

SUPREME

Written by

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EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

A PUERTO RICAN DEALER is standing at the mouth of a nondescript moving van with its back doors open as a group of WORKERS move STACKS of SHOE BOXES into the compartment. The song, *Air Force Ones* by Nelly blares from the speakers.

"Give me two pairs"

Row-after-row of shoe boxes are loaded into the van.

"Cause I need two pairs"

The dealer looks on in approval, smiling, he's going to be riding a goldmine.

"So I can get to stompin' in my Air Force Ones"

The last row of boxes is slid into place. The van is packed from front to back with a few hundred pairs of shoes.

"Big boys stompin' in my Air Force Ones"

The dealer closes the doors on the van and we...

CUT TO BLACK

INT. ELM STREET SHOE STORE - STOCK ROOM - NIGHT

It's black.

The lid to a shoe box opens and we see the face of the dealer as he pulls the shoe from the box and presents it to DUPREE
"PREE" ELMS (40)

The sneaker is the epitome of Cinderella's glass slipper.

The dealer holds it up to the light so that Dupree can get a good look at the specimen he's about to drop some major cash on.

DEALER

I got a hundred and fifty more
pairs in the van outside. You'll
be the first and only store in the
city to get these bad boys before
they go citywide next month.

Dupree examines the shoe closely.

DUPREE

A hundred and fifty, huh?

DEALER
(rubbing his hands
together)
Yeah, limited supply, so you know
they gone move fast.

DUPREE
How much?

DEALER
Seventy a pop.

Dupree eyes the dealer.

DEALER (CONT'D)
Come on, Dupree, you and I both
know you'll be able to sell them
for a low \$170, if not a cool \$200
without buyers even blinking an
eye.

Dupree rubs his chin as if he didn't already know what he
could get for the shoes.

DEALER (CONT'D)
I mean if you don't want them I can
take them over to Blue Bottoms or
Tang Shoes. I'm sure they're
looking to get this exclusive just
as much as you are.

DUPREE
Tell you what, you make it sixty
and I'll take the 150 pair you have
along with the extra 50 pair you're
holding in reserves.

DEALER
Sixty, come on, Dupree, seriously?!

Dupree cuts his eyes at the dealer. This is their usual
rodeo.

DEALER (CONT'D)
Sixty-five and you got yourself a
deal.

The dealer holds out his hand and Dupree steps forth about to
shake it but then he stops and turns to look at a figure who
has been standing off to the side, in the shadows. GUTTER,
(late 30s) is Dupree's righthand man and enforcer.

DUPREE
Yo, Gutter.

GUTTER
Yeah, Pree?

DUPREE
Send the kid in.

Gutter moves to open a door and says to someone on the other side.

GUTTER
Your Unc's ready for you.

The door leading to the other room opens wider and standing in the doorway is KADIN (21) a bit of a nerd with an edge, but clearly not a threat in any room.

DEALER
Who the hell is this?

DUPREE
This is my nephew Kadin.

DEALER
Okay...so...

Dupree tosses the shoe over to Kadin.

DUPREE
What you think?

DEALER
Ay, yo, Dupree what's up?

DUPREE
I just want to get my nephew's take on it, see what he thinks about it.

DEALER
(a bit nervous)
I didn't know I was selling to a shorty.

Dupree cuts his eyes at the dealer.

DUPREE
You're not. You're dealing with me.

DEALER
Then why little man gotta give his opinion?

DUPREE
Because I said so.
(to Kadin)
Now what you think?

Kadin flips the shoe over in his hand a few times. He runs his fingers along the seams in the sole, rubs the leather with his hand, smells the inside of the shoe, and lastly... he checks the tongue then he looks up, no real expression on his face and says to his uncle...

KADIN
They're fake.

DEALER
(upset)
What you mean they're fake? Come on, Pree, you've known me for how long? And now you've got some shorty inspecting my shoes.

Dupree turns to face the dealer.

DUPREE
Yeah we've known each other for a long time, Enrique, which is why I'm going to allow Gutter to walk you up out of here.

DEALER
You sure you want to do this, man, these are the real deal. I'm trying to give you the exclusive.

DUPREE
I need you to walk Enrique while you still can. If my nephew says they're fake then they're fake. I haven't worked this hard to make Elm Street shoes the best in the city and I'm not about to tarnish my name with fake shoes. Now walk.

DEALER
All right, I'm walking.

The dealer goes to leave but Dupree stops him in mid-stride and puts a hand on his chest.

DUPREE
Enrique, next time come correct or don't come at all, you feel me?

DEALER
Yeah, I hear you.

Gutter escorts the dealer out of the backroom.

Once the door closes Dupree puts an arm around Kadin.

DUPREE
You did good, nephew. Now lets get home, your aunt's probably holding up dinner because of us.

They head for the exit and Dupree kills the lights.

CUT TO:

INT. ELM HOME - KITCHEN - MORNING

ALICIA ELMS (LATE 30S) matriarch of the family is busy setting the table with a slew of food that she's prepared. Her daughter LASHAWN (early 20S) sits at the table, scrolling on a tablet, reading the Wall Street Journal of all things, particularly the business section. Kadin enters and takes a seat.

KADIN
Good morning, Aunt Alicia.

ALICIA
Good morning, Kadin, did you pass your uncle on the way down?

KADIN
Yeah, said he'd be right down.

KADIN (CONT'D)
Mornin' Lashawn.

LASHAWN
Hey Kadin heard you and daddy got in a bit late.

KADIN
Sorry we missed dinner.

ALICIA
That's not your fault as much as it is your uncle's.

Dupree enters the kitchen.

ALICIA (CONT'D)
Speaking of the devil.

DUPREE

Now why I gotta be the devil? Why
can't it ever be speaking of an
angel.

Dupree gives his wife a kiss before taking a seat at the
table.

ALICIA

Because an Angel would know how to
be home to have dinner with his
family at an appropriate time.

DUPREE

I know, but it couldn't be helped.
I needed Kadin's assistance.
Besides, we don't stay the best in
the city by doing half-ass work.

ALICIA

Dupree, mouth at the table.

DUPREE

Right, right, sorry.

Now that the table is filled with food Alicia takes a seat at
the table.

The family holds hands as Dupree blesses the food.

DUPREE (CONT'D)

Father God thank you for this meal
let it nourish our minds, bodies,
and souls, Aman.

The family digs in.

LASHAWN

So Kadin are you excited, today's
the big day that you go to visit
your father?

Alicia gives her daughter a look.

Kadin answers without missing a beat.

KADIN

I don't know if I'm excited as much
as I am nervous. I mean, I haven't
seen him in a long time and it's
going to be even longer before I
can physically touch him.

Beat.

ALICIA

Don't you worry, baby, until he
comes home you'll always have us.

KADIN

Yeah, I know. I can't believe a
year has already passed.

Kadin contemplates his own words and the mood of the room
feels dower.

DUPREE

You can't think of it like that.
Your old man has his back up
against a wall of years so when you
see him you don't mention time.
You enjoy whatever little time
there is and you keep it positive,
you hear me.

KADIN

Yeah, I hear you.

Alicia changes the subject.

ALICIA

Lashawn you tell your daddy about
the exciting news you have?

LASHAWN

Oh, yeah, I think I may be able to
get Tavares Richardson to show up
to the store and sign a few pair of
shoes.

DUPREE

Thee Tavares Richardson, as in
Booty, because he's always showing
his--

ALICIA

Dupree!

DUPREE

Right, right. How'd you pull that
off sweetie?

LASHAWN

I know a few people from around the
way. Called in a favor.

DUPREE

You hear your daughter, she knows a
few people from around the way.

(MORE)

DUPREE (CONT'D)

Okay, cool, get him to come down to the store for like an hour and see if he'll visit the other store also? Matter-of-fact hand this off to your brother and let him handle the logistics.

LASHAWN

Why do I have to hand it off to Miles? I'm the one that's bringing him into the store?

DUPREE

Because your brother Miles has the bigger of the two stores and right now we need his location to pull in more foot traffic up there in that gentrified neighborhood of his.

LASHAWN

But that's not fair, Daddy, it's my connect.

DUPREE

(to Alicia)

You hear your daughter, her connect.

(laughing)

What do you know about having a connect?

LASHAWN

I know that it's my personal connection that is getting Richardson into the store and that alone should also allow me more access to more of the inside business of dealing with vendors.

DUPREE

Come on, Lashawn, we're not having this discussion again are we?

LASHAWN

You got Kadin out helping you with who knows what and you let Miles run the new store and do all the ordering and handle all the guest appearances and all I get to do is manage Elm Street West.

DUPREE

And that's all you need to do.
You're doing your part to keep the
family name thriving, just like
your brother, you're both part-time
managers. Besides, your cousin
here has a talent and is only
helping on an as needed basis.

Alicia interjects.

ALICIA

Dupree, Lashawn is right. It is
her personal relationships that is
getting Richardson into the store,
maybe you should let her spearhead
this.

DUPREE

No. Miles handles this kind of
stuff and I want it to be on him.
Lashawn has her job of running the
West store, our first store, the
flagship, you remember how hard it
was to finally win over the
community, that store alone is a
handful by itself.

LASHAWN

But daddy.

DUPREE

Your time will come, sweetie, but
for now I just need you to keep
doing what you're doing and making
sure Elm Street West is still the
best shoe story on the Westside of
the city.

Lashawn looks to her mother and then back to her father.

LASHAWN

(defeated)

Sure, daddy.

Beat.

The doorbell rings and Lashawn goes to answer the door.

LASHAWN (CONT'D)

I'll get it, after all, I guess
this is all a woman is good for.

DUPREE
I didn't say that.

ALICIA
You didn't have to. She's ready to take on more responsibility, Dupree, you can't keep treating her like your little girl.

DUPREE
Yeah, I know, but right now that's not part of the plan. She's where she's needed.

Lashawn comes back into the kitchen with Gutter trailing.

GUTTER
Hey Alicia, Kadin.
(to Dupree)
You ready to roll? We got that meeting down by the river.

DUPREE
Yeah let's roll.

Dupree rises from the table and gives his wife a kiss. As he exits he kisses Lashawn on the crown of her head.

DUPREE (CONT'D)
Your time to shine will come, princess.

Dupree and Gutter exit.

Kadin rises from the table.

KADIN
I guess I better be on my way, too, got class in an hour. Thanks for the breakfast Aunt Alicia. See you around Lashawn.

LASHAWN
Yeah, see you later.

INT. COLLEGE CLASSROOM - DAY

A professor stands before a small class lecturing on *Financial Projections and Management*.

Kadin looks over at the empty seat next to him. He pulls out his phone and texts his cousin.

TEXT: MISSING CLASS AGAIN, WHERE ARE YOU?

A Beat as he stares at the screen.

No answer.

He puts the phone away and goes back to listening to his professor.

EXT. MILES - APARTMENT - DAY

INT. MILES - APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Miles (mid-20s) handsome to a point of being conceited stands at the doorway greeting Kadin.

MILES

What up, cuz?

KADIN

Missed you in class.

MILES

Yeah, got a little tied up with this little freak, you know.

They head into the apartment.

KADIN

I hear ya, but that's two straight classes that you've missed, Miles, those management courses aren't cheap.

MILES

I know they ain't cheap, which is why I'm thinking of dropping the class all together.

KADIN

Dropping it, yo, you out of your mind?

MILES

What can that class teach me that I haven't already learned in the last 3 years running Elm street West and now that I have Elm Street South, a much bigger store, I'm already learning firsthand, you feel me.

KADIN

Yeah, but Uncle Dupree sent us to this school because it's one of the best in the country.

MILES

Maybe so, but come on, Kadin, you and both know we're smarter than most of our classmates and most of them come from money while we work hard to get what they already got.

KADIN

True, but as your moms always says we have to work twice as hard to prove ourselves.

MILES

And that's what i'm talking about. I'm tired of working twice as hard to keep what we got when we should be expanding.

KADIN

Your pops says he has a plan and I don't think expansion is in it.

MILES

Yeah, well I'm heir to the throne so we'll see how long that plan to not expand lasts.

EXT. RIVER SIDE - DOCKS - DAY

Dupree and Gutter step with a purpose as they walk the basin of the river making their way to the foreman's trailer.

INT - FOREMAN'S TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

Dupree and Gutter enter and find the FOREMAN at his desk.

FOREMAN

If it ain't my favorite shoe salesman. What's new in your world Al Bundy?

GUTTER

Always with the jokes, what's up with you, man, you gotta problem with us?

FOREMAN

No problem at all, or maybe I just got a problem with you. Dupree have your man stand outside.

DUPREE

Sorry can't do that. This here is like my brother, wherever I go he goes.

FOREMAN

Then I guess that means you don't want that shipment off those boats, huh?

DUPREE

Getting fresh J'S two weeks before every store in the city gets them is nice but money don't trump friendship so if I have to I'll wait 2 weeks but can you afford to lose out on this money?

Dupree pulls out an envelope stuffed with cash.

The foreman eyes the envelope.

Beat.

FOREMAN

It was just a joke amongst friends, relax.

GUTTER

We'll relax once we have our product.

FOREMAN

Sure, cartons will be open this evening and then you can take delivery without issue.

DUPREE

Good to hear.

Dupree tosses the envelope over to the foreman and then he and Gutter exit the trailer.

EXT. ELM STREET WEST - DAY

INT. ELM STREET WEST - CONTINUOUS

From the front of the store to the back is filled with all sorts of sneakers, running shoes, fitness wear and basketball gear. The store is more of a nod to hiphop and it's influence on the sneaker culture with posters of major hip-hop artists hanging next to All-Star basketball players. Rap music blares from the speakers as the store is busy with a few customers. Lashawn now dressed as the store's manager, I.E tights jeans and a tee-shirt that reads: Elm Street Shoes moves about greeting customers as she makes her way back to her office.

Lashawn stops as she hears her name being called.

DNICE

Ay yo Lashawn you not going to stop
and say hi?

She turns to see D-NICE, black, young, flashy and in charge...of the streets that is.

LASHAWN

More shoes, D-nice? Weren't you
just in here 2 days ago?

DNICE

Yeah, but you know, gotta keep a
pair of fresh J's on.

LASHAWN

You could be doing something better
with your money.

DNICE

Oh yeah, like what?

LASHAWN

Like investing in stock in one of
these shoe companies, instead of
buying their shoes, own their
shoes, let that money work for you.

D-nice licks his lips and rubs his hands together.

DNICE

Never thought of it that way, damn,
you beautiful and smart.

LASHAWN

Well when you stop thinking and
decide on a course of action you
let me know.

DNICE

If I buy two pair you gonna give me
a discount?

LASHAWN

You buy three and maybe.

DNICE

If I buy three can I get your
number?

LASHAWN

Four and maybe you'll get six.

DNICE

Cool.

Lashawn turns and heads to her office.

DNICE (CONT'D)

Ay yo, wait, six ain't going to get
me nowhere how I do get all seven?

Lashawn looks over her shoulder and gives D-nice a tempting
smile

LASHAWN

I'm sure if you think hard enough
you'll come up with a solution.

She leaves him salivating as she continues to walk in those
tight jeans.

EXT. PRISON - DAY

Kadin stands before the large stone structure with a
determined look in his eyes. He's been waiting a whole year
to see his father and nothing is going to stop him now.

INT. PRISON - VISITATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kadin is sitting at a steel table waiting as his father
passes through an iron cell gate and into the packed
visitation room.

CHRISTOPHER "BUDRO" ELMS steps into the room and his presence
is felt. More so because he's a big man, slightly muscular,
but it's the air of a man walking on egg shells, of always
fearing for his life, that makes him stick out bigger than
life to his son even though to every other prisoner in this
room he's just another convict and to the guards he's just
another number.

Budro takes a seat and stares into his son's eyes.

Beat.

Budro makes the first move.

BUDRO

Wow, you've grown so much. How ya been?

Kadin looks down at the floor, he's fighting back some emotions he didn't think he'd have.

BUDRO (CONT'D)

I know you ain't gotta say it, but you will look me in the eyes as a man.

Kadin sits up straight and looks his father in the eyes.

KADIN

I've been cool. Uncle Depree got me going to this fancy business school. Learning management. Thinks I could go all the way to get my MBA.

BUDRO

Business school? I would have thought with all that drawing that you did you'd have gone to art school. But business school is good. Sound like he's keeping his promise.

KADIN

Promise?

BUDRO

To keep you out of trouble and to make sure you don't make the same mistakes that I made.

KADIN

You did what you had to do to try and save mom, to pay for the surgery that she needed.

BUDRO

You and I both know that the man ain't trying to hear nothing about our problems.

(MORE)

BUDRO (CONT'D)

All they cared about was that I counterfeited that money, not that I was trying to save your mother's life.

KADIN

I know, but--

BUDRO

Ain't no buts and ain't no reason to keep dwelling on it. I'm going to be in here for a while and so I need you to do as your uncle says and to finish school. Don't be me.

KADIN

But I am you.

The father and son stare at one another.

BUDRO

You know what I mean.

KADIN

I'm also part of mom and I really don't know why--

BUDRO

See, this is why I didn't want you to come down here, to see me in this cage like I'm some animal.

KADIN

That's not how I see you.

BUDRO

Kadin...

Beat.

BUDRO (CONT'D)

Go live your life, son. There's not much I can teach you from behind these bars, if anything your greatest lesson is on display, on how not to get where I am.

KADIN

Dad...

BUDRO

Just let me be. I got enough on my mind and heart as it is.

Budro rises from the steel table and turns his back on Kadin as his son watches him being escorted back to GEN POP.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

ALDERMAN JOHN TULLY, white, mid-50s, and burly sits behind a desk talking to someone off Camera.

ALDERMAN TULLY

Now I understand that Elm Street shoes has a location on the West and South sides of the city, but this here is the North side and I'm not sure that your clientele reaches this far, seeing as how from what I know you're more of an urban chain shoe store.

The camera pans and we see that it is Alicia dressed in a business suit sitting across from the alderman.

ALICIA

Like Hip-hop music, which is now universal and not just an urban genre, so, too, is Elm Street shoes. We cater to a variety of customers from black, to white, to asian and latino and everyone in between.

ALDERMAN TULLY

The property that you're looking to open up in would need some extensive reconstruction if I recall?

ALICIA

Yes, we would like to utilize the apartment and office space above to have a two story complex so that we can better accommodate the different needs that our customer base here on the Northside deserves.

ALDERMAN TULLY

I see. And I'm assuming that Elm Street will foot the entire bill for this new build out?

ALICIA

We are prepared to finance this endeavor via our financial partners without tax payer dollars in any way being utilized.

ALDERMAN TULLY

I have to tell you that I have three other larger corporations, all in the food industry looking to come into the space. What incentive does your business bring to my ward or to me since I own the building?

Alicia sits back in her chair and crosses her legs, giving the alderman a peek at her perfect, shaved calves.

ALICIA

Incentive you say...

EXT. ELM STREET SOUTH - DAY

Dupree enters the South side store, which is twice the size of the one that Lashawn runs and to some degree is even nicer with twice as much merchandise. Smooth R&B music plays from the speakers. One can only image what the third store in the ELM empire will look like.

Dupree makes his way through the store while being greeted by some of his employees.

Dupree enters the office and finds that it's empty.

He heads back up to the register where a young woman is manning it. He waits for her to check out a customer and then he asks...

DUPREE

Brittney have you seen my son?

BRITTNEY

Called in sick.

DUPREE

Sick?

BRITTNEY

Yes, Mr. Elms.

DUPREE

And where's the assistant manager?

BRITTNEY

Today's is Tony's day off.
Actually, now that I think of it, I
don't think I've seen your son all
week.

DUPREE

What do you mean all week?

BRITTNEY

Tony has been closing all week and
with him being out today it's going
to fall to me to close up again.

DUPREE

Again? You've closed before?

BRITTNEY

Sometimes Miles, I mean, Mr. Elms
will call in and have me set the
alarm if Tony isn't here.

DUPREE

And you think you can do that
tonight?

BRITTNEY

Yes, sir.

DUPREE

Good. Close up and once you're done
you give me a ring to let me know
how the night ended.

BRITTNEY

Yes, sir.

Dupree turns and heads for the door. The anger that washes
over his face says it all.

EXT. NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

INT. NIGHT CLUB - CONTINUOUS

Red, blue, green, and yellow lights swirl around the room as
dancers hit the dance floor. Cocktails are a plenty as
drinkers toast to the beginning of the night. Hip-hop music
reverberates throughout the room. Amongst the revelers we
find Kadin, sipping on a sprite as he cases the room. His
eyes goes from man to woman but he's more focused on their
shoes than on anything else.

He bypasses a pair of *Red bottoms* pumps attached to long legs.

-past a pair *Christian Dior*.

-past a sleek pair of *Valentino*.

-past the new *Balenciaga's...*

...until his sights land on a pair of *1985 AIR JORDAN I*.

Kadin damn near has to do a double take.

What fool would be wearing these exclusive shoes in a club?

Kadin looks up and sees that the owner of the shoes is a cocky, Vietnamese man named JET TRAM, late 20s. He's clearly using the shoes to proclaim his status.

Kadin sips his sprite as he begins to walk in a disconcerted manner towards the individual wearing the Air Jordans.

The closer he gets, the more belligerent his steps become, almost as if he were drunk.

Sashaying through a small growing crowd Kadin bumps into the Asian gentleman, making sure to spill most of his drink on to the shoes.

JET

What the fuck, man!

KADIN

Yo, I'm sorry.

Kadin steps forward and scuffs the guy's shoes. His drunken movements are intentional.

JET

What the fuck! Now I got a scruff.

KADIN

Oh, man, I'm so sorry.

JET

You know how much these shoes cost?

KADIN

I'm-I'm sorry.

JET

I should fuck you up.

Jet grabs Kadin by his shirt.

KADIN

Listen, I'm sorry, I can fix it, I can clean them, make them look brand new.

JET

Oh yeah and how are you going to do that?

KADIN

I clean and repair shoes for a living.

Kadin reaches into his pocket and produces a card.

KADIN (CONT'D)

See.

Jet snatches the card.

JET

You sure you can repair it, bro, because if not I'm going to need at least 10g's for my shoes.

KADIN

Yeah, yeah, I can fix it. I promise you I can.

Jet puts the card in his pocket.

JET

All right, I'll give you a call to set something up.

KADIN

You won't be disappointed.

JET

Yeah, you better hope I'm not. Now get out of my face.

Kadin is released as he stumbles off into the crowd.

As Kadin emerges from the crowd his discombobulated stepping starts to straighten up as he smiles to himself.

He heads to the bar.

KADIN

Another sprite please.

He feels a tap at his back and turns to find Lashawn.

LASHAWN

I didn't expect to find you in here, thought you'd be at home studying for your classes.

KADIN

Well, you know, all work and no play.

LASHAWN

Yeah and you're always about the work, besides, this isn't your kind of place to begin with.

KADIN

And what's my kind of place?

LASHAWN

I'wn now, maybe a library or a coffee shop but definitely not this place.

KADIN

Maybe it's time I changed it up.

LASHAWN

Maybe so. I saw you talking to Jet Tram.

KADIN

Who?

LASHAWN

The guy whose shoes you stepped on.

KADIN

Oh that dude. Yeah, just a misunderstanding.

LASHAWN

You know there's an easier way for you to get money than repairing shoes on the side. Besides, that hustle is so high school.

KADIN

What would you suggest?

LASHAWN

Maybe take it online, build a site and sell your services to whoever is willing to pay for it. All I know is that my dad better not find out or your side hustle is done.

The bartender sits the sprite down on the bar.

Kadin raises his glass.

KADIN

Then I guess he better not find
out.

INT. MILES - APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Miles opens his door and find his father standing on the
other side, his face full of anger.

MILES

Is this about me not going to
school?

DUPREE

You haven't been going to class?

MILES

Oh, so this is about something
else.

They enter the apartment.

DUPREE

It's about everything. Your
attitude as of late has been
disappointing. First I learn
you're not showing up for work and
now you're telling me you're not
going to class!

MILES

In truth what can school teach me
that I haven't already learned from
you?

DUPREE

Do you know how much money your
mother and I spend to send you to
that school?

MILES

A school I didn't choose. I wanted
to be a part of the family
business.

DUPREE

And you are.

MILES

I'm not talking about being a part-time manager running the retail business I'm talking about the other business.

DUPREE

What other business?

MILES

You know what other business I'm walking about.

Dupree grabs his son and shoves up against a wall.

DUPREE

Who the hell have you been talking to? What other business?

MILES

The one where you and uncle Gutter sell high-end sneakers to the highest buyers.

DUPREE

Who told you about this, your mother?

MILES

No one told me. I figured it out some time ago.

Dupree releases his son.

DUPREE

Does your sister or cousin know?

MILES

I don't think so, neither one is interested in the family business as much as I am.

DUPREE

Listen to me son, the other side of this business is full of danger and isn't as glamorous as you think it is.

MILES

I'm not looking for the glamour as much as I'm looking for a place where I can grow and become a better leader, like you want me to be.

DUPREE

Then you need to show up and be a manager to the store I gave you, show your employees that you're there for them. And you need to go to class. You do that then maybe we can start to have a conversation about the other side of this business.

Dupree heads for the door.

DUPREE (CONT'D)

I'm not going to tell your mother about this but I'm telling you now don't make me come back here again.

INT. ELM HOME - KADIN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Kadin is sitting at a long table with a pallet of colors and brushes organized in front of him. On the table is a pair of shoes that look very similar to the Jordans that Jet Tram had on earlier that night.

Kadin is busy applying red paint to the shoes as the image of the sneaker is displayed on a monitor.

There's knock at Kadin's door.

Kadin grabs a sheet from the other side of the desk and covers up his task and turns off the monitor.

KADIN

Come in.

Alicia steps in, she's headed for bed by her attire.

ALICIA

Just wanted to say good night. How was your visit with your father?

KADIN

It was cool. I hate to see him in that place.

ALICIA

I know you do and he hates for you to see him like that.

KADIN

He kinda said that in so many words.

ALICIA

It's not easy for any man when his kid sees him locked away and it's definitely not easy for a man like your father.

KADIN

I know it's hard--

ALICIA

You have no idea how hard it is. He lost your mother and then in the same breath he lost you. He's fighting against a system that declared him guilty from the day he was born and now he's gotta contend with that same system knowing that he could be killed on the inside for a number of different reasons and that's not even from the other prisoners.

KADIN

I didn't think of it like that.

ALICIA

That's because your uncle and I give you and your cousins everything we didn't have so you don't have to. If anything, all you gotta do is work to preserve what we have and grow the generational wealth that we're planting.

KADIN

Thanks for the talk Aunt Alicia.

ALICIA

You welcome. Now don't stay up too late.

Alicia exits and Kadin sits with his thoughts for a brief second and then he pulls the sheet back on his workbench, turns on the monitor and goes back to painting the shoe.

INT. PRISON - VISITATION ROOM - DAY

Budro is sitting at the steel table across from his brother Dupree. The visitation room isn't as crowded as it was the day before.

DUPREE

Damn, bro, I hate to see you this way.

BUDRO

Yeah I know you do. But it is what it is.

Beat.

BUDRO (CONT'D)

Did you know Kadin came to see me yesterday?

DUPREE

Yeah, I thought it was time. Thought you both could stand to see one another, that it might help.

BUDRO

Help who? Him or you?

DUPREE

Listen I didn't mean--

BUDRO

You didn't mean to get me locked up in her or you didn't mean to take me away from my son?

DUPREE

I didn't know the dumbass Italians would use the counterfeit money so fast.

BUDRO

I told you not to use it, to wait until I gave you the order.

DUPREE

I couldn't wait. If I had we would have lost the building, our deal--

BUDRO

You mean your deal!

DUPREE

Look, I kept my promise. Kadin is in school and I'm building the generational wealth that we always talked about.

DUPREE (CONT'D)

I can't change the past, trust me, if I could I wouldn't have made the deal with those gangsters, and I'm sorry you had to take the fall, but as you know it was either that or my life.

BUDRO

Yeah, I know, you don't have to remind me. But that's even more reason why Kadin can never know the truth. He thinks I made that money to save his mother's life but in truth she was already dead, there was nothing any of us could do.

DUPREE

These kids nowadays have no idea what we've sacrificed for them so that they can live a better life.

BUDRO

And that's your job now, to make sure they never have to.

DUPREE

I hear you.

BUDRO

Good. Now let's talk about this new store I hear you want to open up on the North side of the city.

INT. ALDERMAN TULLY'S OFFICE - DAY

The burly alderman sits at his desk when Alicia enters.

ALDERMAN TULLY

Ahh Mrs. Elm what do I owe the pleasure?

ALICIA

I'm following up on a previous discussion about the North Side property that we discussed.

ALDERMAN TULLY

As I told you I'm looking for an incentive and right now I feel I haven't been incentive enough.

ALICIA

I hooked you up with a friend of mine and from what I know you and her had a great time down at the Grand Hotel.

ALDERMAN TULLY

Grand Hotel, I don't believe I know the place. Besides, the incentive that I was after is standing before me.

Alicia laughs.

ALICIA

Sorry, Alderman, but you can't handle me, let alone know what to do with something this fine.

ALDERMAN TULLY

I guess we'll never know unless you allow me to put it to the test.

ALICIA

Test, ha, you really don't understand the gravity of your request. If my husband found out about this you'd be a dead man, alderman or not. Plus, I'm a happily married woman so if I cheat on my husband just to get a contract what do think that would make me in his eyes?

ALDERMAN TULLY

I'd say a smart business woman.

ALICIA

Maybe in your world, but where I come from loyalty means more than words.

ALDERMAN TULLY

Then I guess you're not as smart as I thought you were Mrs. Elm.

ALICIA

No, I'd say I'm smarter.

Alderman Tully busies himself with some paperwork.

Alicia pulls out her phone and plays a video on it. The alderman's own voice is crisp and clear as the video begins to play.

Alderman Tully looks up from his paper work, a bit astonished as he hears his own voice.

ALDERMAN TULLY
Where'd you get that?

ALICIA
From a honey bee.

ALDERMAN TULLY
That's illegal.

ALICIA
Maybe so but so is soliciting sex
and money for political or personal
gain.

ALDERMAN TULLY
I did no such thing.

ALICIA
Yes you did and once my friend and
I finish telling our stories to the
media there won't be one constitute
that will vote you back into
office.

ALDERMAN TULLY
What is it you want?

ALICIA
As I said before I came to talk
about leasing the building you own
to Elm Street shoes. Thats all I
ever wanted to talk about, but
now...let's talk about the sell of
said building.

EXT. HIGH RISE - DAY

Miles is staring up at the high-rise with a footlocker
strapped to his back.

INT. HIGH RISE APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Kadin is standing in the midst of a luxury apartment with the
footlocker still strapped to his back. Jet Tang is dressed
in casual business attire as he sips on a drink.

ASIAN MALE
So why do you repair shoes?

KADIN

Been doing it since high school, as
a way to pay for college.

ASIAN MALE

Is it a good business?

KADIN

So far yeah, so where can I set up?

Jet leads Miles over to a large kitchen counter that juts
into the nearby dining area.

ASIAN MALE

And you're sure you can clean them?

KADIN

Yeah I'm sure. Like I said, I've
been repairing shoes for a while
now.

Kadin sits the footlocker down on the island and opens it up.
The multi-level locker is filled with acrylic paints,
solvents, glues, etc.

KADIN (CONT'D)

So where are the shoes?

ASIAN MALE

I'll be right back.

Beat.

Jet returns with the shoes in hand and gives them to Kadin.

ASIAN MALE (CONT'D)

You know if you're as good as you
say you are I got some friends that
I could recommend you to, real
sneaker heads like myself.

KADIN

That would be cool.

Kadin pulls out a can of air and blows the shoes free of any
dust particles and then he pulls out a solvent and sprays it
against a rag as he works to rid the shoes of any dirt.

ASIAN MALE

So how long you think this is going
to take?

KADIN

Maybe 15 minutes, it really comes down to how the paint dries on the scuff and if anything else needs to be fixed on the shoe.

Kadin puts on a headband with a flashlight connected to it. He turns it on and begins examining the shoe, looking for defects of any kind.

Jet's cell phone rings.

ASIAN MALE

I need to take this call.

KADIN

Cool, this shouldn't take long at all.

Jet steps into the other room as Kadin continues to examine the shoe.

Beat.

Kadin moves over to his footlocker and pulls out a tray filled with chemicals as he reveals the hidden bottom of the footlocker, which is filled with a foam cutout of the same shoe.

Kadin removes the counterfeit shoes from the case as he listens to Jet's voice traveling from the other room.

He quickly exchanges the shoes and puts the chemical-filled tray over the false bottom just as Jet walks into the kitchen.

JET

So what's the prognosis, doc?

KADIN

It looks like your shoe will live.

Kadin holds up the fake shoe to the light so that Jet can see how pristine it is.

JET

Oh damn! You wasn't kidding when you said you'd make them look brand new. Wow!

KADIN

I'm just doing my job.

JET

Yeah, a damn good job. I got some other shoes that could use your attention.

KADIN

I'd love to but today I got other appointments. How about you hit me up some time next week.

JET

Okay cool.

Kadin begins packing his stuff up as he watches Jet admire the shoes.

JET (CONT'D)

My boys are not going to believe it. They were betting you couldn't repair it. Wait till they see this.

Kadin heads for the door.

JET (CONT'D)

Yo, I'm about to send you a lot of business, my man.

KADIN

Cool, I appreciate it. Like I said, hit me up next week.

Kadin exits the apartment with the footlocker strapped to his back. He has a huge smile on his face because he's just hit the jackpot.

INT. ELM HOME - DINING ROOM - NIGHT.

The whole Elm clan is seated at the table sitting down to enjoy dinner. Everyone looks to be in a good mood.

DUPREE

(to Kadin)

How'd the meeting with your Pops go?

KADIN

I tried to remember what you said about keeping a positive outlook, but you know its hard...

DUPREE

Yeah, I know, no kid should have to see their father locked up. But you held it down, right? You let him know you in school and that we're taking care of you?

KADIN

Yeah, I did.

DUPREE

Good.

(to Lashawn)

And what about you my beautiful?

LASHAWN

Day was pretty good. Store made goal, again, and if you want Miles to run point on that Tavares Richardson thing I'm cool with it, whatever is good for the business.

Dupree gives his daughter a huge smile.

DUPREE

That's what I like to hear, baby. Putting the family and the business before personal gain.

Dupree cuts his eyes at Miles.

ALICIA

And what about you, Miles, how are things going for you?

MILES

Pretty good, Mama, I mean sales have been down for a few days but I think we can turn that around with Richardson visiting the store, especially if we get his shoes in a week or two before they hit all the other stores.

DUPREE

Already working on it. Each store will get a shipment of the new shoes in a few days.

LASHAWN

How'd you do that Daddy?

DUPREE

An old friend of mine that works for the company is going to hook us up early before anyone in the city gets the shoe. That's how we stay on top and become supreme in this shoe game.

DUPREE (CONT'D)

Which brings me to the subject of responsibility. In the coming days, weeks, and months, I'm going to need you all to step up and continue to play your roles in this family in order for us to make this dream work.

Everyone is silent as they listen.

DUPREE (CONT'D)

Now we've got a lot of competition coming at us from all sides of the city.

MILES

But we only have stores on the west and south sides, daddy.

Dupree again cuts his eyes at his son.

DUPREE

Elm Street shoes is expanding. We're going north.

Lashawn and Kadin are filled with glee, but Miles isn't so happy.

MILES

Why north? It ain't like all those white folks and their money ever accepted us, plus our core consumer has always been black.

DUPREE

And Brown. But in order to continue to grow we must expand beyond imaginary racial lines and embrace any and everyone that wants to buy a shoe from us.

LASHAWN

Does that mean I'm going to be running the new store, after all, you need someone who knows how to handle people.

DUPREE

No.

LASHAWN

(angry)

So it's going to Miles, just like the South side store?

DUPREE

No.

Miles is clearly upset more than his sister.

MILES

Don't tell me you're giving this new store to Kadin?

KADIN

What, me? I- I--

DUPREE

No. Your mother and I will run this new store until we can find a proper manager to help spearhead our efforts.

LASHAWN

A new manager. Why can't I just run the new store?

ALICIA

Because honey you're really good with the community at the West side store and we need someone that knows the lay of the land and isn't afraid to mix it up with the customers down there.

LASHAWN

I only got to know people because you said it would be good for the store.

ALICIA

And it has been. You keep doing what you're doing and sooner than later your father will award you when the time is right.

Lashawn pushes back from the table and rises.

DUPREE

And where do you think you're going?

LASHAWN

To my room. I'm done.

DUPREE

You better sit your ass down. I don't know where you think you're at but in this house you ask to be excused.

Lashawn sits down.

DUPREE (CONT'D)

Now is there something you want to ask?

LASHAWN

No, daddy, I'm fine.

Dupree goes back to addressing the family.

DUPREE

Now this new flagship store is going to be four times what our stores have been before. We do this right and we all won't have to work as much as we've been doing. So let's celebrate like a real family and enjoy this marvelous dinner.

They all raise their glasses and cheers.

CUT TO:

INT. ELM HOME - KADIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kadin is sitting before a website where expensive shoes are sold. Next to him are the Air Jordans I that he stole earlier. He's listing the shoes for \$6000.

Kadin is busy cleaning the shoes, doing exactly what he should have done earlier when he receives an IM

BUYER: YO, THOSE AIN'T REAL, ARE THEY?

KADIN: THEY THE REAL DEAL.

BUYER: 6K HUH....

BUYER: YOU DO LOCAL DELIVERY?

KADIN: NAH, WHAT'S LOCAL?

BUYER: CHICAGO

KADIN: NAH, I LET THE SITE HANDLE ALL DELIVERIES.

BUYER: I NEED THOSE FOR A PARTY I'M GOING TO TOMORROW. I'LL THROW IN AN EXTRA G IF YOU DOWN FOR THE LOCAL DELIVERY?

KADIN: ALL RIGHT BUT IT'S GOTTA BE AT A PUBLIC PLACE WITH LOTS OF PEOPLE.

BUYER: HMMM...HOW ABOUT WE MEET AT THE PHO DAO RESTAURANT IN LITTLE VIETNAM ON THE NORTH SIDE?

KADIN: OKAY, COOL, LET'S SAY 4PM

BUYER: I'LL HIT YOU THROUGH THE APP WHEN I'M IN THE AREA.

KADIN: GOING TO NEED TO SEE IT ALL IN CASH OR I WALK.

BUYER: OKAY, I HEAR YOU.

Kadin closes his computer and goes back to cleaning the shoes.

INT. ELM STREET SOUTH - DAY

Miles strolls into the store as if he's a new man on a mission to prove to his employees and maybe his father that he can do the job he was sent to do. At the register is Brittney as if she's never left.

BRITTNEY

Good afternoon, Mister Elm.

MILES

Mister Elm is my father, Brittney.
As I've told you before you can
just call me Miles.

BRITTNEY

Yes, sir, I know it's just
engrained in me I guess.

MILES

No worries. How are things today?

BRITTNEY

Slow at the moment but you know how it can be.

MILES

Yeah, I do. I wanted to say thanks for covering the store while I was out sick.

BRITTNEY

Not a problem. I hope you're feeling better.

MILES

Much better. Actually, you know what, you can have the day off. Go enjoy it. I can man the store by myself.

BRITTNEY

(excited)

You sure?

MILES

Yeah, clock out for a full day's pay and go enjoy yourself.

Brittney runs to the back to clock out as Miles grabs some windex and paper towels and heads over to the door to clean it.

Miles pushes the door open as a YOUNG BOY, black, 16 years of age enters the store.

MILES (CONT'D)

I'll be right with you.

Brittney heads for the door.

BRITTNEY

Thank you so much Mister, I mean, Miles.

MILES

Not a problem, enjoy your day.

Miles heads over to the men's section where the young boy is perusing the line of shoes displayed on the wall.

MILES (CONT'D)

Is there something I can help you find?

KID
Yeah, joe, I'm looking for those
new Richardsons.

MILES
I don't believe those have come out
just yet.

KID
I know they not out yet but you
guys usually carry that new shit
before anyone else gets it.

MILES
We usually do but those shoes
haven't arrived just yet. Maybe
another shoe?

The kid scans the wall of shoes before pointing to a pair
that catches his eyes.

KID
How about a ten and half in these.

MILES
I think we might have those. Be
right back.

Miles heads to the back to retrieve the shoe.

Miles returns with a shoe box. He hands one of the shoes to
the boy.

The teen sits down and tries on the shoe. He walks around
testing its comfortability.

KID
This feels cool, but I think I may
need to see it in a ten as well.

MILES
Cool, I'll see if I have a ten.

The kid hands Miles the shoe.

Miles heads to the back to retrieve the new shoe size.

Miles returns with a new shoe box. He hands one of the shoes
to the boy.

The teen sits down and tries on the shoe. He walks around
testing its comfortability.

KID

This one feels a little tight. Can
I see the ten and a half again?

Miles is about to take the shoe but the kid is still strutting and this annoys Miles so he turns to head back towards the stockroom. As he does this he looks up into the security mirror and sees that the kid is going for the shoe box on the floor. He's going to try and steal the shoes.

Miles turns around and is on the kid like white on rice.

KID (CONT'D)

Yo, Joe, what the fuck?

Miles has grabbed the kid from behind at his neck.

MILES

Think you can steal from me?

KID

Ain't nobody stealin' shit.

MILES

Yeah, okay, little nigga, I saw you
and I caught you red handed.

KID

You ain't catch shit but my dick in
your mouth.

MILES

I should call the cops and lock
your ass up.

KID

Call'em and when they arrest me I'm
gon' sue your ass and own this
cheap ass store. Now get your
hands off me, bitch!

The teen attempts to wriggle out of Miles's grip as he kicks and punches. One of the kicks hits Miles in the SHIN.

MILES

Motherfucka.

Miles hits the boy with a combo of hits and before he knows it the teen is unconscious on the floor of the store.

MILES (CONT'D)

Shit, shit, shit.

INT. ELM STREET SOUTH - BACKROOM - STORAGE CLOSET - LATER

Miles opens the storage closet to show Gutter what he's done. Lying on the floor is the unconscious teen.

GUTTER
What the hell did you do?

MILES
I didn't know who else to call.
The kid was trying to steal from
us.

GUTTER
Okay, you call the cops, not beat
him into submission.

MILES
I didn't mean for it to happen.
One minute he's trying to break
free and then before I knew what
has happening I was on him.

Gutter rushes into the closet to retrieve the boy.

GUTTER
You better hope he's alive, damnit.

Gutter lays the boy down on an empty desk.

GUTTER (CONT'D)
Get me the first aid kit,
goddammit.

Miles rushes to get the first aid kit.

Gutter stands next to the boy searching for a pulse.

Miles returns with the first-aid kit.

Gutter cracks open the kit and removes a pack of smelling
salt.

GUTTER (CONT'D)
Come on, kid, come on.

Miles stands idly by, watching, hopeful that the kid awakens.

The kid begins to cough as Gutter tosses the smelling salt
and holds him upright.

GUTTER (CONT'D)
You're all right, you're all right.

Beat.

The kid looks up at Gutter and then he sees Miles and flinches.

KID
Yo get me the police, I'm pressing charges.

GUTTER
On who? Yourself?

KID
Nah, on buddy bitch-ass.

GUTTER
Listen here, shorty, we call the cops you're going to jail for theft.

KID
Well he'll be going to jail for child abuse.

GUTTER
You ain't his child and you were stealing so a man's got a right to protect his property.

The kid pushes away from Gutter and sits up on the desk on his own strength.

KID
Don't mean it's right. He on that Zimmerman bullshit.

MILES
Don't compare me to that worthless piece of shit.

The kid hops up off the desk and puts up his guards.

KID
I'm ready this time.

Gutter smiles. He likes the kid's spunk. He jumps in between the two.

GUTTER
Miles, outside to the front.

MILES
This is my office.

Gutter turns and looks at him. The expression says it all.
Miles leaves the office.

GUTTER
All right, little man, what's your name?

KID
Smooth.

GUTTER
I meant your real name.

KID
What you need to know all that for?

GUTTER
(chuckles)
All right, Smooth. I'm going to make you a deal. I won't call the cops and I'll let you go and in exchange you can have five pairs of shoes to take with you.

KID
Any shoe?

GUTTER
Any shoe. But after you take these shoes I don't want to ever see you in this store again, you feel me?

KID
Yeah, okay.

GUTTER
Cool, let's get you your shoes.

INT. ELM HOME - KADIN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Kadin is busy wrapping the Jordans in Saran wrap. He pockets a boxcutter and then he puts the shoes in his backpack before he heads for the door.

INT. ELM STREET SOUTH - CONTINUOUS

Gutter and Miles watch from the register as the Kid leaves the store with five bags, each with a pair of gym shoes.

MILES
I can't believe you made that deal.

GUTTER

And I can't believe I had to make
it. I'm gonna have to let your
pops know about this.

Gutter turns and heads for the back room.

We stay on Miles, the anger building up inside of him.

INT. ELM STREET WEST - DAY

Lashawn is standing at the counter talking to one of her
employees. There are a few customers milling about, buying
shoes of course.

LASHAWN

Girl can you believe D-nice tried
to come at me?

FEMALE EMPLOYE

He's cute, besides, he at least got
money, unlike some of these other
dusty dudes who be coming up in
here.

LASHAWN

He got little money. And me, I
only want big money.

FEMALE EMPLOYE

Girl I will gladly take that little
money. Gotta start somewhere, and
who knows that little money may
grow into big money.

The door to the store opens and coming through it is the kid,
Smooth, that Miles beat up earlier.

LASHAWN

(to her employee)

I'll be in my office with this
interviewee if you need me.

FEMALE EMPLOYE

Okay.

Lashawn heads to her office with Smooth following.

Once in the office Lashawn takes a seat at her desk.

LASHAWN

From the bruises on your face I'm guessing you didn't get to steal any of the shoes I sent you for?

KID

I mean I had a pair but then your brother did this to me.

LASHAWN

Miles did this?

KID

Yeah, knocked me out and then some big black dude came and woke me up.

LASHAWN

Gotta be Gutter.

KID

Well anyway, that dude, Gutter gave me 5 pairs of shoes if I promised not to call the cops.

LASHAWN

For real? That's good.

KID

Why is that good, I thought you wanted me to get those new Richardsons.

LASHAWN

It's good because either way Miles fucked up and now my father is going to know about it. So it's a win-win.

EXT. PHO DAO RESTAURANT - DAY

Kadin stands just outside the restaurant comparing the image on his phone to the actual place.

INT. PHO DAO RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Kadin enters the establishment, which is filled with Vietnamese customers enjoying their meals.

A hostess approaches.

HOSTESS

Welcome. Would you like a table?

KADIN
Yeah, a table will do.

The hostess leads him to table.

HOSTESS
Would you like anything to drink?

KADIN
Lemonade please. Thanks.

The hostess leaves and Kadin pulls out his phone and begins to text the buyer

KADIN: I'M HERE. WHERE ARE YOU?

BUYER: ON MY WAY.

Kadin is busy looking down at his phone that he doesn't register the glass of Lemonade that has been placed down in front of him.

PAULA
When a person brings you your drink
I believe the proper term is a
thank you.

Kadin looks up to find a short Vietnamese woman, (32) sexy with a hint of danger named PAULA standing before him. Behind her are four rough looking Vietnamese men.

KADIN
thank you, sorry I was busy on my
phone.

Kadin can sense that something isn't right.

KADIN (CONT'D)
Just letting my people know where
I'm at.

PAULA
May I sit?

KADIN
Ummm, yeah, but I got someone
coming in a bit that I'm meeting.

Paula takes a seat.

PAULA
A buyer for those Air Jordan's in
your backpack?

KADIN
You the buyer?

PAULA
Maybe.

KADIN
Then maybe I'm selling.

PAULA
Maybe you are.

Kadin can feel the pressure. He begins to rise from his seat.

KADIN
I'm just going to leave, maybe we
can do this some other time.

PAULA
No, I think we can finish this deal
now. sit.

There's something dangerous about Paula that forces Kadin to retake his seat.

PAULA (CONT'D)
(in Vietnamese)
Send my little brother out.

One of the henchmen moves from his place and heads to the kitchen to get Paula's little brother.

KADIN
(to Paula)
All right, you got the cash, lets
do this so I can go.

PAULA
I never said I was the buyer.

KADIN
Listen no disrespect but I ain't
got times for games.

PAULA
Just a bit more, the buyer is
coming.

Beat.

KADIN
If you're not the buyer then what's
your name?

PAULA
I am Paula. And you are?

KADIN
Kadin E-

Kadin is surprised to see Jet Tang, the guy that he stole the shoes from walking towards his table.

PAULA
This is my brother Jet. I believe
the two of you have met before.

KADIN
Listen it's not what you think.

Kadin looks around the room, searching for a quick exit, he's gotta stay calm.

PAULA
And what do I think is going on
Kadin?

KADIN
I don't know but it looks like
you're here to rob me and if thats
the case I'll make enough noise
that people will call the cops.

Paula laughs as do all the other men. Something isn't right.

PAULA
(in Vietnamese)
Everyone out!

The patrons rise from their seats and exit the restaurant without causing any form of panic.

Kadin can't believe what he's seeing.

PAULA (CONT'D)
Now there's no one to call the
police should you want to scream
and shout.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Gutter stands at the door like the muscle he's suppose to be while Dupree stands before Miles, who is standing like an obedient child.

DUPREE

So I heard what happened down at the store. First off, why and how in the hell are you the only one in the store?

MILES

I gave Brittney the day off. Tried to show some initiative like you said, and be there for my employees.

DUPREE

Don't try and play that reverse psychology shit on me. You should be glad that boy didn't up strap, shoot your ass, and take everything in the store.

MILES

He wasn't on that.

DUPREE

You didn't know that when you took a swing at him and knocked him unconscious, did you?

MILES

No.

DUPREE

Then shut the hell up.

DUPREE (CONT'D)

On top of that you had Gutter to come by and clean up your mess, which costed us five pairs of brand new Mikes. What do you have to say for yourself?

Miles is silent.

DUPREE (CONT'D)

I thought so. You tell me you want to be part of the other side of the business but until you start thinking with your head you're going to continue to stay where you're at.

MILES

But--

DUPREE

I don't want to hear any excuses.
The amount of money that those
shoes cost will be coming out of
your paycheck. Is that understood?

MILES

Yes, sir.

DUPREE

Good. Now get the hell out of my
face.

INT. PHO DAO RESTAURANT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Each of Kadin's arms is held by a man as his right hand is
pinned down on a chopping block. Paula holds the real Air
Jordan I in her hand as her brother Jet stands off in the
background with his head kinda down.

PAULA

I gotta say you do good work.
Fooled my brother real good, even
fooled me, and if he hadn't checked
the inside label where I wrote his
initials when I gave him these
shoes for his 17th birthday he
wouldn't have even known that you
switched them and gave him fakes.

KADIN

It wont happen again, I promise it
won't.

PAULA

I know it wont. No one steals from
the Tangs. So instead of taking
your whole hand i'm just going to
take a finger.

KADIN

You got the shoes back ain't no
reason for this.

PAULA

But there is a reason. We gotta
send a message that no one and I
mean no one steals from us, or
anyone related to me.

Paula pulls a meat cleaver out and swings it in the air.

PAULA (CONT'D)
(to her brother)
Jet, get over here. Since this was
your foolish mistake you need to be
the one to fix it.

Jet hesitantly walks over to his sister. Whatever tough guy
persona he flashed in the club, it is evident he is a mere
child in his sister's eyes.

She hands him the cleaver.

PAULA (CONT'D)
Now when you strike you have to be
swift and decisive. Gotta cut
straight through the bone with one
blow.

Jet nods his head.

Kadin struggles but the men hold him in place. There's no
way he's escaping the butcher's block.

KADIN
Fuck. I promise I won't steal
again.

Jet raises the cleaver over his head while Paula stands next
to him for that added sibling support.

PAULA
Remember, a quick and hard chop.
Don't punk out on me now little
brother.

Kadin tries to make a fist but one of the men punches his
hand, flattening it with each pound until his fingers spread
out.

KADIN
You don't have to do this, you
don't have to do this.

Jet raises the cleaver over his head. He's hesitant to do
what needs to be done.

KADIN (CONT'D)
If its about the shoes my uncle can
get you shoes, I can get hundreds
of shoes. My uncle is Dupree Elms
of Elm Street shoes.

PAULA
Hold up little brother.

Paula walks over to Kadin and looks him in the eyes.

PAULA (CONT'D)
What did you say your last name
was?

KADIN
Elms.

PAULA
You're Dupree's nephew, huh?

KADIN
You know my uncle.

Paula smiles.

PAULA
Yeah I know you're uncle. You can
say he's my rival, the only person
in this city that stands in my way
from being the supreme sneaker
queen.

PAULA (CONT'D)
(to her men)
Let him go.

Kadin is holding his hand while scrunching his fingers.

PAULA (CONT'D)
You're an Elm. Why are you out
here stealing shoes when you can
have any shoe you want?

KADIN
Elm Street shoes is my uncle and my
cousins. That's not me.

PAULA
Could have fooled me. That
counterfeit shoe was so damn good
that you almost got away with it if
not for the technicality.

KADIN
Yea, well, like I said, I ain't
doing it again, not if it's going
to risk me getting my fingers
chopped off.

PAULA
That's a part of the other side of
this business, kid.

KADIN
The other side?

PAULA
Yeah, you know, the blackmarket of the sneaker game. I'm sure your uncle must have talked to you and your cousins about it? Speaking of which, why aren't you selling these counterfeits out of your uncle's stores?

KADIN
Uncle Dupree would flip his lid. He doesn't believe in counterfeit shoes.

Paula smiles.

PAULA
Interesting. Well since you're done stealing shoes maybe you want to make some real money making counterfeits for me?

INT. DUPREE HOME- MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alicia lies on Dupree's chest after a session of love making. Dupree is staring up at the ceiling in thought.

ALICIA
Are you thinking about the new store?

DUPREE
No.

ALICIA
Good, because I handled Alderman Tully's greaseball ass without us having to go to the extreme. We meet with the architect in a couple days. And the bank tomorrow, you sure we have the capital for this play?

DUPREE
We will. As soon as those new Richardson's hit the stores tomorrow we should have enough for the down without issue.

ALICIA
Good. So what's on your mind?

DUPREE
It's that easy to read me?

ALICIA
I've been with you since we were
teens Dupree. I can read you from
across the room.

Dupree exhales.

DUPREE
It's Miles. He hasn't been showing
up to work and he's been skipping
school.

Alicia lifts her head off of Dupree's chest as if she might
be ready to jump out of bed.

ALICIA
I know he's not wasting our hard
earned money on that fancy business
school and he's not going.

Dupree pulls her back down towards him.

DUPREE
I already talked to him about it,
set him straight.

ALICIA
You better had or I was going to
kick his ass.

DUPREE
He asked about the other side of
the business.

ALICIA
I didn't tell him.

DUPREE
I know. I've tried to keep that
part of our business out of their
world, but with the online game
heating up that's starting to
become harder.

ALICIA
Miles is bored. He's always had an
eye for the bigger game.
(MORE)

ALICIA (CONT'D)

If you bring him in and groom him, teach him how to stay away from the bad parts of the black market business then he can't help but shine.

DUPREE

Black markets aren't called that for nothing, why do you think I still have Gutter by my side. The risk is just not worth it.

ALICIA

Then I guess you better start explaining to Lashawn why she's still out west and why you're thinking of giving this new store to Kadin.

DUPREE

I'll cross that bridge when it's time. Besides, Kadin won't be ready for that store at least for another year or two and by that time those business classes will start to sink in and who knows, maybe we retire from the other side of this shoe game and do it legit all the way.

Dupree kisses his wife.

Alicia turns out the lights

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Smooth is walking up a deserted street with the five bags of shoes in his hand.

The door to a dark colored car opens and out steps a figure in black.

The figure runs up on the kid.

FIGURE

Ay yo, little homie, low those shoes.

Smooth goes to run but with the bags make it entirely impossible.

The figure lands a gut shot to the boy's abdomen and then the figure continues to punch and kick him until finally the boy relents and lets go of the bags.

With the bags in hand the figure heads back to his car where he dumps the bags and as he pulls off from the curb we get a glimpse of the license plate: ELM ST 4VR

Smooth is on the ground unconscious and right above him sits a security camera from the business that is pointed right out at the street where the license plate from Mile's car can easily be read.

The end.