



LOVECRAFT COUNTRY

AMERICA'S
DEMONS
EXPOSED!

EPISODE #109
"REWIND 1921"

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and
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SCRIPT REVISION HISTORY

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CAST LIST

LETI LEWIS

ATTICUS FREEMAN

RUBY BAPTISTE

MONTROSE FREEMAN

HIPPOLYTA FREEMAN

CHRISTINA BRAITHWHITE

DIANA “DEE” FREEMAN

WILLIAM LOWE

CAPTAIN SEAMUS LANCASTER

CRANE

BEULAH

GILBERT

HATTIE

MARTHA

VERTON

YOUNG DORA

YOUNG GEORGE

YOUNG MONTROSE

THOMAS

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT #1

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT #2

NEGRO CHILDREN

ARMED THUG

TEEN THUGS (3)

DAWN MEMBER

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SET LIST

INTERIORS

Safe Negro Travel
Apartment above Safe Negro Travel
 Bathroom
 Bedroom
 Living Room
Observatory
Tulsa, Oklahoma (1921)
 Dora's Family Home
 Living Room
 Back Door
 Hattie's Bedroom
 *Shed across from the House
Stradford Hotel
 Hotel Room

EXTERIORS

Safe Negro Travel
Kentucky Hillside
Tulsa, Oklahoma (1921)
 Back Alley
 Back Alleyway
Greenwood Neighborhood
 Dora's Family Home
 Freeman House
 Another Street
Tulsa Alley
Tulsa Park
*(Stradford Hotel - OMIT)
Black Wall Street

VEHICLES

Woody the Packard
Silver Bentley
Stolen Car

1 OMITTED
THRU
6

1
THRU
6

7 INT. APARTMENT ABOVE - SAFE NEGRO TRAVEL - NIGHT

7

ATTICUS and MONTROSE pour over Diana's CURSE SKETCHES at the kitchen table while LETI turns the dial on the RADIO, skipping through stations as she listens intently. Montrose displays **UNCLE TOM'S CABIN** against Diana's TOPSY SKETCH --

MONTROSE
You think the thing following her reminded her of Topsy?

ATTICUS
I don't know, but this is definitely the Language of Adam...

As he holds up Diana's TIME SYMBOL SKETCH --

LETI
Here we go. Listen --

She turns up the RADIO VOLUME as a disc jockey reports --

DISC JOCKEY (V.O.)
...the lives of several police officers were tragically cut short in what authorities are calling a freak accident...

Our Heroes exchange glances. *Freak accident?*

DISC JOCKEY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
An explosion due to faulty manhole wiring rocked the North Side suburb in the late hours of the night...

LETI
They're are covering it up.

*
*

That barely has a second to land --

RUBY (O.S.)
This black shit on her arm's still spreading...

Atticus, Leti, and Montrose move into the...

7 CONTINUED:

7

LIVING ROOM

...worried eyes taking in DIANA unconscious on the couch. Entombed in WET TOWELS intended to break her FEVER. BLACK MOLD slowly spreads along her arm where Topsy clawed. One thing is clear -- Lancaster's curse is killing her!

RUBY (CONT'D)

Hand me some more of those towels...

Leti jumps in to help as Atticus feels helpless --

ATTICUS

Damnit. We should have been watching her --

ANGER flashes in Montrose's eyes --

MONTROSE

You mean I should have been?

ATTICUS

If you'd just kept her from leaving here. You knew she was upset --

Leti hangs her head --

LETI

She came by the house too. Looking for you.

MONTROSE

Why didn't you pick up the damn phone and let somebody know?

Leti and Atticus trade a guilty look. *Ji-ah's return.*

LETI

I was on my way out. But I told her to stay inside until I got back --

ATTICUS

You just left her?

RUBY

Stop pointing fingers. Y'all all to blame. Now how do we fix it?

A chastised beat, then --

ATTICUS

We need to call Christina.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

Leti and Ruby trade quiet ALARM. Both have a secret history with Christina they don't want the Freeman's to know.

MONTROSE

Hell no, we use the spell we got to protect her from whatever this is --

LETI

We can't risk Dee's life fucking around with more magic --

ATTICUS

She's right. We got lucky with our spell. We need someone who knows what they're doing --

MONTROSE

The white witch ain't gonna help us --

ATTICUS

Yes she will. Because I'm going to give her Titus's pages.

Ruby watches the color drain from Leti's face. Christina already has the pages. Before Montrose can protest further --

MONTROSE

Those could be part of whatever she's planned for the Autumnal Equinox --

ATTICUS

It doesn't matter. Dee survives, and we deal with the consequences when they come.

Leti bores a hole into Montrose. Willing him to continue fighting Atticus's plan. He looks to his dying niece, and --

MONTROSE

Shit. Make the damn call --

LETI

Wait. Christina already has the pages. I gave them to her.

The Freeman's are STUNNED. It really takes a beat. And another. Leti looks to Atticus. Needs him to hear this --

LETI (CONT'D)

I went to her to trade them for invulnerability for you. To protect you. But she refused. Then she offered me invulnerability instead...

*

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (3)

7

Multiple levels of DISBELIEF in Atticus and Montrose's eyes, but the ANGER explodes in Montrose as he advances on Leti...

MONTROSE

And you just took it? Fuck all the rest of us?

...but Atticus grabs his father's arm. Holding him back. And Ruby's up between him and her sister --

RUBY

Hell naw, you better back up --

MONTROSE

No more fucking around with magic, ain't that what you said? But you'll save your sorry ass with it --

RUBY

She had to protect herself, she's --

LETI

Ruby --

Leti cuts her a warning look. Now is not the time to reveal she's pregnant with Atticus's baby. An ugly silence hangs. Atticus looks to Diana. She's getting worse by the second --

ATTICUS

Those pages were our only leverage left...

RUBY

No they weren't. Christina will help Dee. For me.

As another wave of SHOCK rolls through the Freeman men...

SMASH TO TITLES:

L O V E C R A F T C O U N T R Y

8 OMITTED

8 *

9 INT. APARTMENT ABOVE - SAFE NEGRO TRAVEL - DAY

9 *

The air is thick with TENSION as Atticus, Montrose, Leti, and Ruby watch CHRISTINA flip through Diana's CURSE SKETCHES --

CHRISTINA

She's gifted. The detail's incredible.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

I can tell from these the curse is a combination of Titus's pages, and Horatio's stolen ones.

ATTICUS

Can you remove it?

Christina examines Diana's blackened arm. Genuinely disturbed -- *

CHRISTINA

No. Lancaster sealed it with his body. He's the only one that can. *

Our Heroes DEFLATE. Christina clocks their despair. *Was it something she said?* *

RUBY

He's dead.

Christina locks meaningful eyes with Ruby. Her revenge for William's death in flux with two words.

CHRISTINA

How?

Before Ruby can answer, Leti steps between them --

LETI

He was caught in the explosion outside my house -- *

ATTICUS

Can you use my blood instead? *

CHRISTINA

No. It isn't a magical cure all. I can perform a restoration. Reset the curse's cycle. But eventually...

MONTROSE

Dee will die.

The weight of that hits everyone. But Atticus is not ready to give up --

ATTICUS

Do it.

CHRISTINA

On one condition. You come willingly back to Ardham the night of the autumnal equinox.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

And there it is. Nobody's surprised by this quid pro quo, but it doesn't make it any easier to swallow. A grim beat. Atticus grits his teeth. Nods. And with that --

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

I'll need you all to help channel intention. And we'll need the location of the original spell...

Leti shuffles through Diana's SKETCHES OF LANCASTER ASSAULTING her on the street --

LETI

This could be any alley --

CHRISTINA

No, it had to be a place of significance. Extreme events -- births, deaths, acts of violence and martyrdom -- increase the vibrations of spaces. Ripening them for casting.

MONTROSE

Colored folks have gotten murdered on every street corner in Chicago. That's not significant enough --

CHRISTINA

No, it's not.

ATTICUS

Fine, but we don't need dead energy. She was born in this apartment. If we're trying to restore her...

That liquid smile spreads Christina's lips --

CHRISTINA

Now you're thinking like a natural philosopher.

She picks up Diana's Time Symbol Sketch --

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

I need an element from my lab. While I'm gone, trace this and the protection symbol around the apartment in an evenly distributed polygon. And get her temperature back to as close to normal as possible.

ATTICUS

What are we using for the body?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (3)

9

CHRISTINA

The blood of her closet relative
should do.

LETTI

Hippolyta...

ATTICUS

Is gone. Pop, it's on you.

Montrose swallows the PANIC bubbling. *He might not be Diana's
closest relative...*

*

10 **OMITTED**

10 *

All1 **INT. LANCASTER'S OFFICE - SONS OF LAZARUS LODGE - DAY**

All1 *

CLOSE ON an exposed BLACK MALE TORSO. It vibrates with quick
short breaths. A desperate rhythm. TWO MASSIVE WELTS appear
on the skin, and -- RIP open, exposing the internal organs!

*

*

A GUTTURAL WAIL reverberates as we TILT UP, past the
convulsing diaphragm, past CROOKED SURGICAL STITCHES at the
collarbone, past a WHITE THROAT, veined with pain, to REVEAL --
LANCASTER, clinging to life as blood drains from his wound!

CRANE (O.S.)

Why isn't it working?

DAWN MEMBER (O.S.)

I don't know. We've done the spell
perfectly each time...

WIDEN to CRANE and a DAWN MEMBER covered in BLOOD, SURGICAL
TOOLS in hand, hovering over Lancaster propped up in the
closet where Ruby found the Frankenstein in 105.

CRANE

We can't kidnap another nigger...

He looks to the CHOPPED UP BODIES of FOUR BLACK MEN littering
the room. Among the body parts are THREE DISCARDED TORSOS
mauled with the same PUNCTURE MARKS that afflict Lancaster.

*

CRANE (CONT'D)

It's already going to be impossible
to cover all this up without the
Captain at the station --

(CONTINUED)

A11 CONTINUED:

A11

The door, chalked in TIME SYMBOLS, is thrown open, and --
WILLIAM saunters in. Lancaster is close to death, but his eyes still WIDEN, along with Crane and the Dawn Member's.

WILLIAM
Looks like the "Cop with Nine Lives"
luck has finally run out...

As he makes his way to Lancaster's desk --

DAWN MEMBER
You're supposed to be dead...

William opens the top drawer. Pulls out the BUTTERFLY TALISMAN. Turns his gaze to Lancaster --

WILLIAM
Your wound will come back no matter
how many times you swap spare parts.
I was perfecting William's
metamorphosis spell when the idea
came to me. Regeneration could be
life, or it could be a curse.

William watches the REALIZATION wash over Lancaster. The Captain opens his mouth. Spits up BLOOD before --

LANCASTER
Christina...please...

Disgust flashes in William's eyes. He closes the distance between them. The PAIN and ANGER radiating --

WILLIAM
Every time I turn back into myself
William dies all over again. That's
what I've wanted for you. A thousand
deaths. But I have to settle for
just one. Don't ruin it with words...

Lancaster takes a few ragged breaths. And as he takes his last, that liquid smile coming over William...

11 **INT. SAFE NEGRO TRAVEL - DAY**

11

Montrose sits at his brother's desk. 1000 yard stare into a turbulent past. Drinks from a MASON JAR of clear liquid --

ATTICUS (O.S.)
Really, Pop?

Atticus steps out the apartment stairway --

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

You're supposed to be looking for more chalk to finish the symbols.

He takes the Mason Jar. Swigs. And COUGHS up a lung --

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

Damn. What is that? Gasoline?

MONTROSE

Could be. George called it Road Rash. Never told me what was in it.

As he watches his son look for chalk with a heavy heart --

MONTROSE (CONT'D)

None of this would be happening if he were here. If I could go back, take that bullet --

ATTICUS

Come on, don't talk like that. I shouldn't have put Dee on you --

MONTROSE

Promised him I'd protect our family...

ATTICUS

You are. You said the spell, saved me. And your blood's going to restore Dee, then we're going to figure out a way to save her too --

MONTROSE

My blood might not work.

ATTICUS

Why wouldn't it? Christina said --

MONTROSE

You could be George's son.

That insane revelation washes over Atticus. And nothing makes sense anymore. The air leaves him, almost a whisper --

ATTICUS

What...

MONTROSE

Me, George, your momma. We were close growing up. And what we went through the night of the massacre...

*

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

It's still raw. Like the Tulsa massacre was hours ago, not years -- *

MONTROSE (CONT'D)

If you live through something like that, you share an unbreakable bond.

Atticus struggles. The words like razors on his tongue --

ATTICUS

Momma cheated on you with Uncle...

He trails off. Uncle George might not be "Uncle" George. Montrose tries to swallow his ANGUISH as Atticus struggles --

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

Shit. I spent so much time sitting right where you are. Hiding from another one of your beatings. Watching George work on the Guide. Wishing he was my father. And now... *

He's choking on the shock, betrayal, and completely life altering implications of it all. Leti steps out of the apartment stairway. Her expression tells us she's heard enough of the conversation --

LETI

Christina's back and Diana's fever has broken.

HIPPOLYTA (O.S.)

Is Dee sick...?

SURPRISE riots Our Heroes as they turn to -- HIPPOLYTA in the front of the shop. She's wearing her old clothes and a BACKPACK, but it's clear this is not the old Hippolyta...

12 **INT. BEDROOM - APARTMENT ABOVE SAFE NEGRO TRAVEL - DAY**

12

Hippolyta peers down at Diana in bed. Black mold covers her body now. Her hair kinky and wild. Gruesome, sharp nails have replaced her own. She is the spitting image of Topsy.

WIDEN to find a CHALKED OCTAGON of TIME SYMBOLS surrounds the bed. Atticus, Leti, Montrose, and Ruby stand at the head of each symbol.

Christina CUTS Hippolyta's palm, then squeezes her blood onto her daughter's feverish forehead --

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

CHRISTINA

*Kaarga gar kan skabora adma mogna
usta // Sanan sporanam sporam //
Susta, sichmaman hala shika // Stala
hakun ilku sa talan na sansadan //
Ba mustan ka sarmaa ka mogna fa
lana...*

Diana THRASHES. Her eerily dilated eyes shoot open. Staring a hole through her mother.

A LIGHTBULB EXPLODES, and -- a STATIC ELECTRICAL CURRENT flows from it, turning the room into a PLASMA BALL!

As everyone's HAIR and CLOTHES stand up --

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

*Ma magakhan baganam tu sakhazhad
kannam // Sichman shi gaka bachomanam
// Gaka bozhgasakhas tu gaka bobga
// Tu kaarga isla nusta ranam mana
// Sanan garin romfa lunam...*

The static electricity draws the black mold from Diana's body, then FIZZLES out. Everyone exhales relief as Hippolyta embraces a curse free, but still unconscious Diana...

13 OMITTED

13

A14 EXT. SAFE NEGRO TRAVEL - DAY

A14*

Leti watches from the doorway as Ruby leaves with Christina. Torn between cursing her sister and begging her to come back --

LETI

Ruby...

Her sister turns back as Christina climbs into the Bentley --

LETI (CONT'D)

You can't trust her --

RUBY

And you think you can trust Atticus and his crazy father? The way he was coming at you earlier --

LETI

Tic stopped him --

(CONTINUED)

A14 CONTINUED:

A14

RUBY

Leti, you're sounding real stupid
right now just like Momma running
after all her men. If you get out
of your feelings and open your eyes,
you might notice that Christina ain't
hurt either of us --

LETI

I was shot --

RUBY

By her father. Then she healed you
and made you invulnerable. Shit,
you need to be getting in this car
with me.

The truth in that penetrates Leti's anger making her
vulnerable. She looks away. Trying to reign in the emotion --

LETI

Has she told you about her plans for
the autumnal equinox?

Leti reads the answer in Ruby's eyes. *Christina hasn't.*

LETI (CONT'D)

If she needs Atticus to come
willingly, it's a spell that's
probably going to kill him.

That lands on Ruby. As DOUBT dances in her eyes...

14 **INT. SAFE NEGRO TRAVEL - DAY**

14

Hippolyta carries her unconscious daughter towards Woody
with determination. Atticus and Montrose hot on her heels --

MONTROSE

Where are you going?

HIPPOLYTA

What's the source of magic?

ATTICUS

The Book of Names, but --

HIPPOLYTA

Where is the Book of Names?

ATTICUS

Gone...

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

Atticus and Montrose exchange worried looks as Hippolyta slides Diana gently into the back of Woody. Her energy is MANIC, but her questions are laser focused -- *

HIPPOLYTA *

The source of magic is gone. What does that mean?

MONTROSE

If you just slow down for a second --

She closes Woody's trunk. Moves to her cluttered desk. Shuffles through her ASTROPHYSICS BOOKS as Leti joins them -- *

HIPPOLYTA

The spell book. Give me more information.

ATTICUS

I think my momma's family was keeping it. But it burned in Tulsa --

Hippolyta crosses into the mechanic's area. Digs through his TOOLS. Her mind going 100 miles an hour. She mutters --

HIPPOLYTA

Dee's cursed...the source of magic...Tulsa...1921... *

Leti eases toward her. Like moving up on a spooked horse --

LETI

Why don't we take Dee back upstairs. Get her comfortable --

HIPPOLYTA

She's got twenty-four hours. It'll take six to get there --

MONTROSE

Where?

HIPPOLYTA

The Observatory.

And it hits Atticus first. His eyes widen --

ATTICUS

The time machine...

HIPPOLYTA

It's a multiverse machine --

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

ATTICUS

It's broken. You shot it up --

Hippolyta's found the WRENCH she was looking for --

HIPPOLYTA

I'll fix it. It'll take me three hours, no more than four --

LETI

It won't matter if you can fix it, we don't have the key anymore --

Hippolyta digs in her FUTURE BACKPACK. Pulls out a piece of FUTURE TECH that looks like nothing we've ever seen -- *

HIPPOLYTA *

I don't need it -- *

MONTROSE *

Wait, just wait a goddamn minute. You want to go back in time to Tulsa? *

A beat. That's exactly what Hippolyta plans to do. *

MONTROSE (CONT'D)

I don't know where you disappeared to, but you're soundin' crazy --

HIPPOLYTA *

I was on Earth 504 and I was there for the equivalent of 200 years on this earth. I could name myself anything. Infinite possibilities that came with infinite wisdom and I'm going to use all of it to save my daughter. *

Said without an inch of doubt. As Atticus, Leti, and Montrose absorb the enormity of it...

15 **INT. BASEMENT - WILLIAM'S MANSION - NIGHT**

15

Christina descends the stairs. Engrossed in the WORN NOTEBOOK in her hands. She crosses to the SAFE. SPINS the lock without even looking, opening it to REVEAL -- the ORRERY KEY, PHOTOS of TITUS'S PAGES, PLANS, NOTEBOOKS & POTION VIALS.

FRSSSHH! The sound of cards SHUFFLING. She turns to find Ruby sitting in the shadows. A DECK OF CARDS in hand. Christina hesitates. *Did Ruby see the combination?*

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

She moves closer to find Ruby's attention is on COMATOSE DELL hooked to the LIFE SUPPORT MACHINE. Ruby's white persona looks serene and at peace, but Ruby's the opposite as she SHUFFLES the cards compulsively --

RUBY

Who was she?

CHRISTINA

A groundskeeper at my father's summer estate. Her name was Dell.

RUBY

How did she end up in a coma?

CHRISTINA

Your sister hit her over the head with a shovel.

That elicits mixed emotions in Ruby. She's struggling with a decision. A very important decision.

RUBY

Did you only help Diana to get to Atticus?

Christina frowns. *Why would Ruby think that?* Ruby stops shuffling. Tries to keep the hurt out of her voice --

RUBY (CONT'D)

Leti told me you went to her to spy on him. That shit you said about seeing magic in me was a lie...

*

Christina swallows her annoyance --

CHRISTINA

Not once have I asked you about Atticus --

RUBY

I'm not stupid, Christina. My momma was a hustler. I was your plan 'B' --

CHRISTINA

You asked for my help today, and I came. For you. And yes, I saw an opportunity and took it, but I'm not using you. I'm not your momma or your sister. And if you can't see the difference by now --

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

RUBY

Are you planning to kill Atticus?

Christina takes a beat. So *that's* what this is really about.

CHRISTINA

His blood is a component of my spell
to become immortal. And I need all
of it.

*
*

She watches that wash over Ruby, then --

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

The way my father and the rest of
the men of the order discussed magic
wasn't particular. They spoke of it
as they would money, politics, or
any other means for bending the world
to their will. I want to use it to
experience it. All of it. An
eternity of firsts...

Just the thought makes her eyes light up. This is the meaning
behind everything. She leans into Ruby now --

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

Every step to my ascension has been
meticulously planned out. Atticus
was going back to Ardham since the
moment he first stepped foot there.
The only variable was time, and now
you.

The energy between them is tangible as Ruby holds her gaze --

*

RUBY

Promise me you won't hurt my sister.

Christina takes a beat, because she means this --

CHRISTINA

I promise.

Ruby rises. Closes the distance between them. Reaches around
Christina, and -- unceremoniously pulls the plug on Dell's
life support machine!

RUBY

When I used to imagine being white,
I saw myself as a redhead.

And let that sink in -- Ruby has chosen her side...

16 **EXT. HILLSIDE - KENTUCKY - NIGHT** 16

LIGHTNING shimmers off the domed building highlighting Woody parked out front. Montrose leans against the side. Takes a deep pull from the half-empty jar of Road Rash. Emotion in his eyes. He's TERRIFIED of going back to a turbulent past...

17 **INT. OBSERVATORY - NIGHT** 17

Montrose, a BLANKET in hand, eyes Atticus and Hippolyta tinkering with Hiram's shot to shit MULTIVERSE MACHINE... *

HIPPOLYTA

Thread the red wires with the silver...

ATTICUS

Like this...?

HIPPOLYTA

Like how I taught you to french braid Dee's hair...

...as he makes his way to Leti on her knees, wiping the sweaty brow of a still unconscious Diana. Her body is manifesting the curse again -- moldy black NECROTIZES her arm. *

Leti eyes Montrose as they spread the Blanket over Diana. He's pointedly ignoring her gaze.

LETI

I had a reason, for taking the invulnerability --

MONTROSE

You're pregnant.

Leti is STUNNED. *How in the hell did he find out?*

LETI

Ruby told you...

MONTROSE

Tic did. Hippolyta wasn't the only one that got swallowed up by that machine. He went to the future too...

Leti cycles through a million questions in her mind. Finally --

LETI

Why wouldn't he tell me --

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

MONTROSE

Because he learned he dies in
Christina's spell.

She looks to Atticus. Wrecked by just the thought --

LETI

Hippolyta said it's parallel
universes. It might not be true...

MONTROSE

But if it is, by handing over those
pages you might have a hand in the
death of my son. When you have yours,
you'll understand there ain't no
making that right.

And that's an emotional gut punch on many levels --

LETI

It's a boy...

She wants to say something more. Everything's all fucked
up. But before she can --

VROOOOM! The Multiverse Machine WHIRLS back to life!

Hippolyta spins the NINE RING LOCKS into place, there's a
FLASH OF LIGHT, and -- the PORTAL appears in the middle of
the room!

Leti and Montrose can't help but MARVEL as Hippolyta uses
the mechanic's wrench to knock a side panel off the machine --

ATTICUS

What are you doing? It's working --

Hippolyta strips GOLD WIRES --

HIPPOLYTA

There's upwards of sixty trillion
parallel universes and we need to
rewind to this Earth's Tulsa in 1921.
A computer needs a motherboard to
give it instructions --

LETI

What's a motherboard --

HIPPOLYTA

Me. I'm going to jack into the
machine.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

She's found the wires she needs. Lifts the sleeves to expose the GLITTERY PANELS embedded in her wrist. Atticus, Leti, and Montrose REACT. *What the fuck are those?*

Hippolyta doesn't have time to explain. She looks to Montrose --

HIPPOLYTA (CONT'D)

I'll need to use that picture you keep in your wallet to triangulate...

Montrose fishes a PHOTO from his wallet -- YOUNG MONTROSE, YOUNG GEORGE, and their FATHER (VERTON) dressed in his PULLMAN PORTER UNIFORM, in front of Tulsa's STRADFORD HOTEL.

MONTROSE

When Momma was alive, Daddy used to save up every penny of his Pullman Porter tips for us to stay at the Stradford one weekend a year. Me and George used to eat till our bellies popped our buttons...

Atticus watches the shaky nostalgia wash over Montrose with mixed feelings, not wanting to feel at all for his maybe father. Hippolyta sets the Photo on the Multiverse Machine --

HIPPOLYTA

Whatever's going on between you all, leave it right here. I don't care if you pick it up when you come back through that portal with the Book of Names, but this is our only chance to save Dee.

Eyes find Diana tucked in the corner. Dying. Hippolyta's right. Game faces on. They line up in front of the portal as Hippolyta JACKS the wires into her Glitter Panels, and -- her body SPASMS as the magical energy SURGES through her!

Atticus and Montrose REACT. Moving on instinct to help, but --

LETI

Wait! Look, it's working --

The portal FLICKERS, and -- materializes into a simmering image of a HOTEL ROOM. A moment of hesitation from Atticus, Leti, and especially Montrose at what they're about to do.

Hippolyta grits through the pain spasming her body --

HIPPOLYTA

-- go --

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (3) 17

Atticus jumps through first. Followed by Leti. Montrose lingers for another beat. The DREAD suffocating him. As he takes a cautious step forward, and another, forcing himself...

18 **INT. ROOM AT THE - STRADFORD HOTEL - DAY** 18

...to walk into the past. Leti can't fucking believe it. She checks her body to make sure she's in one piece as Atticus moves towards the door on mission. Cracks it, REVEALING --

Annoyed NEGRO HIGH SCHOOLERS in PROM REGALIA walk past --

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT #1
...they ku-clucking it again down at
the courthouse. Crackers...

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT #2
Ain't no reason to be shuttin' down
the dance...

As the High Schoolers round the corner, Atticus notices a BELLHOP leave a RACK OF PROM CLOTHES outside one of the rooms. He shuts the door --

ATTICUS
They're talking about some kind of
dance. It was canceled...

Montrose drifts to the large BAY WINDOW that perfectly frames --

BLACK WALL STREET. Imagine Rodeo Drive in the 1920's, only with well-to-do NEGRO FAMILIES, their arms piled high with GOODS, which they stuff into their EXPENSIVE CARS.

The vibrancy alternately energizes Montrose, and devastates him. This is what was lost. He swallows the emotion --

MONTROSE
Booker T. Washington high school's
prom. It was shut down a few hours
before the mayhem started...

ATTICUS
Didn't they burn Momma's house down
that first night...?

Montrose goes still at the memory. He nods, adding --

MONTROSE
With her whole family inside.

The weight of that settles. Montrose's biggest fear realized --
they've just been dropped into the worst night of his life!

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

LETI

If we want a chance at getting the book, we should go now.

Montrose doesn't pull his eyes away from the window, but Atticus focuses --

ATTICUS

We don't want to call any attention to ourselves. We need to blend in...

*
*

A19 OMITTED

A19*

B19 EXT. BLACK WALL STREET - DAY

B19

Our Heroes, in ill-fitting PROM REGALIA, weave through well-to-do NEGRO FAMILIES and their EXPENSIVE CARS. Montrose leads the way --

*
*
*

MONTROSE

We should cross the tracks, there's a short cut through the white side of town...

19 EXT. BACK ALLEYS OF - TULSA - DAY

19

Montrose leads Atticus and Leti down a thin alleyway. They move quickly and efficiently --

ATTICUS

When we get to the house. Leti, you'll knock on the door, there's no chance they'll recognize you. Distract them, but be careful --

LETI

I know. I can't say anything that might change the future.

Montrose slows as something catches his attention. Atticus takes the lead as Leti follows --

ATTICUS

I'll slip in the back, try and find the book.

LETI

It'll probably be in your grandmother's room. Montrose, do you remember which one is hers?

They glance back to Montrose who has stopped to stare through an opening at -- a small PARK with a STATUE across the street.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

Whatever nightmare happened here is fresh in his eyes.

LETI (CONT'D)

You okay? *

Atticus is less patient with his maybe father --

ATTICUS

We need to keep moving...

He notices Montrose SWAY like he's caught in a light breeze --

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

Wait, are you drunk?

MONTROSE

Naw --

Atticus can't fucking believe it --

ATTICUS

Of all the days for your bullshit,
Dee's counting on us --

MONTROSE

I had a few sips, that's all --

ATTICUS

You're pathetic...

Leti glances around. Nervous. This is not the time or place
to be raising voices and making a scene.

MONTROSE

You have no idea what we're walking
into, Boy. You think you know about
war. You don't know shit --

ATTICUS

Take your sorry ass back to the portal --

LETI

He can't go back. He knows the way
to your momma's house. We need him.

She's right. And Atticus knows it. But that doesn't make
it any easier to swallow. He stares Montrose down --

ATTICUS

I don't. I took the beatings. The
beratings. I excused Momma and Uncle
George for not protecting me.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

All because I thought you were my father. But fuck that. When Dee's safe, when this is done, so are we.

He stalks off. A heavy beat, then Leti and Montrose follow...

20 **EXT. GREENWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY**

20

Apprehension lines Montrose's features as he leads Atticus and Leti down the thriving Negro working-class street. ADULTS drink on porches playing dominoes and gossiping.

*

A21 **INT. SHED ACROSS FROM - DORA'S FAMILY HOME - DAY**

A21*

Our Heroes slip inside. Montrose points out a window --

*

MONTROSE

The two houses on the corner. Those are your momma's and mine.

*

*

Atticus and Leti peer out at the FREEMAN HOME next to DORA'S FAMILY HOME.

*

*

ATTICUS

Leti, you're up.

SHAME fills Montrose's eyes as the screen door to his childhood home SLAMS open --

*

*

MONTROSE

Wait...

ATTICUS'S GRANDFATHER (VERTON) drags a YOUNG MONTROSE out of the house by his collar. As Atticus, Leti, and Montrose look on...

21 **EXT. FREEMAN HOUSE - DAY**

21

Verton viciously drags his son to a nearby FRUIT TREE, his lids heavy with TEQUILA RAGE, his words SLURRED --

*

VERTON

...I ain't dumb. Think I don't know what the hell is going on under my own roof? Pick your switch, Boy!

*

*

The street activity doesn't break. This brutal theatre is a way of life for everyone.

YOUNG MONTROSE

Daddy, I won't do it again --

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

VERTON

Begging ain't gonna save your hide.
Said pick a switch...

As Young Montrose girds himself, still not moving...

SHED *

Atticus, Leti, and Montrose watch as Verton breaks a SWITCH off the tree. This scene is all too familiar for Atticus but Leti glances at Montrose with sympathy. He explains --

MONTROSE

He caught me wearing George's prom jacket. Paid good money to have it made at Byar's. Didn't want me messing it up...

WHISK! WHISK! WHISK! Verton whips his son mercilessly with the switch...

FREEMAN HOUSE

Each hit burns Young Montrose's skin through his clothes and elicits a CRY of pain. He instinctively tries to block a few of the strikes, but it just makes it worse. The skin of his bare arms SPLIT open from the hits --

VERTON

Move your hands! I said move YOUR HANDS, boy!

But he does not stop. His lashes growing more INTENSE --

VERTON (CONT'D)

Puttin' that damn flower in your hair and preenin' in the goddamn mirror. Not in my house...

SHED *

Atticus and Leti REACT as Montrose drops his eyes. He lied about the prom jacket. And he seems so VULNERABLE right now --

MONTROSE

It was George's corsage. I knew better. I deserved this ass whoopin' --

LETI

No one deserves this...

She looks to Atticus. Imploring him to comfort his father. But Atticus can't. Too much has gone down today.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

He looks back to the Freeman House, his eyes lighting up --

ATTICUS

Momma...

FREEMAN HOUSE

YOUNG DORA tears across the lawn in her PROM DRESS. Wedges herself between Verton and Young Montrose cowering on the ground in a fetal position --

YOUNG DORA

Stop! You're hurting him --

YOUNG GEORGE, in his PROM SUIT, steps out onto the porch --

YOUNG GEORGE

Dora, don't --

VERTON

Move, Gal! Before I give you something to holla about too!

But Young Dora stands her ground. Verton raises his switch --

GILBERT (O.S.)

VERTON!

GILBERT, Dora's pissed off father, bellows from his porch --

GILBERT (CONT'D)

You chastise your boys how you like.
But mine? You leave her be.

This was the distraction Young Montrose was waiting for. He scrambles to his feet and RUNS. Verton trips over his own feet as he stumbles back towards the house, past Young George, who flinches when his father places a hand on his shoulder --

*
*

VERTON

Least I'm not the only man in the house.

A beat as Verton and Gilbert disappear back into their respective houses. Just Young George and Dora left. He shakes off the weekly drama. Awkwardly offers the CORSAGE --

YOUNG GEORGE

You look real pretty...

Young Dora knocks the the corsage out of Young George's hands --

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (3)

21

YOUNG DORA

Why did you just stand there?

YOUNG GEORGE

What you expect me to do? Fight my
own daddy?

YOUNG DORA

I expect you to help your brother,
who's always getting more lickins
than you seem to get...

Young George hangs his head as he retrieves the corsage...

SHED

Montrose takes in a part of the past he wasn't privy to --

MONTROSE

She was wrong. George saved me more
than anyone could have known...Atticus watches Young Dora soften. She lets Young George
put the corsage around her wrist. Young love blossoming...**FREEMAN HOUSE**The lovebirds turn their attention to Dora's little sister,
BEULAH as she comes out on their porch --

BEULAH

Your prom's been canceled.

YOUNG DORA

What? What happened?

BEULAH

Don't know. Miss Anna Mae called
and told Momma just now...

Young George and Young Dora are both disappointed --

YOUNG GEORGE

Guess we should look for my brother...

SHEDAtticus and Leti watch as Young George beelines behind his
house and Young Dora and Beulah disappear into hers --

ATTICUS

They have no idea what's about to
happen to them.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (4)

21

His somber reflection is cut short by --

LETI
Where's Montrose...?

Atticus looks around, realizing -- Montrose has slipped away!

ATTICUS
Shit --

LETI
Where the hell did he go?

ATTICUS
I don't know --

Atticus spies Young George pulling the BIKES around to the front of the house. It hits him --

ATTICUS (CONT'D)
He's going to warn Uncle George...

LETI
What?

ATTICUS
So he doesn't get shot in Ardham.
He was talking about it earlier...

LETI
He knows he can't do that. We have
to stop him... *

Atticus hesitates. Caught in a world where Uncle George could still be alive. Leti reads the story on his face --

LETI (CONT'D)
Tic -- *

He snaps out of it. Nods, getting his head in the game --

ATTICUS
They've told me the story a million
times. They were attacked in a park
by some white thugs. I think it's
the one he stopped at earlier...

LETI
That's over twenty minutes away and
he has a head start... *

Atticus spies Young George and Dora pedaling off on the bikes --

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (5)

21

ATTICUS

We don't have time to get him and
the book. We have to split up...

As the weight of that lands on them...

22 **EXT. ANOTHER STREET IN THE - GREENWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY**

22

Atticus keeps watch as Leti fiddles around under the hood of a parked CAR. It's EERILY QUIET. The street's empty save a few cars speeding away with NEGRO FAMILIES inside. Word is spreading about the white mob headed their way.

VROOOOM! Leti's hot-wired the car. Atticus climbs in --

ATTICUS

Meet back at the Stradford.

FAR IN THE DISTANCE -- are those GUNSHOTS? -- a SCREAM? They lock meaningful eyes. So much unsaid between them. Now they're splitting up in a war zone. Atticus moves to pull off, but --

*
*

LETI

We should name him George...

Atticus's heart breaks. They haven't even talked about the baby. And there's no time to now. As he hits the gas...

23 **EXT. BACK ALLEYWAYS OF - TULSA - NIGHT**

23

The RIOTOUS ENERGY in the air is mirrored in Montrose's eyes as he moves with purpose. The sounds of CHAOS -- HONKING HORNS, YELLING, and GUNSHOTS -- swirl in the distance.

*

He passes a BOOTLEGGER'S TRUCK. Spies a BOTTLE in the front seat. He scans the surroundings, eyes landing on -- a CRACKED BASEBALL BAT in a DUMPSTER. He retrieves it, and -- SMASHES the window, pulling out the BOTTLE!

Booze in one hand, Bat in the other, he presses on...

24 **EXT. GREENWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT**

24

Leti hurries back towards Dora's family home, but HOOTIN' and HOLLERIN' draws her attention to --

A TRUCK full of ARMED WHITE THUGS stops at the end of the street. A roadblock for any more cars trying to leave. The Thugs hop out. Stalking the block. Causing a RUCKUS.

Leti quickly diverts, trying to go unnoticed, but --

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

ARMED THUG
Eeny-meeny-miney-moe! Catcha nigger
by her toe...

As Leti jets away, TWO Thugs give CHASE...

25 **OMITTED**

25

26 **EXT. DORA'S FAMILY HOME - NIGHT**

26

Leti RUNS like bat out of hell towards Dora's house, the Thugs not far behind -- POP! One just shot at her!

Leti ducks on instinct -- she's only been invulnerable for half a second after all -- and STUMBLES on the grass, going down HARD. She TENSES, ready to fight, but --

KABOOM! She looks up, surprised by -- Verton crossing his lawn, SHOTGUN in hand --

VERTON
I got one in here for all y'all
crackers!

As the Thug and Verton trade fire, Leti gets to her feet. REELING because -- this is Atticus's abusive grandfather saving her like a fucking hero!

BANG! BANG! Gilbert's joined the fire exchange with his RIFLE from the porch. Verton grabs Leti as the Thugs retreat --

VERTON (CONT'D)
Come on girl, we got to get inside --

It's all a WHIRLWIND that ends with...

27 **INT. LIVING ROOM - DORA'S FAMILY HOME - NIGHT**

27

...Leti catching her breath, standing among Dora's family --

Gilbert slams the door as Verton checks out the window. Beulah stands by, in the comforting arms of her and Dora's grandmother HATTIE. Dora's mother MARTHA runs in --

MARTHA
I was on the phone with Anna-Mae.
She started screamin' and our line
went dead --

HATTIE
The hell is going on out there?

Verton turns to Leti --

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

VERTON

The two that were chasin' you, where
did they come from?

She hesitates. *Anything she says could alter the future.*
Gilbert misreads her distress --

GILBERT

She's had a fright, let her catch
her breath. Get her some water,
Beulah.

Beulah disappears as Hattie eyes Leti's attire suspiciously.
Her eyes landing on her TENNIS SHOES --

HATTIE

What's your name, honey?

Leti is acutely aware all eyes are on her. She fights to
keep her tone neutral --

LETI

Letitia...

Verton steps forward. Pressing --

VERTON

Tell us what happened to you --

GILBERT

Verton --

VERTON

If there's more comin' we need to
know damnit...

Beulah returns. Hands Leti a glass of water with a forced
smile. Trying to make her feel comfortable. They all are.
And they're all going to die. Leti breaks --

LETI

There's a truck full of them. Parked
at the end of the block...

She swallows the words. Knows she's straddling a dangerous
line as FEAR viruses through Atticus's family members --

HATTIE

Oh Lord...

BEULAH

I'm scared, Momma.

*

Martha pulls her daughter into the comfort of her arms as
Verton checks out the window again --

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (2)

27

VERTON

We got to get the hell out of here --

MARTHA

Not without the kids.

No one challenges that. You don't leave family behind.
 Gilbert moves to a closet. Pulls out AMMO. Tosses it to --

VERTON

I'll slip out the back. Only a couple
 places they can be.

As Gilbert passes GUNS out to Martha, Hattie, and Beulah --

VERTON (CONT'D)

If they make it back before I do,
 leave without me.

GILBERT

We'll go to Reverend Mueller's...

They trade a nod of respect. Then Verton heads out through
 the back as Gilbert turns to Leti --

GILBERT (CONT'D)

I think it's safer if you stay here,
 but if you got family to get to...

LETI

I'll stay. I can handle a gun...

Gilbert hands one over. Grabs his Rifle --

GILBERT

I'll keep watch on the roof. Martha,
 Momma, y'all hold steady at the front.
 Beulah take our new friend Letitia
 to the back. Anybody comes close,
 shoot to warn, then shoot to kill.

*

As Leti watches Atticus's family move with determination to
 survive, knowing how this all ultimately ends...

28 OMITTED

28

29 EXT. TULSA ALLEY - NIGHT

29

MAYHEM can be heard in the distance, but it hasn't spread
 here. Montrose takes a pull from the half-empty bottle as
 he watches YOUNG MONTROSE in the shadows of the Statue in
 the park across the street.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

ATTICUS (O.S.)

You can't do this --

Montrose turns in surprise as Atticus pulls him further back into the alley --

MONTROSE

Why the hell did you follow me, boy?

ATTICUS

You can't warn Uncle George. I wish he was still alive too, but we don't know what saving him could change --

MONTROSE

I know that. I'm not here to warn George...

That slows Atticus as CONFUSION washes over him --

ATTICUS

Then why are you here?

Atticus notices over his maybe father's shoulder -- a NEGRO TEEN BOY (THOMAS) is now under the Statue with Young Montrose. They're having a HEATED CONVERSATION.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

Who is that?

Montrose is slow to answer. The words razors on his tongue --

MONTROSE

His name is Thomas. And he's about to get shot in the head unless I save him...

30 **INT. BACK DOOR OF - DORA'S FAMILY HOME - NIGHT**

30

Leti grips her Gun as she stands watch at the back door with Beulah. The young girl nervously bites her fingernails.

LETI

You okay --

She barely gets the words out as Beulah launches into it --

BEULAH

I'm just so nervous. Not for us. We'll be fine. Daddy's the best shot this side of the tracks. But Dora...

*

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

Leti's heart swells with GRIEF. *Dora is going to live and Beulah won't make it out of Tulsa alive.*

LETI

I'm sure Mister Freeman will find her --

BEULAH

But what if he doesn't? We got into the nastiest fight earlier. I said some horrible things. I was just jealous she was gettin' to go to prom with George Freeman --

Beulah catches herself. The danger at hand momentarily forgotten in the haze of a teenage crush --

BEULAH (CONT'D)

Oh, you won't tell them I'm sweet on him, will you?

LETI

I won't --

BEULAH

Good. Cause Mister Freeman's gonna find her just like you said. And I'm gonna apologize for being such a brat, and everything's going to be okay. Right?

The emotion is choking the words in Leti's throat. She swallows hard. Squeezes Beulah's hand in comfort --

LETI

Yeah. Everything's going to be okay.

CRACK! The sound of Gilbert's rifle shooting from his sniper position in the attic. FEAR grips Beulah --

BEULAH

That's Daddy's gun --

POP! POP! POP! From the front of the house now. Leti and Beulah are on their feet --

BEULAH (CONT'D)

Momma! Nana Hattie?

No response. She looks to Leti. Terror in her eyes --

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

LETI
Go check on them. I've got the back
door...

Beulah disappears toward the front of the house. Leti looks
to the back hallway. Every fiber of her being wants to follow
Beulah. To help save Dora's family. But she can't.

*
*

More GUNSHOTS as Leti forces herself towards the stairs...

31 **EXT. TULSA ALLEY - NIGHT**

31

Atticus listens as Montrose bares his soul --

MONTROSE
I lost his name. Wasn't able to say
it until today. Until the thought
of seeing him again. Cause he wasn't
just dead to me, he had to never
exist. That was the only way I could
go on and not die with him...

Atticus's heart breaks as he looks over Montrose's shoulder
to his younger self with Thomas. So innocent. So pure.

MONTROSE (CONT'D)
But I can save him now --

ATTICUS
I'm sorry about what happened to
your friend. I really am. But you
can't save him --

Montrose moves toward the mouth of the alley --

MONTROSE
Yes I can. It won't change nothin' --

ATTICUS
You can't know that. Stop --

He grabs Montrose. As they STRUGGLE --

MONTROSE
Let go goddamnit --

ATTICUS
Listen to me, if you never end up
with Momma, I won't exist, my son
won't exist --

MONTROSE
That's not possible --

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

Atticus SLAMS him against the wall. Trying to knock some sense into him --

ATTICUS

Just stop and think about what you're risking --

MONTROSE

I have. And I know Thomas won't matter cause he's just the first in a long line of sacrifices I made to be your father.

Montrose's conviction slows Atticus as he continues --

MONTROSE (CONT'D)

Right now I'm tellin' him we can't be friends anymore because he's a faggot and I'm not.

Atticus looks to Young Montrose and Thomas. Sees the sting of the words roll over Thomas's face as Montrose continues --

MONTROSE (CONT'D)

I lied to him and myself for years. Cut out every soft part of myself so I could be a man. Because men could have sons. And I swallowed my pride when your momma got pregnant and I found out it could be George's, cause I knew you were mine. You had to be. I did it all, and I'd do it all again. Because the only thing I've ever wanted was to be your father. This ain't gonna change nothin'...

*

Atticus is FLOORED. Emotional overload. He releases Montrose --

ATTICUS

You better be sure of that, Pop.

Montrose chokes back the gravity of it all. He looks to Thomas. Torn. Finally, he sags against the wall. He's made every sacrifice to be a father, and won't stop now...

32 **INT. HATTIE'S BEDROOM - DORA'S FAMILY HOME - NIGHT**

32

GUNSHOTS echo as Leti frantically searches the room -- CEDAR CHEST, CLOSET, UNDER THE BED -- for the Book of Names.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

ARMED THUG (O.S.)

Hey niggers, you don't come out,
we're comin' in!

Shit! She's running out of time before the fire starts --

HATTIE (O.S.)

What the hell you doing in here Gal?

Leti whips around to find Hattie nursing the Pistol at her side. Eyes zeroed in on her. She swallows hard --

LETI

I thought I could get a better shot --

Hattie levels the pistol at Leti's head. Hand steady --

HATTIE

Naw. You we're lookin' for somethin'.
I knew you felt off from the start.
Ain't never seen no shoes like yours.
Who are you?

CRASH! The sound of glass breaking downstairs. The confrontation with the Armed Thugs is heating up. Hattie feels the pull of it, but --

HATTIE (CONT'D)

You better start tellin' some truths
or it's a bullet between your eyes --

LETI

I'm from the future. I'm Dora's
son's girlfriend. I'm here because
we need the Book of Names...

There's a flash of RECOGNITION in Hattie's eyes, but it's gone just as quickly as it was there --

HATTIE

Good testament is the only book I
know --

Beulah's surprised SCREAM drifts up the stairs, then --

MARTHA (O.S.)

Gil, they're at the
door --

GILBERT (O.S.)

-- I'm coming, baby.

Hattie turns to the sounds of her family's distress. Leti steps forward with her hands up in surrender, but Hattie's gun haunts her every move --

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2)

32

LETI

Please, I'm running out of time. We need the Book of Names to save a little girl named Diana. Your great grandson's cousin. She's been cursed. And we need it to protect him from Christina Braithwhite too --

Hattie's memories flicker, ALARM in her eyes now --

HATTIE

So the stories are true. Magic is real...which means so is the warning. To stay away from anyone named Braithwhite. How do I know you don't work for them?

Leti thinks. *How can she prove it?* As Hattie's finger tightens on the trigger --

LETI

You have a family birthmark. Atticus realized it when he saw a picture of his cousin Ethel...

She moves quickly to the desk. Grabs PAPER and PEN. Sketches Atticus's BIRTHMARK. Displays it to Hattie --

LETI (CONT'D)

It looks like this --

Hattie lowers the pistol. A million thoughts racing through her head as she absorbs the enormity of it all --

HATTIE

Dora's son...

Then a REALIZATION washes over her, and it GUTS her --

HATTIE (CONT'D)

You came to the past for the book. We die here, don't we?

Leti can't find the words to answer that. And that's enough of an answer for Hattie. A WHOOP & HOLLER from outside draws Hattie to the window --

The Armed Thugs have the house surrounded, and they're preparing the MOLOTOV COCKTAILS...

33 EXT. TULSA ALLEY - NIGHT

33

Montrose is numb. It's all too much. Too heavy. Too horrible. He closes his eyes --

MONTROSE

You know about George and Dora showing up. And us gettin' saved by the stranger. But this part of the story I never told anybody...

As Montrose relives the nightmare from memory, Atticus watches it unfold from the shadows of the alley --

MONTROSE (CONT'D)

Thought we were safe because they was rioting on the other side of the tracks. But the pickup truck full of crackers came out of nowhere...

A PICKUP TRUCK, HORN blaring, swerves onto the street. WHITE TEEN THUGS in PROM REGALIA are piled in the bed and hang off the doors --

TEEN THUGS

WHOO-HOO!! GEE-HAW --

Atticus stares as the Truck corners the Negro boys. Afraid to look. Afraid not to. Montrose keeps his eyes shut --

MONTROSE

We were so scared we grabbed hands. We'd never so much as touched in public. Terrified someone would know. I remember one boy saying, "Look at the nigger faggots..." Then --

CRACK! Montrose's body jolts as a helpless Atticus watches --
one of the Teen Thugs shoots Thomas in the head!

Young Montrose, now covered in brain matter and blood, takes refuge at the base of the statue as the Teen with the Gun rips off more shots. CRACK! CRACK! CRACK! --

34 INT. HATTIE'S BEDROOM - DORA'S FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

34

CRASH! CRASH! The sound of multiple windows shattering downstairs as the Armed Thugs deploy the Molotov Cocktails --

GILBERT (O.S.)

Get some water!

BEULAH (O.S.)

Nanna where are you?

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

Hattie looks toward the door, the intention to save her family in her eyes, but Leti is desperate --

LETI

Please wait, I wasn't supposed to tell you any of this, we can't change it --

HATTIE

I can't just stand by --

LETI

I know, but listen to me, Dora makes it out with your cousin Ethel, and she grows up to marry Montrose Freeman, and they have a beautiful baby boy, we call him Tic cause Atticus is a mouthful...

FLAMES dance in the hallway outside the door. Leti works to maintain composure, but it's a losing battle --

LETI (CONT'D)

And we knew each other in this dumb science fiction club he started when we were kids, but it wasn't till I came back to Chicago that I fell in love with him, and I am in love with him, I don't want him to never have existed, so please, we can't change it, cause the future, and my baby...

She cradles her stomach. The emotional damn holding everything back finally breaking. And Hattie breaks with her, but still --

Hattie turns for the door. To rescue her family under siege. Powerless, Leti watches her go. No cards left to play, but --

Hattie stops just inside of the door. With pain and anguish, she slides a FAMILY PORTRAIT aside, REVEALING -- a SECRET PANEL hiding the BOOK OF NAMES!

With the ornate book in hand, Hattie turns back to a shocked and shaken Leti, places her hand over Leti's on her stomach --

HATTIE

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." When my great-great-grandson is born, he will be my faith turned flesh...

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (2)

34

As Leti absorbs the weight of the sacrifice Hattie's making...

35 **EXT. TULSA PARK - NIGHT**

35

Atticus seethes as the Teen empties the pistol at a cowering Young Montrose. Young George and Dora pull up on their Bikes --

MONTROSE

Dora and George showed up like my personal cavalry. I guess we got lucky they only had one gun or we'da been dead right away...

As Young George, Montrose, and Dora try to PUNCH their way through the Teen Thugs armed with PIPES and BASEBALL BATS --

MONTROSE (CONT'D)

We weren't gonna let them touch your momma. But we were outnumbered. And just when it seemed all was lost, a mysterious stranger came out of nowhere swinging a bat like Jackie Robinson...

Atticus waits. Expectant. But there's no mysterious stranger --

MONTROSE (CONT'D)

Hit home runs on their heads. Saving all of us.

Atticus scans the park. Still no mysterious stranger.

MONTROSE (CONT'D)

And all he said before disappearing was --

ATTICUS

"I got ya Kid..."

He says the words with conviction. As if they could conjure the stranger who saves the day. But nothing happens.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

Something's wrong --

Montrose opens his eyes and they WIDEN as he takes in Our Young Heroes getting the shit kicked out of them.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

We must have fucked something up coming through the portal...

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

But he's not going to let it end like this. He surges forward, and -- steps on the cracked BASEBALL BAT Montrose swiped earlier. The realization hits them like a mack truck --

MONTROSE

You're the mysterious stranger...

As Atticus picks up the Bat and runs to save his family...

36 INT. HATTIE'S BEDROOM - DORA'S FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

36

CRASH! A torrent of fire and glass rains as a MOLOTOV COCKTAIL bursts through the window. Flames spread in all directions. Leti has the Book of Names in hand --

HATTIE

The book is bound. I was told to protect it but never open it. Here are the words you'll need --

She shoves a PIECE OF PAPER into Leti's hand as she pushes her towards the door --

HATTIE (CONT'D)

Now go, before you can't --

LETI

I'm spelled with magic. The fire won't hurt me.

Hattie slows. Taking that in. She looks around at the FLAMES inching closer. She doesn't have much time left --

HATTIE

I'm ready. Hope the good lord is. Pray with me?

As the Flames lick closer, sweat beading on their brows, Leti takes Hattie's hands in hers --

LETI/HATTIE

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...

As they continue the Lord's prayer, **"DON'T KILL DUB" by SONYA SANCHEZ** fills the track --

"I say where is your fire? I say where is your fire? Can't you smell it coming out of our past?"

37 **EXT. TULSA PARK - NIGHT**

37

In SLOW-MOTION, Atticus hits a HOME RUN against the skull of the Teen Thug who killed Thomas.

"The fire of living, not dying. The fire of loving, not killing. The fire of Blackness, not gangster shadows. Where is our beautiful fire that gave light to the world?"

RAMP to real time as he goes to town on the rest of the Teen Thugs -- CRUNCH! CRUNCH! CRUNCH! And more CRUNCH!

"The fire of pyramids; The fire that burned through the holes of slaveships and made us breathe; the fire that made guts into chitterlings; The fire that took rhythms and made jazz..."

Young George, Montrose, and Dora watch in jaw dropped silence as Atticus beats the Teen Thugs to a bloody pulp...

38 **INT. HATTIE'S BEDROOM - DORA'S FAMILY HOME - NIGHT**

38

Encased in an INVISIBLE SHIELD of protection, Leti watches in horror as -- the flames CONSUME Hattie!

"The fire of sit-ins and marches that made us jump boundaries and barriers; The fire that took street talk sounds and made righteous Imhotep raps."

Atticus's grandmother locks eyes with Leti as she burns, and there is a CALMNESS there that Leti will not look away from...

39 **EXT. TULSA PARK - NIGHT**

39

The Teen Thugs left standing haul ass away as Atticus watches them retreat like the fucking hero that he is.

"Where is your fire, the torch of life full of Nzingha and Nat Turner and Garvey and DuBois and Fannie Lou Hamer and Martin and Malcolm and Mandela..."

Atticus turns to Young Montrose, wants to say more, but --

ATTICUS

I got ya Kid.

As he disappears into the alley, leaving Our Young Heroes to forever know him as the mysterious stranger that beat the White Thug's heads in like Jackie Motherfuckin' Robinson...

40 **INT. ROOM AT THE - STRADFORD HOTEL - NIGHT**

40

Atticus and Montrose barrel in with one thing on their minds --

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

ATTICUS

Leti...?

The room is EMPTY. Just the Portal right where they left it. Atticus moves to the BAY WINDOW that perfectly frames --

BLACK WALL STREET. Now the spitting imagine of a warzone we're only used to seeing on foreign soil. The street is littered with DEAD BLACK BODIES, BURNED OUT CARS, and SCORCHED BLACK BUSINESSES emptied by white looters.

The bird's eye view of the destruction makes Atticus's heart sink. *Even invincible, who could make it through all this?*

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

I have to go find her --

MONTROSE

Something's wrong with the portal.

It FLICKERS. Malfunctioning. It won't matter if Leti makes it back if the portal's closed, so Atticus jumps...

41 **INT. OBSERVATORY - NIGHT**

41

...through to discover it's like Dr. Frankenstein's laboratory now. LIGHTNING strikes' glow highlighting --

The Multiverse Machine on the FRITZ. Hippolyta still jacked into it. SEIZING from the effort. Adrenaline the only thing sustaining her. She grits her teeth, foaming at the mouth --

HIPPOLYTA

I can't...keep it...open...

The portal FLICKERS out. An excruciatingly long beat, then it flickers back. Atticus implores his aunt --

ATTICUS

You have to. Just a little longer.
Leti's coming back with the book, I
know it. Hold on for Dee...

Hippolyta looks to her unconscious daughter lying on the floor. She has to save her. She closes her eyes, gives her all to keep the portal open and her child alive...

42 **INT. ROOM AT THE - STRADFORD HOTEL - NIGHT**

42

Montrose drifts to the Bay Window like a moth to a flame. Takes in the destruction, memories assaulting him --

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

MONTROSE

"Peg Leg" Taylor's last stand on
Standpipe Hill was something...still
Byar's Tailor Shop burned...Dr.
Jackson "best Negro surgeon in
America" shot in the face...

PHHHHHEERN! A pair of CROP DUSTERS fly low over the street
like fighter jets in World War II, kicking up dust and debris --

MONTROSE (CONT'D)

Mrs. Rodger's lost her invalid
daughter...white Phelps's hid Negroes
in their basement...William's Jewelry
Store looted...Commodore Knox, they
did their worst on him...

He trails off. Because there...in the distance...her prom
dress SINGED and her face covered in SOOT...the BOOK OF NAMES
clutched in her hands...walking through what remains of this
once vibrant street is -- LETITIA FUCKIN' LEWIS!

A43 **EXT. BLACK WALL STREET - DAY**

A43

PHHHHHEERN! The CROP DUSTERS have circled back around, and --

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! They drop KEROSENE BOMBS!

The CONCUSSIVE FLAMES ricochet off Leti, leaving her
unmolested by the fiery shrapnel. It's an EPIC TABLEAU -- a
black woman defying history, defying death...

43 **INT. OBSERVATORY - NIGHT**

43

The Multiverse Machine SPARKS and SMOKEs as Hippolyta releases
a DAHOMEY ROAR, straining with effort, the energy RAISING
her into the air. Woman and machine are one as -- her glitter
panels POP, shattering GLITTER-BEINGS and BLOOD everywhere!

It's as if her entire body is going to come apart -- her
HAIR turns from BLACK to shocking BLUE, and -- Leti and
Montrose jump through the portal just as it FLICKERS OUT for
good!

*
*

Hippolyta collapses into Atticus's arms. Montrose falls to
his knees. And Leti slides down against the wall with the
Book of Names clutched to her chest like a life preserver.

All BEWILDERED. DAMAGED. And NUMB in the wake of the
insanity that just occurred. Hippolyta barely has the
strength --

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

HIPPOLYTA

Did you...

ATTICUS

We got it. We fucken got it.

And there's something in Atticus's eyes not reflected in his devastated family's -- AWE, PRIDE, DETERMINATION, and HOPE...

SMASH TO BLACK.

TO BE CONTINUED...