

While driving, he approaches the scene of a car pulled over by a police cruiser on the side of the road. The Officer is searching the car.

CLOSEUP on Riley as he drives slowly by DUI arrest. There is a Young African American Man sitting on the curb with his cuffed hands over his face, crying.

The young man removes his hands and reveals the face of a YOUNGER RILEY, looking directly at Riley as he drives past. They look at each other intently through the flashing red and blue lights.

CUT TO:

36 INT. RILEY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 36

Riley wakes suddenly from a bad dream, breathing heavily. Takes a few moments to get his bearings. The bed is large. The appointments in the room are very nice - nicer than could be expected for a freelance Stuntman.

He turns on a bedside lamp. A textbook lies nearby, and he picks it up, begins reading, powers up his laptop.

FADE TO:

37 INT. CITY COLLEGE - HALLWAY - DAY 37

Riley is walking down the hallway past the computer lab, which has windows through which you can see who's in there. He double-takes, and stops. Through the window, he sees Ama at one of the terminals, wearing a red dress that sets her off in bright relief from the monotonous tones of the lab.

38 INT. CITY COLLEGE - COMPUTER LAB - CONTINUOUS 38

Riley enters the computer lab, approaches Ama and sits at the terminal next to hers. She remains focused on her screen, doesn't take notice of him.

RILEY

Trap anyone in their car today?

AMA

What?

Looks over. Aha. That guy.

AMA (CONT'D)

Oh, hi!

RILEY
Hi. Ama, right?

AMA
Right.

RILEY
My name's Riley.

They shake hands.

RILEY (CONT'D)
Nice to meet you.

AMA
You, too, Riley. Sorry about the parking thing. You can trap me in my car sometime if you want.

That comes off too forward. Riley is amused.

RILEY
Really? Interesting idea.

AMA
I mean... Wow, that came off... Oh jeez...

RILEY
No worries. I saw you last night, actually. At that party.

AMA
You were there?

RILEY
Yeah, I would have said hello, but just as I was going to make my move, my friend created a bit of a scene, unfortunately.

AMA
Oh my god! That was crazy. That's your friend? He's... Well, my friend Sophia...

RILEY
Yeah, I got the picture. Just so you know, I advised against him going.

AMA
That would have been good advice to take.

RILEY

Yeah. Well, love, and all that.
He'll figure it out.

AMA

Yeah, right. You're taking courses
here?

RILEY

Yeah, it's like a continuing
education deal I get through my
union, figured I'd finish my BA...

AMA

You work for the city?

RILEY

No. I'm a stuntman. Different
union.

AMA

Wow! Impressive.

RILEY

It's not the smartest job but it's
a job. What about you? You full
time here?

AMA

No, I'm a worker bee, too.

RILEY

Doing what?

Beat.

AMA

I teach at a pre-school. Working to
get a an education degree, maybe
work for Chicago Unified.

RILEY

That's cool. I love kids. What are
you working on?

He looks over at her screen. She's on a classic movie web
site.

RILEY (CONT'D)

What, you're gonna teach film
appreciation for Chicago Unified?

AMA
Ha! Yeah. This is me avoiding my
real work.

Riley notices one of the movies that she's looking at and
says a line from the movie.

RILEY
"You fight for the ones you love
for, for love is the strongest
power of all."

AMA
Impressive.

RILEY
"Power of Love," 1959, classic
film.

AMA
Yeah, my favorite.

They both stare at each other for a moment before Ama notices
the clock.

AMA (CONT'D)
Well, I have to get to class.

RILEY
I'll walk you. If you don't mind.

AMA
No, I don't mind.

CUT TO:

39 EXT. CITY COLLEGE WALKWAY - CONTINUOUS

39

Ama and Riley walk to class.

RILEY
So how do you know "Power of Love"?

AMA
My father took me to see all the
old movies when I was little.

RILEY
Me to, my mom took me. She said I
needed to act like a gentleman, so
she dragged me to every old-timey
film that showed how men should
act.

56 INT. AMA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 56

Ama comes in from a hard day of work and sits down to have dinner. She grabs the picture of her father and remembers the last time they spoke.

57 INT. HOSPITAL - FLASHBACK - DAY 57

Ama enters hospital.

AMA
So how is he?

DOCTOR
Not so well, the cancer has spread over an area in the brain where we can't operate. I'm sorry.

AMA
(crying)
Well at least can I still talk to him?

DOCTOR
Of course.

Ama walks in to see her father.

AMA
Hey, dad.

FATHER
Hey, baby, how are you?

AMA
I'm fine. The car needs some work, though.

FATHER
I saw you talking to the doctor, what did she say?

AMA
(pausing)
She... she said you're going home.

FATHER
I'm glad.

AMA
Yeah, I'm glad, too.

They both smile.

70

FADE OUT. 70

58

EXT. PARK BENCH - DAY

58

Riley and Ama sit down on a bench in the park.

RILEY

So how did you become a dancer?

AMA

I was in ballet and jazz for a long time and went to a school just for that, but when my father passed he had an unpaid debt to my boss and I needed a job. Now I'm here.

RILEY

So will I ever get to see one of these shows?

Ama smiles and laughs and then feels a rain drop.

The rain starts to come down harder and harder as they try to make it to the train to send Ama home.

AMA

Crap - it's raining too hard. We have to wait this out.

RILEY

Come on - my place isn't far from here.

AMA

Your place huh? I'm finally getting invited over!

They run down the street in the rain.

59

INT. RILEY'S APARTMENT - DAY

59

Riley and Ama enter his apartment. It's spacious and well-appointed. Ama is surprised. She's also wet from head to toe from the rain.

AMA

Wow! This is your place? How do you afford it? I didn't know a Hollywood Stuntman got paid this much!

AMA (CONT'D)

That's why he borrowed money from Caesar to pay for my ballet and jazz school. I miss him. You never realize how important someone is until they're gone.

RILEY

I know.

AMA

The last thing he bought me was the red dress you saw me in when we first spoke at the computer lab.

Ama smiles and gives Riley a kiss.

AMA (CONT'D)

I guess you should be thanking my father.

RILEY

I will. Every day.

86 INT. CLUB JADE - NIGHT

86

Ama walks out of the club and is called back by the lesser Bouncer, Leon.

LEON

Ama.

AMA

Yeah?

LEON

Caesar wants you.

Ama walks back in the club, and back to Caesar's office.

87 INT. CLUB JADE - CAESAR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

87

Caesar sits behind his desk with a blank expression on his face. Then he stands and comes in front of his desk, closer to Ama.

CAESAR

I know.

AMA

Know? Know what?

CAESAR

I know that you're planning on leaving.

AMA

I...

CAESAR

Don't talk. I asked you before if you remember our deal, and you said you did.

AMA

I do remember, Caesar. But how much is enough? I've been working here two years. How long do I pay the debt for my father? It's not like he tried to screw you over. He got cancer.

CAESAR

Everyone's got their story, Ama. I have a story, too. Everyone has their sad little fucking story. How long do you pay the debt? Until I fucking say it's paid.

AMA

Well I've never asked for an accounting, I didn't want to know. I wanted to believe that this was something else.

CAESAR

What?

AMA

Something about me and dancing. I couldn't come here every day and have it be about a debt.

CAESAR

I wanted to believe this was something else, too.

AMA

Oh yeah?

CAESAR

Yeah.

AMA

What?

CAESAR
What do you think?

It dawns on her. She gets very uncomfortable.

AMA
Caesar. No. I'm sorry. It can't be that.

CAESAR
It can be whatever I say it is. Because you know what? I think this guy you're with, he's fucking with your head. You were fine before this guy.

AMA
I was not fine.

CAESAR
You were fine. And we were getting closer. I could feel it.

AMA
Caesar.

CAESAR
You leave this city and he's fucking dead. Understand?

Ama is shocked. Can't answer.

CAESAR (CONT'D)
I have eyes everywhere. I don't want to have this conversation again. Okay. Now go.

88 EXT. CLUB JADE - NIGHT

88

Ama walks to her car, looking at the engagement ring on her finger.

AMA
I'll always love you, Riley.

Ama takes off her ring and puts it in her pocket. She gets in her car and drives home.

89 INT. AMA'S APARTMENT - DAY

89

Ama calls Riley.