

TNB

Typical Nigga Behavior or Thomas Nathaniel Blackman

by Thomas Riccio

CHARACTERS

SPOOKY...20s-30s, (Anglo-American) a man in the process of change
TEDDI...20s-30s, (Anglo-American) Spooky's identical twin brother
CHERYL & CHARLEENE...20s-30s, friend and sexual fantasy
MAMA LUCY...30's-ageless (African-American) Spooky's mama
STORM CROW...30s-ageless (African-American) a roaming spirit

AUTHOR'S NOTE: Skin color in America is a complexly bundled and richly encoded sign. This is a play about many things, it is meant to be a Rorschach of race and culture, confusions, histories, unresolved issues, stereotypes, realities, fantasies, hurts, fears, hopes, and ghosts that still haunt the issue of race in America.

This play is also about class, consumerism, identity, gender and the transformation of cultural and social roles. It is a confrontation of people, spirits and ghosts seeking a healing.

TNB was written with race specific casting in mind, however, that should not limit different racial casting alternatives, which will reveal different understandings of the material.

SETTING: Hip-hop music brings us into the living room of a suburban home. There are junk food and candy wrappers, soda and beer cans, magazines, bits of clothing strewn about. There are several pharmaceutical containers on top of the coffee table as well as a bag of marijuana.

At open we find SPOOKY, who is wearing ghetto gangbanger regalia—almost to the point of parody—jewelry, oversized necklace and rings, an oversized sports jersey, slippers, and very baggy, beltless pants that ride low to expose his designer underwear. His ball cap is twisted to the side of this head. He does a few dance moves as he talk sings.

SPOOKY

I said a hip hop the hippie the hippie
To the hip hip hop and you don't stop
The rock it to the bang bang boogie
Say up jumped the boogie
To the rhythm of the boogie, the beat

(The song ends abruptly and he sits on the sofa, his focus immediately concentrated on watching some television program. He is awake but appears to be descending into a state of hypnotic sloth—at times he is out of it, at other times wide awake and alert when gunshots are fired and then there is obviously a romantic interlude in the program. SPOOKY stands up and straightens himself to address the television.

SPOOKY

Seems a bit right between the two of us, whad you think?...

CHARLENNE

(voice over)

We can start talkin'.

SPOOKY

I got a friends saying like Charleene, she is pretty when are you meeting her?

CHARLENNE

(voice over)

When the time is right.

SPOOKY

I'm like "It's up to Charlene," wonder if I should buy you a gift? I might.

CHARLENNE

(voice over)

You ain't gonna buy me.

SPOOKY

I just can't wait to meet you but I don't wanna sound like I'm desperate, a dumbass but I want you as my girlfriend. You caught my eye.

CHARLENNE

(voice over)

We can start talking.

SPOOKY

You're attractive and I think we could have alot of fun together, you know, I...I think we need to be together. Meant to be...fuck...I do sound desperate ... damn ...uhhh yeah...

CHARLENNE

(voice over)

Yeah, you sounding that way.

SPOOKY

Lemme...I need to start over...Hi, Charleene.

CHARLENNE

(voice over)

Hi, Spooky.

SPOOKY

Yeah, that's me.

CHARLENNE

(voice over)

Tell me about yourself.

SPOOKY

Well, I hope my lifestyle doesn't shy you away from me. Its a Tupac thing, you know Tupac right? Everybody knows about Tupac. Hey, do you know, would you be willing to set a date to meet or something like that?

CHARLENNE

(voice over)

Someone's got crush on me.

SPOOKY

I'm gonna be blunt with you Charlene, really real. I wanna ask you out and I wanna meet you really bad, because to me you look gorgeous and I would be heartbroken if anybody else were to have you as theirs. Please say you'll consider me. I am waiting right here for you. You and me is destiny. Sincerely, Spooky.

(His cell phone rings and SPOOKY goes still. He puts the television on mute. The phone rings a few more times and stops. SPOOKY takes the television off of mute. Gunfire emanates from the television and SPOOKY is getting into the screen action—it is like he is playing a Wii game.)

SPOOKY

Whoa, Don Corleone gonna bust a cap in ur ass wop mothafucker!

(TEDDI, SPOOKY'S "identical" twin brother, enters and watches SPOOKY who is intently watching television. TEDDI is about the same height and weight. He is well groomed, a casual young professional type. At times they share similar gestures. SPOOKY does not notice TEDDI at first and continues to be fixated by the violence on the television. After a moment, SPOOKY turns and the two are frozen for a moment looking at one another.)

TEDDI

What the fuck?

SPOOKY

Yo, what up bro?

TEDDI

What are you doing?

SPOOKY

Chillaxin'.

How'd you...
TEDDI

Yo, come look at this shit.
SPOOKY

(SPOOKY points to the television.)

You out?
TEDDI

I'm here, get used to it.
SPOOKY

You break in?
TEDDI

Out, in, Xcuse me? Last I knowed I was part of dis family! Da key under the welcome mat, clean sheets on da bed n all.
SPOOKY

Life, liberty and the pursuit of a happy meal.
TEDDI

Can I just kool it, been a rough day, rough life! That ohKay?
SPOOKY

Sure.
TEDDI

(Pause.)

Been some time since we been face to face.
SPOOKY

You surprised me...
TEDDI

Me bad, should'a called for an appointment!
SPOOKY

It's not like that.
TEDDI

Ya'll come home ta some nigga in your living room, shit what dis world comin' to?
SPOOKY

Don't go there.
TEDDI

There is here! SPOOKY

(Pause.)

Fuck... How've you been? TEDDI

Best be expected. You? SPOOKY

Same old. Nothing. TEDDI

Nothing? Always something! SPOOKY

Same shit, busy, running to stay alive. TEDDI

When you gonna start livin' 'stead of running after it... SPOOKY

I hear you. TEDDI

(TEDDI looks around the room.)

What? SPOOKY

What? TEDDI

Everything's kool.. SPOOKY

Everything is kool? TEDDI

Fuck you. Ain't boostin' nothing, all your precious shit still here. SPOOKY

Everything is kool! TEDDI

Everything is kool! SPOOKY

You sure everything kool? TEDDI

You sure everything kool?

SPOOKY

No, because...

TEDDI

The world is fucked up!

TEDDI & SPOOKY

Ain't that the truth!

TEDDI

(TEDDI and SPOOKY cross to one another.)

Yeaah, There's my brother.

SPOOKY

So gimme a hug..

TEDDI

(They shake and hug warmly, looking at each other for the first time.)

Welcome back.

Good to be back, you punk ass mutherfuk.

SPOOKY

Good to see you, sad dickless asshole.

TEDDI

We in this together.

SPOOKY

Do or die.

TEDDI

So, gimme some money.

SPOOKY

Like I said, asshole!

TEDDI

Com'on I'm working on a new start, got me a new girl.

SPOOKY

Always workin' the angle.

TEDDI

She ain't no hoodrat lizard girl on the side, she is Ruby Red. Like J Lo. This is the one!

SPOOKY

Chasing the dream. TEDDI

The dream keeps me alive. SPOOKY

Just looking to machine. TEDDI

There you go, white stereotype of black behavior shit again. I'm feelin' this girl is cosmic. SPOOKY

Cosmic on your dick. TEDDI

The stars lining up like some Mayan shit! SPOOKY

What are you on? TEDDI

Whole new wavelength. Been thinking, figuring it out, what it's all about. Connecting with the other half, make it whole. Only thing it's about...You the one thinkin' bout pussy. SPOOKY

The real deal? TEDDI

This is Zen shit. SPOOKY

Bullshit? TEDDI

Zen. You know. SPOOKY

Playing some new game. TEDDI

You should know, you the game master, making the rules to avoid the real shit, maintainin' the systems so you don't see what you don't have to see that way you don't have to know before you even know what it is. When you gonna start feelin' it man? SPOOKY

Feeling what? TEDDI

The flows! They all over! Gotta keep it on the low down. SPOOKY

TEDDI

You're in the clouds.

SPOOKY

Let me give you for instance. Two forces in the universe male and female struggling to unite, right?

TEDDI

I got that straight.

SPOOKY

You feeling that? ... That's where I am.

TEDDI

Yeah...gimme a minute, okay, I'm feeling it...

(Pause.)

SPOOKY

Fuck you. No you ain't.

TEDDI

I'm feeling! Go on!

SPOOKY

All right. See you figure out the male female energy force first, that's the big one, then the race, religion, nation, political, economic, environment, peace and love on earth shit come after that, fall into place, everything easy.

TEDDI

Whoa. Okay.

SPOOKY

Okay, okay! Yeah, you don't get it, I'm here to make that happen right here and now. Clean house, set things straight. That's why I'm here!

TEDDI

You're the messiah man that's gonna make it all happen?

SPOOKY

We all a part of it, just doing....you see anyone else steppin' up?

TEDDI

Bro, you tripping on some shit.

SPOOKY

You got that straight. Complex solvin' the puzzling is what it is, just trying to figure all da confused inside out shit out that's goin' down now in the world. Parts of the previous reality, broken glass laying all over the sidewalk, homie's gotta try somthin', some folks ignoring pretendin' others livin' da yup yup everything is fine fantasy, but real deal is

some peeps mashin', some graff tagin' some dopin', others actin' out, shooting up shit reigning violence, must pretending nothing wrong just keep on buying shit to hide behind, some believing in some god or what going to make sense of their world save their ass or watchin' and livin' for the jump shots on ESPN, American idol somewhat to idle way their days to feel alive, scratchin' round doing something cause we all livin' in a beat ta shit ghetto now.

TEDDI

Gonna solve all the problems!

SPOOKY

You're young but you're old. You thin but you're fat, like some over stuffed suburban white guy big belly up over his belt, wearing the lime green Izod shirt, mowin' his lawn worrying himself about crabgrass 'n if he have enough life insurance 'n shit when you already dead.

TEDDI

Why you messing with this stuff?

SPOOKY

What happen to you?

TEDDI

Don't project that stuff on me.

SPOOKY

Mister psychology. It's all 'round us air is thick with everything that was, ever will be.

TEDDI

What do you want from me?

SPOOKY

Don't you see, da DNA free radical figurin' out which way is which, gonna line up that helix with all sorts of new colors for the next step in da evolution. Male and female workin it, every race in the world, maybe more in dat belly of the now.

(Hip hop music plays as SPOOKY dances and TEDDI watches. The music continues underneath the scene.)

TEDDI

You're flying to the moon.

SPOOKY

Sittin' there on a crater look back seeing your sorry ass. You listenin' to the flow?

TEDDI

We're on different planets...

SPOOKY

This here is earth.

TEDDI

You're an alien.

SPOOKY

Yeah, ohkay, my peeps I will own that. There's issues to resolve, accumulations got built up, da ghosts still floating 'round workin their stuff between us is what I think it is. Unresolved issues.

TEDDI

Not gonna say sorry.

SPOOKY

Teddi, past is past, forgive, forget. Time to move it ahead. You accept that?

TEDDI

Accepted.

SPOOKY

Now can I count on you for a contribution for the makin' of the new world order? Only a few bucks, I'm to the curb.

TEDDI

Mister Cosmic why do you need money?

SPOOKY

Money's energy, moving, making things happen! Currency, like electricity, sparking between things. The long-term goals need a day-ta-day to get there. Starts with a butterfly!

TEDDI

Yeah, you're a butterfly.

SPOOKY

Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee!

TEDDI

You owe me.

SPOOKY

Yes I do, yes you can, yes you do. And absolutely right!. Axing for few fuckin bucks, man! ... Bro? Holms my homie. This girl is the one! The connection gonna break things open, set the world on fire, big piece of the puzzle gonna fall in place. She the goddess that is gonna lead the way.

TEDDI

Player.

(TEDDI walks away, SPOOKY grabs his arm, TEDDI pushes him away.)

SPOOKY

Dat ain't kool.

I don't know you. TEDDI

You know. SPOOKY

I belong here. TEDDI

This my home, too! SPOOKY

Enjoy yourself holmes, don't make a mess. TEDDI

(TEDDI begins to exit.)

Uptight upright prissy mutherfuk. SPOOKY

We should be brothers, instead you puttin' it in my face. TEDDI

You talkin' but you ain't here. SPOOKY

It smells in here. TEDDI

Welcome to life on the flip side, sweat cum and tears, junk food, meds, dope, booze, how I make it through. SPOOKY

Fuckin' mess. TEDDI

What you expect? Exploit, low wage people, places, shit to maintain your lifestyle widout consequences? Dem consequences having consequences. Dats what you visiting on now. Dis our mess! SPOOKY

You riffin' again. TEDDI

Fat ass house like this, you still wheeling dat Escalade? Dinin' on the gourmet, flashing designer bling, wearing logo threads, worry about where you gonna vacations, all dat got a flip side, mean some poor motherfucker sittin' in a shack in Cleveland eatin' government cheese, same as Bangladesh or Mozambique, fill his belly, waitin' at the bus SPOOKY

stop sweatin' out life with chump change, looking for a little peace. Brother, welcome to the flip side, it our house, so hello, what you gonna do?

TEDDI

Twisted shit.

SPOOKY

Dis is twisted shit. Let me get out da handkerchief wipe the tears, handi wipes, wipe all da stuff down here. Air freshen everything up with dat woodsy pine fresh shit. Clear cut a forest ta put in da can so you won't smell the flip side.

TEDDI

You think you're the only one that cares? I care!

SPOOKY

You really are... how'd you turn into a white dude? What's that all about?

(Parody of Teddi.)

How do you do, it's a pleasure to meet you. Heard so much about your shit. We've met before, don't know if you recall. Or were you that policeman that beat the fuck out of me? Oh yeah, I grew up in the wealthiest nation in the world, yet I attended the worse schools, had the poorest healthcare, am ten times more likely to get my ass arrested, rot in a cage!

(Pause.)

TEDDI

What's all this about?

SPOOKY

Man, you're really black, own it!

TEDDI

Oh, I am? Is this how you live?

SPOOKY

You act like dis some lifestyle choice.

TEDDI

What's all this niggaz shit about?

SPOOKY

Everything is what it is 'cause it can't be nothing else.

TEDDI

Who you talking to, brother?

SPOOKY

Who? Talkin' to one confused fool.

TEDDI

When you going to walk up play the game the way it should be played.

SPOOKY

Oh, gettin' all Nike "just do it" on me, capitalist propaganda, brother!

TEDDI

I know you can do it.

SPOOKY

There ya go!...I'm thinkin' maybe it best I work invisible incognito, move between the lines, do the precision Delta Force thing, surgical effectiveness.

TEDDI

You're not the invisible fuckin' man.

SPOOKY

Yes I am.

TEDDI

I see you, I know you.

SPOOKY

You the only one.

TEDDI

Why you invisible?

SPOOKY

Only way to stay invincible.

TEDDI

Putting on this black banger act...

SPOOKY

Low intensity war out there.

TEDDI

Putting up the shields, shooting the words, hiding, running scared is what it is.

SPOOKY

No options in this situation.

(Pause.)

TEDDI

We used to be like one body, two heads.

SPOOKY

I feel you right now.

TEDDI

I feel you.

(TEDDI and SPOOKY sit and look at each other for a few moments.)
Good to be out in the open...

SPOOKY
Free air...breathe it in, feels good to be alive.

TEDDI
You going to stay?

SPOOKY
Yeah.

TEDDI
Just don't mess up this time, okay?

SPOOKY
Always gotta be the law, control the story...

TEDDI
Tommy, its for your own good...

SPOOKY
Slave name. Tommy died motherfuk!

TEDDI
SPOOKY!

SPOOKY
Gotta do what I gotta do.

TEDDI
You fucked things up.

SPOOKY
Oh, I did?

TEDDI
Yes you did.

SPOOKY
To you I'm one crazy mother, nothing gonna change that, you the one been
institutionalized, not me. You my brother, but we work different.

TEDDI
Nothin' wrong wid that.

SPOOKY
Playing white still how things happen.

TEDDI
You fucked up.

Dat what they calling it? SPOOKY

You had every opportunity. TEDDI

You can call it like that. SPOOKY

You made choices. TEDDI

It's all 'bout who's making and controlin' things you fear. You don't want to give it up, still working division to its benefit. They'll let you go as far as you want, but as soon as you start asking too many questions, and you're ready to change, boom, that block will come. SPOOKY

Maybe you don't belong here... TEDDI

OhKay. Hit a nerve. SPOOKY

You got your homies, your peeps. TEDDI

And that deals with it? SPOOKY

I really don't care. TEDDI

(SPOOKY stands and begins to exit then turns. After a moment TEDDI stands.)

I love you too, bro. SPOOKY

Sit down, Tommy... TEDDI

I'm the Spooky, a ghost, here not here, mister dead or alive, past present future, I can go but you know someday I'm gonna be back...So, what it gonna be? You want me to bail or we work it out? SPOOKY

Stay, sit down... TEDDI

(Pause.)

You think I like takin' this on? SPOOKY

You're holding it like you can't let it go. TEDDI

It ain't easy... SPOOKY

Just give it up. TEDDI

You give it up, how about that? SPOOKY

What I got works. TEDDI

Well, this the only shit I know how to know, no option but to live it. SPOOKY

Admire you, bro, carrying it. TEDDI

Like a marked man, target on my back. SPOOKY

Maybe you can modify, you know...I'm here for you. TEDDI

Wouldn't know where to start. SPOOKY

The way you dress. TEDDI

What? SPOOKY

Doing the saggin thing, gansta style... TEDDI

The lost tribe of the revolution, man. Why you think peeps all over the world adoptin' this? The direct line to the spirit that wants to speak. Wearing it how I surviving it. SPOOKY

Get over the black thing. TEDDI

SPOOKY

I am all over it 'n it all over me.

TEDDI

Tommy, you're fucking white!

SPOOKY

You the crazy one! Even your mind is all ironed out organized, your thoughts in them plastic boxes stacked up nice, neat, numbered, all climate controlled air conditioned sealed tight in the closet of your head. In this box is race, black, white, brown, yellow, utoh what I do with this here mulatto? In this box male, this here female. Teddi, you a test case straight edger! Vegetarian, no drugs, no liquor, straight up believing' rules gonna save the world from all the mess its in!

TEDDI

And you're making it happen?

SPOOKY

I'm owning it.

TEDDI

Being in there mess with you head, didn't it?

SPOOKY

Chains ain't sheit no more what binds me are more mental n' psychological than physical. Feeing the mind, body, soul is the direction of my concern.

(SPOOKY grabs the paper sack from the sofa.)

TEDDI

What's in the bag?

SPOOKY

Your fears....No, nothin' at tal.

TEDDI

(mocking)

Nothin' at tal?

SPOOKY

Got me a thumper...

(He takes out and shows TEDDI a handgun, waves it around points it at TEDDI.)

TEDDI

Fuck man, no! Please...

SPOOKY

You n' me on equal ground now, huh bro? Feeling that power shift thang goin on right about now? Still feelin' high n' mighty know it all? You feelin' that?

Whatya doin' with that?
TEDDI

Gonna be trouble.
SPOOKY

Crazy fucker.
TEDDI

SPOOKY
Protection. Scored it for a Benjamin. Go for three ta five big ones on the street, axe anybody. It nice!

(He puts gun to his head)

Boom! Mind's a terrible thing to waste, mutherfuker!

(Then after a moment into his waistband.)

Wanna see what else?

(Then pulls out a large baggie of cocaine and begins arranging lines on the coffee table.)

You got it going.
TEDDI

Ain't that pretty?
SPOOKY

Any good?
TEDDI

You know it.
SPOOKY

You pushin' it?
TEDDI

SPOOKY
'Cause that how I gotta play my life. What you call, you know, working into middle management. Entrepreneur shit.

(Hip hop music, SPOOKY snorts some coke, does the finger to the gums routine with the residue.)

Good shit, little white lady for a white guy?

A touch.
TEDDI

SPOOKY

All you gonna need ta get things going nice.

(They both snort lines of coke. They both fall back into the sofa buzzed.)

TEDDI

Oh yeah...

SPOOKY

What I say? Clean n' frosty.

TEDDI

Whoa!

SPOOKY

Giddy up mutherfucker, like old times!

TEDDI

Old times...Whoa...

SPOOKY

Damn...

(They both enjoy their buzz.)

TEDDI

So how you been?

SPOOKY

All sorts of things going down all round!

TEDDI

Serious?

SPOOKY

You got my back?

TEDDI

Why? What are you into?

SPOOKY

Only run so far then you gotta turn, face that trouble! Say, "Okay, jump! Let's do this mutherfuk get it over with!" That's where I am.

TEDDI

You're serious.

SPOOKY

You gonna stand up?

(Pause.)

Yeah, okay.

TEDDI

Don't get all enthusiastic...

SPOOKY

Okay! All right! Okay?

TEDDI

Fuck. I die for you, bro. Whatever war you been into, have I've always been there for you?

SPOOKY

You know I appreciate that. Whatever came down in the past is past, I'm here, always gonna be here for you.

TEDDI

Thank you, man. That's real.

SPOOKY

We been through the shit.

TEDDI

Crazy fucked up n' down shit.

SPOOKY

Blood name of that river...

TEDDI

We both live on...

SPOOKY and TEDDI

What it is.

SPOOKY

(They shake hands. Black out. Hip Hop music segues.)

Scene 2

The sound from the television; it is obvious a hip-hop music video is playing. SPOOKY sits impassively looking at the television, its images flash over his face and body. Revealed and sitting next to him on the sofa is STORM CROW, an older, stoic faced man. We are not sure if he is African or African-American or if he is from

this century or from five hundred years ago. He has gravitas.

SPOOKY

Yeah, ohkayyyy, baby, shake that booddie!

(Police sirens are heard and SPOOKY is not sure if they are from the television or outside. Blue and red police lights flash and fill the room. SPOOKY pulls out his gun, stands and moves around the room anticipating a gun battle. STORM CROW looks on impassively.)

We're in to it now! Whoa, bust a cap in ur ass, too, mothafuker!

(SPOOKY sees STORM CROW and quickly turns to point his gun at him.)

Whoa! Check this shit out!

STORM CROW

You gonna bust a cap in my ass?

SPOOKY

Sneakin' up on me?

STORM CROW

Been here all the time.

SPOOKY

Should shoot you.

STORM CROW

Silly boy, talking like a crazy man, like you a man you're not.

SPOOKY

Fuck you.

STORM CROW

You gonna shoot yourself with that nine?

SPOOKY

Why I wanna do that?

STORM CROW

Cuz you going that way. I seen a boy like you before. He was blind in his hatred, he shoots himself in the neck. Bullet lodged there in his neck and never removed for fear it would cripple him. He couldn't move his neck after that episode, his heart bursting beyond civility. So my boy dies in his thirties in his madness. That bullet poisoned his blood, the doctors say.

SPOOKY

Who are you?

STORM CROW
I'm the real nigga that looms over everything. Who are you?

SPOOKY
What I say is who I am.

STORM CROW
You playing the game.

SPOOKY
Dis ain't no game.

STORM CROW
You a white motherfucker.

SPOOKY
Oh, you see everything?

STORM CROW
Everything all the time.
(Stands suddenly. Looks keenly at SPOOKY)
Things imprint my soul.

SPOOKY
You looking at my soul now?

STORM CROW
Yeah...

SPOOKY
All sorts of shit goin' on?

STORM CROW
All sorts.

SPOOKY
Tell me old skool...What color is my soul?

STORM CROW
Dirty and hard...

SPOOKY
That dirt black?

STORM CROW
Heavy, tired, still pumpin' strong...

SPOOKY
What else?

How'd that soul get to be so black?
STORM CROW

Feelin' the world...let me ask you.
SPOOKY

What?
STORM CROW

What more important, soul or skin?
SPOOKY

What?
STORM CROW

One attached to the other?
SPOOKY

Skin melts like time.
STORM CROW

So, I just holdin' this soul see for the time being?
SPOOKY

You really are the Spooky.
STORM CROW

Ghost walking through it...
SPOOKY

Shit don't go away it just stays.
STORM CROW

Feel that.
SPOOKY

Shadows all round.
STORM CROW

You should know, you the one luring 'round the shadows. What you got to say for yourself?
SPOOKY

Down ta business. Well, here the straight up facts. No sugar coating. I fucked up... you fucked up... we ALL fucked up, everyone last one of us...yes we did make decisions and for every decision there is an action and for every action a consequence...
STORM CROWN

This here the consequence?
SPOOKY

STORM CROW

This here the consequence.

SPOOKY

Ohkay, we talkin’

STORM CROW

I’m going to lay it out for somebody to come and do exactly what you gotta be doing..

SPOOKY

Break it down for me.

STORM CROW

I’m the countless millions that come before you.

SPOOKY

Who are you?

STORM CROW

I’m the fly in your soup. Now look into my soul.

(SPOOKY does so and it changes him.)

SPOOKY

Some heavy shit.

STORM CROW

Got the souls of all the brothers in me.

SPOOKY

Goin’ back to Africa shit. You playing a game?

STORM CROW

Yeah, this is a game. All a game. Games how we engage in the critical process of self-reflection... You the player, the pimp, the mack, the hustler. I see you. You’re questioning whatever line you riding on right now...Playing all sorts of games is all you got left.

SPOOKY

What you want?

STORM CROW

I’m Storm Crow. Black as the night, riding the storm, rectifying, here to swoop down on your tired hopeless shit.

SPOOKY

Saying I’m hopeless?

STORM CROW

Saying you crying for help.

(SPOOKY point his gun at STORM CROW.)

SPOOKY

Ain't fuckin' hopeless. Don't need your help, nobody else's help.

(STORM CROW closes his eyes and is quiet for a moment.)

You wanna die?

STORM CROW

You just talking, getting' up on your high horse.

SPOOKY

How come everyday I think about my own death?

STORM CROW

What do you see?

SPOOKY

I see a black boy's dead body n' wishing it was me.

STORM CROW

We all got to wrestle with demons who step around the corners of darkness.

SPOOKY

You the Storm Crow that fly in.

STORM CROW

Looming over your shit.

SPOOKY

Bet you can die.

STORM CROW

You getting all tense, body going cold.

SPOOKY

I should kill you.

STORM CROW

Why you carry chips on your shoulder big as a truckload of pulpwood, as if that way was gonna make the world better for you or me.

SPOOKY

Do any care for me? Y'al understand shit.

STORM CROW

I understand what it is to live alone in the world

SPOOKY

I have tried to see beyond the blindness of others.

STORM CROW

I understand why I had to scramble for every crumb.

SPOOKY

I ain't making no more excuses for who nor what I am.

STORM CROW

Walking and talking all night long wondering what I will have eat tomorrow.

SPOOKY

I done all I could.

STORM CROW

Living on nothing but my wits.

SPOOKY

The world finds no ease with me.

STORM CROW

Living in a body that is loved and hated with the sting of shame.

SPOOKY

I'm at the center of all their fears.

STORM CROW

I tried to be as much a man and force as I could be,

SPOOKY

I am their nightmare.

STORM CROW

Whatever the hurdle or pitfall.

SPOOKY

A relic of an unforgiving and unresolved past.

STORM CROW

Should I not have some peace and comfort in my old age?

(SPOOKY lowers his gun)

SPOOKY

You want somethin' to drink, sit down, mi casa su Storm Crow.

STORM CROW

What we playing now?

SPOOKY

We playing life n' death.

STORM CROW

'Cause I'm for real.

SPOOKY

I'm for real. You feel that?

STORM CROW

Death is magic, place where it all get sorted out. You feel that?

SPOOKY

Yeah, I do.

STORM CROW

You feel that fury of demons inside you?

SPOOKY

Yes I do. Causing a great deal of disaster for me...

STORM CROW

Feeling that hurt now?

SPOOKY

I am.

STORM CROW

Know what really hurt?

SPOOKY

What?

STORM CROW

Hurts when there ain't nobody there for you.

SPOOKY

I'm here for you... You all alone, ain't you.

STORM CROW

Got you.

SPOOKY

You all about deep hurtin'.

STORM CROW

Ain't about me. It's you gotta get right.

SPOOKY

You saying I supposed to get right with god n' country or somethin'?

STORM CROW

Ain't nothing to do with god or religion. God can't, don't wanna hear you. God is a killer. Wipes them out in masses. American society all about violence, wholesale destruction of Native America, enslavement of the Africans...

SPOOKY

Sometimes you are put on the path to kill don't know how you got there. If you have nothing to live for you find something to die for, just how it is. I'm cool with that.

(Waves his gun then points it to his eye.)

We see eye-to-eye.

STORM CROW

You gonna kill yourself?

(SPOOKY Lowers his gun and points it variously at things in the room.)

SPOOKY

I know better. What you see now?

STORM CROW

All I see is suffering people profiting from suffering.

SPOOKY

Why me, bother?

STORM CROW

We are responsible to one another.

SPOOKY

You'd think so.

STORM CROW

Maybe I think why don't I just grab this Spooky by the collar and help him out.

SPOOKY

This long time war, time to end it, that it?

STORM CROW

If this is war, peace will win out, just how it is...gotta be.

(They look at each other quietly for a moment)

SPOOKY

Peace out, Old Skool.

(SPOOKY puts the gun in his waist ban. STORM CROW goes to SPOOKY and they face each other)

STORM CROW

Young one...we's clickin' now.

(Lights fade to black as the television reveals gunshots, street dialogue and police sirens)

Scene 3

SPOOKY is standing where he was at the end of the previous scene. He looks around the room. STORM CROW is nowhere to be found. SPOOKY stands silently and stares into space.

After a moment TEDDI enters and crosses the living room with the house phone in his hand.

TEDDI

(On phone)

Mom, here he is, he's in the family room. I don't know...I'm not his keeper. Hey ... Yeah ... sure, okay ... Hang on.

(TEDDI, holding the phone, goes to SPOOKY who is distracted, confused.)

Tommy!

(Covers the phone)

Hey! Tommy!

(To phone)

No response. Yeah, he's awake, he's standing up... I don't know, Mom, he just showed up here. Mom....not my problem I got my own stuff to deal with right now ...okay, okay...yes.

(To SPOOKY)

THOMAS NATHANIEL TURNER, the third! ... SPOOOOOKY ... Yo, SPOOKY ... SPOOKY! ...

(To phone)

I don't know if he's been takin' his meds... I don't know! You know now he gets... Okay, okay, alright, ALL RIGHT...sorry, hang on ...

(TEDDI puts the phone down, takes a step toward SPOOKY and then slaps him across the face.)

SPOOKY

Asshole, did you just slap me in the face?

TEDDI

Wake up!

SPOOKY

What's your angle, dawg?

TEDDI

Tommy?...Spooky?

SPOOKY

You undercover 5-0?

TEDDI
Spooky, tune your channel you got a message coming in.

SPOOKY
Teddi, why you in my face?

TEDDI
Mom, she's upset.

SPOOKY
Yo mama.

TEDDI
No, our mama.

SPOOKY
You one whinny punk ass biteach!

TEDDI
Mom's on the phone, wants to talk to you.

SPOOKY
Say what? Am I hearin' you right?

TEDDI
Telephone, bro.

SPOOKY
Who's on the other end of dis live hook up?

TEDDI
(Covers the receiver)
Quit being a fuckin' cartoon. She's worried, nobody told her you were coming home.

SPOOKY
It's my crazy life, nothing to worry 'bout for anybody else.

TEDDI
Please talk to her.

SPOOKY
Where the fuck's my burner?

TEDDI
She's on this phone.

(SPOOKY takes the phone.)
SPOOKY
My dearest Mama, I love you. Those I knew and loved have fallen by the wayside. But my mama's arms have always held me close. Mama, I giving it my all. What else can a mama

ask? You drove me to give my all so that I could survive until tomorrow. Yes, I worked every angle because I did what I needed to do. As soon as I could carry a piece of wood from the yard to the house, I stayed strong to get ahead. You worked me hard, long into the night and steady day after day, year after year until I got to where I needed to go. Your love got me to manhood, strong and healthy as a mule loosed from the yoke. What more can a man desire of their Mama? Thank you. Spooky will stand by you, count on that.

(TEDDI takes the phone and SPOOKY'S attention is immediately drawn to the action on the television and suddenly he is in a street confrontation scene).

SPOOKY

(To the television)

Xcuse me Blood...but I don't think it kindly of you ta call my home girl a stupid ho...who you callin' a stupid mothafucker??...Ain't NOBODY disrespected your fuckin' ho okay...you need ta knock that shit off right now...ain't NOBODY disrespected you homie or your ho...come on now dawg...what you sayin' illogical.

TEDDI

(on phone)

Yeah, he's watching a movie... staying in. Okay, yes, yes, he has meds.

SPOOKY

(To TEDDI)

Huh? Shit forgot what this is, but got a bad feeling about it.

TEDDI

(On phone)

Mom he's fine, I had no idea they were letting him out...everything is okay, no, I'm not downcast, I am not depressed. I do accept him ... yeah...I know you love and care deeply...the bar exam is in two weeks, under a lot of pressure...No, I don't know where dad is, haven't seen him. Maybe he's working late. How's Barcelona? ... Gaudi is incredible...it's going to take a century to build, yeah, all about detail, nuance, complexity, it will be incredible when its finished...Okay, I'll take care of him, talk soon, love you too.

(TEDDI clicks the phone off. SPOOKY pulls out a few medical vials of pills and pops a few.)

Mom says be cool, she loves you.

SPOOKY

(pointing to the television)

Bro! Checkin' out the new Hummer, man sexy, goin' get me one.

TEDDI

It's Chinese now.

SPOOKY

So? Still gonna get me one. All black no chrome, be like a one dem Chinese ninja roll up all over your sub-compact hybrid ass.

TEDDI

Man, it's called death to the planet.

SPOOKY

Shit, can't afford that.

TEDDI

Nobody can afford that.

SPOOKY

World is fucked, we all going down. Suppose it's all about how you wanna go down for the last snapshot...Man, you getting' all Al Gore on me now?

TEDDI

What did the doctors say?

SPOOKY

Whud you think? Told me what condition my condition was in, perpetuatin' the condition. Didn't need no dress up aftershave honky to tell me. Open your eyes! (points to the television) Oh man! There she is right there. I'm waitin' on ya Lil'lady, sweet thang.

TEDDI

What are you talking?

SPOOKY

She's single, I'm single, so I arranged to meet her at her school yesterday afternoon I got popped. Sweet light skin college girl.

TEDDI

You got out yesterday?

SPOOKY

Name is Charlene. I got to the school at 2:10PM...and I was looking for her, after a few minutes I saw a girl walking, turn and look at me, wave at me cheesy and smile big...So I figured that had to be her, so I smiled back, waved to her, she went up the big stairs into a building real quick and disappeared...so I wait... hours!!

TEDDI

You just got out...

SPOOKY

You wanna hear what I gotta say?

TEDDI

Yeah, okay.

SPOOKY

It got late. It really upset me cus from what I knew this chick was as lonely as me, but busy all the time much like me now and she just flakes on me? Doesn't even speak a word to me? I was gonna buy this girl lunch. But then we talked a little earlier today, said she come by and, I hope she doesn't feel the same about people like me, like the other people tend too, you know, like I'm a crazy mother..just saying shit to make me feel better...but either way she was attractive...you don't find girls with hazel eyes all the time yo'...so that's why I was like "hell yeah...I gotta go check her out."

(SPOOKY reacts to gunshots from the television and thinks someone is shooting at him. He dives for cover and then, after a moment, emerges cautiously, looking around.)

TEDDI

She's the one?

SPOOKY

If you're axing you don't know shit. The positive to the negative, yin with the yang, the energy that keeps it all moving round, man. Pussy is nice, but it only the physical connection, comfort in a lonely world, touchin' the eternal, being alive before you die. (reacts to the television) Homey, it's a war out there! (to TEDDI) Teddi, you my blood love! I would die for you! Need to get me some Mountain Dew! What you want?

(SPOOKY exits one side as CHERYL enters from another side. CHERYL can be of any race. She and TEDDI are polite with one another.)

TEDDI

Hey, hi Cheryl.

CHERYL

Ted, how are things?

TEDDI

Cramming for the exam.

CHERYL

What happened to software?

TEDDI

Expanding my skill set.

CHERYL

Going to be a billionaire?

TEDDI

Working on it.

CHERYL

I'm happy for you.

TEDDI
I'm ambitious, that's my truth, I've accepted that.

CHERYL
You look stressed.

TEDDI
You look great.

CHERYL
Thanks.

TEDDI
Too busy to return my calls?

CHERYL
No, sorry.

TEDDI
Why are you here?

CHERYL
Your mom called. How's Tommy?

TEDDI
He's a mess.

CHERYL
You just have to it your way.

TEDDI
I am who I am.

CHERYL
What, you're Popeye the sailor? "I am who I am!" Gonna save the world.

TEDDI
Yeah, I am.

CHERYL
Popeye is a cartoon.

TEDDI
"Aye, but me saves the day!"

CHERYL
Still a cartoon.

TEDDI
What am I supposed to do?

CHERYL
Nothing, absolutely nothing, everything is fine...

TEDDI
What do you want me to be?

CHERYL
I came to see your brother. Where is...

TEDDI
I don't know, in the other room shooting heroin, mugging somebody...

CHERYL
You used to be inseparable.

TEDDI
We still are.

CHERYL
No, you're not.

(Hip hop music. SPOOKY enters with a towel over his head, a Mountain Dew in his hand. SPOOKY sees CHERYL as CHARLEENE, a light skinned black woman, a male fantasy in his eyes. SPOOKY sits and stares at CHERYL like she just emerged from a dream).

TEDDI
And here's Spooky!

SPOOKY
Whoa, getting hot in here!

CHERYL
Hey.

SPOOKY
See, there you go! Damn, girl! You even better lookin' in person.

CHERYL
Hi Tommy.

(SPOOKY does not respond but just continues to stare at Cheryl).

TEDDI
He's being black today.

SPOOKY
What tha dilly yo?

CHERYL
And, that means?

TEDDI

You talk to him.

CHERYL

He's not an object, he's sitting right here!

SPOOKY

Sku me, but whas going down?

CHERYL

(To SPOOKY)

Hi handsome, how you been?

SPOOKY

(As if to CHARLEENE)

Okay...perfect sweetheart...sorry if I'm moving too fast, but once you meet me n' get to know me n' understand me...you'll find out why I need to move so fast...lets just say I'm a bit insecure truthfully...but when you're me, in all physical aspects...you'd have plenty reason to be...but I'm sure you understand that perfectly, I'm sure you've felt the same way...no reason for me to feel insecure around you...no reason for you to feel insecure...

(SPOOKY gets up and staggers around confused.)

TEDDI

Tommy, sit back down ... Sit down, SPOOKY!

SPOOKY

Shit, you see I'm working my style here? Doing the stankie leg!

(He does a few hip-hop dance moves, then turns to CHARLEENE).

I was just saying in general mostly when I'm by myself that everything is very kool. Okay, just let me know what day n' everything, n' hopefully I can have some money in my pocket n' we'll go out n' do somethin' or somethin'...how about a movie n' some ice cream?...Or...why don't you pick?...What sounds good to you Lil'lady?

TEDDI

Tommy! TOMMY!

SPOOKY

Teddi, excuse me please! Don't you see I'm studying on some main-time mackin' here...I know you want in but you should know you ain't gonna move in on this.

TEDDI

All yours.

SPOOKY

Oh yeah, you only wish one day you can mac like the macadie mac master, the mackin machine!!

Yeah, you know it.

TEDDI

You got my back?

SPOOKY

I do. Don't leave the house.

TEDDI

Paradise is right here! Ain't no fool, fool! Love you man! Peace out!

SPOOKY

(TEDDI exits.)

Sucker wishes he was like me!

(Off stage.)

TEDDI

No I don't!

Hi Tommy...how you feeling?

CHERYL

(SPOOKY looks at CHERYL as if looking at a dream).

Things are very very kool.

SPOOKY

Are you happy to be home?

CHERYL

(CHERYL transforms into CHARLEENE)

SPOOKY

You're funny, but ya we could meet after hours... And as far as your question, yes it would be nice to get to know you first.

CHARLEENE

You seem like a really nice guy but I would like to know you more. So yeah, that sounds good after hours sometime.

SPOOKY

So tell me about yourself, Lil'lady.

CHARLEENE

What you wantin' to know?

SPOOKY

Everythin' there is to know, you know.

I think I'm really attractive. CHARLEENE

Let's stick with that for a while. SPOOKY

I prefer winter over summer. CHARLEENE

Winter's my favorite season. SPOOKY

Tell me sumthing 'bout you. CHARLEENE

Well, you know, I am attracted to girls. SPOOKY

Well, that's good, I am attracted to boys. CHARLEENE

Then everything's good. I smoke socially, that okay? SPOOKY

I finally quit after a hellofa long time. CHARLEENE

You know I drink n' like being high in the clouds. SPOOKY

I get drunk easily. CHARLEENE

Okay, yeah, I can dig that...I do drugs, you got problems wit dat? SPOOKY

You wanna live stupid that up to you. CHARLEENE

Lil'lady speaks her mind. SPOOKY

I do. CHARLEENE

I like your hair. SPOOKY

I brush my hair at least fifty times a night. CHARLEENE

SPOOKY

Stylin' smooth n' silky.

CHARLEENE

I'm my own snowflake, unique and beautiful.

SPOOKY

I love dat. I'm a butterfly...What you believe?

CHARLEENE

I am religious.

SPOOKY

I didn't axe you if you religious, I axed if you believe!

CHARLEENE

I read the bible, go to church, believe Jesus gonna save us.

SPOOKY

Jesus is the original homey I was just saying to somebody.

CHARLEENE

Get right next to Jesus, and stay there by His side, then encourage him to stay by your side. What you believe?

SPOOKY

I believe in everything.

CHARLEENE

How you believe in everything?

SPOOKY

Because I believe in nothing.

CHARLEENE

How you do that?

SPOOKY

Easy. Believe in all this. Everything!

CHARLEENE

Everything?

SPOOKY

You talkin' to the god body right now and together we can transform n' possess our true potential.

CHARLEENE

What you on?

SPOOKY

I'm high all right! High on feelin it, high on words n' the ideas behind the words. What you feel?

CHARLEENE

I feel good about myself you know, am fashion-conscious, like to look good.

SPOOKY

You got style happenin' all over 'n in between.

CHARLEENE

You wanna say something to me, I can tell.

SPOOKY

Well, since you and me's being really real here...I'm gonna level wid you. I lie frequently, only because I think...I'm afraid of the truth. You know what I'm tryin' to say?

CHARLEENE

You lying now?

SPOOKY

My bad. We just met n' I'm laying this one, moving too fast. No, not wid you, Lil'lady Charlene. Me n' you renewed, fresh starting the yin 'n yang gonna make the world new all over again. Hope, love, peace n' happiness. Never ever gonna lie wid you. You feeling that?

CHARLEENE

What we talking here? Watch your shit or I'm outta here. You feelin' that?

SPOOKY

Whoa, ohkay. Ah, you like spending money on yourself?

CHARLEENE

Okay, now you changing directions, flitting away like a butterfly. Avoidin' and lying like the same thing. Is that what you do?

SPOOKY

If you're my lady Lil'lady I gonna buy you all you want.

CHARLEENE

So you gonna buy me some nice things make up for all your lying?

SPOOKY

I'm low now, but soon Imma gonna be high rolling again, get all sorts of high numbers of dead presidents to keep you happy.

CHARLEENE

Money ain't gonna compensate for bullshit. I'm just puttin' that out there.

SPOOKY

You say that but you know it's all about the Benjamins. You like this ring?

(SPOOKY shows here a ring he is wearing.)

CHARLEENE

Maybe for you it's all about money and Bling Bling.

SPOOKY

Lil'lady, wow, overwhelmed! You know for some reason I feel you more than anybody ever...everything coming off of you like radiation! Don't even have to say it no more, it's all there. Shit I feel you probably more than anyone else even tough we just met.

CHARLEENE

I know what its like to hurt, and I feel you, too. You doin' okay? Seem like a lot of stuff been comin' down.

SPOOKY

Yeah, I'm okay. Imma in the clouds right now, all sorts of shit's been pissin' me off here lately. Respect, Reputation, or Revenge is where I'm at. Make me sick.

CHARLEENE

I'm so sick of working like a dog and still not being able to make ends meet, sick of being real in a fake world. All that honesty, loyalty, and integrity seem to bring is sorrows and pain - and I am sick of it.

SPOOKY

What burns me is the way the weasels laugh at the people who are trying to do it right; the weasels are weasels, and seem to be getting ahead, n' people like me and you trying to do it right suffer.

CHARLEENE

Hang in there.

(Hip-hop music as SPOOKY prepares cocaine on the coffee table.
CHARLEENE becomes CHERYL. SPOOKY freaks out, stands and tries to figure the situation out).

CHERYL

I'm here, Tommy.

SPOOKY

Whoa, who are you?

CHERYL

Everything is fine.

SPOOKY

Where'd Charlene go?

CHERYL

Tommy, I'm here. Cheryl. Relax. Please sit.

SPOOKY

Yeah, that's right, white chicks likin' the black man now. Once you go black ain't no going back! Bet you some white bitch in heat!

CHERYL

Tommy, it's me, friends since grade school, remember?

SPOOKY

Since when?

CHERYL

We're going to sit and talk.

SPOOKY

How do you talk all that can't be talked?

CHERYL

We let the ghosts talk.

SPOOKY

They been talkin' Things is Spooky!

CHERYL

Tommy...

SPOOKY

You's misinterpreting who I am, I'm the Spooky. Spooooooky!

CHERYL

Spooky.

SPOOKY

Ghost all over, you see 'em? This room is filled with 'em, you know Storm Crow? ...Whoa, look over there! Big mutherfuk from Africa, wearing that leopard skin, you wanna piece of this? What that? Plantation negroes dancing shuck n jive, ohh, you stopping, because yeah I see you! Been seeing all sorts of shit all the time never use to see! Dead woman they throwing off the slave ship, sharks swimming gonna have dinner. Shit, what you doing! Lynching and burning, grinning rednecks all round, asshole eatin' an apple like it a picnic. See it all, on the teevee, Fredrick, W. B., Denzel, Obama, Martin, Malcolm, sitting behind every one of them some ghost, that's why I gotta be the Spooky, only way to converse with this.

CHERYL

Do you think you are black?

SPOOKY

Don't know if you can think black! Know what I'm saying?

CHERYL

But you are a white man.

SPOOKY

Whoa. Being black ain't what it used to be, give you that, but that don't make me white! The man got me all trained n' educated his way, still his plantation, got me medicated up ta keep me in line, for some brothers that's the ticket out, for me just keepin' me in my place playing undercover inside mole. For me it ain't about surviving it all about striving, setting' the record strait!

(Sits and goes to the cocaine)

How 'bout some kibbles of this white girl white girl?

(Hip-hop music. CHERYL becomes CHARLEENE as SPOOKY snorts).

CHARLEENE

Shit like that gets to me too, Spooky

SPOOKY

Charlene! Woman, where'd you go?

CHARLEENE

Been right here.

SPOOKY

What you do when things get heavy?

CHARLEENE

After I get home from my job or from school, having one of those days. I go straight to the frig. I eat when I'm upset.

SPOOKY

My fam don't like when I get drunk, all high...there's pain all over me sometimes got to let it out.

CHARLEENE

Yeah right, I can see you getting' all out of control.

SPOOKY

Girl, you don't know how crazy this nigga can get. I'm nice for show and tell. Keepin' it inside otherwise they take me down put me in a cage. I'm always expecting rain.

CHARLEENE

"Blessed is the man who preserves under trial." Nathaniel 1:12.

SPOOKY

Biblical troubles in this world right now. Troubles like locust, spread swarming everywhere, just some folks can afford to hide ta keep 'em safe. That don't mean the locust ain't eating away at the world.

(SPOOKY gets a little closer to CHARLEENE and puts his hand on her knee).

CHARLEENE

I know your angle. All you looking to do is machine. You wanna get me high, take advantage n' fuck my brains' out, rape me or some shit...I'm only sixteen...

SPOOKY

Girl, you da bomb. And I did not know that...Sixteen!

(SPOOKY pulls away gesturing "no offense").

CHARLEENE

At least didn't remember my blog.

SPOOKY

But we still just talkin', haven't done shit yet...I touch you, girl?

CHARLEENE

Yes.

SPOOKY

Everything kool now?

CHARLEENE

Can you support a woman and family?

SPOOKY

Earn money on a job-by-job basis, you know.

CHARLEENE

I pay my own bills with my job at Burger King.

SPOOKY

You getting domestic on me, Lil'lady? Making me hungry for a double cheese Whopper wid fries.

CHARLEENE

I can cook. Really good.

SPOOKY

See, that's exactly what I'm sayin, why women wanna get all domestic, get married?

CHARLEENE

I enjoy cleaning. Sometimes. Tidiness is a must in my life.

SPOOKY

I like clutter.

CHARLEENE

Best you clean up yourself and after yourself.

SPOOKY

Yeah, I should be workin' in that direction.

CHARLEENE

Take that step right now.

SPOOKY

You want more.

CHARLEENE

You got that straight.

SPOOKY

You must have good taste.

CHARLEENE

People tell me I have good taste. I have yet to fulfill my potential.

SPOOKY

I am good at sports.

CHARLEENE

I like history, math, I like adding thing up and making sure everything multiplies and divides right.

SPOOKY

Was thinking about going pro, you know, NBA, NFL get into the big stuff. Imma natural athlete.

CHARLEENE

I going to school to be an architect.

SPOOKY

Wanna see my moves?

(SPOOKY does a few football passing and running moves, then some boxing jabs as if in a match, and then pretends he is dribbling a basketball and takes a shot at an imaginary basket).

CHARLEENE

I wanna make something that's gonna be around a while.

SPOOKY

Girl, you all grewed up already.

CHARLEENE

You don't know grewed up.

SPOOKY

Why'd you say that?

That's what I see. CHARLEENE

Shiet. SPOOKY

Shit is right. You ain't who you are. CHARLEENE

Then who am I? SPOOKY

You Spooky, still living in the shadows, like some vampire sucking blood off those trying to live. CHARLEENE

Damn Lil'lady! I explained! This is what I gotta be! SPOOKY

You a transparent ghost, I can see right though you. CHARLEENE

I can't change, I tried, don't work. SPOOKY

Then you gonna either go crazy or die. CHARLEENE

You ain't who you say you are. SPOOKY

Nobody is. CHARLEENE

Okay, I'll say it, own it, time to re-think my stuff. SPOOKY

You don't know how you survived, but somehow you did. CHARLEENE

And now what? SPOOKY

Can you dance? CHARLEENE

What? You saw, got some moves. SPOOKY

Oh yeah? Can you sing? CHARLEENE

SPOOKY

I sing like someone stepped on my foot.

CHARLEENE

Then time to learn how to learn a new dance and sing it right.

SPOOKY

Why you pressing my stuff?

CHARLEENE

I have a question, and it came about because of looking into your sad eyes. Why you a bully on women?

SPOOKY

What? No, you got it all wrong Lil'lady this is all about the yin and yang, makin' things round and whole again.

CHARLEENE

What you talkin'?

SPOOKY

I dunno know if ya'll know or not...but men like me sometimes talk alot n' shit...

CHARLEENE

This all shit?

SPOOKY

Naw...I'm not lying, bitch!

CHARLEENE

Bully. Own it.

SPOOKY

Sheit. Bully? I'm one of most decent guys' this world has nowadays.

CHARLEENE

You're afraid.

SPOOKY

No I ain't.

CHARLEENE

What you fear most already happened.

SPOOKY

What? But I've been disadvantaged all my life!

CHARLEENE

You think 'cause you got sad eyes you disabled?

SPOOKY

Fuck you, bitch, callin' me disabled.

CHARLEENE

Oh, so there we go. Bully, gonna smack me up side the head?

SPOOKY

Why you going there? I just wanna sweet talk you, sprinkle some sugar on my troubles.

CHARLEENE

I use to buy that. But what you really doing is just finding new ways of keepin' your troubles alive.

SPOOKY

Why am I gonna do that?

CHARLEENE

'Cause you got a trouble addiction, need it, can't do without it. You think you all original through repetition. Spooky, things ain't what they used to be. Face that. You keep looking for impossible happiness to keep your life on the edge. Make your happiness right here.

SPOOKY

You one cold blood bitch.

CHARLEENE

Then that's what I need ta be.

SPOOKY

Sheit. I ain't hurt nobody.

CHARLEENE

You ain't hurt nobody? You a somebody you hurting you...You sitting with that?

SPOOKY

Ahh, common now.

CHARLEENE

What do ya'll think?

(Hip-hop music. TEDDI enters and watches them).

SPOOKY

What do ya'll think? I mean between you callin' me sad eyes' sayin' that...it's starting to get on my nerves.

CHARLEENE

Sad eyes, big head.

SPOOKY

So please lemme know what your opinion is.

CHARLEENE

Time to own your own opinion.

SPOOKY

I'm gonna own it.

CHARLEENE

For the record the disability you're playing out, your Spooky ghost shit, has everything to do with being an emotional bully...but you think you being harmless...

SPOOKY

One ladies' opinion.

CHARLEENE

That can be a bitch.

TEDDI

Yo, bro, come on back!

SPOOKY

Nigga, bitch is crazy! I should write a letter to the government 'n protest that Hummer shit. Chinese think they can muscle their way in to our turf. The only real deal in arresting or stopping this trend is to work together, to get educated and involved in the political and economic process at every level!

(Fade to Black)

Scene 4

(Some old Delta Blues music plays, Bessie Smith or the like. The atmosphere changes as MAMA LUCY enters. She is a loving black woman).

MAMA LUCY

What's going on here?

SPOOKY

Mama! Were you been?

MAMA LUCY

No never mind where I been.

SPOOKY

Time to celebrate, Mama home! How's bout coupla 40s?

(SPOOKY starts to leave for the beers)

MAMA LUCY

Don't need to be drinking right now. What's all this on the table?

SPOOKY

I'll clean it up.

(SPOOKY tries to straighten the coffee table and sofa)

MAMA LUCY

Making a mess of the house. Where is the thanks for a mama black as a moonless night? Where is pleasure and satisfaction as the grave draws near? Damn you then if that is the thanks I get!

SPOOKY

Oh, Lord, have mercy on my wicked soul!

MAMA LUCY

Don't get smart mouth with me.

SPOOKY

No ma'am.

MAMA LUCY

You talk to me as if I am ignorant of life and its footfalls. Mama knows your hurt better than you do.

SPOOKY

Yes, ma'am. Trying, just don't know where I fit in.

MAMA LUCY

Well, I know where you issued, from between these black thighs. You mine whether you want it or not. Don't you know there ain't no making one's self again? You is or you is not. You wanna be growed up? Then you got to learn that for yourself. Face what you got. Way it always been.

SPOOKY

Mama I'm feeling pain.

MAMA LUCY

We all got pain, I know, and hurt we got to carry, balancing sins on our head like dirty clothes in a basket. And I have had my share. But that's all right. I ain't got no complaint on that score. Going against the odds—ain't that what living is about?

SPOOKY

Damn. Why everybody pushing things today?

MAMA LUCY

'Cause today must be the day.

SPOOKY

That explains it.

MAMA LUCY

Explains what?

SPOOKY

Explains I'm need to have it out before I walk away through blue and languishing smoke into the white light of hope. I want no knots untied, no guard looking for me and casting shadows on a brighter life.

MAMA LUCY

You had no father and that created a dark impassable hedge wall between you and happiness.

SPOOKY

My father, I have only his last name.

MAMA LUCY

Fathers come and gone got their own misguided concerns, but you mama is always. What if you had no daddy that amounted to nothing? You're still here strong and healthy. That got some value. All you got to do is go on and live. Take what you got and do what you will with it.

SPOOKY

Tried that.

MAMA LUCY

You have not transgressed the bounds of decency, working for the man and living on the man's land, depending on him for your everything is not shameful. But you put all your hurt on women. And it's with women you hurt for your hurt. Your drinking, your rise in distrust and temper, and the rush of violence come, I know, from shame and hatred.

SPOOKY

World got set all upside down.

MAMA LUCY

However black the cheese is sliced we still make choices on how we want to live. If you gonna be the man you want to be you start by treating women like the queens of heaven, the holiest of saints. And no more taking leave of a woman, mens is good at that. All they gots to do is pull up their pants and leave. Walk right off and never look back. The whole bastard lot of them. Make a mess of the world making women clean up the mess. Where's your brother Teddi, he need to hear this, too.

SPOOKY

Teddi think he's special, better and different from family.

MAMA LUCY

While you here talking about someone else, someone is out there talking about you. What you need to do is walk up to your brother and throw your arms about his neck 'cause you in this together whether you like it or not

SPOOKY

Teddi my brother, but don't know why he thinks he's white.

MAMA LUCY

If Teddi's mind becomes clear and clean by being a white man, let it be. Lemme ask you something.

SPOOKY

All right...

MAMA LUCY

You gonna become healthy by denying your mama? What kind of nonsense is that? Whoever heard of such craziness? You want to be free? Free not to have to explain. Free to live as if you free? Free from the greater whole you belong? How can you be blamed, you didn't make the world you live in, nor the one you inherited.

(SPOOKY and MAMA LUCY embrace).

SPOOKY

Mama...I love you.

MAMA LUCY

My, my, my, you handsome, big eyes and all that wavy hair.

(Fade to black)

Scene 5

Hip-hop music as the atmosphere returns to before MAMA LUCY entered. CHARLEENE, TEDDI and SPOOKY are in the same places there were at the end of Scene 3. MAMA LUCY is gone.

CHARLEENE

You a banger, Spooky?

SPOOKY

Political Gang Warfare runs through my mind 24/7, it urges me on everyday, even in my dreams. Sometimes, I sweat from the fixation of civil war that surrounds me.

TEDDI

Civil war in your head!

SPOOKY

Am I axing you, Teddi? Huh?

TEDDI

If you're talking to the world, expect a reply.

SPOOKY

Don't you gotta be somewhere, do some shopping or sumthin'?

(To CHARLEENE)

Shot three times and stabbed twice. Surgery twice. Spent six months on my back, eight trying to learn how to walk again. That's a wake up call saying to stop, get your life together, make things right...you tell me what else it could mean?

CHARELEENE

Spooky?

SPOOKY

Yeah, baby love?

CHARLEENE

Can I axe you something personal?

SPOOKY

Whatever you want.

CHARLEENE

Who's Teddi, you talkin' to somebody?

SPOOKY

Oh, yeah, that's my homeboy, Teddi, he's goin' crazy. If Teddi's mind becomes clear and clean by being a white man, let it be. He hallucinates, thinks he is a cracker living the rich suburbs thinkin' people gonna rob him and shoot up his house, take his shit, do the home invasion thing. Callin' me Thomas, thinkin' I'm a white dude. Its jus the fucked up way he be thinkin. I wanna help him but I don't know how. Can I get some advice?

TEDDI

Tommy, bro, you're fucked up.

SPOOKY

You use ta be my brother. Who the fuck is you now, man?

SPOOKY starts to cry.

TEDDI

Spooky, who the fuck you talkin' to?

SPOOKY

Who are you anyway, man?

TEDDI

You tell me.

SPOOKY

Fuck no, ain't never seen you before, cracker.

TEDDI

Dude, I'm your brother.

SPOOKY

My brother? Whoa, my brother is black. Blackest dawg around.

TEDDI

It's me, man, Teddi.

(CHARLEENE transforms into CHERYL)

CHERYL

Hello? Spooky?

SPOOKY

I wanna go to KFC.

TEDDI

You're not goin to KFC, Mama Rose is bringing your tacos home.

SPOOKY

I'm going to KFC, for the Colonel's secret recipe, love that flavorful original flavor double-breasted extra crispy all white chicken strips along with a side of those tender bite-sized home style boneless wings that come in the variety bucket with home-style biscuits and cole slaw, and down it all with an all American apple pie mini. Get it to go and do it up with the homies down in the hood.

TEDDI

Spooky, we ain't got a hood.

SPOOKY

Wha?

TEDDI

Dude, you're white. We live in the rich 'burbs.

CHERYL

Teddi, this is very disruptive.

TEDDI

Do I have to watch everything I say?

CHERYL

You'll get him upset.

TEDDI

I just want to talk to him.

SPOOKY

Yuppie fucks like you gentrifying everything, even your eyeballs. What happened to my hood?

TEDDI

The hood went Hollywood; you're a studio gangster, bro.

CHERYL

He identifies with the African-American struggle. It's something real. It grounds him. Its visceral, implies a cultural identity and sense of community that he otherwise lacks. Participating in a lifestyle, identifying with a very real and authentic cultural legacy that speaks to him in this numbing, homogenizing world we live in.

TEDDI

The Ebonics?

CHERYL

Rebellion, its individual, it separates him from the constraints of the prevailing power structure. It is one of the few freedoms he has left. It's like graffiti in the air. Celebrate him, culture has always been dynamic in flux, he's feeling that intensely.

TEDDI

You sound like NPR.

SPOOKY

Black folks have been ripped off for years, our music, art, literature, everything—Imma going out!

TEDDI

No you're not.

SPOOKY

Do some tagging.

TEDDI

You just got out of rehab.

SPOOKY

Gotta have coordination, be steady, develop your own style. I could show you basics. I'm talking 'hip-hop' real graffiti, where peeps' bust heads' for being' crossed out. You wanna know how?

TEDDI

You gonna teach me?

SPOOKY

I'll teach you for you ta have some real expression in your life.

(SPOOKY and TEDDI do a series of hand gestures, communicating with each other)

Teddi, what's going on?
CHERYL

My brother!
TEDDI

So you in?
SPOOKY

I'm in.
TEDDI

Teddi gonna be my second roll dog! Partner in crime!
SPOOKY

Two of America's most wanted!
TEDDI

(CHERYL transforms into CHARLEENE)

What 'bout me?
CHARLEENE

You been flaking on me, don't know who you are anymore.
SPOOKY
(To TEDDI)
Fucken bitch pisses me off. Always puttin' excuses.

Not gonna treat me like this!
CHARLEENE

I'm just so mad!
SPOOKY

You're so mad? Playing out some macho gangster scene you saw on teevee is what you're doing! Playing out some racial stereotye, perpetuating and holding back progress all at the same time!
CHARLEENE

Saying like it is, Spook.
TEDDI

Bitch, I just wish you be sum one that if I called up, like hey, you want to go ta da beach or watch movie whenever da fuck I wanted to do they would say yea whenever. Ok?
SPOOKY

You're looking to have a dog!
CHARLEENE

SPOOKY

Teddi, am I soundin' like sum psycho now?

TEDDI

Psycho.

CHARLEENE

Sorry to butt in on this but I noticed we're finally talking about real issues now.

SPOOKY

This a teevee show?

TEDDI

Some real plastic shit in this situation.

SPOOKY

Ain't real at all, is it?

TEDDI

Yo, looking more and more like a HBO re-run.

SPOOKY

Shit, I wanna be an honest man.

(SPOOKY stumbles around. CHARLEENE and TEDDI help him to sit. CHARLEENE transforms into CHERYL)

CHERYL

Good, you're finally beginning to recognize reality in this confusion.

SPOOKY

Yeah...

TEDDI

Spooky, sit down.

CHERYL

Tommy?

(SPOOKY closes his eyes for a moment then the volume of the television increases. We hear screeching tires and gunshots. SPOOKY jumps up and pulls out his automatic weapon and fires at the television. The shots are obviously recorded. He protects CHERYL/CHARLEENE who has been "shot" and slumps to the sofa bleeding. SPOOKY spills his drink on the sofa in the excitement. TEDDI watches baffled).

SPOOKY

Chilled dat mothafucker! Twitch, die, goodbye!

TEDDI

Wipe that shit up, Mama Rose gonna be pissed. You know how much that sofa cost?

SPOOKY

Comin' at me...Shit, man, dey shot my ho!

(SPOOKY goes to CHARLEENE)

I'm here baby.

(CHARLEENE dies, sort of.)

(Angry and to the television)

This is a fucked up joke and very disrespectful. Charlene was my ho bystanding and didn't deserved to be killed. The law won't execute someone who knocked my ho. The government kills people everyday using the law or military. Nobody killed their ho. They kill people to protect the bottom line money interest, keeping the cash flow more important than protecting the ho!

(SPOOKY engages in a gun battle with the ghost that have emerged from the television. He is "shot" and is "dying." CHARLEENE awakens transformed into CHERYL who goes to SPOOKY and holds him)

CHERYL

When a black man or his woman dies nobody cares.

TEDDI

Cheryl, what are you talking about?

CHERYL

Can you care about anyone except yourself?

TEDDI

I'll call 911.

(CHERYL transforms into CHARLEENE)

CHARLEENE

I have to stay by his side I know violence is not the answer. I know that he chose the wrong way to go but us black folks gotta stay together.

TEDDI

You're black too?

SPOOKY

She light skin...

(To CHARLEENE)

Baby, don't be scared.

CHARLENE

Believe me I am scared. They shot you. You're going in the hospital. Who knows if you're gonna live. Doctors will give you some time and then they'll see if they wanna keep you on the machine or if they should just let you go.

SPOOKY

Don't let me go, I know I been giving you shit, I love ya baby, really, I do, I'm so sorry for everything, the way I treated you. You too, Teddi, bro.

TEDDI

You're playing out an episode of The Wire!

SPOOKY

You...you my brother, I thought you'd understand.

(CHARLEENE transforms into CHERYL)

CHERYL

He is reaching out to you, can't you see that?

TEDDI

This black thing is all for attention?

CHERYL

He's looking to be a part of something bigger more meaningful than himself, aren't we all? Identity is connection, is community, like your fraternity and law society. He respects your values your goals, why can't your respect his?

TEDDI

What would you have me do?

CHERYL

He obviously needs this.

TEDDI

He's fucking nuts and doesn't give a shit about you or anybody else.

SPOOKY

My peeps, I'm seeing the illuminati ...

(TEDDI discovers SPOOKY'S wound is really ketchup in his shirt pocket.)

TEDDI

It's ketchup! Take your meds, Tommy.

SPOOKY

I think its time to say, am I really me, can I change? Why should I?

TEDDI

What?

(CHERYL transforms into CHARLEENE)

CHARLEENE

Let the man talk.

SPOOKY

This is my way of living, this is all I know, this is why I was put on this earth for, to hurt to kill to steal to see brothers fall to their kneez, make the white man bled, there's no way out because I was made for this.

TEDDI

Feeling more authentic?

SPOOKY

You trust the Amerikkkan system? I thought yud understand what happened here is the way it is. Me against the world, here all by myself. Crackers like you don't understand the war I'm living.

TEDDI

All pretend.

SPOOKY

Then the whole world pretending everything is all right, everything is fine, when we in the eye of the storm! What I'm feelin' is real. Were all pretending the water 'n air is okay everyday. You may think you're white, looking in the mirror saying to yourself I got privilege and shit, but you just 'nother kind of black.

TEDDI

No, I'm not.

SPOOKY

Peace, welcome to the family, bro. But unless you one of the few masters owning all the assets, controlling all the resources, power and justice, you just a different shade of black. You don't see the doors, they wide open to execute homies like you and me in the future times of lawlessness. Machiavelli time just another way to kill and keep more fools like you and me in place. You a new age nigga no matter what and how you think. World turning into one big drive-by. The government corporations telling us "no matter how much you is you we can kontrol , kage and kill you. That's more than one man can take, so I'm taking action, getting geared up for battle. I will take on any motherfucker and other mothafucker until I get justice mothafucker.

(Hip-hop music as they watch television together for a moment.)

TEDDI

That's fuckin' stupid...

SPOOKY

Emmy award winning program three years in a row.

TEDDI

Good show.

SPOOKY

When and how did you start suckin, acceptin' classic bullshit? Huh?

TEDDI

Stupid fuck.

SPOOKY

I'm real. You Casper living' the ghost life. Should call you the Spooky.

TEDDI

You fucked up things for everybody.

SPOOKY

You's tripping Teddi. These is gangster times, everyone for themselves, new tribes forming all over the place, putting on the war paint, getting ready for the civil war in between da rich n' poor. Between the god seekers and god bleeper's. Terrorism and gangsta is desperation. It ain't race anymore, all 'bout who gonna dictate the new world order. 'Bout how you wanna be in the world 'n how you wanna die.

CHARLEENE

I have to stay by your side, unconditional love.

SPOOKY

Can't keep the black man down.

(Hip-hop music. TEDDI becomes agitated. STORM CROW enters)

STORM CROW

I should slap you mothafucker...

SPOOKY

OhKay, now we starting to look classical black...now we going waaaaay deeper wid understanding.

STORM CROW

...For being so stupid...

SPOOKY

Why the fuck ya calling me stupid, motherfucker?

STORM CROW

Probably cuz you the one look weak and in a hurry like you anxious to die.

SPOOKY

Just keeping it real.

CHARLEENE

When I die I wanna know what I lived for.

SPOOKY

Old way bustin' at the seams, bro.

CHARLEENE

All sorts of options moving round now.

SPOOKY

Lay your head on my shoulder, I'll take care of you.

(CHARLEENE sits next to SPOOKY and puts her head on his shoulder)

CHARLEENE

Maybe I should have your baby.

SPOOKY

Life goes on.

TEDDI

You invincible?

SPOOKY

I never said that, you did.

STORM CROW

Maybe you should go back to your pre-school principles Cuz most of wad you doing don't make sense.

SPOOKY

Okay, I am invincible.

STORM CROW

Fuck you invincible I'll give two pennies if you can spell sensible...

SPOOKY

Maybe there is no rhyme or reason except it's just how things is now....

STORM CROW

Now just in case you didn't catch it I'm giving you my two cents.

TEDDI

Now use your common sense.

CHARLEENE

Get the most out of it.

SPOOKY

I'm not even wantin' a reply to you cos I know you wont agree wit how I see things an even if you do agree I'm not wanting yer shit ... I should kill all you all.

TEDDI

You need some one to re-teach you the alphabet.

STORM CROW

Someone to re-write your shit. That shit called the story of your life

SPOOKY

Leave my shit outa dis shit.

CHARLEENE

Spooky, we talking things bigger than your shit, my shit.

(MAMA ROSE enters with a bag of fast food.)

MAMA ROSE

We talking everybody's shit.

SPOOKY

Must be an APB on my shit.

TEDDI

Time to set the record straight.

CHARLEENE

Life is only few lines of a rhyme.

MAMA LUCY

How you want to sing that song?

SPOOKY

So we in the midst of changing things up?

STORM CROW

What you negotiating right now.

MAMA LUCY

Here you're tacos.

(MAMA LUCY give him the fast food bag)

SPOOKY

Things ain't hopeless, are they Mama?

MAMA LUCY

We're here right now.

SPOOKY

I ain't gonna beg for my life.

MAMA LUCY

Nobody asking you to.

SPOOKY

This ain't messin' around?

MAMA LUCY

Before you know, it is crying time.

SPOOKY

Mama, I've bin crying my life long. Feeling for the world since ancient times. My life bin doing one lone continuation of hard time.

CHARLEENE

Spooky ain't quitting until the show is over.

STORM CROW

You's doing hard time because you can't give it up. Hard time junkie. Don't know nothing but the Sambo soft shoe slave nigga victim shit. Now you just dancin' it hip-hop and playing it basketball.

SPOOKY

Storm Crow you trippin! Why you pressing dis shit?

STORM CROW

So what you gonna do?

CHARLEENE

He's pressin' it because he's afraid the world gonna change right around him and he ain't gonna recognize it, recognize himself, the stuff he be thinking gonna evaporate.

SPOOKY

I didn't ask no girl, I asked you!

STORM CROW

What u ask?

SPOOKY

Why u pressing dis shit?

STORM CROW

What shit? Dis shit is your shit you swimming in, not my shit.

SPOOKY

Ah man, I'm just chillaxing, watching the teevee, hangin' wid my ho.

TEDDI

I thought you're your ho was dead.

SPOOKY

All sort of hoes in the world.

STORM CROW

You killed yer ho, dis her dismissed her cos you hatin' yerself SO much you gotta have everything round you dead.

SPOOKY

I didn't kill no ho.

You's to stupid ta know.
MAMA LUCY

I ain't a ho.
CHARLEENE

Shut up bitch.
SPOOKY

I ain't gonna shut up no more.
CHARLEENE

Ain't you dead?
SPOOKY

I ain't dead and you ain't born yet! Just waiting for you to work through your growing up stuff so you can finally hear what's really going on.
CHARLEENE

Why you wid this mook? I should be your man.
TEDDI

Don't call me no mook.
SPOOKY

You know what a mook is?
TEDDI

Don't call me no mook.
SPOOKY

Calling for the liberation of ways, working the new system, spouting the news yet you a cave man still banging on your women. No man is going anywhere wid out women signing on.
TEDDI

I gonna stay by my man's side.
CHARLEENE

You addicted, beat the shit so much that all you know. That right girl?
MAMA LUCY

Why you beat on me?
CHARLEENE

I'm just doin' what's got ta be done.
SPOOKY

Beat the shit is normal shit? It ain't!
MAMA LUCY

TEDDI

You one confused motherfucker.

SPOOKY

I hate when you white cats get the thinkin' that you "understand" what folks is about, because the truth is you don't have a clue...

STORM CROW

We in one confused situation here.

SPOOKY

Oh and you kno?

STORM CROW

Yeah I know.

TEDDI

Spooky, you know shit.

SPOOKY

I kno way too much and done been through too much shit for you to even come close. I lived da "struggle" and I am a brother of it.

STORM CROW

And I'm the father of it.

SPOOKY

Oh, so you my father?

TEDDI

And what of the brother the one that do remain silent?

SPOOKY

Read your books while I remain active here in the flow.

STORM CROW

Getting time to let it go. He know.

SPOOKY

I live a life of struggle for continuous progress...

MAMA LUCY

You live a life of struggle because you're too stupid to wise up.

CHARLEENE

This isn't a life style doing you any good.

SPOOKY

I am the seed of true!

TEDDI

You wacked, orbiting' the earth.

SPOOKY

You just wish you could be me.

TEDDI

Shit, why would I do that?

SPOOKY

I have grown and used my acquired "wisdom" to develop myself to the person I am now. Once again I urge you to read your books, do your law thing, be runner for the man.

TEDDI

I wised up...

MAMA LUCY

So what are you going to do? Are you going to keep believing this bullshit that this is your life because you were "made" for it.

STORM CROW

If anyone can make it out into a better life, its you.

CHARLEENE

And if you can't then you're a pussy that will always have a hard life because you're too soft to make it better.

STORM CROW

Spooky, where'd you git yer thinking says what gotta be done your way?

SPOOKY

I think my own thinkin'...

STORM CROW

You just a dawg running with da pack, gonna die a dawg fighting' for scraps.

SPOOKY

Now you broadcasting it real, appreciate it nigga.

STORM CROW

Wad dis nigga shit, nigga dat, nigga nigga. You thinkin' it givin' u da power over da slave shit dat haunts yer head? Nigga, da nigga shit just makin' another kinda nigga out of you nigga. You like that slave nigga shit so much yous a niggas nigga now. Slavin yourself like a nigga.

SPOOKY

That's good but you fucked up.

STORM CROW

No, bro, we all fucked up. Ain't carrying it no more!

SPOOKY

Had a nice high goin' git outta here, let me watch teevee, have my tacos.

STORM CROW

Da teevee in yer head, change the channel, nigga.

SPOOKY

Da commercial's coming soon, bro.

(Hip-hop music as SPOOKY watches the television and pops a few pills).

MAMA LUCY

The man still axing the questions.

SPOOKY

(To STORM CROW)

You know what shit you gittin' into?

STORM CROW

I do, mothafucker.

SPOOKY

YOU WANT SOME OF THIS?

CHARLEENE

This ain't goin' away no matter how much dope or teevee you do, shit you buy.

SPOOKY

Who you with? Me?

TEDDI

Why am I still up talking to a confused full of shit sucker?

SPOOKY

You dissing me?

TEDDI

You're my brother, and maybe we're not eye-ta-eye, and maybe I'm fucked up, but you're fucked up in a historical deep shit wrong end of the shit stick way.

SPOOKY

What you want?

STORM CROW

I want to know what happened to your dreams?

SPOOKY

My dreams, mothafucker?

MAMA LUCY

Dreams.

SPOOKY

Before you can dream you gotta be able to rest. Never had time to rest.

CHARLEENE

Time to move it on.

TEDDI

Conclude it, bro.

MAMA LUCY

You all grew up now.

STORM CROW

If your story is the last of the big story, then put it to rest.

SPOOKY

Is the earth ready to split wide open and swallow me whole?

MAMA LUCY

There you go.

SPOOKY

Take me now, Death, my end is near.

STORM CROW

This the reward for the life lived.

SPOOKY

Then let Death take me now. This the harshest bullet yet.

STORM CROW

You're the bull's eye of discontent and uneasiness.

(Hip-hop music. They all surround SPOOKY and after a moment SPOOKY makes a resolve).

SPOOKY

Then u should LISTEN UP, this reality is in your FACE! Last time its gonna be said!

CHARLEENE

Boogieman needs to die!

TEDDI

Got your back, bro.

CHARLEENE

We in this together, kickin' screaming in the womb.

MAMA LUCY

Thing need to be born!

CHARLEENE

You got to lead it.

SPOOKY

I'm the SPOOKY, 'cause that's what my life's been,
Playing da shadows, being a ghost

STORM CROW

Okay.

SPOOKY

Proclaimed a disabled child since I was BORN!
Playing' games' with tha grim-death, a life of uncommon-ness, itz 'my story',
Sorry for tha-BULLSHIT.

STORM CROW

Dis ain't time for sorry.

SPOOKY

A story, playin' life fer jokes'
Playing the bogangles, singing the blues
Sipping da home brew
Puffin' blunts' lettin' pain go, with every hit I-smoke
I ALWAYS stay blowed, walkin' down that dusty road.
My story, my heart.

TEDDI

We need that story, bro.

SPOOKY

Whose REAL peeps?

TEDDI

WHOSE-NOT?

SPOOKY

What n who's BURNIN' in my corridor n ECHIN' in my brain?
Wrath of so many boggie men, PLAGUIN' all my stuff GNAWING my troubles.
Livin' in 'TROUBLING-DAYS' twenty-four hours
Six hundred n four million, eight hundred thousand seconds' in tha WEEK!
I do what I GOTTA do!
I mean, for us ta make life proper we's got ta be yellin' 'GANGSTER'!
Those who don't KNOW NO-BETTER, go INSANE,
I can't stay like you, SOFT as 'Charmin'-tissue.
N' ya know what dey use dat for?

STORM CROW

Now what you REALLY FEEL?

SPOOKY

I won't stress THA DRAMA.
I come hard at pressing-issues.
Without compassion, I got no kisses for-you
Ask why?

CHARLEENE

Why?

SPOOKY

I'm tha ghost of 'Christmas Past',
I ain't givin' up, SHUTTIN' UP! I'm gonna be snappin' your neck-back
Every time you gonna hear me in yer head-phones,
PROCLAIMING TIL MY JAW BONES BROKE
Sayin' loud n hard

STORM CROW

Some RESPECT.

SPOOKY

OhKAY
See, I'm about my-FLOWS it's part da big FLOW
Tat ain't no MISTER MAN can stop!
This ain't like a party, SOME MINSTRAL SHOW, PEEPS!

STORM CROW

This da REAL DEAL?

SPOOKY

Yeah, uh ha, wes TRIPPIN' on whatever wes TRIPPIN'
Dat don't mean that's the right TRIPPIN'.
We's all fucked but I'm still trying to keep up.

CHARLEENE

Planet spinning way out of control.

SPOOKY

Ain't no running from the ghetto, bro,
Suburban nice lawn shit don't hide this whole world a ghetto

CHARLEENE

So happy you made you a few bucks.

STORM CROW

OhKay. Who is YOU? Where are we? Where iz THIS?

SPOOKY

Last I recall I was out there, getting' HIGH.
Out being a TAGGER, makin' my way making my mark.

(SPOOKY does several hand gestures in the air).

CHARLEENE

Taggin the air!

SPOOKY

Got back n was hanging on ta sofa staring at the TVEE with Teddi,
Charlene, sweet Lil-lady came by. Mama, N next thing, what? I'm in here, facing out ta
some UGLY past, STORM Crow on my shit. PROVING MYSELF in BLACK N WHITE

CHARLEENE

For the peace, 'cause I FEELS you deep.

SPOOKY

You an mes iz in the SHIT right HERE, right NOW!
(To MAMA LUCY)
Mama Lucy, ain't no running from it no more.

CHARLEENE

Gonna find you wherever you go.

TEDDI

This is off the charts.

SPOOKY

This ain't in your history books?
Dis here iz my classical TWILIGHT ZONE.

TEDDI

We're trippin on this together, Spooky.

SPOOKY

Do you know who you are in dis situation?

TEDDI

Don't mean I ain't in is da situation.

SPOOKY

Dat don't mean I ain't who I AM.
I'm SPOOKY, n I admit it, I git HIGH, like the ladies
It ain't even like I don't do other things TOO!

MAMA LUCY

Who not doing drugs today?

SPOOKY

Chemical genetic shit is all over da FOOD CHAIN anyway
Every other person ya meet takin' a drugstore candy handful
ITS just HARD for me to have a positive attitude right now
Wes all just trying ta figure where we is n' what we gonna do about it.

STORM CROW

SPOOKY!

SPOOKY

You're a hell of a fighter and I look up ta you Storm Crow.

CHARLEENE

Spooky...

TEDDI

Got your back, bro.

SPOOKY

Storm Crow old skool, original hardcore, go way back...I know this man has done it all but what tha hell did he do to overcome it? I look to you for insight Storm Crow for guidance...

STORM CROW

I know your having problems' and you don't feel like yourself right now...but to me; you have been homie.

MAMA LUCY

Best thing ta do in dark times' is walk slow, take one step back before you take two steps forward.

STORM CROW

Always watch and look behind you, but NEVER walk backwards and never go back.

CHARLEENE

Just go forward, struggle to move yourself, Spooky.

TEDDI

We are here...we'll help you,

MAMA LUCY

Drag your ass if need be.

CHARLEENE

Storm Crow talkin' now.

STORM CROW

Won't let you fall.

SPOOKY

You've never let me fall, my turn now I believe.

STORM CROW

Old Skool family is what has kept it together all these years.

MAMA LUCY

Family is what's been torn up.

STORM CROW

Been beat the fuck up, time to heal it up.

TEDDI

A man's life is not to be taken lightly.

STORM CROW

I'm tired of dragging my ass through time.

SPOOKY

You saying what I hear you saying?

STORM CROW

Brother like me don't need to be here anymore is what's explicit.

SPOOKY

You here, you the high roller original, you know what's coming down, but you wanna check out?

STORM CROW

Everything being pushed to the line. Every cycle has its round giving way to another round where we at.

SPOOKY

That why I gotta smoke you?

STORMCROW

You the blow man.

SPOOKY

This ain't no ordinary kill.

STORM CROW

Pop goes the weasel.

SPOOKY

So its shovel time?

STORM CROW

Feeling like Jason draggin' his raggedy ass through too many horror movies. Time to die and be buried.

SPOOKY

You slipping.

STORMCROW

Am I? What do you think I should come here and make you my right hand soldier carry this war on? Get working before I change my mind and whup yer ass some. Go on.

(SPOOKY aims his handgun at STORM CROW).

That's right.

SPOOKY

Can't, you original old school ace kool big boy. Ain't right.

STORM CROW

You getting all nostalgic now or maybe you punk ass wankster? Time to end this...I'm tired, I'm out.

SPOOKY

My heart racing like I'm on something.

STORMCROW

I've been waitin' to count down to my last breath, now you're the one counting with me.

(Pause)

SPOOKY

Can't ever forget.

STORM CROW

Ain't asking you to forget.

MAMA LUCY

There is no rhyme or reason except it's just how it is, what has to be.

STORM CROW

Mama Lucy is right.

(SPOOKY pulls the trigger. STORM CROW and SPOOKY both move as if shot)

STORM CROW

That felt good.

SPOOKY

Man...I shot you dead!

STORM CROW

You missed...

SPOOKY

How come I'm wet up wid blood?

STORM CROW

I wish you hadn't missed because I want to disappear from this cruel earth.

SPOOKY

Damn, pain that came so fast from nowhere.

STORM CROW

After you are shot your mind is never right after that.

SPOOKY

It's an invasion, hot metal going through you.

STORM CROW

Ain't nothing you can do to erase the bullet wounds off of you...

SPOOKY

Okay. But how come we ain't dead?

(SPOOKY pulls the trigger several more shots into STORM CROW and again, SPOOKY reacts as if he has been shot. He staggers and gasps for breath. STORM CROW barely moves).

SPOOKY

I need you dead!

STORM CROW

I am. You ain't killin' me with no caps, you killing me with your wantin'. Wantin' more powerful.

SPOOKY

All I had to do is want?

(Pause as the two men look at each other. SPOOKY nods)

STORM CROW

I gonna disappear now, go be that invisible man.

SPOOKY

We was invincible!

STORM CROW

Ain't nothing invincible.

(Black out)

END