

KING RICHARD

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written by

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VIC (CONT'D)

It's just very, very unlikely.
I'm sorry. That's just my two
cents. Maybe you'll prove me
wrong.

Vic offers his hand. Richard takes it, just gutted and --

EXT. EAST COMPTON PARK - TENNIS COURTS - LATE AFTERNOON

With nowhere else to turn, they are back on the courts.
Venus and Serena hitting in the glow of the streetlights
as Richard looks on, for once, saying nothing, looking
very wrung out. We PUSH IN ON him, simmering as we hear -

RICHARD (PRE-LAP)

Dear Heavenly Father. Jehovah
God. We thank you for this food.

EXT./INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT - MAGIC HOUR

As seen THROUGH the window, the entire Williams clan,
five girls, two parents, sit at a booth, praying before
their meal.

RICHARD

We ask you to bless the hands of
the people who prepared this food.
Thank you for this opportunity as
a family to come together. And we
ask you to please, please don't
let nobody get fat from eating all
this food. In Jesus name we pray.
Amen.

THE WHOLE FAMILY

Amen.

And they dig in, chatting animatedly as they go, except
for Richard. His thoughts far away. Oracene clocks him.

ORACENE

You're not eating?

RICHARD

Actually, I got some - uh - got
some work I got to do so -- you
all ride home with your mother.

ORACENE

Everything ok? You all right?

(CONTINUED)

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RICHARD
Everything great. Yeah, it's
fine. Y'all bring my food home
when you come.

Richard gets up from the table and heads for the door.

ALL THE GIRLS
Goodbye, daddy.

RICHARD
Goodbye.

Richard goes. The girls, joking about who's going to eat
his food, while Oracene watches him, concerned and --

EXT. EAST COMPTON PARK - TENNIS COURTS - NIGHT

Standing alone on the dark, empty courts, Richard swats
balls with a racket, taking stock of his life. His
dreams, utterly unreachable, and at that very moment --

ROC
Hey, where's Tunde at homes?

Richard's aware of Roc, TD, and TWO OTHER GANG MEMBERS,
getting out of their LOWRIDER and approaching the courts.

ROC
Did I stutter, nigga?

Richard hopes to avoid this. So does TD, Roc's friend.

TD
Roc, yo. Let's roll. That chump
Chauncey's at Swap. We bounce
now, we can smoke him. Leave this
old dude alone.

But Roc doesn't budge. Steps into Richard's space.

ROC
Know what my daddy taught me? How
to smoke a blunt and how to smoke
a bitch nigga too. I'm real good
at both.

Then Roc pumps like he's gonna hit Richard, who naturally
flinches. He tries to walk away.

ROC
Scared, homie, huh? Tell Tunde me
and the homies might come by later
and run on a train on her.

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BAM! -- that's the last straw. Richard hits him with the racket and Roc goes down as Richard wails him again.
CRACK! CRACK! CRACK! A few more shots before --

TD jumps in, throwing Richard to the ground and -- WHAM!
The guys all surround him, stomping the absolute shit out of him until --

ROC
Get the fuck out the way.

The flurry of kicks stops and Richard peers up from the ground to see --

Roc, looming above him, a GUN in his hand. He puts it to Richard's temple.

GANG MEMBER #3
Smoke that fool, dawg. Smoke him,
homie. He came to disrespect you
in our hood?

Roc stills the gun. The muzzle right above Richard and --

ROC
Don't nobody give a damn about
you, homeboy. Nobody.

And then Roc pulls the gun away. The misery seemingly over until --

BOOM! Roc rears back and hits Richard with the gun.
LIGHTS OUT. Richard's unconscious on the ground as --

Roc and his boys trash his shit. Smash his cart, scattering his ball on the court that roll by Richard's motionless body like waves on the shore as we --

FADE OUT.

FADE IN ON:

INT./EXT. RICHARD'S VW BUS (MOVING) - NIGHT

Back at the wheel, Richard cruises through Compton, busted up and bleeding, searching for the gang as we see --

THE GUN (from his office drawer) on the passenger's seat.

Richard drives on, hunting, only there's no sign of the boys. Richard broils, about to give up, until at last --

He spots them: Roc and crew in the windows of D&K DONUTS.

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Richard puts on the brakes. Pulls into an alley and gets out of his car, walking back toward the shop to see --

EXT. D&K DONUTS - NIGHT

Roc and his crew exit the shop.

Richard waits across the street behind a car, gun in his hand as --

Roc has a last word with TD, before splitting up with the rest of his crew. The other guys heading off toward the parking lot, while Roc heads off alone in the other direction.

Richard seizes his moment. With the gun in his hand, he starts crossing the street when suddenly --

PTPTPTPTP! A MACHINE GUN suddenly erupts, exploding like fireworks, SHATTERING THE DONUT SHOP WINDOW.

Richard jolts back in horror only he hasn't fired. It is a DRIVE-BY tearing past, AK firing out the window, the CAR tearing past him and driving off down the street.

IN THE MAIN PARKING LOT, Roc's boys hear the shots and come running, discovering their friend's body.

TD

Call an ambulance! Call an
ambulance. Fuck!

They search around for the shooters as --

Richard, frozen there on street, considers the violence he was very nearly the cause of. Backing away into the shadows, getting back in his van and finally driving away, considerably shaken as --

INT. WILLIAMS' HOME (COMPTON) - NIGHT

The house is dark and all is quiet when Richard creeps in, very shaken. He heads to the sink to try, wetting a towel for his wounds when --

Oracene enters, awakened and worried, seeing the blood on his head. She takes over immediately, grabbing the towel.

ORACENE

Give me this. Give me this.

Richard says nothing, but his emotion is naked as she tends to his wound. After a beat --

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