER

Derek is in a cramped office holding his bag. A fat slob named JACOB RAMIREZ is looking over his file.

JACOB RAMIREZ

I'm gonna give you the same speech I give everyone else. You are not a free man. You have limited rights.

(MORE)

JACOB RAMI REZ (CONT' D)
 Mess up and I'll make sure you
 serve the rest of your time in the
 hole. Also, remember you are on
 the right track by being here.

DEREK STRIDER
 Thank you.

JACOB RAMI REZ
 This is how it works. Every week
 you check in with me. I'm not your
 friend. Don't show up to my house.
 Don't call me outside the office.
 If you see me walking on the
 streets with my kids, please don't
 bother me. They don't need to know
 you. Am I right? Or what?

DEREK STRIDER
 Sure.

JACOB RAMI REZ
 Good. Think of me as your form of
 Church. You come down, we chit
 chat a little. You confess your
 sins to me and you go. Assuming
 you're not using, you go.

DEREK STRIDER
 Okay.

JACOB RAMI REZ
 Now here's a list of halfway houses
 you can stay at.

Jacob hands him the list.

JACOB RAMI REZ (CONT' D)
 A lot of refined crack heads and
 whores call those places home.

DEREK STRIDER
 I don't want to stay there.

JACOB RAMI REZ
 Ohhhh God. You're one of those
 types who think we're negotiating.
 Okay, lets negotiate. My people
 don't sleep on the street. That's
 my personal rule. So where you
 gonna stay?

DEREK STRIDER
I saw a hotel on the ride over. I
could stay there.

JACOB RAMIREZ
You can afford that?

Derek's eyes grow wide.

JACOB RAMIREZ (CONT'D)
Oh, right. Sorry. Well that's
good. You saved up your money
before going to jail. That's
smart.

DEREK STRIDER
A friend of mine gave me a loan.

JACOB RAMIREZ
Oh. Well then this might ruin your
day. But... you have a court
appearance in the morning. It's to
allocate your remaining funds.
Which...

Jacob scrambles through Derek's documents.

JACOB RAMIREZ (CONT'D)
Have been on hold for some time.

DEREK STRIDER
What should I expect there?

JACOB RAMIREZ
Ahhh, it's kind of like an upper
class version of jail or date rape.

Jacob gets up and holds the door open for Derek to leave.
Derek hands him back the halfway home list.

JACOB RAMIREZ (CONT'D)
No. You keep it just in case.

Derek exits.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

The HOTEL MANAGER is scrolling through his computer. He's a
thin, nervous little guy. Derek walks up to him.

DEREK STRIDER
Hi. How's it going---

HOTEL MANAGER
Terrible. It's my daughter's birthday in two days and she wants an iPad.

DEREK STRIDER
An iPad???

HOTEL MANAGER
Yeah, first it was an iPod. Then an iPhone, now an iPad.

Derek is a little lost.

HOTEL MANAGER (CONT'D)
I take it you're not into techy stuff.

DEREK STRIDER
I've been away from that for awhile. I need to catch up.

HOTEL MANAGER
Yeah, well don't hurry. They come out with a new pointless gadget every other month. It's no big deal. At least not for us working folks anyway. Ah, well you can dream right.

DEREK STRIDER
I'd like to get a room.

HOTEL MANAGER
Sure. We got plenty of those.

The Manager starts typing away at the computer.

HOTEL MANAGER (CONT'D)
How long you staying for?

DEREK STRIDER
I haven't decided yet.

HOTEL MANAGER
I'm gonna need your credit card.

DEREK STRIDER
I don't have one. Could I pay in cash?

The Manager considers it.

HOTEL MANAGER
Cash. The last guy who did that
was a car thief. You're not here
to cause trouble are you?

DEREK STRIDER
No. I'm just looking for a room to
stay in.

The Manager focuses on Derek's face.

HOTEL MANAGER
I'm sorry. I had to ask. Forty
bucks for the night.

Derek hands him the money and gets a key in return.

HOTEL MANAGER (CONT'D)
It's the last room on the first
level. Next to the dumpster. You
can't miss it.

DEREK STRIDER
That was the only room available?

HOTEL MANAGER
For cash...yeah.

Derek starts to head out. The Manager stops him with---

HOTEL MANAGER (CONT'D)
Hey, anyone ever tell you, you look
familiar???

Derek doesn't say anything.

HOTEL MANAGER (CONT'D)
You weren't on the news recently
for robbing a bank or anything were
you?

DEREK STRIDER
No. Not for that.

Derek leaves. The Manager goes back to his computer.

CUT TO:

INT. CHEAP HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Derek walks in the hotel room tossing his plastic bag on the bed. He looks lonely. He keeps walking in and out of the rooms. He's restless. All this free space is overwhelming.

He tries to sleep but can't. He spots the TV, takes a seat in front of it and turns it on.

As he hits power we---

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. FIVE STAR HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

We flick into this scene as if the TV were just turned on.

Derek isn't alone...

He has his family MAMMA JEAN and PAPA OWEN. Owen is in a rusty wheel chair. Jean is with her bible. Next to them is his older sister CYNTHIA still dressed in her waitress uniform. Standing next to her is her young boy TREVOR.

On the opposite end of them is Derek's second family. His posse, BENNY-B, twenty-eight, a long haired dreadlocked poet, NATE SHAW, twenty-nine, the prince in this crew, and DEVIN aka 3D, thirty, best known for his volume slash heart attack prone size. They're setting up for a BBQ.

Carla is even here but she keeps her distance from the crew. But MANNY YATES, early thirties, thin, fast talking, Wall Street suit type has no problem with them...yet.

Everyone is sitting around a flat screen TV. *This is clearly happening years earlier.* Everyone is super nervous. Derek keeps pacing in the background.

NATE SHAW

Look, if it doesn't work out, you could always be a high school coach.

They've got champagne chilled and ready to go, all they need now is a reason to pour it in the glasses.

MANNY YATES

Hey, only positive energy here. We got this.

Carla walks up to Derek and gives him a kiss.

CARLA ANDERSON
You got this. I know you do.

She sits with him. 3D changes the channel.

BENNY-B
What are you doing?!

Everyone flips out on him. Cynthia throws a pillow at his head.

3D
Sorry, but Iron Chef is on. It's getting crazy, you know? Or you would know, if we watched it.

BENNY-B
It's about to start!

3D
Fine.

He changes it back right as it starts...

MANNY YATES
Okay, first round picks here we go.

The TV starts announcing names. Each name, has everyone praying it will be Derek's. But nothing happens. The room is tense.

OWEN
Don't worry about it son.

JEAN
Your father's right.

TREVOR
Stop lying to him! We need this!
I want a dog!

Everyone laughs.

CYNTHIA
Trevor!

TREVOR
What??? He promised he'd get me one.

CYNTHIA
We're not there yet.

MANNY YATES
 Don't worry about it little man.
 We're still in this...

The TV starts up again...it's more intense than the presidential elections.

TV SPORTS GUY V.O.
 And here we go with the second round picks...

CARLA ANDERSON
 Come on, come on, come on...

The TV announces some more names. Every name is so close to Derek's name. They can taste it. They ache for it. And then...it happens....

TV SPORTS GUY V.O.
 Derek Strider...

NATE SHAW
 Ohhhh what?!?!?

Everyone gets up and starts screaming.

DEREK STRIDER
 Did they say my name?! Was that me?!

OWEN
 That's my boy! They said my boy!!!

CARLA ANDERSON
 YOU DID IT!

DEREK STRIDER
 Yeah!!!

Derek hugs Carla. The room is on fire with joy. Everyone is happy, even Nate who's been hiding a smile all evening. They start passing around glasses and more hugs to celebrate.

MANNY YATES
 Welcome to the rest of your life!
 It's all uphill from here on out!

BLAST CUT TO:

INT. CHEAP HOTEL ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Derek wakes up. The TV is on static. He looks around his room, for his memory. But that dream is over.

He's not that man anymore. He looks at the time. His face says it all. Different day, same story.

DEREK STRIDER
I'm not a free man...

CUT TO:

INT. COURT ROOM - DAY

Derek is standing across from a tough bankruptcy judge who goes by JUDGE CARTER. He keeps looking at Derek with disgust.

JUDGE CARTER
You know I used to watch you play. You were great. What a shame. How was your first day out?

DEREK STRIDER
It was different. I'm learning the bus routes still. It's tricky.

JUDGE CARTER
Start memorizing them they'll come in handy. You're going to have a lot of stuff to get use too. For starters, you owe a lot of money. Millions. Luckily, you have some assets we could liquidate. Now the bad news is, they no longer belong to you.

DEREK STRIDER
I kinda figured.

JUDGE CARTER
The cars, boat, mansion all of it are being sold to help pay off some of your debt. But time has taken its toll on these things.

DEREK STRIDER
What does that mean?

JUDGE CARTER
That means you still owe money and payments on them.

DEREK STRIDER
But you took them from me?

JUDGE CARTER
No Derek. Your mistakes did that.
Remember?

Carter looks through Derek's file.

DEREK STRIDER
How much do I owe?

JUDGE CARTER
Millions from the assets, back
taxes, fines, attorney fees and a
little bit more from the settlement
of the accident.

DEREK STRIDER
A little bit more?! What does that
mean?!

JUDGE CARTER
I realize this is upsetting. I can
understand that. But people have
come back from worse.

DEREK STRIDER
Millions worse?

JUDGE CARTER
I'm sure it's happened somewhere.

DEREK STRIDER
Right.

Carter reads into the file.

JUDGE CARTER
It says here you're still seeing
some money from your commercial
deals and action figures and such---

DEREK STRIDER
Well, I should be. But they
wouldn't let me touch that in jail.

JUDGE CARTER
Well, today that changes.

DEREK STRIDER
Oh, thank you.

JUDGE CARTER
We're putting you on a two thousand
dollar a month allowance.

DEREK STRIDER
I'm sorry??? But I have
millions!!!

JUDGE CARTER
You're not that guy anymore. I
know this is a lot to take in. But
perhaps see it as an opportunity to
develop new skills and grow as a
person.

DEREK STRIDER
What does that mean?

JUDGE CARTER
Look, you need to come up with the
money. Which means you need to
find a job.

DEREK STRIDER
A job...

JUDGE CARTER
You don't really think you can play
football again. I mean come on
Derek. I'd appreciate it if you
took this situation a bit more
seriously.

DEREK STRIDER
I can still play. I have at least
another ten years in me.

JUDGE CARTER
Mr. Strider, I just don't feel
like that's realistic. You may be
able to play but what team is gonna
want to take a chance on you now?

Derek hangs his head low.

JUDGE CARTER (CONT'D)
I'm giving you a week to come up
with a plan to present me with,
showing me how you plan on making
these payments. If you can't the
court will provide a plan for you.

Derek is speechless. He can't wrap his brain around it. The
math just doesn't add up. He doesn't know how he'll do it.

JUDGE CARTER (CONT'D)
Good luck, Derek.

Carter closes the file. The hearing is over. Derek starts to walk away with---

DEREK STRIDER
 Good luck?! What am I suppose to do with that?!

Derek hits the desk as he stomps out.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - DAY

Derek is leaving the court. He's pissed as can be but realizes he's under a microscope. He starts walking down the sidewalk, he needs to be on the same level of Noah's Arc. Some people recognize him. Some whisper about him.

Derek tries to ignore it. He tries not to care that parents are keeping their kids away from him. He stops at a bus stop and waits...

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Derek gets off the bus. He's heading to a tool shop. Some of the people from the neighborhood recognize Derek. He's expecting to be dissed... again.

FAN 1
 Hey! Can I take a picture with you?

DEREK STRIDER
 What?

FAN 1
 Can I take a picture with you?

DEREK STRIDER
 Really?

FAN 1
 You're Derek Strider right? Number thirteen. My Dad's a huge fan.

DEREK STRIDER
 Yeah sure. No problem.

Derek poses with him. Carla sees him taking a picture with the young fan. It makes her smile with pleasure and yet somehow she has a worried look on her face.

FAN 1

Awww this is awesome! If you go back to jail, I bet I can make ten bucks with this on e-bay easy.

DEREK STRIDER

Great. Glad to have helped you out.

Derek marches in the shop. Before he gets in, a second fan, a young girl walks up with a pen and paper.

FAN 2

Could I get your autograph?

Derek thinks she is with the first fan.

DEREK STRIDER

Twenty bucks.

FAN 2

What???

DEREK STRIDER

Twenty dollars.

He holds out his hands. She searches her pocket for money. Derek smiles.

DEREK STRIDER (CONT'D)

I'm kidding.

He signs the paper. She is a little cautious of him now.

FAN 2

Thanks?

Carla sees how she left. She's not digging it.

INT. TOOL SHOP - CONTINUOUS

CARLA ANDERSON

Nice. You have them paying to talk to you now. What a role model.

DEREK STRIDER

I was just teasing her.

CARLA ANDERSON
How' d court go?

DEREK STRIDER
Well they didn't send me back to
jail, so not that bad I guess. Do
you want to go grab a snack?

A few customers pull up to her lane.

CARLA ANDERSON
I'm working.

DEREK STRIDER
Do you go on break soon?

CARLA ANDERSON
I already had my break.

DEREK STRIDER
What about lunch?

CARLA ANDERSON
Had that too.
(To a Customer)
That'll be forty-five dollars even.

The customers are becoming impatient.

GRANDPA CUSTOMER
Excuse me?

CARLA ANDERSON
Sorry.

She swipes his items.

CARLA ANDERSON (CONT'D)
You should get rest.

DEREK STRIDER
Do you want to go out with me
tonight?

CARLA ANDERSON
No.

DEREK STRIDER
You can think about it.

CARLA ANDERSON

I'm not going to take care of you or the people you mess with every time you're hurt or having a bad day Derek. I'm not ready to play house for you again.

DEREK STRIDER

I'm not asking you to take care of me??? Where is this coming from? I'm saying go out and eat with me. Let's catch up.

The next customer in line is a young teen ELECTRICIAN worker.

ELECTRICIAN

Derek Strider!

DEREK STRIDER

Hi .

Derek helps Carla pack the man's belongings.

CARLA ANDERSON

Please don't touch that. You could get me in trouble with my boss.

DEREK STRIDER

All I want is another chance. Just one date.

ELECTRICIAN

I'd go out with him.

DEREK STRIDER

Thanks sir.

CARLA ANDERSON

Look, it was cute before---in prison. But come on, it's not anymore.

DEREK STRIDER

What are you talking about? Are you having a bad day?

CARLA ANDERSON

No. I don't want to have this talk now. This is where I work.

DEREK STRIDER

Are you kidding me? What's up!?

CARLA ANDERSON
 You embarrassed me Derek! Every
 time. I don't want to go out with
 you. You had to have known that in
 prison.

DEREK STRIDER
 No...actually I didn't. I thought
 you forgave me.

She tries to focus on the next customer.

DEREK STRIDER (CONT'D)
 Is that it?

CARLA ANDERSON
 I'm working.

DEREK STRIDER
 Fine!

Derek grabs measuring tape and a wrench. He cuts in front of
 the customers.

DEREK STRIDER (CONT'D)
 Do you guys mind?

He doesn't wait for their reply.

CARLA ANDERSON
 I'm gonna go on my break if you
 don't leave.

DEREK STRIDER
 I thought it already passed.

CARLA ANDERSON
 Just give me the items.

She swipes them.

DEREK STRIDER
 I'm really sorry. I want us to be
 friends. I would like that. I
 thought we were---

CARLA ANDERSON
 When's the last time you saw your
 parents?

DEREK STRIDER
 When was the last time they saw
 me?!

CARLA ANDERSON
Have you called them?

DEREK STRIDER
Why???

CARLA ANDERSON
Call them Derek. Or better yet,
they're not far from here. Visit
home.

DEREK STRIDER
I don't have a home anymore.

CARLA ANDERSON
Be smart. For once in your life.
Go home and see your family.

DEREK STRIDER
Think the guys will be there?

CARLA ANDERSON
I don't know. They haven't been
around the last two years. Why
would you want to see them now?

She stares at Derek he doesn't have an answer.

CARLA ANDERSON (CONT'D)
It's twelve bucks and forty cents.

Derek just blinks at her.

CARLA ANDERSON (CONT'D)
(With sympathy)
Do you have any cash?

Derek hands her money. She hands him his items.

DEREK STRIDER
I went out of my way to see you,
the least you could do is hang with
me for a bit. You owe me that.

CARLA ANDERSON
What?! I don't owe you a damn
thing! Who do you think you are?!

DEREK STRIDER
Why are you playing games? We both
like each other, let's just skip
the fighting and get to the good
stuff already.

CARLA ANDERSON

Hey Derek...why don't you just go before you make a bigger ass out of yourself. You clearly have no idea how I feel or even care. We're done. GO.

DON, the security guard walks up to Derek. He's around the same age as Derek and Carla. He's been watching the two the whole time. He seems a bit overly interested in Carla.

SECURITY

Everything okay Carla?

CARLA ANDERSON

It's fine Don. He was just leaving.

DEREK STRIDER

Yeah Don, maybe I'll head home to my loving family. You should come. They're expecting me.

Derek is twice the size of Don.

CARLA ANDERSON

Funny Derek.

SECURITY

You sure everything is fine Carla?

CARLA ANDERSON

Go.

Derek starts heading to the door. One of the customers yells out---

RANDOM CUSTOMER O.S.

What a jerk!

Derek turns back to the crowd. He isn't sure who said it.

SECURITY

Come on.

DEREK STRIDER

I'm going!

Don leads him outside.

SECURITY

She's moved on. Maybe you should too. Give her that chance.

DEREK STRIDER
 She's moved on? With who? With
 you???

Don doesn't say anything. He heads back in the shop to check on Carla.

EXT. PARKING LOT - YARDS AWAY FROM TOOL SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Derek turns back to the shop. Carla isn't by the register anymore. She's gone on her break. Derek waits for the bus.

CUT TO:

EXT. STRIDER FAMILY HOME - A LITTLE LATER

Derek is walking through his old neighborhood. It brings him back. He stops on a lawn where an old brick house is. Momma Jean comes running out.

JEAN
 Derek! Derek!

Derek doesn't move. She runs up to him and gives him a hug.

JEAN (CONT'D)
 Carla said you might be coming over
 to visit.

DEREK STRIDER
 She did?

Jean lets him go, takes a step back and slaps him across the face.

JEAN
 Welcome home son.

Derek smiles past the pain.

JEAN (CONT'D)
 I made you a sandwich. Come in.

DEREK STRIDER
 Is Dad around?

JEAN
 He went out. I don't think he's
 ready for you yet.

Derek looks down.

JEAN (CONT'D)
Well do you want the sandwich or not?

DEREK STRIDER
Sure...

As Derek walks into the house she says---

JEAN
By the way, I thought since you were coming over I'd invite some of your old friends.

DEREK STRIDER
Hmm?

JEAN
Close your eyes baby.

INT. STRIDER FAMILY HOME - BACKYARD AREA - CONTINUOUS

Jean leads him inside. She guides him to the back of the house.

JEAN
SURPRISE!!!

3D, is the chef. He's cooking to some hip-hop music. Nate is dressed in Derek's old football jersey. He's tossing a ball in the air by himself. Benny is chilling, taking in the sun.

Derek doesn't say a word.

JEAN (CONT'D)
I'll leave you guys alone to catch up.

As Derek steps outside Nate throws him the football. Derek isn't ready for it, he drops the ball.

NATE SHAW
Nice one.

DEREK STRIDER
Where were you guys?

Derek kicks the ball. 3D, stops dancing and lowers the music.

3D

We've been here, getting ready for you.

DEREK STRIDER

I mean for the last two years! Not even a letter?!

Benny-B, sits up from the beach chair.

BENNY-B

Well, we discussed it as a unit and we thought the best course of action would be to hold off on that. Things were tough for all of us after you left.

DEREK STRIDER

Did anyone think what I would want?

BENNY-B

Kinda.

DEREK STRIDER

Kinda??? You guys suck... *as a unit.*

NATE SHAW

You're acting like we were never gonna see each other again. We just didn't have some free time.

DEREK STRIDER

FREE TIME?! Take off my shirt, Nate.

NATE SHAW

Does it bother you it fits my shoulders a bit better?

DEREK STRIDER

No. You bother me.

NATE SHAW

Right. Why can't you just admit it? You think you'd change a little in all this time.

Nate yanks off the shirt, letting it smash on the floor.

DEREK STRIDER

Did you tear it?

NATE SHAW
I don't know. My shoulders are
pretty firm.

Derek walks over and picks it up then heads inside.

3D
Where you going? The food's almost
done. You gotta take the first
bite.

NATE SHAW
Leave him.

Nate takes a burger and then heads out.

NATE SHAW (CONT'D)
This was fun guys. Call me.

Benny follows his lead.

INT. STRIDER FAMILY HOME - CONTINUOUS

Jean is holding a tray of ice tea.

JEAN
Where you boys going?

NATE SHAW
I can't stay. I have a wide
receiver waiting on me.

DEREK STRIDER
You still train?!

NATE SHAW
Yeah.

DEREK STRIDER
You got that job because of me.

NATE SHAW
Okay Derek. I'll talk to you
buddy.

Nate heads outside with Benny. Derek slams the door on him.

DEREK STRIDER
Can you believe those guys?

JEAN
What's the problem?

3D comes in the house with a hot dog.

3D
Hey Derek did you want to go catch
a movie or something later?

Derek walks into the other room, not answering him.

JEAN
I guess the parties over.

3D
I covered the food out back. I'll
swing by later and see how things
are.

As 3D leaves, Trevor and Cynthia enter.

TREVOR
I can't go to that school anymore!
They want to kill me!!! Look at my
face! This is not normal!

Trevor points to his bruised cheek.

CYNTHIA
Trevor, please. It will pass. I
will talk to their parents
everything will---

TREVOR
Don't do that! You'll just make it
worse!

CYNTHIA
What do you want from me!

TREVOR
I hate it here!!!

Derek comes out in the middle of all the screaming.

CYNTHIA
Oh my God... *Derek*.

Cynthia runs up to Derek and gives him a hug.

DEREK STRIDER
Hi...

Trevor doesn't walk up to Derek.

CYNTHIA
Trevor, say hi to your uncle.

TREVOR
What for? It's his fault we moved
back here.

DEREK STRIDER
Trev... I'm sorry. I know I messed
up.

TREVOR
You ruined my life!!!

Trevor runs upstairs.

CYNTHIA
HEY TREVOR!!!

DEREK STRIDER
No, let him go. He's right. If it
weren't for me, he'd still be going
to that private school.

CYNTHIA
Those kids just keep picking on
him.

Derek starts to head out.

JEAN
Where you going?

CYNTHIA
Stay for dinner.

DEREK STRIDER
No. I don't want to be here when
Dad comes back.

JEAN
Sweetie he isn't that mad. He's
just disappointed.

DEREK STRIDER
I'm not ready to see him.

Derek leaves with---

DEREK STRIDER (CONT'D)
Tell Trev I'm sorry. I am.

CYNTHIA
He knows.

CUT TO:

INT. CHEAP HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Derek is again dealing with all this open space in the room. It's overwhelming. Everything he owns is on the night stand. He smiles at the measuring tape and wrench. The phone is right next to it. He wants to call someone. But doesn't know who.

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK

Derek walks up the front door.

DEREK STRIDER
Who is it?

MANNY YATES O. S.
Someone order a male escort?

Derek knows the voice. He opens the door.

DEREK STRIDER
No way!

Yates gives Derek a hug. Derek doesn't hug him back.

MANNY YATES
I'm all yours for the night.

Yates realizes he isn't getting a hug in return.

MANNY YATES (CONT'D)
You gonna invite me in?

DEREK STRIDER
What do you want?

MANNY YATES
Benny-B called me up. Told me you got out.

Derek lets him in the room.

DEREK STRIDER
I didn't tell him to do that.

MANNY YATES
Seeing how crappy he was as your former publicist I myself was a bit amazed to hear from him as well.

Yates is disgusted by the small room.

MANNY YATES (CONT'D)
So what are you up to?

Yates, spots a newspaper with the "Jobs" section wide open. He picks it up.

MANNY YATES (CONT'D)
You thinking of driving trucks or is it Burger King that caught your eye?

DEREK STRIDER
I don't know yet.

Derek walks to the TV where a bag of chips are. He starts eating them. Yates, watches him.

DEREK STRIDER (CONT'D)
I'd offer you some, but it's my dinner.

MANNY YATES
Oh, I ate. I'm here because I think we can do this again.

DEREK STRIDER
Don't mess with me Manny.

MANNY YATES
I'm not. Honest. A lot's happened since you went away.

DEREK STRIDER
Sorry I missed it. Maybe if you called---

MANNY YATES
Look Derek, you know I was a busy man before. And I still am. You know I'd only be here if I was certain I could help. I didn't want to see you empty handed.

Yates gets a text. He starts texting back.

MANNY YATES (CONT'D)
You and me are friends. All that money stuff aside. We're cool.

DEREK STRIDER
I want to play football again.

Derek puts his hand in front of Yates cell. Yates puts it away.

MANNY YATES
Of course you do. But why not make
ten million dollars doing it.

Derek sits on the bed.

DEREK STRIDER
It's not gonna be like before.

MANNY YATES
You're right. It'll be better.
Bigger. Think about it. We might
even get a book deal out of this.
Wait, how's your knee?

DEREK STRIDER
It's fine.

MANNY YATES
I'm not gonna lie, I was expecting
you to look like crap.

DEREK STRIDER
There's nothing to do behind bars
except lift weights and watch time
go by.

MANNY YATES
Hmmm... Lucky for us. Why don't you
get dressed and come with me.
Let's celebrate tonight. Like old
times.

DEREK STRIDER
No.

MANNY YATES
Come onnnnn. I'm paying.

Derek thinks about it for a moment.

MANNY YATES (CONT'D)
Get dressed...

DEREK STRIDER
I am dressed. This is my only
shirt.

Yates smiles.

MANNY YATES
I like the new you. Simple.
Effective. Low key. Let's go.

Yates leads him to his sports car parked outside.

CUT TO:

INT. NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

Yates and Derek pull up to a Hollywood scene party. There's a long line of people waiting to get in. But Yates has the dollars to skip ahead of everyone.

DEREK STRIDER

I thought we were going to the Panera Bread. What is this?

MANNY YATES

Come on, we're just making a quick stop.

DEREK STRIDER

I don't want to be here.

MANNY YATES

It's just for a minute. I swear.

Derek follows Manny's lead. This place is insane. The music is blasting. Everyone is having a great time. Women are dancing, the men are drinking. Anyone who's anyone is here celebrating themselves.

MANNY YATES (CONT'D)

This is what I'm talking about!

Yates grabs a champagne glass.

MANNY YATES (CONT'D)

Hey, give me a minute I gotta take a piss. Walk around. You might see a friend or two.

Yates walks away. JIMMY PYNE, a long legged, Mr. Hollywood personality football star type spots Derek. He walks up to Derek, he's got a girl on each arm.

JIMMY PYNE

Derek, holy hell! Look at you!

He greets him with a hug.

JIMMY PYNE (CONT'D)

When'd you get out?

DEREK STRIDER

The other day.

JIMMY PYNE

Hey, you know I would have shown up to your trial and vouched for you but I was just busy. You know how it is. Practice comes first. No hard feelings right?

DEREK STRIDER

Right.

JIMMY PYNE

There we go. We're on the same team Derek. Whatever happened to that bitch you hit anyway?

Derek takes a moment to answer.

DEREK STRIDER

No idea.

JIMMY PYNE

Isn't that just how they all are. Come by and just drain you of the cash and vanish the next day. Girls, give us a minute.

The girls split.

JIMMY PYNE (CONT'D)

So, I hear you're in the market for a new agent.

DEREK STRIDER

Says who?

JIMMY PYNE

Come on, I just saw you come in with Yates. I know you've been away for awhile but remember that last commercial you were in. You might as well have been selling kitty litter. How about I introduce you to a few of my friends.

Manny comes out of the bathroom. He sees Jimmy leading Derek around. Jimmy leads Derek to other agents. Manny knows his kind but didn't expect to see so many of them around. They all dress the same, talk the same, move the same. It worries Manny.

MANNY YATES

Damn it.

He takes out his phone and dials a number.

MANNY YATES (CONT'D)
(On Phone)
Where are you?!

He covers one ear to hear better.

MANNY YATES (CONT'D)
I'm by the front. Get here!

He hangs up. A few moments pass when Manny spots JENNIFER MURPHY, a knock out. She smiles at Manny and makes her way to him. She gives him a hug.

JENNIFER MURPHY
Hi Manny---

He grabs her by the arm and leads her outside.

MANNY YATES
Kock it off!

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

They're isolated back here. Manny makes sure they're alone before he starts talking.

MANNY YATES
What the hell happened?!

JENNIFER MURPHY
What do you mean?

MANNY YATES
Are you stoned already?!

JENNIFER MURPHY
Nooo, I'm not.

MANNY YATES
Why do I keep you around Jen?!

She doesn't answer.

MANNY YATES (CONT'D)
Hey! Focus!

He nudges her arm.

JENNIFER MURPHY
Do you have my money?

MANNY YATES
Your money?!

JENNIFER MURPHY
Yeah, you haven't paid me for---

MANNY YATES
You should be paying me! I told
you to bump into him when we got
in!

JENNIFER MURPHY
I lost him! I'm sorry.

MANNY YATES
Let me dumb this down for you as
much as I can. I give you money to
be with Derek. You exist, to keep
tabs on him. To make sure crap
like this doesn't happen! Get high
on your own time!

He shoves her against the wall.

JENNIFER MURPHY
I'm sorry! He got away from me.

Manny raises a hand like he's about to slap her. She covers
her face. He stops himself.

MANNY YATES
You make it right. You hear me.

He adjusts his suit. Then fixes her hair.

MANNY YATES (CONT'D)
Get your ass back in there and get
with him. Can you handle that?

JENNIFER MURPHY
Yeah.

MANNY YATES
You sure?

JENNIFER MURPHY
Yes.

He reaches into his pocket and hands her some cash.

MANNY YATES
Don't mess up again.

The two head back inside.

CUT TO:

INT. NIGHT CLUB - BOOTH AREA - CONTINUOUS

Derek and Jimmy are sharing a booth with some ladies and an interested suit named AGENT MIKEY.

AGENT MIKEY

I'm not gonna promise you anything.
But what I will do is deliver. I
think we can still do that with
you.

JIMMY PYNE

Listen to him Derek, he's good.

Jimmy starts flirting with one of the girls.

AGENT MIKEY

I want what's best for you. This
is a business, where you are the
product. Let me sell you, the
right way. Not where you out the
way what's his face, wants to do.
Why would you want to go back with
him? I can offer you a fresh
start.

Just then, Manny and Jennifer walk up to the booth.

MANNY YATES

Derek, how you doing? Look who I
found.

JENNIFER MURPHY

Hi Derek.

DEREK STRIDER

Jenny...

She sits on his lap.

JENNIFER MURPHY

I just came back in town.

The other girls can't compete with her.

MANNY YATES

You talking to other agents Derek?

JIMMY PYNE
I'm showing him what his options
are.

JENNIFER MURPHY
I thought you came here to relax.
Dance with me.

Derek doesn't move.

JENNIFER MURPHY (CONT'D)
Just one dance.

She pulls him by the arm to the dance floor. Manny sits in
his place.

DEREK STRIDER
(To Manny as he goes)
They were talking. I was
listening.

MANNY YATES
Derek's a good guy isn't he.

AGENT MIKEY
He deserves the best.

MANNY YATES
You're right, he does. Which is
why I'm only going to warn you once
to stay away from him.

AGENT MIKEY
What does that mean?

MANNY YATES
You take it anyway you want to.
But you stay far, far away from
Derek. He's already got it made.

Manny finishes a drink on the table. He looks at Jimmy. He
takes out his wallet and hands Jimmy his card.

MANNY YATES (CONT'D)
When you're serious about having
real representation give me a call.

Manny gets up to leave, Jimmy flicks the card off the table.

JIMMY PYNE
I wouldn't sign with you, if they
paid me too.

MANNY YATES

You're right. Wasting money is a talent of yours isn't it? Too bad, I don't think you're worth that much. Let's be real, what have you done with your career lately?

(He waits for a reply and gets nothing)

You guys have a good evening.

Manny walks away. The rest of the night is spent popping bottles and partying with Manny in the background snapping pictures of a very social Derek Strider.

Until we---

CUT TO:

INT. STRIP CLUB - A LITTLE LATER

Yates is leading Derek into a strip club. Jennifer is nowhere in sight.

DEREK STRIDER

Manny, seriously. This is a bad idea.

MANNY YATES

What? You use to love stuff like this. Look at all these hot and cold babes running around.

DEREK STRIDER

I'm trying to go straight. I shouldn't be here.

MANNY YATES

Well we can't just show up and go. Come on. You know that.

DEREK STRIDER

I'm not staying long.

MANNY YATES

Okay, okay. That's cool.

Yates, leads them in. Derek is nervous. Yates starts getting a personal lap dance. Derek is a bit more on the classy side, he likes to watch the dancers. Yates, on the other hand, is letting the money rain on these girls.

MANNY YATES (CONT'D)
This never gets old. I truly
believe I'm gonna meet my wife at
one of these places.

DEREK STRIDER
I could see that.

MANNY YATES
These girls come fully stocked with
an old school work ethic. That's
hot. I like that. It's wife
material.

Yates hands one of the girls a hundred bucks.

MANNY YATES (CONT'D)
Show my buddy what I'm talking
about.

The stripper dance for Derek. Just then Jennifer walks in.

JENNIFER MURPHY
Hi guys.

DEREK STRIDER
Jennifer!?

Yates grins. Derek pushes away the dancer.

JENNIFER MURPHY
No, don't stop. Please. Finish.

DEREK STRIDER
I thought you left?

MANNY YATES
I asked her to drop by.

DEREK STRIDER
What?

JENNIFER MURPHY
Don't worry. It's okay. Keep
going. Come on, you've been saving
that up. Enjoy yourself.

MANNY YATES
Oh, she's a keeper.

Derek's eyes are wide. Yates gets up with a stripper by his
side.

MANNY YATES (CONT' D)
I'll be back.

Jennifer stares at Derek. Yates walks away but keeps an eye on Derek.

DEREK STRIDER
Sit with me.

Jennifer spots a waitress.

JENNIFER MURPHY
Can we get some drinks please? A
little of everything he had...

She points to the table. There are a few empty bottles and glasses in front of Derek. But he hasn't been drinking.

JENNIFER MURPHY (CONT' D)
Now no drinking and driving like
last time, okay.

Jenny laughs by herself at her joke. Derek doesn't appreciate it.

DEREK STRIDER
Right.

JENNIFER MURPHY
I'm just teasing.

The waitress comes back with beer, wine, shots, the works. Jennifer starts handing him drinks.

JENNIFER MURPHY (CONT' D)
What do we toast too?

DEREK STRIDER
How about good luck and fortune?

JENNIFER MURPHY
How about just you?

She toasts his glass. Derek doesn't take even a sip from it. He sits it down.

JENNIFER MURPHY (CONT' D)
So what did happen that night baby?

DEREK STRIDER
Mmmm. . . .

JENNIFER MURPHY
Come on tell me. I'm not a
reporter. You can trust me.

Derek sighs.

DEREK STRIDER
It was stupid. I should have just
stayed with you.

JENNIFER MURPHY
Yeah, why'd you leave?

DEREK STRIDER
Because of Nate. He was in one of
his moods. You know how he gets.
I don't know. It all happened so
fast. I left without them. I
couldn't let him go drinking and
driving. So I left him at the
club.

Jennifer takes another shot.

JENNIFER MURPHY
In a way that was nice of you. Not
letting him drink and drive like
that. I wish I had friends like
you.

DEREK STRIDER
Aren't I enough?

The two start kissing. It's getting hot and heavy. The
music is moving to the rhythm of their bodies. The strippers
can't compete with how sexy these two are together.

Things slow down when the PAPARAZZI creep through the club
and start snapping pictures of Derek.

DEREK STRIDER (CONT'D)
Hey?!

PAPARAZZI
Keep going.

DEREK STRIDER
What are you doing?

Jennifer poses for the pictures. He snaps some more.

PAPARAZZI
Come on, Derek smile!

Yates is watching the whole thing from the back of the club. He's loving it.

DEREK STRIDER
Get out of here!

Derek stands up ready to punch the guy out. Yates runs up to the booth before there's any trouble.

MANNY YATES
Hey, good job. Give me the film.

Yates hands the Paparazzi some money.

DEREK STRIDER
Manny, what's going on here?

MANNY YATES
Just hang on Derek. I got this.

The Paparazzi takes the cash and hands over the film.

MANNY YATES (CONT'D)
Get out of here.

PAPARAZZI
If this gets huge, I'm coming back for a bonus.

MANNY YATES
Go!

The Paparazzi leaves. Derek looks at Manny who is all smiles.

DEREK STRIDER
What the hell was that?!

MANNY YATES
Relax. We got the film. We can leak it out to the public anyway we want. Use it anyway we want.

DEREK STRIDER
I don't want anyone seeing this!?

MANNY YATES
Derek, this is how we play the game. We need to get back out there. You turn on any TV and what do we see about you? Everything they're saying is about jail.
(MORE)

MANNY YATES (CONT'D)
 Let's give them something else to
 talk about. Let's focus their
 energy on something positive.

DEREK STRIDER
 Unbelievable man.

MANNY YATES
 You're not upset are you?

JENNIFER MURPHY
 Oh, baby. It sounds like a good
 idea to me.

DEREK STRIDER
 I thought we were out having a good
 time.

MANNY YATES
 We are.

DEREK STRIDER
 Right. I think I'm gonna go call
 it a night.

MANNY YATES
 Derek, come on.

DEREK STRIDER
 No, really. This was good. I'm
 just tired.

MANNY YATES
 Number thirteen doesn't get tired!
 Come on stay. Jenny, talk to him.

JENNIFER MURPHY
 He's right Derek. Stay. The night
 just started.

DEREK STRIDER
 Really it's cool. You guys stay.

Derek starts to leave.

MANNY YATES
 Let me drive you home.

DEREK STRIDER
 No. Let me walk. Let me take in
 the night.

Manny runs up to Derek before he goes. He takes out his
 wallet and hands Derek a few bucks.

MANNY YATES

Take the bus back if it gets cold.
I'll check in on you tomorrow.

DEREK STRIDER

Okay.

MANNY YATES

Hey, chin up. In a couple days,
we're gonna be meeting with teams
and doing tryouts, press
conferences. You name it. You're
gonna be back to your old self in
no time.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHEAP HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Derek is walking up to his hotel room. But something is wrong. The front door has been kicked in. Derek runs inside.

INT. CHEAP HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The room has been flipped on its side. His little bag of goodies is now gone. The tape he bought is torn up and the wrench is smashed in the TV.

He starts to clean up the mess.

DEREK STRIDER

Oh come on...

It's pointless. He kicks the bed over. Just then the Manager of the hotel shows up.

HOTEL MANAGER

What the hell happened here?!

DEREK STRIDER

I don't know. I swear. I just showed up and---

HOTEL MANAGER

Oh, don't give me that. Look at what you did to my TV!!!

DEREK STRIDER

I didn't do it! Someone broke in here.

HOTEL MANAGER
 Why would anyone break in here! I
 knew it, you're trouble. I'm
 calling the cops.

DEREK STRIDER
 Wait! Please! I'll pay for it.

HOTEL MANAGER
 How you gonna pay for this?!

Derek reaches into his pocket. He has some spare change and ten bucks.

HOTEL MANAGER (CONT'D)
 God, what a joke.

DEREK STRIDER
 Look man, I'm telling you I didn't
 do this. I can get you the money.
 Just don't call the cops.

The Manager focuses on Derek's face a bit longer.

HOTEL MANAGER
 Hey...I know who you are...holy
 crap. I know who you are! I just
 saw some pictures of you on the
 internet.

DEREK STRIDER
 What?

HOTEL MANAGER
 Oh man. You're famous aren't you?

DEREK STRIDER
 No. I'm really not.

HOTEL MANAGER
 Yeah you are. Hey, what are you
 doing staying here?

DEREK STRIDER
 I need a place to stay for awhile.
 Look. Maybe we can work something
 out?

HOTEL MANAGER
 Well...I do need something.

DEREK STRIDER
 What?

HOTEL MANAGER
Business is slow. But I got a friend who does commercials. What if you were my spokesman for a TV commercial for my hotel? Would you do it?

DEREK STRIDER
I don't know---

HOTEL MANAGER
Hey, it's your choice. I can always pick up that phone and dial the cops instead.

DEREK STRIDER
No. No I'll do it.

HOTEL MANAGER
GREAT.

DEREK STRIDER
How much does it pay?

HOTEL MANAGER
Just about enough to cover the damages of this room and let you stay a few days longer till you come up with some more money.

DEREK STRIDER
Sounds good to me.

The two shake on it. The Manager leaves. Derek clears his bed and collapses on it. He doesn't bother locking the door.

CUT TO:

INT. CHEAP HOTEL ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Derek wakes up to ELIZABETH ROBBINS, she's young, with a body of a dancer. Her only default is she's in a wheel chair. She's staring at Derek with rage. She has a gun on her lap and a glass filled with water. She throws the water on his face.

DEREK STRIDER
What the?!

She points the gun at Derek.

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS
 Morning. I'm glad to see you got
 some rest.

DEREK STRIDER
 Who are you???

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS
 Who am I?! WHO ARE YOU TO ASK ME
 THAT?! You're nothing. Just like
 me. You're worse than me.

DEREK STRIDER
 I'm sorry???

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS
 I spent all night in that parking
 lot thinking how this would go
 down. But I was patient. I waited
 this long. I wanted to see it
 happen in the light.

DEREK STRIDER
 What's going on?

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS
 You really don't remember me? Hmm.
 I guess I should have seen that
 coming. I mean, I'm a nobody to
 you. Just someone you can RUN OVER
 AND FORGET.

DEREK STRIDER
 Oh my God!

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS
 Yeah. I had a life before you. I
 taught kids to dance. I had a
 boyfriend we were gonna get
 married. I had plans. And you
 took that from me! You took
 everything from me!

DEREK STRIDER
 I'm sorry. It was an accident.
 There was a drunk driver---

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS
 Don't tell me that! I know the
 police reports. No one else was
 ever found!

DEREK STRIDER
 I swear to you, it was an accident!

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS
How did you do it? Hmm???

DEREK STRIDER
Do what?

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS
Did you call one of your friends to
fake the tire marks. Is that it?!
I want to know. I want to know the
truth.

DEREK STRIDER
If you don't believe me then just
kill me, because that's what
happened.

She unlocks the safety. The two stare at each other for a
moment. Then she quickly changes her aim and pulls the
trigger, firing a shot in the wall.

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS
I can't do it.

She starts crying.

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS (CONT'D)
I can't kill you. I've been
waiting two years for this and I
can't do it. I'm pathetic.

DEREK STRIDER
No, no...

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS
Don't.

She aims the gun to her head. She's about to pull the
trigger but Derek runs over and yanks the gun away from her.

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS (CONT'D)
Let me!

DEREK STRIDER
Will you just take a moment!

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS
You don't understand!

DEREK STRIDER
Sure I do. You look how I feel.

Derek sits in front of her.

DEREK STRIDER (CONT'D)
 I'm sorry I hurt you. I know that
 doesn't change anything. I know
 that doesn't make it better but I
 am.

Elizabeth smiles. It means something to her.

ELIZABETH ROBBINS
 I'm sorry I broke into your room
 and tore up your tape.

DEREK STRIDER
 You did that? That's kind of mean.

ELIZABETH ROBBINS
 Tell me about it.

She stares at Derek.

ELIZABETH ROBBINS (CONT'D)
 My name is Elizabeth Robbins. I
 haven't smiled since the accident.
 I have been so negative since that
 night. I have no friends. I'm
 rich thanks to you. And I, most
 importantly hate you more than
 cancer.

She holds out her hand to his.

DEREK STRIDER
 Hi. I'm Derek Strider. I'm a
 nobody who just wants a second
 chance to makes things right. Who
 just wants to get out there again
 and prove to everyone that I'm not
 done yet. I'm not a screw up.
 That I can comeback from this.

ELIZABETH ROBBINS
 I wish I could say it was nice to
 meet you.

Derek laughs a little.

DEREK STRIDER
 Now what?

ELIZABETH ROBBINS
 I thought after I killed you I'd go
 have some breakfast.

DEREK STRIDER
You were j u s t g o n n a e a t a f t e r t h a t ?

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS
I d i d s p e n d t h e w h o l e n i g h t i n t h e
p a r k i n g l o t . I ' m a b i t h u n g r y .

DEREK STRIDER
O k a y . C o u l d I b u y y o u b r e a k f a s t ?

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS
E x c u s e y o u !

DEREK STRIDER
W h a t ?

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS
Y o u t h i n k y o u c a n r u n m e o v e r a n d
t h e n b u y m e a h a p p y m e a l a n d w e ' r e
g o o d .

DEREK STRIDER
I d i d n ' t m e a n i t l i k e t h a t .

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS
W e l l h o w ' d y o u m e a n i t ? !

DEREK STRIDER
I j u s t t h o u g h t w e c o u l d g o t a l k .

She g r i n s a t D e r e k .

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS
I ' m a c r i p p l e . N o t a n i d i o t ,
D e r e k .

DEREK STRIDER
Y e a h a n d a b i t o f a p s y c h o t o o .

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS
G i v e m e b a c k m y g u n .

D e r e k s t a n d s u p h o l d i n g t h e g u n . I f s h e c o u l d s t a n d s h e
c o u l d g e t i t .

DEREK STRIDER
S u r e . H e r e .

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS
O h , I t h i n k w e a r e g o n n a g e t a l o n g
j u s t f i n e .

She s m i l e s a t h i m .

ELIZABETH ROBBINS (CONT'D)
Push me out of here. I know a
place not too far.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFE - A LITTLE LATER

Elizabeth and Derek are eating breakfast. She has three
plates in front of her.

DEREK STRIDER
You eat a lot.

ELIZABETH ROBBINS
I once read somewhere there are
only three true joys in life...

DEREK STRIDER
Just three? I'm listening.

ELIZABETH ROBBINS
Love, sex, and food. I've never
been in love.

DEREK STRIDER
What about your boyfriend?

ELIZABETH ROBBINS
I just said that to make you feel
bad.

Derek sips some coffee.

DEREK STRIDER
You know you really didn't have
too. I'm not having a winning
streak.

ELIZABETH ROBBINS
I can see that.

DEREK STRIDER
What about sex?

Elizabeth leans back and motions to her chair.

DEREK STRIDER (CONT'D)
You can't get creative with that?

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS

For some reason, guys don't think it's too sexy when I wear it out to clubs.

DEREK STRIDER

You should try going out with some frost. Spice it up a bit.

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS

I'll remember that.

DEREK STRIDER

Well at least there's food.

The two eat a bit more.

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS

So what are your plans now that you're out? Did you mean what you said about second chances?

DEREK STRIDER

What else am I going to do.

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS

You get a real job. Settle down. Start a family.

DEREK STRIDER

Are we talking about my life or yours?

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS

Well the way I see it, you took that from me. So maybe you could at least consider it.

DEREK STRIDER

I'm sure down the line, it'll be an option. But right now, I don't know.

ELI ZABETH ROBBINS

Then I guess we'll just keep bumping into each other until you do. Until you know what it's like and you can tell me.

She starts to head out. He stops her with---

DEREK STRIDER

Hey, what about you? What are you going to do?

ELIZABETH ROBBINS

What do you mean?

DEREK STRIDER

Well if I'm doing this for you,
shouldn't you do something for me?

ELIZABETH ROBBINS

No. I'm not having sex with you.

Derek laughs. She smiles and leaves. He spots a TV over the Cafe's counter. He stares at it. Someone changes the channel.

The Devils in the Coattails theme song kicks in as the credits begin to roll on the TV screen.

We see a slight teaser of the next episode play on the TV.

FADE TO BLACK.

-THE END-