

THE PUSH

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INT. ELEGANT LIVING ROOM - APARTMENT - GREENPOINT,
BROOKLYN - DAY

A MAN'S VOICE sings along a recording for a very popular
THAI CHILDREN'S SONG - THE *CHANG SONG* (which means
ELEPHANT SONG in Thai)

MAN'S VOICE

(singing, in Thai)

*Chang, chang, chang, chang, chang,
chang, Child, have you ever seen
an elephant or not?*

The voice belongs to TAWAN THAMBOOMTHONG, 75, a proud and
elegant elderly Thai man, happily singing with his half-
Thai grandson, ANANDA, 8, who is rambunctiously jumping
on the couch SCREECHING LIKE A ROCKSTAR using a HAIRBRUSH
as a MICROPHONE.

TAWAN & ANANDA

(singing, in Thai)

*Chang, it is extremely big. With a
long nose called a trunk.
It has fangs beneath the trunk
called tusks. It has ears, it has
eyes and a long tail.*

Ananda's precocious little sister FERN, 15 months, is
shrieking along with joy and singing in auto loop the
first line of the song - mispronouncing all the words.

FERN

(in Thai)

*Chang, chang, chang, chang, chang,
chang!*

ANANDA

(to Fern)

You're pronouncing it all wrong.
It's *chang*, dummy!

Fern starts CRYING.

TAWAN

Hey, no yelling and calling your
sister a dummy.

ANANDA

But that's what she is! She said
it wrong!

TAWAN

She'll learn to pronounce it right
one day.

(MORE)

TAWAN (CONT'D)

Remember, we are *always* learning.
Upon a time, even you didn't know
how to pronounce it right,
remember? Tell your sister you're
sorry.

ANANDA

No!

TAWAN

Ananda, what did I teach you about
Karuna?

ANANDA

(sighs, annoyed)

Compassion and tolerance are not a
sign of weakness but of strength.

Off Ananda's POUTY FACE, we cut to:

INT. DINING ROOM - APARTMENT - CLINTON HILL, BROOKLYN -
DAY

HAKIM RODRIGUEZ, 14, the birthday boy, complete with
birthday hat, sits at the head of a table with a home-
cooked saliva-inducing Dominican spread - Sancocho,
Mangú, Arroz Blanco, Ensalada Verde, Tostones,
Habichuelas con Dulce - the works!

Seated to his right is ABUELA NORMA, his grandmother, 54,
in a wheelchair, and his fiercely independent mother,
GLORIA RODRIGUEZ, 34. Across the table is OMAR ALI, also
34, Hakim's father. Abuela Norma makes a sign of the
cross. Others follow suit before they dare take a bite of
their food.

OMAR

Qué rica está la comida, abue.

ABUELA

(to Gloria, in
English)

His Spanish is improving.

GLORIA

And so is your English, mama.

ABUELA

Thank you, Hakim's been teaching
his abuela.

She winks at Hakim and smiles. Hakim smiles.

INT. KITCHEN - APARTMENT - GREENPOINT, BROOKLYN - DAY

Tawan, is hard at work, pounding Thai chilies into a fine paste.

He opens the fridge and takes out a bundle of basil. He smells it and he frowns. His daughter ROTJANA JOY SMITH-THAMBOOMTHONG, 37, enters combing her wet hair. She's dressed in her work clothes.

TAWAN

(in Thai)

*It's not going to taste the same,
Joy.*

TODD SMITH, 40, Anglo-American, Rotjana Joy's husband, enters, also ready for work.

TODD

What's not going to taste the same?

TAWAN

(in English)

My krapow. I need Thai basil. Not Italian.

ROTJANA JOY

They didn't have Thai basil at Whole Foods. Italian basil is totally fine, Pa.

TAWAN

It does not smell the same. Smell.

He holds it up to Todd's nose.

TAWAN (CONT'D)

It does not taste the same. Taste.

He pushes a basil leaf into Todd's mouth.

TAWAN (CONT'D)

My krapow will be no good.

TODD

(chewing)

I'm sure it will be just fine, Pa.

TAWAN

Italian basil for Italian food.
Not Thai food!

ROTJANA JOY

Oh my god, you're so stubborn!

Ananda enters the kitchen holding up a portable RADIO
BLASTING THE NEWS.

RADIO

This message is brought to you by
NPR's sponsor-

Fern follows him around like a bumbling duckling.

ROTJANA JOY

Not now, Ananda. Mommy's talking.

RADIO

A brutal attack on an elderly
Filipino woman in Times Square has
sparked outrage-

ROTJANA JOY

I can't listen to this.

Rotjana Joy takes away the radio and turns it off.

ANANDA

Mommy! Give it back!

ROTJANA JOY

Mommy's trying to discuss what
you're going to eat for lunch.

ANANDA

Give it back! Give it back!

Rotjana Joy doesn't. Ananda continues to SCREAM.

ROTJANA JOY

I'll give it back to you if you
promise to play quietly.

Ananda nods.

ROTJANA JOY

Thank you.

(to Tawan)

Pa, please, I'm begging you, just
use this basil. Next time I
promise, I'll get the right one.

Tawan doesn't look happy.

ROTJANA JOY

I'd a hundred percent run to the store right now, but I'm going to be late for work. Please, Pa?

TAWAN

(in Thai)

Fine, Joy. But I'm not happy about it.

ROTJANA JOY

Thank you, Pa! And remember that Fern needs a nap around 2pm. I'll be back at 5pm, 6pm at the latest.

(yells out)

Come on, Todd, the Uber will be here in 2 mins!

TAWAN

Maybe I can get it myself if you tell me where to go?

ROTJANA JOY

I'll get it for you on the way back from work, okay?

TAWAN

Okay.

ROTJANA JOY

Thank you, Pa! And enjoy lunch, I wish I could stay!

(yelling out)

Todd, the Uber's here!

Todd runs in.

ROTJANA JOY

(to Ananda & Fern,
who seem to not be
listening)

Mommy will be back soon! Behave yourselves for *Khun Ta* okay?

(to Tawan)

Love you, Pa! See you soon!

Rotjana Joy leaves. As Todd leaves, he hands Tawan folded sheets of paper.

TODD

(winking as he exits)

Our little secret.

The door shuts. Tawan unfolds the papers he's been given. It's a printed set of step-by-step walking directions (in English & in Thai) along with a map, to "Siam Market - Thai/Asian Grocery Store." Tawan smiles.

INT. DINING ROOM - APARTMENT - CLINTON HILL - DAY

Gloria and Omar sing *Happy Birthday* to Hakim. Abuela Norma sings along with them, *Feliz Cumpleaños*, in Spanish.

A cell phone starts ringing. Gloria motions with her facial expressions to Omar to turn it off. Omar rejects the call. The phone rings again.

OMAR

Sorry, I have to take this.

He ducks out for a minute. The song continues. Abuela Norma gives a disapproving look. Gloria shrugs.

Omar returns for the last line of the song.

At the end of the song, Hakim blows out his candles. Everyone cheers. Hakim cuts his cake. Everyone gives Hakim kisses on the cheek. Abuela speaks in *Spanish*.

ABUELA

I love my little grandson!

GLORIA

Mommy loves you!

OMAR

Daddy loves you!

GLORIA

We got you a little something,
Haku.

She hands him a present. Hakim unwraps it to find Supreme x Nike SB Dunk low "Stars" sneakers!

HAKIM

Sick. I wanted these!

OMAR

Abuela told us.

GLORIA

They weren't cheap. You must
promise to take very good care of
them.

Hakim smiles.

HAKIM

I promise, Mom.

INT. DINING ROOM - APARTMENT - CLINTON HILL - DAY

Plates of eaten cake. Omar is furiously texting on his cellphone at the table.

HAKIM

Are you sure you can't stay longer?

GLORIA

Omar, your son just asked you a question.

OMAR

Um hmm. I'm sorry, Hakim. What did you say?

HAKIM

Can you stay longer?

OMAR

I wish I could.

GLORIA

Take the next train. There are trains to Philly every hour.

OMAR

I really wish I could, Glo, but Nadia needs help with the baby.

GLORIA

I wish you brought them today. I'm sure Hakim would love to meet his little sister.

OMAR

Next time. It's just a little far for Nadia right now.

(to Abuela Norma, in Spanish)

Thank you for the delicious food, Abue. I wish I could stay longer but I need to go. My wife needs me.

ABUELA
 (to Gloria, in
 Spanish)
*You should have never divorced
 him.*

GLORIA
 Mama! That's really inappropriate!

OMAR
 I should get going.
 (to Hakim)
 Happy birthday, Hakim. You're
 turning out to be a fine young
 man.

HAKIM
 Thank you.

OMAR
 See you soon, kiddo.

GLORIA
 Don't let another year go by this
 time!

OMAR
 I won't.

GLORIA
 And bring Nadia! And the baby.
 What's her name?

OMAR
 Lila.

GLORIA
 Bring Lila. We'd love to meet
 them.

Omar nods. He looks at his watch.

OMAR
 I really need to run if I want to
 make this train. Catch you later,
 buddy.

Omar and Hakim exchange a secret handshake before Omar
 walks out the door.

EXT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Gloria runs out after him, leaving the door open and pulls Omar aside. From inside the apartment, Hakim and Abuela Norma can hear the whole conversation.

GLORIA

Omar. About the money-

OMAR

I told you I'll send it!

GLORIA

You said that last week. I really need-

OMAR

I haven't gotten my paycheck yet.

GLORIA

You said that last week too. Those sneakers were expensive.

OMAR

I'm not sure if they were necessary, Glo. He's only 14.

GLORIA

I'd be just fine if you just paid your share.

OMAR

What do you want from me, Glo? I'm trying my best here.

GLORIA

Just send the money. It's hard enough as it is.

INT. LIVING ROOM - APARTMENT - CLINTON HILL - DAY

Hakim is playing a VIOLENT video game. Gloria, dressed in scrubs, enters.

GLORIA

I'm headed out now, Haku. Don't give Abuela a headache. Take good care of her, okay?

(yelling)

Mama, I'm leaving!

Abuela yells back something incomprehensible in Spanish.

GLORIA

I can't hear you, mama! I need to go. I'm going to be late for class.

Gloria kisses Hakim on the forehead.

GLORIA

Happy birthday, Haku. See you next week!

HAKIM

Bye, mom.

She leaves. Hakim continues playing his video game. Abuela wheels herself to the living room, speaking in English.

ABUELA

She left already?

HAKIM

Yes, Abuela.

ABUELA

Ah, we need rice. I wanted her to get some rice.

HAKIM

I can get you rice, Abuela.

ABUELA

My grandson is so wonderful.

EXT. BROOKLYN - STREETS - DAY

Tawan, WEARING A FACEMASK, stands on the street and SQUINTS to read the MAP and WALKING DIRECTIONS TO SIAM MARKET that Todd gave him. As he makes his way, he looks at the street signs.

INT. SIAM MARKET - DAY

After scrutinizing each and every plant and poring over each leaf, Tawan carefully selects THE PERFECT THAI BASIL POTTED PLANT out of a long line up.

INT. BUS - BROOKLYN - DAY

Hakim, wearing his birthday sneakers, reads the very specific handwritten instructions in Spanish.

The only words written in English are "Asian Best Jasmine Rice" and the name of the store - "Siam Market - Thai/Asian Grocery Store." The bus announces the Jefferson Stop.

EXT. BROOKLYN - BUSHWICK STREETS - DAY

Hakim gets off the bus and walks down the hipster gentrifying streets listening to *Clint Eastwood* by Gorillaz on his AirPods. We catch some of the lyrics.

I ain't happy, I'm feeling glad. I got sunshine in a bag. I'm useless but not for long. The future is coming on. It's coming on, it's coming on. It's coming on, it's coming on.

He's so into his music, he walks straight into JAMAL and CRISTIANO, both 14, troublemakers in the middle of tagging graffiti on a beautiful mural.

Jamal pushes Hakim, knocking him to the ground.

JAMAL

Watch it.

CRISTIANO

You too good to watch where you walk?

Jamal eyes Hakim's snazzy Supreme x Nike SB Dunk low "Stars" sneakers.

JAMAL

Those are snatched, man!

CRISTIANO

Hundo P. Guessing if he "loses" them, Mommy and daddy would get him another one.

Cristiano holds Hakim down as Jamal takes his sneaker.

JAMAL

Just my size too.

HAKIM

Hey, stop it! Give that back!

Jamal doesn't. As Hakim fights Jamal to get it back, Jamal wrestles Hakim back down to the ground.

JAMAL

Take the other one!

Jamal holds Hakim down as Cristiano takes off Hakim's other sneaker.

CRISTIANO

These are going to look so tight
on you, J!

JAMAL

Or we can resell them for some
G's!

HAKIM

Give that back!

Hakim struggles as Jamal pushes Hakim to the ground again. Cristiano and Jamal run away with his Supreme x Nike SB Dunk low "Stars".

CRISTIANO

Spoiled ass bitch.

Sneaker-less and pissed off, Hakim peels himself off the ground and bumps into Tawan, who is holding a Thai basil plant and wearing a face mask.

TAWAN

Excuse me!

HAKIM

Excuse you?

TAWAN

Yes, you watch where you are
going!

HAKIM

Don't talk to me like that! Don't
you disrespect me, *chink!*

In a fit of anger, HAKIM PUSHES TAWAN TO THE GROUND. Tawan, clutching his Thai basil plant, hits his head on the cement sidewalk. A PASSERBY witnesses this and rushes over. Hakim is in shock. What has he done? A CROWD OF PEOPLE form around Tawan.

PASSERBY

Hey, sir. Are you okay? Sir!

Tawan doesn't respond. Scared, Hakim RUNS.

EXT. BROOKLYN - STREETS - DAY

A crowd gathers, some with their IPHONES out, RECORDING as paramedics carry Tawan onto a stretcher.

EXT. BROOKLYN - STREETS - DAY

SIRENS BLAST in the distance as Hakim RUNS as fast as he can.

INT. AMBULANCE - BROOKLYN - DAY

SIRENS BLAST. Tawan's lying in a stretcher with an oxygen mask on.

EXT. BROOKLYN - STREETS - DAY

Hakim runs across the street and is ALMOST HIT BY THE UBER that Rotjana Joy and Todd are in. The car breaks just in time, narrowly missing him. Freaked out by this, Hakim continues running.

EXT. HOSPITAL - BROOKLYN - DAY

Sounds of SIRENS. Tawan is loaded off the ambulance in a stretcher by paramedics into the EMERGENCY ROOM. His head visibly bleeding.

EXT. HOSPITAL - BROOKLYN - DAY

Rotjana Joy and Todd leap out of their Uber.

INT. HOSPITAL - BROOKLYN - DAY

Rotjana Joy and Todd FOLLOW THE STRETCHER into the emergency room in panic.

Sounds of the paramedics taking vitals. Sounds of voices over the radio. Sounds of an EKG Heart Monitor.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - BROOKLYN - DAY

Rotjana Joy sits next to Todd. She's holding Tawan's THAI BASIL PLANT on her lap.

TODD

There's still a chance he'll pull through. I know it. Your dad's strong. He's fit. He's a fighter.

ROTJANA JOY

He's been through worse. He used to tell me stories about Thailand on the farm and how he almost lost his foot-

A DOCTOR approaches them. They both stand up.

TODD

How is he, doc?

DOCTOR

We did everything we could. I'm so sorry.

Todd and Rotjana Joy's faces fall. Rotjana Joy drops the Thai basil plant on the floor and starts SOBBING HEAVILY. Todd holds her tightly. Both are utterly shattered.

Rotjana Joy kneels down to pick up the mess of a Thai basil plant.

ROTJANA JOY

(tears in her eyes)

What's the point?

She throws the Thai basil plant on the floor on purpose and starts crying.

TODD

Hon, I can clean this up. Why don't you sit down?

He walks Rotjana Joy to a seat. She sits down and buries her face in her hands.

TODD

You sit here while I clean up okay? You just sit and relax.

Todd picks up the broken pieces of the Thai basil plant off the floor. Rotjana Joy wipes the tears off her face and takes a deep breath.

ROTJANA JOY

What am I going to tell the kids?

We see Tawan calmly sitting next to his daughter.

TAWAN

That their grandfather loves them.

ROTJANA JOY

I wish you were still here.

TAWAN

I am.

ROTJANA JOY

You know what I mean.

TODD

Who are you talking to, hon?

Todd looks at his wife, who is sitting alone. Todd cannot see Tawan.

ROTJANA JOY

Pa.

TODD

Oh, honey.

Todd hugs her.

ROTJANA JOY

I shouldn't have left. I shouldn't have said that I would work weekends.

TODD

It's not your fault.

ROTJANA JOY

I should have bought the right kind of basil. Pa's so stubborn like that.

Todd is guilt-ridden.

TODD

Hon, I have to tell you something.

TAWAN

It's not Todd's fault.

ROTJANA JOY

(repeating)

It's not Todd's fault?

TODD

I gave him the directions to where he could get Thai basil.

ROTJANA JOY

(angrily)

You gave him the directions to the store?

TAWAN

He was trying to be helpful.

TODD

Yes, but... I thought... I was trying to help.

ROTJANA JOY

Damnit, Todd!

TAWAN

Don't be mad at him.

ROTJANA JOY

I'm so upset!!! Pa's gone!

TAWAN

I'm still here, darling. Don't be mad. It was an accident.

ROTJANA JOY

Pa was murdered!

TODD

We're not sure if it was murder, hon. We don't even know how this happened.

ROTJANA JOY

He *was* murdered! In broad daylight! Like all the other elderly Asian people on the news!

EXT. STREETS - CLINTON HILL, BROOKLYN - DAY

Hakim runs as fast and as far as his legs can carry him. He runs to Abuela's apartment and presses the doorbell frantically.

ABUELA

Dios mio, why are you so impatient?

Abuela answers the door and Hakim runs inside, closing the door quickly.

ABUELA

What happened to your shoes?

INT. APARTMENT - CLINTON HILL, BROOKLYN - CONTINUOUS

Hakim runs to his room and immediately changes his clothes. Abuela wheels herself over to his door.

ABUELA

Where is my arroz?

HAKIM

They ran out, Abuela. I'll get it for you next time, promise.

EXT. STREETS - CLINTON HILL, BROOKLYN - LATER

Hakim pushes Abuela around on her wheelchair during their routine walk. Abuela sweetly admires the birds.

ABUELA

Look at the birds, Hakim. Those are European starlings.

Hakim appreciates the birds for a second before noticing through a store window, the NEWS on a TV.

NEWSCASTER

(V.O, over iPhone footage)

This morning in Bushwick, an elderly Thai man died after being forcefully pushed to the ground in a daylight attack.

Hakim's eyes WIDEN.

EXT. STREET - BUSHWICK - DAY

Tawan lies on the ground, his body is outlined with white spray painted lines.

TAWAN

This is where I fell.

ROTJANA JOY

Oh my god. Please get up. You're sick. Why are you showing me this?

TAWAN

I'm just showing you-

ROTJANA JOY

I know what you're doing-

She starts crying. Tawan gets up. He stands inside the spray painted police outline of his body.

TAWAN

Honey.

ROTJANA JOY

What's the point? This isn't going to bring you back.

TAWAN

I'm doing this for your own good. Please listen. Again, this is where I fell.

ROTJANA JOY

Is that your blood? I can't do this. I feel sick.

TAWAN

No, no. You can.

ROTJANA JOY

What am I going to do with this information?

TAWAN

You're going to find the boy. He's young. A teenager.

ROTJANA JOY

Who killed you?

TAWAN

Yes.

ROTJANA JOY

Oh my god. That's a great idea. I'm going to put him in jail!

TAWAN

No, you're not.

ROTJANA JOY

What? Why? He murdered you.

TAWAN

No, you're not. He's still young. He has his whole life ahead of him. You really want to take that away from him?

ROTJANA JOY

He needs to be punished.

TAWAN

Rotjana, my daughter. I lived a good long life.

ROTJANA JOY

But now you're gone.

TAWAN

I'll never be gone, Joy. As long as I'm in your heart.

ROTJANA JOY

You're going to make me cry, Pa.

TAWAN

So cry. It's okay. You're going to find this boy and you're going to invite him to my funeral.

ROTJANA JOY

What? No! No murderers at your funeral.

TAWAN

Joy, please. You *need* to do this.

ROTJANA JOY

Why do I *need* to do this? Why do I always need to be the good guy? Why do I always have to be the one to forgive? I'm so tired of this! Why can't I just be angry, be mad, be sad? Why do I always have to be the one that fixes everything? I don't want to do this. I want to be mad. I *want* to be angry. I hate that this happened to you!!!

TAWAN

I know. I hate that it happened to me too. But this anger will get you nowhere.

ROTJANA JOY

Let me be mad!!

TAWAN

Okay, but when you are done being mad, you are going to find this boy and invite him to my funeral.

ROTJANA JOY

Why?

TAWAN

(lightheartly)

Why not? It's my funeral. Am I not allowed to invite anyone I want?

ROTJANA JOY

You're twisted. And don't you dare try to guilt trip me.

TAWAN

My death cannot cause so much pain in someone's life. This is not good karma. This is the debt that I must resolve to move into the next life. You're going to invite him to my funeral.

ROTJANA JOY

Fuck that. He's racist and ageist and just a cruel piece of shit.

TAWAN

Your language-

ROTJANA JOY

I don't give a shit about my language. I live in New York City. This is how we talk.

TAWAN

You may live in New York City, but you will always be Thai inside. Remember that.

Rotjana Joy doesn't respond.

TAWAN

Invite him. It'll be good for you. I promise.

ROTJANA JOY

I don't have to listen to you. You're not even real.

We see Rotjana Joy yelling alone.

ROTJANA JOY

You're just a figment of my imagination!

A HIPSTER passerby looks at her weird.

ROTJANA JOY

What the fuck are you looking at,
huh?

INT. BREAKFAST NOOK - ROTJANA'S APARTMENT

Rotjana Joy pours freshly pressed coffee from a french press. Todd is reading an issue of The New Yorker next to her. Tawan sits across from them.

TAWAN

I'm *not* a figment of your
imagination.

ROTJANA JOY

What are you then? Why are you
bothering me?

TODD

Did you say something, hon?

TAWAN

To answer your question, I'm your
father. And I'm not going to stop
bothering you until you invite
that boy.

ROTJANA JOY

I'm so sad.

She breaks down into tears.

TODD

The police are still looking for
whoever did this. We're going to
get justice. I promise, okay?

Rotjana Joy wipes away her tears and nods.

INT. PLAYROOM - ROTJANA'S APARTMENT

Rotjana Joy is mentally half there, playing with Fern.
Tawan is next to her.

TAWAN

You have to let go of your anger.
For yourself and the sake of your
children.

ROTJANA JOY

Never. Nope. Lalalalalalalalalalala.
I'm drowning out your voice
because you aren't real. I'm not
doing it. Haunt me all you want.

Fern thinks this is a game and she lalalalala's along.
She giggles and squeals.

TAWAN

Your daughter's so happy. Why ruin
her happiness with your anger?

(in Thai, to Fern)

Sing with Khun Ta okay?

(singing)

*Chang, chang chang, ther ker hen
chang rue plaow.*

ROTJANA JOY

Lalalalaalaaalalala.

FERN

Chang, chang, chang, chang, chang!

Rotjana Joy stops in shock. She picks up her happy cooing
baby.

ROTJANA JOY

You can hear him too?

INT. DINING ROOM - FANCY MANHATTAN APARTMENT - EVENING

Rotjana Joy sits with her fabulously gay fashion designer
brother STEVE SANTICHAI, 41 at their fabulously custom-
made dining table. Her face in her hands.

ROTJANA JOY

If I told you something, can you
promise you won't think I'm crazy?

STEVE SANTICHAI

I mean, nothing's crazier than Pa
being gone.

ROTJANA JOY

That's it. He's not.

STEVE SANTICHAI

You're fucking with me.

We see Tawan sitting next to Steve Santichai.

TAWAN

Tell your brother to watch his language. I didn't raise you two to be like this.

ROTJANA JOY

No, I'm not. He told me to tell you to watch your language.

STEVE SANTICHAJ

You watch your language! This isn't funny, Joy!

TAWAN

Tell your brother also that he's spending too much money on things that don't matter. These *things* are not necessary.

Tawan motions to a very fancy and artsy lamp.

TAWAN

And also tell him that he should be using his Thai name, Santichai. It has such a nice meaning, "peaceful victory". Why does he still insist on using Steve when it sounds so stupid?

ROTJANA JOY

I'm not telling him that!

STEVE SANTICHAJ

Who are you talking to?

ROTJANA JOY

Pa!

STEVE SANTICHAJ

Fuck you, you're scaring me!

ROTJANA JOY

I'm not joking! I can see him. He's here right next to you.

STEVE SANTICHAJ

Here? Next to me, right here? I see nothing. What did he say?

ROTJANA JOY

You don't need to hear it.

STEVE SANTICHAI

You're asking me to believe that you see our dead dad and you're not delivering messages from the other realm?

ROTJANA JOY

It's really not a necessary comment. Please Steve, you have to believe me.

STEVE SANTICHAI

You know that Ben is one of New York's best therapists right? Maybe you should-

ROTJANA JOY

I'm not crazy. I wish I was but he's been bothering me for weeks.

STEVE SANTICHAI

Bothering you?

ROTJANA JOY

Yes. Well, asking me things. He won't leave me alone. Please don't think I'm crazy. I already think I'm crazy. Maybe I am losing my mind.

STEVE SANTICHAI

It's been so hard. For all of us. We all miss him terribly and the way that it happened... I mean, we're all losing our mind, Joy.

ROTJANA JOY

He tells me I need to find that boy who pushed him.

STEVE SANTICHAI

How do you know it's a boy?

ROTJANA JOY

Pa told me.

STEVE SANTICHAI

Well, then... we're definitely going to find him, Joy. That motherfu-

ROTJANA JOY

He wants me to invite him to his funeral.

STEVE SANTICHAI

Whaat? Fuck no!

ROTJANA JOY

That's what I said! I said no way!
Never. Fuck him. But now he's all
trying to guilt trip me by
hovering around me like a ghost,
giving me sad puppy guilt-tripping
eyes like I'm a bad daughter.

STEVE SANTICHAI

Did he say why?

ROTJANA JOY

Why don't you ask him?

STEVE SANTICHAI

Seriously Joy, this isn't funny.

ROTJANA JOY

It's fucking hilarious. He says
it's good for me to let go of the
anger. He's looking at me all
disapprovingly right now judging
my character with his eyes. But
why me? Why doesn't he go haunt
you? Pa, why don't you bother
Steve... I mean, Santichai? Are
you sure you can't see him sitting
next to you?

STEVE SANTICHAI

Nope. Are you sure you're okay?

ROTJANA JOY

I really need you to trust me
here. I need your support. I
really need you to be with me, not
against me!

STEVE SANTICHAI

Woah. I'm not against you. Is this
like when mom would talk to
herself at home when we were young
back when we lived in Thailand and
she said she was talking to
ghosts?

ROTJANA JOY

I dunno. Maybe?

STEVE SANTICHAI

Yeah, remember when mom used to relay messages from our Khun Ta. Maybe you inherited that from her?

ROTJANA JOY

I don't know.

STEVE SANTICHAI

Well, if you really have that gift. Then that means that he's still with us. Buddhists believe that the soul is around for 100 days after the body expires anyway. Why can't I see him?

ROTJANA JOY

Pa, why can't Steve see you?

TAWAN

He can't see me but he can feel me.

ROTJANA JOY

Huh.

STEVE SANTICHAI

What did he say?

ROTJANA JOY

He says you can't see him, but you can "feel" him.

STEVE SANTICHAI

How?

TAWAN

Tell him to put his hand over the chair. He'll feel a temperature difference.

ROTJANA JOY

Put your hand over the chair. You'll feel a temperature difference.

Steve Santichai does this and has goosebumps.

STEVE SANTICHAI

That doesn't mean anything. It could be a cold draft. You have to tell me what he said!

ROTJANA JOY
Fine, but don't get mad.

STEVE SANTICHAJ
Just tell me!

A beat.

ROTJANA JOY
Okay, fine. He said that you're spending too much money on things that don't matter. These *things* are not necessary. Like that lamp. And he said you should be using your Thai name and stop using Steve. He thinks it sounds stupid.

STEVE SANTICHAJ
Holy f! Pa? Are you really here?

INT. THAI BUDDHIST TEMPLE - QUEENS - DAY

Rotjana Joy is with Steve Santichai. They are giving alms to monks. Tawan walks next to them.

ROTJANA JOY
Thanks for coming with me, Steve. Pa's also happy that you came.

STEVE SANTICHAJ
I'm jealous I can't see him. Ask him why I can't see him.

ROTJANA JOY
I don't know. Maybe only girls can?

STEVE SANTICHAJ
That's so sexist!

ROTJANA JOY
I didn't *want* to see him, Steve!

STEVE SANTICHAJ
Well, maybe if we do enough prayers and alms, his soul will rest in peace and leave you alone.

TAWAN
We don't have a lot of time. After a hundred days, who knows what will happen to me. You must invite that boy to my funeral.

ROTJANA JOY

He says we have to invite that boy
who pushed him to his funeral.

STEVE SANTICHAI

Or else?

TAWAN

Or else I won't pass to my next
life. You don't want that do you?

ROTJANA JOY

Or else he won't pass into his
next life.

STEVE SANTICHAI

Listen Rotj, if you need a break,
the kids can always stay with me
for a little bit, okay?

ROTJANA JOY

I think we're fine.

INT. BROOKLYN HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Rotjana Joy is washing dishes and putting them in the
dishwasher. She drops a plate and it shatters on the
floor.

ROTJANA JOY

Shit.

She looks at the broken plate and broken pieces.

ROTJANA JOY

Fuck.

Her husband, TODD, enters.

TODD

Is everything alright?

ROTJANA JOY

(tears in her eyes)
What's the point?

She throws a plate on the ground on purpose and starts
crying.

TODD

Hon, I can wash the plates. Why
don't you sit down?

He walks Rotjana Joy to the breakfast table. She sits down and buries her face in her hands.

TODD

You sit here while I do the dishes okay? You just sit and relax.

Todd picks up the broken pieces of the plates off the floor.

INT. STEVE & BEN'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Rotjana Joy and Steve Santichai are dropping off Ananda & Fern. Steve Santichai is holding a crying Fern while Ben stands beside him being supportive.

ANANDA

I don't want to stay with Uncle Steve!

ROTJANA JOY

Ananda! Uncle Steve & Uncle Ben love you very much. They were looking forward to spending some time with you. You be good while Mommy & Daddy are on vacation okay?

ANANDA

But I want to go with you! Why can't we come? And where is Khun Ta?

Ben raises his eyebrow - she hasn't told them?

ROTJANA JOY

Your father and I are going to visit Khun Ta in a place where unfortunately no children are allowed.

ANANDA

And where is that? Khun Ta always said that children are always allowed.

ROTJANA JOY

Not this time, Ananda. We aren't going far. If you need me, you just asked Uncle Steve and you can talk to me anytime okay? I love you.

STEVE SANTICHAI
Uncle Steve got a present for you.

ANANDA
All right!

TODD
What did I say about not spoiling
the kids?

STEVE SANTICHAI
I thought they could use a
little... distraction, from all
this.

The latest Nintendo.

ANANDA
Wow!
(looks to his
parents)
Okay, but come back soon okay?

Rotjana Joy & Todd hug Ananda and Fern and say their
goodbyes. As they leave -

BEN
And if you need anything, anything
at all, please feel free to call.

STEVE SANTICHAI
We're here 24/7.

INT. TODD & ROTJANA'S BEDROOM - GREENPOINT APARTMENT -
BROOKLYN - NIGHT

A motionless Rotjana Joy lies awake in bed while Todd is
on top of her, holding her tight as he slowly makes love
to her. Rotjana Joy's mind is elsewhere. She can't feel
anything. She's numb.

ROTJANA JOY
Pull my hair.

TODD
What's that hon?

ROTJANA JOY
Pull my hair, Todd.

He pulls.

ROTJANA JOY

Harder.

TODD

I don't want to hurt you.

ROTJANA JOY

It's okay. I don't feel anything.

TODD

Are you sure you're okay? We don't have to do this.

ROTJANA JOY

I want you to fuck me harder.

TODD

What's that hon?

ROTJANA JOY

Fuck me harder, Todd. Harder.

He does as she says. They moan together. As they have raw & primal sex, she SCREAMS from a deep emotional pain as they both come. Rotjana Joy starts crying.

TODD

What happened? Did I hurt you?

She shakes her head.

ROTJANA JOY

(vulnerable)

Please hold me.

TODD

Of course.

ROTJANA JOY

We have to find who pushed Pa.

TODD

We will, hon. We will.

INT. GREENPOINT APARTMENT - DAY

Todd is on his laptop, searching for something.

INT. BATHTUB - GREENPOINT, BROOKLYN - DAY

A shower of water hits Rotjana Joy's head as she sits naked in a tub filled up with water. Soaking wet, she slowly sinks down, eventually her head emerged in water.

UNDER WATER

Rotjana Joy swims deeper and deeper. She stops swimming and lets herself go in the stillness of the water.

A moment of silence. She's okay going now. But just then, someone grabs her wrists - her father!

INT. BATHTUB - GREENPOINT, BROOKLYN - DAY

Rotjana Joy gasps for air.

A KNOCK on the door. Todd's voice.

TODD (O.S.)
Are you okay, hon?

INT. KITCHEN - GREENPOINT, BROOKLYN - DAY

Rotjana Joy lays her head on her dining room table. The apartment has fallen into disrepair. Dishes haven't been done. Tawan stands in front of her, poking around the mess.

TAWAN
Your mother and I didn't raise you like this.

ROTJANA JOY
You're not real.

TAWAN
What does it matter if I'm real or not, Joy. You're falling apart.

ROTJANA JOY
I miss you. I can't go on without you.

TAWAN
Yes, you can.

ROTJANA JOY
No, I can't.

TAWAN

Yes, you can.

ROTJANA JOY

No! I refuse.

TAWAN

(laughs)

You were always so stubborn and dramatic. Even as a little girl. Get up, Joy. I'll help you clean. But let's put on some music first.

He puts on an upbeat jazzy lukthung Thai music from the 60/70's on her record player. The Viking Combo Band -[18]- Pleng Yuk Owakard or The Petch Phin Thong Band -[08]- Soul Lam Plearn. Rotjana Joy smiles. They start laughing, dancing and cleaning the house together. Rotjana Joy enjoys these sweet tender moments with her father.

INT. GREENPOINT APARTMENT - LATER

Todd returns to a clean house. He's surprised but happy to see Rotjana Joy.

TODD

Wow, hon. It looks good. I'm glad you're feeling good enough to clean. I was going to hire a cleaning lady but it's been so difficult to get someone to come over.

ROTJANA JOY

It's okay. I had some help.

TODD

That's great.

ROTJANA JOY

Pa helped me.

TODD

Oh, honey.

ROTJANA JOY

He did. He helped me clean the entire house. Telling me that he and Ma didn't raise me to be a pig.

TODD

They absolutely didn't.

He kisses her on the forehead.

TODD
I have some news.

ROTJANA JOY
What?

TODD
They found some footage. On
someone's cameraphone.

He turns on the TV and plays the clip on Airplay. A horrific video of the incident and Pa falling down and a crowd around him. It's terrible quality and Todd plays and pauses like he's doing a play-by-play on a sporting event.

TODD
Hopefully we can find something
here.

TAWAN
Pause it.

ROTJANA JOY
Pause it.

Tawan points to someone running away in the corner of the screen.

TAWAN
See, this guy? That's the guy.

ROTJANA JOY
(points)
That's the guy.

TODD
How can you be so sure?

ROTJANA JOY
That's what Pa's saying. Now how
are we going to find him?

EXT. CLINTON HILL, BROOKLYN - DAY

Todd and Rotjana Joy stand outside a beautiful brownstone in a clearly gentrifying neighborhood. Cupcake shops are sandwiches between signs for bail bonds and barred windows. Tawan stands with them.

ROTJANA JOY
Pa says the boy lives here.

INT. ABUELA NORMA'S APARTMENT - CLINTON HILL - EVENING

Hakim is playing violent video games. Hanging out with his family. His grandmother and Gloria watch the news. It's news of Tawan being pushed!

GLORIA
Isn't it just awful? Old people being pushed like that.

ABUELA NORMA
They shouldn't have brought that virus to the country.

GLORIA
Ma... doesn't matter. No one deserves to be treated like that.

Hakim silently listens as he plays his game.

INT. BEN & STEVE'S APARTMENT - UPPER WEST SIDE - EVENING

As a LAUGHING Ananda chases Fern around the beautiful apartment-

BEN
(calmly)
Kids, please don't break anything. Some of these things are every expensive.

Fern SQUEALS in delight. Ben calmly puts in a pair of earplugs, picks up a glass of wine and takes a sip.

BEN
I seriously don't know how you and Rotj do it without losing your mind.

Todd sits next to him, lost in thought.

TODD
Do you think she's really seeing Pa?

BEN
She's traumatized, Todd. That's all I know. We're all traumatized. We all miss him.

TODD

I've dropped all of the cases I've been working on to find who did this. I'm working with the police. I don't sleep. We're literally this close. She's hot and cold. She tells me to find the boy to punish him and put him in jail. And then the next minute she's saying that Pa doesn't want the boy punished. He's telling her not to punish whoever killed him. I'm not sure what to do. I'm getting mixed messages. I want justice for Pa. I want to see whoever did this to our family put behind bars so he can't do this again.

INT. PRECINCT - DAY

Todd is sitting with OFFICER BARNES, 47, a regal and noble looking NYPD officer, who doubles over in laughter. Todd stares at him stoic.

OFFICER BARNES

Wait, you're not kidding. You're serious?

TODD

We have no other leads.

OFFICER BARNES

You know we can't legally pursue a tip from a... ghost. Are you a little old to be believing in ghosts?

Officer Barnes starts laughing again. Todd pushes a piece of paper down across the table to Barnes.

TODD

Here's the address. I just want you to run a check to see if the boy in the video lives there. We just want to *talk* to him.

Barnes looks at the piece of paper.

OFFICER BARNES

Listen Todd, I respect you man. As a lawyer, as a family man, as a good husband.

(MORE)

OFFICER BARNES (CONT'D)

I understand that your family is going through a trauma. Losing your father-in-law this way is such a tragedy. But you've gone noodles. You can't just go accusing random young boys. Especially young black ones, you know that.

He pushes the piece of paper back at Todd.

OFFICER BARNES

What if you're wrong?

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - CLINTON HILL - DAY

Hakim is shooting hoops with his buddy BOY, 14. He throws a ball at the basket and he misses. Defeated, Hakim puts his hands on his thighs and hangs his head.

HAKIM

What's the point?

BOY

The point is to score.

HAKIM

Not of the game, stupid. Of life.

BOY

What's going on with you?

HAKIM

What am I going to do, Boy? My life is over. What was the point of studying so hard to get honor roll?

BOY

What the hell are you talking about?

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Hakim & Boy are sitting at the cafeteria. TV news of Tawan's death comes on.

HAKIM

I pushed the guy.

BOY

What do you mean?

HAKIM

I mean, that guy on TV.

BOY

The guy who died?

HAKIM

I pushed him.

BOY

You're shitting me.

HAKIM

Knocked him down but I didn't mean to kill him... I was pissed - not at him or anything in particular - just at... whatever, life. And now he's dead.

BOY

Shit. Does anyone know?

HAKIM

No, I'll take this secret down to my grave. And don't you tell anyone. You're the first person I told. I can't tell my Abuela. She'll be heartbroken that her grandson is a cold hearted killer.

BOY

You're not a cold hearted killer.

HAKIM

I used to think that. Until I actually killed someone.

Hakim shakes his head.

HAKIM

My mom would kill me. She's working to hard to give me a good life and I go fuck it up like this. Fuck, what am I going to do?

BOY

Will they find you? Will the po-po find you I mean... don't they usually find the killer by like examining blood samples, video footage and shit.

HAKIM

I don't know. How long do you think it will take until they find me?

BOY

Are you going to jail? Will you go to jail?

HAKIM

I don't want to think about that right now. I want to forget it all happened. Like I didn't push him.

BOY

You mean like time travel? Back in time?

HAKIM

I'd love to be able to just reset my life like a video game and wake up from this like it's all a bad dream you know.

BOY

Maybe you could just keep hiding?

HAKIM

Or move to Philly and stay with my dad. Do you think they'll be able to find me there?

BOY

Dunno. You could try. Maybe change your last name to your dad's name. If they find you, you're in deep shit.

INT. CLINTON HILL - BROOKLYN - DAY

Hakim, on the phone with his dad.

HAKIM

Hey dad, do you think I can come live with you?

OMAR

Is everything okay there? With your momma & abuela?

HAKIM

Yeah, fine. I just... miss you.

OMAR

I miss you too, Haku.

HAKIM

So can I?

OMAR

Let me ask Laila. It should be no problem but are you sure your mom and abuela will be okay with this?

HAKIM

Yeah, I told them.

He clearly did not.

HAKIM

Another thing, dad... Can I change my last name to yours?

EXT. CLINTON HILL, BROOKLYN - DAY

Rotjana Joy stands alone outside the beautiful brownstone that we saw earlier. She presses a doorbell.

INT. CLINTON HILL APARTMENT - BROOKLYN - DAY

Abuela Norma is focused on a telenovela and Hakim is focused on shooting bad guys in his video game. Gloria gets ready for work. The BUZZER RINGS. She walks over to the buzzer.

GLORIA

Yes?

ROTJANA JOY

Hello, excuse me. I was wondering if I could speak to you for a moment regarding a young man who lives in your home.

Everyone stops what they are doing.

GLORIA

Who is this?

ROTJANA JOY

I was just wondering if I could speak to you and the young man for just a moment.

GLORIA

Please go away. Whatever it is
you're selling, I'm not buying.

ROTJANA JOY

Please. This is very important.
I'm speaking to you as a mother to
another mother.

A beat.

GLORIA

Meet me at the cupcake shop in 5
mins. I'm on my way to work and I
only have 10 minutes to spare.

INT. CUPCAKE SHOP - CLINTON HILL, BROOKLYN - DAY

Rotjana Joy sits across from a suspicious Gloria.

ROTJANA JOY

Thank you for meeting me. Would
you like a cupcake?

GLORIA

I only have 10 minutes. You want
to spend 5 minutes eating?

ROTJANA JOY

No.

GLORIA

What is it? I need to head to
work.

ROTJANA JOY

I'm sorry. This is really hard.

GLORIA

Wait, you look familiar. I think I
saw you on the news. You lost your
father.

ROTJANA JOY

Yes. It was a terrible accident.

GLORIA

I can only imagine. What a crazy
world this is. I'm so sorry for
your loss.

ROTJANA JOY

Thank you.

GLORIA

So what can I do for you?

A beat.

GLORIA

Well, then?

ROTJANA JOY

We have some reason to believe
that your son pushed my father.

GLORIA

My son? That's crazy. He's a good
boy. He would never.

ROTJANA JOY

But we don't want trouble. We just
want to invite you and your family
to the funeral.

GLORIA

My son would never do such a
thing! How dare you even insinuate-

ROTJANA JOY

I don't want any trouble.

GLORIA

If you don't want any trouble,
then why are you coming here to my
neighborhood insinuating that my
son killed your father. How dare
you!

Gloria stands up to leave.

ROTJANA JOY

No, please don't go. Can we talk
about this calmly?

GLORIA

I think we're done here.

Gloria walks out of the cupcake shop.

ROTJANA JOY

No, please. Wait.

Rotjana Joy runs after her. An arm holds her back. The
arm belongs to Tawan.

INT. SUBWAY - BROOKLYN

Gloria is listening to headphones while on the train and closes her eyes.

FLASHBACK

INT. KITCHEN - CLINTON HILL

Omar pushes Gloria.

OMAR

What did I tell you about hanging
out with him, Glo?

GLORIA

We just talked about class, O.

A young Hakim watches as Omar pushes and hits Gloria as she cries.

OMAR

Don't you disrespect me!

FLASHBACK ENDS.

GLORIA

(V.O)

My son would never do such a
thing!

EXT. BROOKLYN - DAY

ROTJANA JOY

Excuse me, are you Hakim?

HAKIM

Why?

ROTJANA JOY

My father was walking one day and-

HAKIM

I don't know what you're talking
about. Why are you following me,
lady? I didn't push nobody.

ROTJANA JOY

We have video footage. Eventually
the police will find you. I don't
care if you're admitting it to
yourself or not. Someone saw it
and you can be in big trouble.

(MORE)

ROTJANA JOY (CONT'D)

I'm doing this myself so I don't have to get the authorities involved. Please, I'm begging you. I'm seriously losing my shit here. My father died and he's coming into my life as a ghost and he wants you to go to his funeral because he can't pass to his next life if you don't! Please. I'm sorry. I'm at a loss. I'm not mad at you. I'm just really really sad. Please, I just want you and your family to come to his funeral. Just ask your parents. They can come too. Bring whoever, your friends. We'll have a party!

HAKIM

You're looney, lady.

INT. BUDDHIST TEMPLE - QUEENS - DAY

Rotjana Joy is at the temple picking out funeral flowers. She looks at three different types of white flowers - lilies, chrysanthemums, and lotuses.

ROTJANA JOY

Do you like the lotus, Pa? Or the lilies. Chrysanthemums are pretty too.

Tawan looks at his choices.

TAWAN

Lilies. Like at your mother's.

She smiles.

INT. GREENPOINT APARTMENT - DAY

Rotjana Joy writes an invitation to Tawan's funeral and cremation at the Thai Temple in Queens, addressed to Hakim's family.

INT. CUPCAKE SHOP - BROOKLYN - DAY

Rotjana Joy walks over to a table holding a plate with a beautiful cupcake in one hand, the funeral invitation in the other. She puts the plate down and stares past it, looking out the window.

TAWAN

You're not going to eat it?

ROTJANA JOY

I'm not hungry.

TAWAN

Wasting such a pretty cupcake. I wish I could eat it.

ROTJANA JOY

I wish you could too.

She sees Gloria walk by and rushes out, invitation in hand.

EXT. CLINTON HILL APARTMENT - BROOKLYN

Gloria walks to her apartment. Rotjana Joy runs over to her.

ROTJANA JOY

Excuse me! I have an invitation for you.

She hands Gloria an envelope. Gloria doesn't take it.

GLORIA

(pissed)

What kind of game are you playing?

ROTJANA JOY

What? No. No game. It's an invitation to my father's funeral.

GLORIA

Why you trying to invite us to your daddy's funeral when you're trying to put my baby in jail?

ROTJANA JOY

What do you mean?

GLORIA

Don't act all innocent. Playing like you don't know nothing. We got your letter. How dare you show up here again? When you served us papers to sue us for your father's death?

ROTJANA JOY
No! I don't know anything about
that.

GLORIA
You two faced bitch!

Gloria slams the door in her face.

INT. GREENPOINT APARTMENT - NIGHT

ROTJANA JOY
Why did you do that, Todd?

TODD
Honey, you said you wanted to find
him.

ROTJANA JOY
But to sue him?!

TODD
In damages. Look at what they've
done to our family. To you. You're
losing your mind. That's the least
I could do.

Todd shows her the Wrongful Death papers he filed.

ROTJANA JOY
\$500,000 in damages? What is this
for?

TODD
Emotional damage counts.

ROTJANA JOY
This is what Pa's life was worth?
Do we need the money? I went today
to the boy's home and invited his
mother to Pa's funeral. She called
me two-faced.

TODD
You shouldn't be going over there
if we're trying to sue them, hon.

ROTJANA JOY
This is really bad, Todd.

TODD
I filed in the civil court as a
personal injury.

ROTJANA JOY

There aren't even any criminal charges against the boy!

TODD

There will be once we match the video footage.

ROTJANA JOY

Why did you do this? I told you-

TODD

I'm trying to help-

ROTJANA JOY

This is not helping!

TODD

What do you want me to do? I sit here watching you every day talk to yourself. You are depressed. I hate seeing you cry. I needed to do something!

ROTJANA JOY

This it *not* that something.

TODD

Do you want me to file it as a criminal charge - manslaughter & racist attack?

ROTJANA JOY

Is it too late to drop the charges?

TODD

Why on earth would you want to do that?

INT. GREENPOINT APARTMENT - HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Todd sits at a desk littered with coffee mugs and half-eaten take out.

TODD

(on the phone with
his brother-in-law
STEVE)

Someone needs to be punished for Pa's death! A Wrongful Death Lawsuit seems fine to me.

(MORE)

TODD (CONT'D)

It's not like we're going to put the kid in jail or it's going to be on his public record... yet. I guess if I really wanted to, I could press criminal charges. But now she wants me to drop the suit? What for? I don't even think I want to. She wants to invite this family to the funeral now. For what reason? So the kid can see what he's done? What kind of pain he's caused our family? What kind of solution is that? She says that's what Pa wants. Is this really what Pa wants? If he's even still around... Okay, I'll talk to her again and I'll let you know what happens.

Todd hangs up the phone. He's all alone in a small dark room with a single desk lamp.

TODD

(out to the room)

Pa, are you there? Rotj says she can talk you. Can you talk to me? I don't get it. I don't get it at all. Maybe it's a different culture but I'm really baffled here. Looking for some answers here. Can you make me understand why you want to do this? Why invite the boy who killed you to your funeral? What good would that do? Would he even come? Doesn't sound like a fun party to me.

(to himself, problem-solving)

Maybe we can charge him for involuntary manslaughter... perhaps misdemeanor? Race-related hate crime under New York State law? I wonder if there is there a juvenile law where we can try him as an adult at 14?

INT. CLINTON HILL APARTMENT - BROOKLYN - DAY

Hakim sees an envelope addressed to him on the kitchen counter. It's Rotjana Joy's invitation. He opens and reads it. It has a photo of Tawan on it. The funeral is at the Thai Temple in Queens.

EXT. CLINTON HILL - BROOKLYN - DAY

Gloria walks by a store with a bunch of TVs in the front. She catches news about Tawan.

NEWSCASTER

Updates to the case of the death of the Thai man's death in Greenpoint. The police has found some footage of the perpetrator.

Video footage.

NEWSCASTER

If anyone has any information about this man-

Gloria sees her son in the video of the crowd.

INT. CLINTON HILL APARTMENT - BROOKLYN - DAY

Abuela Norma is parked on the couch. Hakim playing his violent video game. Gloria storms in.

ABUELA

(in Spanish)

Aren't you supposed to be at work?

GLORIA

Hakim. I need to talk to you.

HAKIM

(focused on his game)

Uh huh.

Gloria grabs the controller out of his hand.

HAKIM

Hey!

GLORIA

In your room. Now!

Gloria walks away. Hakim, annoyed, follows her.

INT. HAKIM'S ROOM - DAY

GLORIA

Haku, I'm going to ask you something and it's very important that you tell mama the truth, okay?

HAKIM

(confused)

Okay. What is this about? You're acting all weird.

GLORIA

You promise you're not going to lie?

HAKIM

Why should I?

GLORIA

Promise me, Hakim!

HAKIM

Promise.

GLORIA

Did you hurt an old Asian man?

Hakim is silent.

GLORIA

(louder)

Hakim Rodriguez! Did you hurt an old Asian man?

HAKIM

No.

GLORIA

Hakim! Please, don't lie to me!

Abuela Norma rolls into the room in her wheelchair. She speaks in Spanish.

ABUELA

What is going on, my loves?

GLORIA

Is there something that you'd like to tell us, Hakim?

Hakim is silent.

HAKIM

I didn't-

GLORIA

Hakim! I saw your face on the news.

HAKIM

What?

Gloria is in tears.

GLORIA

Please don't lie to me, Haku!

ABUELA

*What is my beautiful grandson
lying about?*

INT. DINING ROOM - CLINTON HILL APARTMENT - BROOKLYN

Gloria sits at the head of the dining table, her face buried in her hands. The funeral invitation is opened on the table.

Hakim sits besides her. Abuela at the opposite side of table.

ABUELA

*My beautiful grandson would never
hurt anyone.*

HAKIM

I didn't mean to hurt him.

GLORIA

I know, baby. He's dead, Hakim. Do you know what this could mean for you? Do you have any idea what this could mean for your future? I'm so scared. I'm so scared. Is this why you wanted to go live with your father in Philly? He told me that you wanted to change your name.

Gloria has tears in her eyes. So does Hakim.

GLORIA

Don't cry Haku. That's not the solution. You can't just run from something like this because it's going to come back and bite you in the butt. You can't just move to your dad's because someone will find you, sooner or later.

HAKIM

So what do I do?

GLORIA

Let's get some fresh air. Want to go for a drive?

INT. CAR - BROOKLYN

Gloria drives. Hakim's in the passenger seat. Gloria stops at the precinct.

GLORIA

Get out of the car.

HAKIM

What's going on?

GLORIA

I'm sorry Haku. It's better this way. Maybe they'll let you off easier?

HAKIM

What?

GLORIA

It's better to surrender yourself.

HAKIM

Mom, I didn't mean to do it!

GLORIA

Then tell them it was an accident!

Hakim is quiet.

GLORIA

What exactly were you planning to do? Run away and go off to your dad's, change your name? And what happens when the police find you? You'll be slammed with heavier charges. It's better to turn yourself in. You're 14, maybe they'll be easy on you. Tell them you're on the honor roll.

Hakim starts crying.

HAKIM

Mama, I'm scared.

Gloria hugs him.

GLORIA
I know baby. I know.

Gloria starts the car and they drive away.

INT. BEDROOM - CLINTON HILL, BROOKLYN - NIGHT

Hakim lies in bed in silence, looking at Tawan's picture on the funeral invitation.

INT. ABUELA NORMA'S APARTMENT - CLINTON HILL - NEXT DAY

The police come and take Hakim away in cuffs. Abuela Norma is crying while Gloria silently and heartbrokenly watches her son being taken away.

(RESEARCH: Does she go with her son because he is a minor? Does she get legal representation?)

RESEARCH which precinct will he go to and will he be tried as an adult? If he is tried as an adult he will have a bail?

INT. GREENPOINT APARTMENT - DAY

Todd tells Rotjana Joy that the kid in the video has been confirmed Hakim has been arrested.

INT. JAIL - DAY

Hakim sits in jail. A police officer comes to him.

POLICE OFFICER
Hakim Rodriguez. Come with me.
Someone posted your bail.

EXT. JAIL - DAY

Hakim is surprised to see Rotjana Joy.

HAKIM
You posted my bail? Why?

Tawan stands next to her but Hakim doesn't see him.

ROTJANA JOY
Let me take you home.

INT. UBER - BROOKLYN - DAY

Rotjana Joy sits next to Hakim. Tawan sits in the middle.

TAWAN

Ask him.

ROTJANA JOY

Please come to my father's
cremation. It's this Saturday.

HAKIM

Is that why you bailed me out? Why
do you want me to be there,
anyway?

ROTJANA JOY

My father wants you to be there.

HAKIM

Is this a trick?

ROTJANA JOY

Why would I try to trick you if I
just paid your bail?

HAKIM

I don't know. Lots of twisted
people in this town. My mom says
you are crazy.

The uber stops in front of Abuela's house.

ROTJANA JOY

Maybe I am. My family would really
love to see you there.

INT. ABUELA NORMA'S APARTMENT - CLINTON HILL - DAY

Haku enters the apartment. Abuela Norma, watching her
telenovelas is surprised to see him.

ABUELA NORMA

Haku? You're home! Gloria! Gloria!
Haku's home!

Gloria comes running and hugs Hakim.

GLORIA

I can't believe it. What happened?

HAKIM

The crazy lady bailed me out.

GLORIA

Why?

HAKIM

She said so I can go to the funeral.

GLORIA

Again?

HAKIM

It kind of creeps me out. She was talking to herself.

GLORIA

You don't have to go if you don't want to. Even if she did bail you out.

HAKIM

Do you think it's a set up? For something larger?

GLORIA

I don't know Haku, it's hard to trust people's intentions these days.

HAKIM

She said she'd drop the charges. She just wants me there.

GLORIA

Do you want to go?

Off Hakim's face.

INT. GREENPOINT APARTMENT - DAY

Rotjana Joy stares off into the distance. Ananda notices.

ANANDA

Mom!

Rotjana Joy snaps out of it.

INT. GREENPOINT APARTMENT - DAY

Ananda hears fight between Rotjana Joy & Todd.

ROTJANA

Please drop all the charges, Todd.

TODD

I can't believe you used *our savings* to bail this boy out of jail! Roj, I know Pa died and we both miss him dearly but *you're* still alive. You still have responsibilities. You have children. You have family. Why are you so obsessed with protecting this boy?

INT. GREENPOINT APARTMENT - DAY

Ananda sits, watching his little sister play with no one.

ROTJANA JOY

(O.S.)

Keep your voice down, the kids are in the other room.

FERN

(singing)

Chang, chang, chang, chang, chang!

INT. CLINTON HILL APARTMENT - BROOKLYN - DAY

Hakim is alone at home playing VIDEO GAMES. The buzzer RINGS.

EXT. CLINTON HILL APARTMENT - DAY

Ananda presses the BUZZER.

ANANDA

May I please speak with Hakim?

HAKIM

(O.S.)

You have the wrong place.

ANANDA

No, I don't. I see it right here in the police report.

HAKIM

Police report?

ANANDA

Yes.

HAKIM
Who is this?

ANANDA
Is this Hakim?

HAKIM
Why?

ANANDA
I want to ask him what happened.

HAKIM
Your parents didn't tell you?

ANANDA
No. I miss my grandfather.

A beat.

HAKIM
I don't have to tell you anything.
Please leave and tell your mother
to leave me alone.

Hakim hangs up. He takes a deep breath. He's freaked out.

EXT. PUBLIC BASKETBALL COURT - CLINTON HILL - DAY

Ananda watches Hakim playing basketball with Boy. Ananda walks over to them. He's much smaller physically than they are.

ANANDA
Can I join?

HAKIM
We ain't looking for players.

BOY
Where'd you come from, tiny?

Ananda lunges at Hakim - he's half Hakim's size.

BOY
What the-?

Ananda and Hakim get into a fistfight, where Ananda is doing most of the punching and Boy attempts to break them apart.

BOY
Stop it!

ANANDA
You killed my grandpa!

HAKIM
Woah, what?

ANANDA
You hurt my family!

HAKIM
I didn't mean to! It was an
accident!

ANANDA
You hurt my mom!

HAKIM
Get off of me, kid!

Boy pulls Ananda off Hakim and pushes him to the ground. Ananda gets up again & Boy grabs him and holds his arms behind him.

HAKIM
Stop it before you hurt yourself.

Ananda spits in Hakim's face.

BOY
What do you want me to do with
him?

HAKIM
Nothing.

Hakim walks away.

ANANDA
You can't just walk away!

Ananda runs after him and jumps on his back. Boy again intercepts him and pulls him off. Ananda punches Hakim in the face.

BOY
Hey, hey, hey! Back off!

HAKIM
(to Ananda)
I didn't mean to okay? I didn't
mean to! I know what I did. I ran
away. I was scared. They put me in
jail. Your mom bailed me out. I
don't know what else I can do.

(MORE)

HAKIM (CONT'D)

What can I do? Nothing I do is going to bring your grandpa back!

ANANDA

I know that.

HAKIM

What do you want me to do about it?

ANANDA

I want you to tell my mom you're sorry.

HAKIM

I can't do that.

ANANDA

Why not? Everyone already knows you did it.

INT. BEDROOM - CLINTON HILL, BROOKLYN - DAY

Hakim lies in bed in silence, looking at Tawan's picture on the funeral invitation.

INT. THAI BUDDHIST TEMPLE - QUEENS, NY

TAWAN'S body lies on a covered table with a blanket over it. Monks in saffron robes are chanting as people pay their respects in a water pouring ceremony.

White lilies adorn the room.

Rotjana Joy and Steve Santichai stand in front of their father's embalmed body.

Visitors are weeping and paying their respects by pouring water on Tawan's corpse's hand.

STEVE SANTICHAH

Do you think they are coming?

ROTJANA JOY

There's still half an hour to the cremation.

Tawan stands next to Rotjana Joy in front of his corpse.

TAWAN

I hope so.

ROTJANA JOY

Pa says he hopes so.

STEVE SANTICHAI

How's Pa liking the funeral thus far?

ROTJANA JOY

Well, he did pick out the flowers.

STEVE SANTICHAI

Same flowers as mom's.

Todd hands Rotjana Joy Baby Fern who smiles and coo's with Tawan.

ROTJANA JOY

(to Tawan)

What happens if they don't come?
Does that mean you'll never leave?
That'll be great. Then you can
babysit Fern forever.

TAWAN

We're running out of time.

ROTJANA JOY

You can stay here forever with us
as far as I'm concerned.

TAWAN

I wish I could my daughter.

ROTJANA JOY

I don't want you to go, Pa.

TAWAN

I will always be with you. In
here.

(he presses his hand
on her heart)

I am the blood that flows through
your veins as well as theirs. You
and your children are of me as
much as I am a part of you always.

ROTJANA JOY

(tearing)

Are you sure you want to miss your
grandkids growing up?

INT. BEDROOM - CLINTON HILL, BROOKLYN - DAY

Hakim lies in bed in silence, looking at Tawan's picture on the funeral invitation.

INT. KITCHEN - CLINTON HILL, BROOKLYN - DAY

Gloria sits at the kitchen table doing her homework.

Hakim walks over to her.

HAKIM

Mama, want to come with me to
Queens?

INT. THAI BUDDHIST TEMPLE - QUEENS - DAY

Family members (Ben, Steve Santichai & Todd) pay their respects to Tawan in speeches.

Rotjana Joy stands at the podium, in front of a microphone. She looks at her father standing at the back of the hall, near the door, as she speaks.

ROTJANA JOY

My father was very kind. The kind of person who was compassionate and saw the good in every person he met. Even when someone treated him in a way that was unkind, instead of being unkind back, he would tell us that that person was experiencing much pain, and therefore we needed to be extra kind to them. I used to think this kindness was a weakness, a way for others to take advantage of him. But I see now how this was his superpower because it really is very hard to do and it takes so much strength of character to not react badly when bad things happen and instead act with kindness. He once said to me:
Once you see that somebody else's actions are not at all a reflection of you but only a reflection of themselves then you are able to feel deep compassion as they, along with you, are the victim.

(MORE)

ROTJANA JOY (CONT'D)

Even in the expected way that he left us, he would want us to be extra kind and value what is most important, the present moment and the hope and opportunity to become better people which each passing moment. Even though I am so sad and am so not ready to say goodbye, I know my father and his love, kindness and compassion will continue to live through us, with us and amongst us.

The temple door opens. Hakim and Gloria enter, holding a bouquet of flowers. Rotjana Joy sees them and smiles.

FADE TO BLACK.