

EXT. AUSTIN SUBURBS - DUSK

Under the otherworldly twilit sky, a modern home with a perfectly trimmed front lawn, like all the other houses on the block. The American Dream, capital A, capital D.

A nerdy black MAN in his 30's opens the front door followed by his wife, JADE, 28, a spiritual black woman so full of life, not thick but thicc, with glossy curls, and a single earring shaped like the sun.

They kiss before the man walks to the black coupe waiting out front.

He doesn't notice the messy Honda, at least 10 years old, with cracked leather seats, parked across the street. Is someone stalking them?

In the driver seat sits ATHENA, 27, black lesbian. Athletic build. Buzzcut. Multiple piercings stuffed into every possible orifice. A tattoo of an owl runs down her right shoulder.

There's a fierceness in her that translates to her love life. When she loves, she loves hard. Case in point:

She watches the man get into the car and waits for him to drive off. She glances at the front door, now closed. Deep breath. Takes a swig of liquid courage from her flash and opens her car door.

INT. JADE'S PALACE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jade lights an incense stick and waves it across the room. She pulls out her tarot cards and sits on top of her bed. Just when she starts shuffling them she hears a knock at the window. Eye roll. Here we go again.

She lifts up the window, amused at her visitor. A cheesy grin on her face, Athena sways in a drunken haze.

JADE  
You just don't quit.

She speaks in a hushed tone to avoid waking up her nosy-ass neighbors.

ATHENA  
Hey, sweet thang.

She goes in for a kiss but Jade moves her head, catching a whiff of Athena's alcohol breath.

JADE  
 Girl, you drove here like that?

Athena gives a dopey smile, which makes Jade laugh.

JADE (CONT'D)  
 You could have just drunk text me  
 and saved--

Athena grabs Jade by the neck and tries to kiss her again.  
 Success!

JADE (CONT'D)  
 (kiss)  
 We can't.  
 (kiss)  
 Do this.  
 (kiss)  
 Anymore.  
 (finally breaking free)  
 Athena!

She flashes the wedding ring on her finger, a painful  
 reminder of the bond that separates them.

ATHENA  
 You the only one for me, babe.  
 Helped me get through college. You  
 were there when mom died. Why  
 can't we be together?

As if to punctuate her declaration Athena HICCUPS loudly.  
 Jade shakes her head, trying to decide whether this drunken  
 love confession is pathetic or adorable.

The neighbor's backlight cuts on.

JADE  
 Maybe in another lifetime. Now let  
 me save some lives tonight and  
 call your intoxicated ass an Uber.

She pulls out her phone but Athena grabs her arm and gets  
 all melodramatic.

ATHENA  
 Jade. I can't live in a world  
 without you and me. I won't.

Jade laughs again.

JADE  
 Go somewhere with that rom-com  
 mess.

Athena gives her a sad smile. She ain't giving up. Not now. Not ever.

INT. UBER (MOVING) - NIGHT

Athena's sitting in the backseat, moping over the rejection. After some time has passed, she notices that they are driving by the cemetery.

ATHENA  
Here is good.

She opens the car door before the car has stopped.

UBER DRIVER  
You sure? We're at least five  
miles from--

The door SLAMS.

ATHENA  
(from outside)  
Thanks.

EXT. CEMETERY GATE - NIGHT

Still quite intoxicated, Athena struggles to climb the cemetery gate. The moment she gets halfway over it she falls flat on her back on the other side. Ouch.

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

Athena is chilling on the ground next to a tombstone, which she hangs her arm around like it's a drinking buddy.

ATHENA  
Welp. She said no, Ma. What can  
you do?

Takes a swig from her flask, oblivious to what's going on in the b.g. She offers the flask to the tombstone as if it will drink too. She shrugs and takes another swig.

A DARK FIGURE comes out the door of the chapel not too far behind her. In his hand he has some otherworldly skeleton key, emanating a frosty blue light and fiery streams of vapor, like dry ice.

The light bounces off his face, revealing an Asian man in his 30s. Streaks of grey hair belie several lifetimes of failure and disappointment.

He freezes when he spots Athena. Once he realizes she's asleep he slips away to safety. She starts snoring lightly.