

OPERATION SHEA MOISTURE DRAFT TWO

written by

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INT. BEDROOM. MORNING

In a dimly lit empty bedroom, a door swings open with a boy entering it. He approaches the desk, cluttered with books, documents and picture frames.

A sliver of sunlight from the curtain beams on some papers. One word from three universities. One thing in common:
CONGRATULATIONS.

This is **CHARLES**. A late teen, 2nd generational biracial (White/Black-Nigerian) man, hair curls in desperate need of saving and wearing a **UBC sweater** and shorts.

Charles frantically searches for something in the desk drawers. This is Charles, impatiently pulling the drawers, knocking over a picture frame of a young black girl and senior black woman hugging.

CHARLES
(sighs, cannot be bothered
with this)
I can't find it.

He leaves the bedroom, walking towards the hallway towards the bright bathroom at the end, where a nappy haired girl sits in front of the mirror.

This is **JADE**. A late teen, 1st generational Yoruba-Nigerian, brown skinned, wearing a sweater and an ankara skirt, with black leggings underneath.

Charles approaches behind Jade, seeing her concerned, exhausted look on her face through the mirror.

With ***Avoid Things by Tems*** playing softly in the background, Jade sighs. She grabs a hair pick, far too small for her imposing, 4C afro.

JADE
Let's just use this. Be gentle
please.

Charles grabs the pick, immediately digging through her hair and picking it-

JADE (CONT'D)
(annoyed)
Oga?!

CHARLES
(getting fed up)
It wasn't even hard

He tries again. He's still oblivious to her pain, but Jade can't be bothered anymore. She grabs her phone. She looks through her email.

Her most recent three emails is from the same universities (UBC, NYU, and St. John College). All titled: **DECISION DUE TOMORROW.**

Picking the hair with his left hand, Charles grabs his phone from his pocket. He opens up his most recent text. It's from Brent. It says: **Yo Jigaboo. Forget Jigabet, we're picking you up in a few.**

Charles looks up, slightly covering his phone as he stares at concerned Jade, as she looks down.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
I gotta go soon.

Jade looks up, staring at the guilt-faced Charles.

JADE
Yeah. Sure that's cool.

She looks back down. She opens messages and texts **DIMA**. She says: **All clear you can come in a few.**

EXT. SUBURB STREET. NOON

Under the bright noon sunlight, Jade waves off Charles as he walks to the Jeep filled with straight haired boys, who keeps laughing in hushed tones towards Jade. Immediately entering the car, the boys slap Charles's head as they hoot at him.

They immediately dart off from Jade's driveway away to her right, leaving Jade with her now presentable afro in front of her house.

Now without the rumble of the jeep, Jade could hear the hawk cawing behind her. She looks back, seeing it perched near her bedroom window. It eventually flies away following the jeep.

She looks over at her left. She sees a hoarse, sounding truck driving towards the house. The truck stops, and its grey dull black look is apparent. Out comes a girl from the driver seat. She approaches the smiling, but yet anxious Jade.

This is **DIMA**. A late teen, 2nd generational immigrant from Nigeria, has the stereotypical light brown Ibo complexion, wearing ragged denim overalls with oil stains with a white tank-top underneath.

Dima walks up to her, smiling nervously, hands rubbing together. She stops in front her. There's an uncomfortable distance between them.

DIMA
(almost a whisper)
Hi...

JADE
(slightly nervous,
jokingly)
Hi. You look...well

DIMA
(nervously)
Thanks. I Like your hair...

Jade chuckles. Dima motions to Jade to follow her to the truck. They open their driver seat door, as Jade waits, looking at her. Dima sits, then glances at her.

They immediately leave the driver seat to open the passenger seat for her. Jade enters, chuckling.

Dima starts the truck. The car reeves in an dry wheeze. It doesn't start. They try again. Still not starting.

JADE
(jokingly)
How did you even get here?

DIMA
(muttering, slightly
embarrassed)
Just one more try...

She tries again. It starts, vibrating with a deep hum. The truck drives away from the house towards the highway.

INT. DIMA'S TRUCK. NOON

The truck drives along the incredibly wide highway, with barely any cars along it. They pass by a road-sign saying: **WELCOME TO ST JOHN**. The truck windows are wide open, with the wind blasting the faces of the pair.

Jade leans on her passenger side, watching the road go by. Dima looks ahead as she drives, occasionally glancing at Jade, with a contemplative look.

JADE
This must be heaven for you huh
Dima?

Dima notices the barren, freeing highway, where it's just them and the world. They chuckle, holding her neck with her neck.

Looking at Dima, Jade smiles too. She suddenly picks up her phone...

JADE (CONT'D)

Gosh it's so quiet in here. Imma play something.

She connects her phone with the truck. For a few seconds, Dima stares on what she's doing, as she excitedly looks through her songs. She picks *Do Me* by P-Square.

The songs loud, getting louder as she increases the volume, as she dances to it. Dima's confused, a bit nervous but smiling from how free Jade's acting, as she sings the lyrics to her.

JADE (CONT'D)

(shouting over the lyrics)

My grandmother's obsessed with this song!

Dina laughs nervously, looking at Jade's dancing. She lets her eyes linger for a second longer, somehow feeling much longer, more riskier.

For a beat, Jade danced a bit longer then collapsed back into her chair, laughing, glancing at Dima's chuckle.

JADE (CONT'D)

Alright lemme change it

She picked *Vex Oh* by *Kaytranada*, then bopping her head, now looking at the front window. For a beat, she grooves to the song. She spots a traffic light about half a km away, with a timer down to five seconds till it turns red. She grins

JADE (CONT'D)

You should speed past the traffic light.

Dima sharply turns to Jade, she looks on with a look asking if she's serious

DIMA

(slightly serious but not really)

No way

Jade holds their hand, that's resting on their thigh. Dima's shocked, but tries to play it cool.

She immediately reeves the truck, speeding past the traffic light, shocking Jade. She continues speeding past it, glancing at Jade as she mouths "oh my god" repeatedly. They reach another traffic light and slow down

JADE
(shaken, laughing wildly)
Oh my God, you actually did it

Dima laughs too, wholeheartedly now, like a weight as been lifted of them.

JADE (CONT'D)
Imagine you have one of those
Vancouver supercars?

DIMA
(Joking but kind of
serious)
This ones fine.

Jade noticed how quick they rebutted her. For a beat, they drove along, listening *Star Signs* by Odunsi (The Engine), with Dima enjoying it.

DIMA (CONT'D)
Are you going to Vancouver?

JADE
I don't know...NYU's developmental
studies is pretty good.

DIMA
Not even half as good as St Johns
own.

Jade looked at Dima, and immediately laughed, with Dima laughing too but stopping earlier than her.

The car pulled into the parking lot of a convenience store, then parked. Jade immediately heads out, running to the store. Dima leaves too, but looks at the truck's front, looking for damages.

JADE
You coming?

Dima hurries along into the store.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE. NOON

Entering the convenience store, Dima immediately goes into the drinks aisle. She looks at the sparkling water section. Then the water section. She picks the straight water.

As she removes water from the aisle, Jade's head pops out from the next aisle, holding out an already opened potato chips bag

DIMA

Jade!

JADE

Have you tried the spicy habanero flavour?

DIMA

No

JADE

Try it

DIMA

No, it's too spicy

JADE

Come on Dima...Dima what's your full name

Dima walks to the cashier.

DIMA

Just Dima

JADE

Seriously just Dima-

DIMA

Yes

They pay for the snacks. They leave the convenience store. Dima walks ahead towards the truck, but Jade stops behind her. She sees a lone bird, the same one from the opening scene, flying around the concrete highway landscape.

It's strange to her but she brushes it off, as she heads to the truck.

INT. DIMA'S TRUCK. NOON

Dima tries to start the truck. It doesn't work. Another try. It doesn't work. She's getting visibly annoyed now.

She tries again. It works. They leave the convenience store.
Jade is also visibly annoyed

JADE
(muttering)
I really hate this guy

Dima glances over at Jade. She's on her phone, deeply
annoyed. Jade looks up at Dima.

JADE (CONT'D)
Look at this shit

It's a text message from Charles. It's three banana emojis in
a row. Dima immediately looks disgusted.

DIMA
Why would he say that?

JADE
He didn't. He wouldn't dare. His
friends did.

Dima is confused.

JADE (CONT'D)
Hushed laughs, monkey sounds
whenever we're seen together. That
typa shit

Jade begins playing with her afro, letting it stretch towards
her chin.

JADE (CONT'D)
And I don't even care about it- I
mean I do but you know what I mean.
But what really annoys me is that
he doesn't do shit about it, just
shrugging or sometimes even
laughing.

DIMA
Why are you still with him?

There's a beat as the pair sit, watching her highway.

JADE
He can be nice

Jade glances at Dima, a contemplative gaze, a hopeful one.
Dima stares ahead at the road, gripping the steering wheel.

Jade looks back at the window. Dima looks at Jade, a long gaze. Jade looks back. They stare at each other for a minute, then Jade ends it.

For a long beat, they drove in silence, as Jade plays with her hair. She opens up the mirror above her chair, adjusting her afro.

JADE (CONT'D)
Can we go to the pharmacy. I gotta
get some shampoo

Dima takes a sharp glance at Jade. They quickly look back. For a beat, she drives.

DIMA
You sure? I got some

JADE
(chuckling)
Nah it's all good. I love you Dina
but you're not using the right one.
You gotta use cantu for our type of
hair

Dima nervously chuckles.

JADE (CONT'D)
Don't worry girl. We gon get you
right. Just go to the one over
there.

She points at the shoppers along the street.

DIMA
(muttering)
Yeah yeah sure...

They pull up to the pharmacy. They sit in silence after Dina parks

JADE
You okay?

Dima looks visibly nervous. They sharply looks back at Jade.

DIMA
Yeah yeah of course!

Jade looks inquisitively, narrowing her eyes in a playful manner. She grabs a strand of Dina's buffy braid.

JADE
Why don't we take out your hair
tonight.

DIMA
Seriously?

JADE
Yeah imagine afro Dima at the best
spot in the town. It would really
make this last day amazing

Dina tightens up a bit. Jade grabs their hand, moving it
towards her own afro.

JADE (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Feel how soft mine is.

Dina is really tense now. They stare at one another, feeling
each others hair for a beat. Can't take it anymore, Dina
leaves the car.

DIMA
We should go.

Jade stays back for a minute, watching Dina leave. She leaves
the car, following Dina to the pharmacy.

INT. PHARMACY. DAY

The pharmazy is bright, nauseously bright. Jade walks ahead,
leading visibly cautious Dima through each aisle. They reach
the hair care aisle. Jade grabs a random white shampoo.

She nodges Dima, showing her the shampoo. She moves her
finger, mouthing no. She grabs the bright orange cantu
shampoo, then nods her head, mouthing yes.

Dima quickly smiles, then looks around the vicinity. She
spots an older straight haired woman assisting another
customer. DiMa looks worried.

DIMA
You ready?

JADE
Yeah-

Dima immediately grabs Jade's hand, leading her to the
cashier.

JADE (CONT'D)
(teasing)
Someones eager to take out their
hair.

Dima chuckles, half-heartedly. They pay for the shampoo, as
Dima scans the perimeter.

EXT. PHARMACY PARKING LOT. DAY

They leave the pharmacy. Dima sighs, a relieved sigh-

JADE
Wait! I forget to get a hair pick.

Just as she attempts to enter the truck, Jade suddenly rushes
back into the pharmacy, leaving a pale faced Dima behind.

INT. PHARMACY. DAY

Jade enters the pharmacy, immediately searching the hair care
aisle, struggling to find an afro hair pick. In the corner,
the same older straight woman watches Jade.

She finds one on the end of the aisle, but she finds another
on the other side. She holds both in her hand, debating
between the two. The older woman still watches

She picks one, then heads to the register. She suddenly
stops, just in front of the cashier. Looks at the pick again,
then heads back for the aisle. The woman is closer now.

Jade grabs the other pick she found, looks at it again, still
indecisive. She finally picks one, heads to the register but
the picks are suddenly snatched from her by the older woman

JADE
Yo what the fuck?!

PHARMACY EMPLOYEE
Stealing is not tolerated in here.
What? You thought I wouldn't notice

JADE
What? Are you serious? I was gonna
pay for it!

PHARMACY EMPLOYEE
You weren't. I've been watching you
and I'd advice you to leave the
premises before I alert the
authorities.

Jade, shocked and confused, staggers away from the pharmacy.

EXT. PHARMACY PARKING LOT. DAY

She walks out, seeing the concerned looking Dima approach them in shock.

JADE
They freaking accused me of
stealing!

DIMA
Yeah..

JADE
Stealing? Are you kidding me? I was
just deciding which one to get-

DIMA
Yeah..

JADE
Yeah yeah that's all you can say??!

Dima looks down, she's ashamed but understands. For a beat
she stays quiet

DIMA
She does that a lot. "you're
stealing", "you're making everyone
uncomfortable".

For another beat she stays quiet, as Jade stays shocked,
getting angrier by the second.

DIMA (CONT'D)
It's best just to avoid this one.

JADE
Avoid it? Like I'm some dog huh?

DIMA
Jade-

JADE
No Dima I'm not going to *avoid* some
place because of some crusty
lady...

Jade heads to the passenger seat door. She angrily opens it.

JADE (CONT'D)

And thanks for much for informing
me about this by the way!

Just as she attempts to get in, she sees a group of guys loitering outside the pharmacy, laughing. She looks closer. It's Charles and his friends.

She sees Charles on the far end of the group of straight haired guys talking to one another. Charles laughs but visibly isn't in on the joke or even the inner circle of the group.

Charles spots raging Jade. He also spots Dima with her. He's confused. One of Charles's friends spots Jade too

ONE OF CHARLES'S FRIENDS

Jigabet!

Jade rolls her eyes, shutting the door, then walks away from the car towards a secluded spot. Dima watches, sees the group, then hurriedly goes into the truck.

Charles laughs, but runs after Jade.

CHARLES

Jade wait!

He catches up to her. She's really annoyed, itching for some alone time

CHARLES (CONT'D)

What are you doing here?

She doesn't respond, looking away, exhausted.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Listen they're just messing around-

JADE

I don't care about that.

She's deeply in distress. He doesn't remember the last time he has seen her this annoyed.

CHARLES

What happened?

INT. DIMA'S TRUCK. DAY

As Jade explains offscreen, Dima seats in the truck alone. Looking through her side mirror, she watches Charles and Dima talk. She doesn't like this one bit.

She's restless, uncomfortable, itching to do a drastic action. She looks up at the rear view mirror and sees the pink heart car diffuser hanging on it.

She picks it up, studies it, then smelling it, slowing her agitation down.

EXT. PHARMACY PARKING LOT. DAY

JADE
...and she fucking threatened to
call the cops

The pair stood in silence, as Charles was wide eyed. He looked back at his friends heading back to the car.

CHARLES
Wow...wow..that sucks.

JADE
Yeah.

Charles looks back again. He clearly isn't sharing her pain as much. He looks back at her, with a contemplative gaze

CHARLES
Can you take me home? The guys are
going to this house-party and I
don't think I was invited.

Jade is confused as to why Charles asks this now. She sighs.

INT. DIMA'S TRUCK. MOMENTS

Through her side view mirror, Dima watches Jade approach her door, walking in front of Charles.

JADE
(exhausted)
You mind dropping off Charles on
the way?

Dima looks at Charles, they both look at each other suspiciously.

DIMA
Does he have *dropping off* money?

JADE
Dima-

CHARLES
No it's okay.

Charles opens the backdoor seat for Jade to enter too. Jade enters, leaving Charles and Dima alone. Charles opens his wallet, gathering money.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Trucks working again huh?

DIMA
(whispering, mockingly)
Only took some *dropping off* money
and time.

CHARLES
Yup just a school year and uni
prospects. I'm sure the streets of
St John are excited for the next
few years.

Charles hands Dima some money.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
And of course you're welcome too.

Charles nudges his head towards the back, where Jade is.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
One last day. One last memory for
her.

Dima sneers, snatching the money.

DIMA
You're welcome too. You never know
what streets call her

CHARLES
You wish.

Charles heads to the pharmacy, confusing both Dima and Jade. For a long beat the pair waited for Charles. Dima glances at Jade, but Jade doesn't respond. In Jade's view, she stares at a lone hawk flying around the road. She's confused.

Charles later comes out. He gets in the backseat beside Jade. He brings out an afro pick, one of Jade's options.

She's surprised, and they hug. Charles grins at Dima from behind. Dima is annoyed.

INT. DIMA'S TRUCK. DAY

There are on the highway. Dima drives alone at the front, as Jade and Charles playfully whisper in the back. Dima's repeatedly glances at them through the rear view mirror. They're uncomfortable by this

CHARLES
It looks good really

She rests on him, as they both lie down along the backseat. He's combing her hair. Softly this time. Jade giggles, not as pleased as Charles's is though.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
I'm I hurting you?

JADE
(shaking her head)
Mm-mm

CHARLES
You should really let it out more often

JADE
I don't know. Is that appropriate hairstyle as a Jigabet?

CHARLES
Jade...they're just playing

To Dima, they still sound like they're playfully whispering. She's increasingly getting agitated as she stares. She looks back at the road. It's really empty.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
Forget them. We aren't seeing them anymore.

Jade stays quiet.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
All we're gonna be seeing is the mountains of Vancouver, the parks or even the movies you study

He tries to tease her. It's not really working.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
We could be like *Bonnie and Clyde*. You know, us against the world.

Jade chuckles hearing this, loud, almost with a condescending tone.

Dima catches this. They grips their steering wheel. They tap the gas pedal.

JADE

Who's who?

Charles knows where this is going.

CHARLES

I'm Clyde cause I can't drive?

Jade looks back at Charles, startling him. With a serious but with a cheerful look, she says...

JADE

No Charles, I'm Bonnie cause you don't know what to do with me.

She turns back to her front, leaving Charles confused. He chuckles embarrassingly. For a long beat, there was silence.

Dima looks to Jade, they lock eyes. Dima smirks then suddenly speeds up the truck, immediately sending both Charles and Jade down on the floor.

JADE (CONT'D)

OH MY GOD DIMA! STOP STOP!

Dima can't hear, from the dry wheezing of the truck speeding. Charles bangs on Dima's seat but she doesn't notice. Jade joins too, as she screams for her to stop.

Dima notices, immediately stopping on the side of the highway.

EXT. HIGHWAY. DAY

The trio immediately left the truck, with Charles immediately sitting on the ground.

Jade gets out, immediately rushing towards the apologetic Dima.

JADE

What the fuck was that?

DIMA

I thought you liked it

JADE
Oh my God Dima, that was one time!

Jade turns back, looking towards Charles on the ground. She suddenly turns back.

JADE (CONT'D)
And you should know that! In fact I
don't even know why you did it in
the first place!

CHARLES
(muttering under his
breath)
Fucking Jigabet-

Jade immediately turns her head back.

JADE
Excuse me what did you say?

Charles looks up. She heard him. He's shocked.

JADE (CONT'D)
Why would you call them that?

CHARLES
She tried to kill us-

JADE
They! And so what they did? Why
would you call them that?

Jade turns back to Dima.

JADE (CONT'D)
Let's just the fuck out of here.

She marches to the front passenger seat, slamming the door to close it behind her. Dima and Charles share a look, an understanding but yet disgusted look towards one another. Both of them both head into the truck

INT. DIMA'S TRUCK. DAY

They all sit in the idle truck. For a beat, they sit in silence. Dima starts the truck. It's not working again. She tries again. It doesn't work. Charles chuckles in the back.

Dima's embarrassed. She tries again. It works.

For a long beat, the trio drive in silence. Dima drives, but occasionally glances at Jade, as she stares at her window.

DIMA
Listen Jade-

JADE
Dima-

DIMA
No seriously Jade. I'm sorry.

Jade looks at Dima. She's surprised how stern they are now. Dima doesn't look back, instead focusing on the road, hiding her expression.

DIMA (CONT'D)
For the speeding yeah but really
for not telling you about...It's
just easy to just stay out of the
way. I mean why fight a losing
battle?

Jade stays gazing at her, with a small smile. She then looks back at the front mirror. She chuckles a bit. It surprises Dima

JADE
Sorry I just remembered
something...there was one time in
elementary school. Grade 7. First
week. I was so sick of the schools
lunch already that I was like fuck
it, I'll bring some last nights
egusi and pounded yam with me. So
it was lunch time, and everyone had
their mystery meat burgers and
undercooked fries and shi while I
had this piping hot egusi that was
filling up the air in that damn
hall...

Jade's laughing a lot, bringing Charles's attention too.

JADE (CONT'D)
So I opened it and not even one
fucking bite later Mrs Orwell was
above me. She immediately told me
to throw it away. And I don't know
why I was so pissed this time, but
I said no, like screaming no for
some reason. The whole table then
joined her telling me to "throw it
away, it's stinking up the hall."

She's really out of breath now, struggling to fill the story. Both Dima and Charles share a confused glance with one another.

JADE (CONT'D)

A-and with my whole table and the teacher screaming at me to throw this amazing food away, I was getting really pissed by the second. So me being the genius, I got up, picked the egusi up, and fucking launched myself towards Mrs Orwell. Bruh I don't even know how I did but I managed to stuff that soup down her mouth, while shouting "Just try it first!".

She's tearing up.

JADE (CONT'D)

And honestly I can't really remember what happened after but I was definitely suspended. For a while.

She's laughing hard. Charles is horrified, looking at Jade with an open mouth. Dima's shocked, but as Jade's laughs towards her, she chuckles too.

CHARLES

Oh my God, how did you even make friends after?

JADE

What friends?

Both Dima and Jade keep laughing. For a beat, they laugh but it gradually dies down.

DIMA

Did you still bring your lunches?

JADE

Nah...But I did bring snacks though. Puff puff, meat pies stuff like that. Though it does take a minute to make the night before.

DIMA

I tried puff puff once...My aunt came by once and made it. I swear to this day, It's still one of the best things I've ever tasted. But I have no idea how to make it.

JADE
I can teach you

Jade and Dima stare at each other for a minute. Charles catches this, he's shocked.

CHARLES
H-have you guys tried Anne's doughnuts?

Jade looks back at Charles, still smiling.

JADE
It's alright.

Then immediately looks back at Dima, whispering something to her. Dima laughs.

Charles is pissed. He sees Dima turning a lane towards the next exit. He's shocked. He looks around Dima's (speed watch thingy) he sees that Dima's fuel tank is pretty low.

CHARLES
Dima you should probably use that *dropping off* money to fuel up your tank.

DIMA
Yeah I'll do that after I drop you off.

CHARLES
Uhh I don't know. I wouldn't take any chances, what if the car breaks down? It's still pretty far.

Dima glances at Charles through the rear view mirror. They share a glance. Charles looks stern, agitating almost. Jade looks over at the fuel tank level. She nods her head

JADE
Yeah I agree, better safe than sorry you know.

Annoyed but hiding it, Dima turns into the next exit, heading towards the gas station nearby.

CHARLES
Yeah don't want to fuck up this truck anymore?

Jade and Charles laugh. Dima takes a sharp glance at Charles, she's really angry now.

EXT. GAS STATION. EVENING

The truck drives into an open slot in the station. Dima immediately leaves to pump up the truck, leaving behind Jade and Charles

CHARLES

Oops I don't think I gave her
enough money.

Charles leaves the truck, leaving behind Jade.

Outside the truck, Dima attempts to remove the gas pump from the kiosk but suddenly slammed back by Charles.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

(scornful but still
whispering)

What the hell are you doing?

Dima's shocked but doesn't relent now.

DIMA

(mockingly)

What are you talking about-

CHARLES

You know exactly what I'm talking
about. You're fucking this up.
You're fucking everything up!

DIMA

Not following.

Dima grabs the pump again. Charles slams it back in, but leaves his hand there. Charles smiles, almost a sense of revelation.

CHARLES

The audacity. The actual audacity
to think about it. A high-school
dropout that instead decided to fix
a junky looking truck while the
rest of her peers apply for
universities. Your mind fucking
rivals with an ape. What worth
would you bring her?

Dima's silent, red with rage.

DIMA

What makes you think that you're
better? Who says she's following
you to Vancouver-

CHARLES

Because she's the only thing that makes me feel worthwhile. Years and years of being the "Jigaboo" or whatever the hell they call me this days. It's nice having someone who cares...or at least somewhat.

Dima's shocked. Charles lets go of the gas pump, immediately going back into the truck.

Dima fills the truck, then heads back in.

INT. DIMA'S TRUCK. EVENING

Dima tries to start the truck. Truck doesn't start. Charles is getting impatient, very agitated. Jade is really focused on the lone hawk that seems to keep following them. Dima tries again. Doesn't work.

CHARLES

Maybe another year will do it?

Dima tries again. It works. They leave. Dima's speeding along the highway, staring at Charles, barely paying attention on the road.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

(loudly)

Jade have you heard of the car shows in Vancouver?

JADE

(not paying attention)

Yeah...

CHARLES

Imagine us there. You being the new hotshot director who just won an Oscar, while I the exec who has funded all your films. We flaunt all over cars cause we have done so much to deserve.

JADE

(half-interested)

That does sound good

The hawk is getting really close to the highway now. She doesn't notice how fast Dima's going now.

Dima grips the steering wheel as Charles talks.

CHARLES

See Jade have you ever thought about how lucky we are? Being able to not only study post-secondary, but be accepted to such a prestigious university? Some people don't get to experience that you know?

The pink heart above Dima sways frantically. Cars horn as Dima drives by.

JADE

(whispering)

Whys that hawk so close?

CHARLES

Jade I honestly couldn't imagine what I'd do if I'm stuck in this shit hole for another minute, not even a year. That'd suck wouldn't it?...By the way Dima what are your plans?

The pink heart strings break from the rear view mirror. It falls to Dima's lap. She's distraught. She bangs on her steering wheel. She sharply turns to Charles.

DIMA

What are my plans? My plan is have a fucking personality! My plan is have a backbone for once so that I wouldn't have to depend on someone, while the rest of the world spits on me.

Jade turns her head, seeing the raging Dima, who isn't even aware of her car steering to the side, as they look at

Charles.

JADE

YO!

CHARLES

Oh yeah?

DIMA

Yup yup and maybe after I'm done, maybe just maybe I wouldn't turn out like you.

(MORE)

DIMA (CONT'D)

Heck if I'm homeless and eating
literal shit all day, but I'm not
like you, that would be a great
fucking life you know!

JADE

Yo chill out!

CHARLES

At least you're self aware of how
much you're a failure

DIMA

YOU WISH YOUR SELF AWARE OF HOW
MUCH OF A FAILURE YOU ARE-

An incredibly loud thump got the trios attention. They all
looked to the front window and they see a **bloodied**
unconscious Hawk lying down, blocking the view.

Panic ensues in the truck, as Dima desperately tries to stop
the speeding truck on the highway side. She stops it
successfully. The trio immediately leave the truck.

EXT. HIGHWAY. EVENING

All outside looking at the Hawk on the truck, Both Jade and
Dima are horrified, while Charles is grossed out.

JADE

Oh my God oh my God, quick get some
water or something.

Dima rushes to get water from the truck. She brings it. She
pours into the hawk's mouth, its clearly not working.

CHARLES

Yo its dead, chill out!

They are not chill at all, far from it. Jade tries to lift
the bird from the windshield. She struggles with it as she
panics. Dima joins her, and successfully bring it to the
floor.

Jade tries CPR on the bird, as Dima watches close by. It's
not working at all. Charles is really confused, so confused
that he's starting to laugh now.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Oh my God Jade stop. It's fucking
dead leave it.

JADE

Shut up!

Jade turns back at him. She's in tears. Red eyes and all.

CHARLES

Are you being for real?...It
fucking had it coming. What was
doing here anyways? Why can't it be
with other hawks?

JADE

It has every right to be here. It
has every right to be anywhere...

She keeps trying CPR. There's blood in her hands now.

DIMA

It's is own world too.

For a long beat Jade keeps trying, but eventually she stops,
just sitting down on the roadside by the hawk.

JADE

I've got to get out of here.

Dima hears this. There's almost a sinking feeling to her
reaction.

Cut to late evening. Charles washes off the blood with the
other water bottle, he has a pleased look on him. A sharp
contrast to the sunken look on Jade.

Dima sits alone in the truck, as they get back to the truck.
They leave the hawk carcass by the highway.

INT. DIMA'S TRUCK. EVENING.

The truck ride is in complete silence. Dima is alone in the
front, as Jade and Charles are in the back.

Charles holds Jade's hand. Jade holds it hard, and looks up
at Charles. Charles is happy but a little confused.

EXT. CHARLES'S FRONT YARD. EVENING.

The truck gets to Charles's suburban home. Dima stays
inside, watching Jade and Charles leave the truck and walk to
the front door through the side view mirror.

They walk hand in hand towards the front door

CHARLES
Next time in Vancouver?

Jade lets go of Charles's hand, making him stop in front of her.

JADE
(softly)
Goodbye Charles

CHARLES
(confused)
W-what do you mean? You're staying here? What about the plan?

JADE
NYU...listen Charles, you don't deserve this place. None of us do and I'm happy you're leaving too...but you need to figure yourself out.

CHARLES
I need you Jade.

JADE
You don't...you're smart, cute and can be nice. You'll do fine over there just learn to fly on your own.

Jade walks to the car, leaving Charles behind. She gets into the front seat. She waves at him, smiling a content smile.

For a beat, Charles stares as the truck starts up. He then waves back, smiling a little but still a smile willing to try.

INT. DIMA'S TRUCK. EVENING

Jade sighs, a hearty one once they leave the house.

DIMA
Do you still wanna do this?

JADE
Nah it's perfect like this.

For a beat they rode in silence.

DIMA
Listen the outburst-

JADE

Don't worry bout it. I don't know what I would've done if that was me.

DIMA

...Why you with him?

Jade smiles. She's surprised how direct Dima is now.

JADE

You know I found out I was moving here like the night before? It was so sudden. I had just finished school. The bus dropped me off at home. Entered, and I saw the whole house covered in boxes. There was argument going on between my parents and grandma. While my dad packed the last of the kitchen, my mum and grandma were fighting over a box, really small one too. Grandma was saying "they don't deserve this one" repeatedly as my mother shouted "leave it"...

Beat.

JADE (CONT'D)

Eventually my mom did leave it after seeing me, causing grandma to fall to the ground. She told me we're leaving Lagos, but honestly I was more worried about grandma. I went to go help her up, but she wasn't even worried about the fall cause she immediately grabbed my hand, so hard I still feel it sometimes. She said "Don't forget who you are. Don't let them ever forget who you are"...That was the last thing she said to me...

Beat.

JADE (CONT'D)

It just felt right being with him. Me and him against the world...

DIMA

What was in the box?

Jade laughs.

JADE

This Aso Ike that I wore for
traditional day I wore in school.

They drove for a long beat. Dima turns to a woody area, with
a rocky, sandy road, moving slower now.

DIMA

This was my Dad's car. Really one
of the only things he cared about.
Literally bought the car as soon as
he landed here, and travelled
here...Dumbass didn't even know
where he was going but didn't care.

Jade looks at her, with soft eyes.

DIMA (CONT'D)

Honestly don't even remember if we
had a home when I was young. All I
remember is both of us lying down
on the front seats watching the
stars with this dumb thing swaying
from the wind.

She holds up the pink heart car freshener.

JADE

(laughing)

I was gonna ask what's the deal
with it?

DIMA

(laughing)

I had to had some colour

They stare long at each other as they laugh, very close to
each other.

On the borders of the road, large tree branches filled with
leaves cover the road. The truck passes it, then immediately
reveals a cliff.

EXT. LOOKOUT SPOT. NIGHT

A cliff with just enough space for the truck, with the
brights stars above and a full moon.

The truck stops, with the pair leaving it. Dima opens the
trunk. Jade grabs the snacks and they both jump on the trunk.

JADE

Shit forgot something

She heads back to the seats, grabbing something. She comes back, now both just taking a moment to watch the view.

DIMA

It's been so long since I've seen this.

JADE

Still don't know how you found this

There was a beat of this just taking it in. Dima looks towards Jade, as she stargazes.

DIMA

You're amazing Jade

Jade sharply looks at Dima. She's surprised.

DIMA (CONT'D)

No seriously. We stopped talking for a year, then you willingly accept to spend your last day with me.

Jade laughs

JADE

I mean you made it sound urgent when you asked me.

DIMA

It is urgent...Gosh when I saw you at graduation, with you beaming under the heavy sun. I truly had this sinking feeling in me. Like I was in the presence of something unworldly and nothing was ever going to compare to it...I want to be with you Jade

Dima's eye under the moonlight sparkle as they talk to Jade. Jade looks down, she holds Dima's hand.

JADE

Dima...what about you?

DIMA

I don't want much. I never wanted much. Crashing this car, then taking a year off to fix it brought me so much joy that you cannot understand.

JADE

Yes but I'm different...I wanna be something! I have aspirations.

DIMA

I'm happy being by your side.

Jade laughs. Dima laughs but is incredibly nervous. Jade looks down, seeing the town below the cliff. For a beat, she stares. She looks at Dima, smiling.

JADE

You think New York got cliffs like this?

Dima laughs, they pull her towards her, kissing passionately under the moonlight. Jade stops, laughing.

JADE (CONT'D)

Your braids are suffocating me.

She brings out the afro pick.

JADE (CONT'D)

Let's do this first.

Dima lies down on Jade, as she begins unbraiding their hair. As they both stare off. They both glow deep blue under the moonlight, a sharp contrast to the bright lights below them.

DIMA

Chidimma by the way. That's my name

JADE

...I like it.

THE END