

Two Brothers

By

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EXT. GUN HILL ROAD-NIGHT

In a Sentimental Mood by Duke Ellington begins to play. Fade in camera starting at the sky. Snow is falling gently from the clouds as the camera begins to pan to a bird's eye view of two young black men walking down the snowy street. You hear laughter from the young men and the sound of dialogue. The camera pans closer to get a better look at the young black men. Both are wearing snow jackets with jeans, gloves, snow hats and timberland boots. TERRANCE is carrying an alto saxophone case; CAMERON is carrying piano sheet music. They continue to walk down the street.

CAMERON

Yo little bro, ya did ya thing tonight.
I'm impressed. You got better the last time I played wit
ya.

Terrance's head turns to face his brother

TERRANCE

(smiling)

Yea but I don't know if I can say the same about you, man.
I heard you miss a few notes here and there. Man, I caught
you trying to holla at that fine female in the first row.

Cameron shakes his head in disbelief.

Cameron

Me, nah. I wasn't looking at her, ya know I'm still wit my
girl in Cali. She's still waiting for me there.

Terrance

(surprised)

Your still wit her!? Damn its been like eight months since
you got wit her man. I think this is the longest
relationship you ever had wit a girl, man. And I wish you
told me you were still wit her.

Cameron makes a puzzled look as if confused.

Cameron

Why?

Terrance

Cuz I would of got the girl's number!

Both laugh for a while. Both are still walking and enter into an awkward silence. Terrance looks at Cameron.

Terrance

So...when are you going back to college?

Cameron

Two days from now..

Terrance

Two days! Why so soon?

Cameron

Yea, I know. I wish I could stay and help you and moms but..

Terrance

Its okay man, you're already helping her. You're making a future for yourself, that's the best thing you can ever do for moms.

Cameron

Yea, so ya decide on what college you want to go to?

Terrance

Yea, I'm going to Manhattanville College so I can be close to moms...you know...in case she needs me.

Cameron

Yea, yea, yea. That's good.

Another awkward silence occurs as they continue to walk. Cameron stops turns to Terrance and hugs him.

Cameron

You know I love you man. You mean the world to me.

Both brothers wrap their arm around one another. Terrance has his eyes open with a nervous look on his face. Cameron has a concerned look on his face.

INT. MORRISON APARTMENT-NIGHT

Both enter the apartment, Cameron flips on the light switch while Terrance opens the closet door. Terrance puts his jacket in the closet while Cameron walks to the kitchen and notices a note tacked on the refrigerator door. He takes the note off of the door. It reads:

CAMERON,
I'M WORKING A DOUBLE SHIFT AGAIN, GOT SOME EXPENSES TO
COVER. I'LL BE HOME LATE YOU CAN EAT THE LEFTOVERS IN THE
REFRIG. I'M SORRY I WON'T BE ABLE TO SAY GOODBYE AS YOU GO
BACK TO COLLEGE, BUT YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU. LOVE, MOM.

Cameron slips the note in his pocket. He shakes his head
and mutters to himself

Cameron
Same ol' moms.

Terrance walks into the kitchen and opens the refrigerator
door.

Cameron
You can eat, I'm not in the mood for it.

Cameron leaves the kitchen as Terrance pulls out the food.

INT. MORRISON APARTMENT-BEDROOM-NIGHT

Cameron sits on the bed alone. He pauses to think about the
night. He then lies on his bed. Terrance walks in and
immediately lies on his bed. The camera gives a bird eyes
view of the room with the two brothers lying on their own
separate beds.

Cameron
Yo, Terrance.

Terrance
Yea.

Cameron
Somethin wrong?

Terrance
No.

Cameron
You know if there's anything bad goin on I can help you wit
it right? Don't let the fact that I'm in school stop you
from callin for help aight?

There is silence in the room. Terrance answers.

Terrance
Aight.

EXT. JOHN F. KENNEDY AIRPORT-MORNING

There are people with suitcases walking briskly from place to place. There are many cars on the street, loud noise everywhere. A cab pulls into the curb. The right back door opens as Cameron gets out of the car. Both Terrance and the cab driver jump out of the car to help Cameron with the bags. The cab driver pops the trunk open and pulls the bags out. Cameron pulls money out of his pocket and gives it to the driver

Cameron
Thanks

The driver nods his head in gratitude.

EXT. AIRPORT-SAME

Both Cameron and Terrance are briskly walking to the baggage claim line. Cameron is rolling a suitcase behind him. Cameron looks over at Terrance.

Cameron
(worried)
Where's your sax!?

Terrance
Man, don't trip, its right here.

Terrance lifts the saxophone case to show to Cameron.

Cameron
(relieved)
Oh, okay I thought ya left it in the taxi.

Terrance
Nah, why would I do that? You know I'm smarter than that.

Cameron
I'm just checking on you to make sure.

Terrance
(aggravated)

Well you don't have to do that all the time, man! I'm not some baby or something. When are ya going to treat me like a man! I'm eighteen.

Cameron stops and turns to Terrance.

Cameron

When you earn it. Just because ya eighteen don't mean ya know anything bout being a man. Look at pops, wasn't a man when he had us and died over some bullshit. Age don't make you a man, hell I don't consider myself a man yet. I still got some shit to learn before I'm ready and you do to.

Terrance
Aight, man. You right.

They continue to walk until they reach the baggage claim line.

Cameron

Alright I can take it from here. You gotta go. You have a rehearsal for your school concert remember?

Terrance

Yea, yea I remember. There you go again babying me. I know you love me and shit, but damn! Leave me alone.

Cameron
(smiling)

Alright, alright I will.

They both hug each other. Terrance then leaves to catch a taxi.

EXT. AIRPORT CURB-SAME

Terrance waits for a taxi until one approaches. He jumps in.

INT. CAB -SAME

Terrance sits comfortably in the back seat of the cab.

Cab driver
Where to sir?

Terrance
75 West 205th Street

The cab driver nods and begins his trek to the destination. Terrance's cell phone rings in his pocket. Terrance reaches for the phone and answers it.

Terrance
Hey wassup.

Voice
Where are you?

Terrance
Hey Nathan, I just dropped off my brother at JFK. I'm bout to go to school for the rehearsal.

Nathan(V.O.)
Nah, fuck that your coming to my house. I got something for ya.

Terrance
But the rehearsal...

Nathan
I said fuck them! You too good for them rhythm-less bastard anyway. You can skip a day.

Terrance
Aight, man. I'll be there in a few.

Terrance hangs up the phone and puts it back in his pocket.

Terrance
Excuse me sir. Can we change the destination to 445 East 123rd street?

Cab driver
Yes sir.

Terrance nods his head as he stares into the distance unaware of what going to happen next.

END OF ACT I

EXT. 445 EAST 123RD STREET-DAY

The cab approaches the house and stops. Terrance jumps out with saxophone case in hand. He gives the money to the cab driver and begins to walk up the stoop of the brownstone. Terrance rings the doorbell. Nathan answers the door. Nathan is an eighteen year old medium stature boy with a full mustache and beard. He could easily pass for twenty-one.

Nathan
Oh my nigga T! Come in.

Terrance
(calmly)
How many times I told you not to call me the N word. It demeans and insults our intelligence.

Nathan
Yea, yea whatever.

Terrance walks in as Nathan closes the door.

INT. NATHAN'S HOME-LIVING ROOM-SAME

Terrance walks into the living room and sits down on the couch. Nathan follows after.

Terrance
Aight, man. What do you have for me?

Nathan
Me and the homies were noticing ever since your bro left you've been looking really down and out. So we decided to give you a little boost.

Nathan pulls a prescription bottle out of his pocket and gives it to Terrance.

Terrance
What the fuck is this?

Nathan
(smiling)
X.

Terrance
You mean that rave drug shit? Fuck that I'm not taking this.

Terrance throws it at Nathan but Nathan throws it right back.

Nathan

This shit is going to help you, man. The homies and I notice you always seem stressed out and shit and we thought you might of need a little edge, you know, that feel good shit that last you for the day.

Terrance shakes his head and storms out of the house.

INT. CAB-SAME

Terrance stares at the bottle.

Nathan(V.O)

This shit is going to help you, man.

INT. MORRISON APARTMENT-NIGHT

Terrance is in the dining room with the lights on doing his Government homework. The book is open to the division of Congress and he is writing down notes on the chapter. He decides to walk to the kitchen to get something to drink. As he get a glass from the cabinet the front door opens to reveal the mother with bags in her hands. She is a mid age black woman with braids in her and a jacket over her nurse's uniform. She looks very tired and happens to look over at the kitchen to see Terrance there. Terrance looks over at her.

Terrance
Hey moms!

Moms
(angered)

I am not your mom! Who the hell are you and how did you get in my house!?

Terrance
Moms it's me, your son Terrance.

Moms
I don't have a son name Terrance! My only son is Cameron and he's off to college!

Terrance

Oh God! You forgot to take your medication again huh? Here
momma.

Terrance reaches for a tin tray with several prescription
bottles on top of it and picks a specific bottle and gives
it to moms.

Terrance
(solemnly)

You may not remember me, but you remember your pills right?

Moms

Yea pills, I forgot my pills. How do you know that, are you
my doctor or something?

Terrance
(grimly)

Yea, I'm the doctor you never remember.

Terrance walks out of the kitchen with a glass of water in
his hand and walks into his room.

INT. MORRISON APARTMENT-BEDROOM-SAME

Terrance places the water on his nightstand and lays on the
bed. He pulls out the X pill bottle and begins looking at
it again. He pops the cap open and shakes one out. He
stares at the white pill and then swallows it with some
water. He then smiles, as if it was the first smile he ever
did in years.

END OF ACT II

FADE IN: TWO WEEKS LATER

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY-AFTERNOON

The hallway is quiet and everybody is in their class.
Terrance is seen walking down the hallway with a little
swagger in his step as if high. He spots Nathan in the
distance and gets his attention.

Terrance
Yo, Nathan!

Nathan looks to the direction of the voice and gives him
the signal to be quiet. Terrance then rushes to him.

Terrance
You got the shit, man?

Nathan looks him up and down.

Nathan
I aight giving you anything. Look at ya, your still fucking high. You need self-control. You keep skipping practice and when ya do come, ya make a damn of yourself. Think of what your bro would think of ya.

Terrance
(aggravated)
Fuck that punk nigga. He abandoned me and moms so he could live in fucking Cali with his damn girlfriend. He don't care about me and my everyday struggle. He don't know shit and you don't either so give me that shit.

Nathan stares at Terrance for a few moments then pulls some pills out of his pocket.

Nathan
This is all I got.

Nathan hands the pills to Terrance as Terrance snatches them.

Terrance
You know I love you, man. You're like a brother I never had.

Nathan
I'm not ya brother.

Terrance stumbles away to go to the bathroom to take the pills.

Nathan
(muttering to himself)
He looks so much like his dad.

INT. SCHOOL BATHROOM-SAME

A boy walks into the bathroom and sees that Terrance is on the floor not moving at all. The boy shocked pulls out a cell phone and immediately calls 911.

INT. UCLA DORM-MORNING

Cameron is studying for a class when he gets a call on his cell phone that is on the nightstand. He looks at it for a moment and then answers it.

Cameron
Hello?

Voice
Is this mister Cameron Morrison, brother of Terrance Morrison?

Cameron
Yes it is. Why?

Voice
I am deeply sad to inform you that your brother is currently hospitalized due to an overdose on the drug ecstasy.

Cameron
No, this has to be a joke. My brother would never take drugs.

Voice
Well this isn't one and will have to put this on his medical record.

Cameron
You're actually serious. Please don't put this on his medical record because he would have to put it on his school record and that would ruin his chances to go to the college. Please you have any sympathy in your heart, don't put this on his record, please!

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM-NIGHT

This scene takes place two days later. Terrance is lying on his bed staring at the ceiling when Cameron walks in the room. Cameron approaches the bed and greets his brother.

Cameron
Hey lil' bro. You aight?

Terrance
Yea I'm coo. I wish you didn't have to see me like this.

Cameron

Yea about that, what happened, man? I thought you were okay handling moms and the school work. You told me you had it covered. What this I heard you been skippin music class to get high? This ain't like you, man. Tell me, whats up?

Terrance
(hesitate)

It's the pressure, man. I thought I could take it on alone. I thought I wouldn't need you so you can pursue your dreams. Its just, moms memory got worst and she barely even remember me anymore. I can't do it anymore.

Cameron
It's okay. I dropped out of school so I could help out until everything gets a lil' more stable again.

Terrance
Why? You didn't need to do that!

Cameron
I did it because I love you and would do anything for you and moms. Oh, by the way, I convinced the nurse to take this whole situation out of the records so you can still go to college record free.

Terrance
(stunned)
Thanks.

Cameron
I gotta go and check up on moms. I check up on ya later.

Terrance
Coo.

Both brothers do there farewell greetings and Cameron leaves. Terrance lies back down on his bed and looks at the window. Its snowing. Terrance smiles and continues to look out the window as the "In A Sentimental Mood' by Duke Ellington begins to play. The camera pans out of the room, outside and to the sky.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT III