

SOUTH ATLANTA

Written by

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**INT. HOUSE PARTY- LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Tungsten lights hang over a crowded room full of high-school kids; drinking, smoking, talking, hooking up, it's lit. Music booms out rattling the deep-brown, wood-paneled living room walls, WINDOWS completely fogged up. We follow...

BUCKY(17) walks through the room griping two SOLO CUPS. He weaves his way through the crowd. **[SINGLE LONG TAKE]**

BUCKY  
(to party-goers)  
You seen Tahj? Hey, you seen Tahj?  
How bout you? Anyone here know  
Tahj?

A hand taps on Bucky's shoulder.

PARTYGOER (O.C.)  
You say Tahj?

Bucky spins around.

BUCKY  
Yeah?

PARTYGOER  
Tell him we gotta hop in the studio  
one of these days.

BUCKY  
Uh- yeah... sure.

Bucky ascends a flight of STAIRS. He brushes past even more guests.

BUCKY (CONT'D)  
(to party-goers)  
You seen Tahj?

Party guests shake their heads "no".

BUCKY (CONT'D)  
Anyone here seen Tahj?

Bucky stops in his tracks. His gaze meets a smok'n hot bombshell.

BUCKY (CONT'D)  
Ehhhyoooo... what up baby girl.  
Lov'n the dreads, you me and the  
griddle-- this weekend. Whadya  
say?

HOT GIRL  
Ewww, as if.

BUCKY  
I know you'll be thinking bout me  
for weeks, regretting the night you  
didn't go out with that hot stud at  
that one party.

Hot Girl scoffs.

HOT GIRL  
When you find Tahj, send him way-  
will yuh?

BUCKY  
Huh--

HOT GIRL  
Tell him my weekends' always  
available.

She flips her hair.

HOT GIRL (CONT'D)  
Always available.

Bucky rolls his eyes. He continues up the STAIRS...

**INT. HOUSE PARTY- HALLWAY - NIGHT**

Bucky squeezes past party-goers in an overcrowded hallway.

BUCKY  
Any of you seen Tahj?

Party-goers shake their heads "no". Bucky opens a closed  
DOOR. Two girls, naked, make-out on a BED. No sight of  
Tahj.

BUCKY (CONT'D)  
(whispers)  
Sorry... Keep doing what you're  
doing...

Bucky backs out of the room and shuts the DOOR.

Bucky opens another DOOR.

BUCKY (CONT'D)  
Tahj, you in here?

Bucky peers inside...

**INT. HOUSE PARTY- BACK OFFICE - NIGHT**

Bucky sees a group of high-school seniors crush lines of white POWDER along a cheap DESK.

BIG SHUGG(20, heavy stocked) looks up towards the DOOR.

BIG SHUGG  
The fuck you looking at?

Bucky lingers by the DOOR-- a little too long.

BIG SHUGG (CONT'D)  
Fuck off kid!

Big Shugg pulls out a 9MM HAND GUN and places it on the DESK.

BIG SHUGG (CONT'D)  
I said --

BUCKY  
My bad bro.

Bucky closes the DOOR. We hear a sharp snort, a deep inhale and laughter.

**INT. HOUSE PARTY- HALLWAY - NIGHT**

Bucky continues down the hallway.

BUCKY  
(monotoned)  
You know where I can find Tahj?

PARTYGOER  
Ain't that him in the pool?

BUCKY  
What? Where?!

Partygoer points out the WINDOW towards the backyard POOL.

CAMERA pushes through the second story WINDOW and drops down to the...

**EXT. HOUSE PARTY- BACKYARD - NIGHT**

We follow high-school kids as they jump into the POOL. CAMERA falls into the WATER and sinks to the bottom of the POOL.

**EXT. HOUSE PARTY- POOL - NIGHT**

TAHJ(18, strong build, dark chocolate skin, 6"2') floats at the bottom of the POOL.

Muffled trap music pulsate in his ears. He looks up at the surface of the water. Pillars of bubbles sprout out of his nose as he punches off the bottom of the deep-end. Before he can catch his breath --

BUCKY

Tahj, buddy, where you been?! I was looking everywhere for you.

Tahj paddles to the edge of the pool and hulls himself out.

TAHJ

Found me.

**EXT. HOUSE PARTY- BACKYARD - NIGHT**

Bucky hands him a SOLO CUP.

TAHJ

Thanks B.

Tahj downs the entire CUP.

BUCKY

You think we can talk?

Teenagers run around the pool, drinking.

BUCKY (CONT'D)

I really think there's a better way to --

Hot girls walk by.

TAHJ

(to Bucky)  
Not now.

GIRL

Hey Tahj.

Tahj smiles

IMANI(16, jet black hair, dark sunken eyes, Tahj's personal videographer)

**EXT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT**

We push through a cloud of WEED SMOKE.

Immediately... like one of those dumb rom-com movies, Tahj spots two girls across the room.

CORA(18, a playboy beauty. Light brunette hair spun tightly behind her head. Glossy lips with perfect jet black liner trails across her eyelids. Noticeably overdressed in white silk pants and nothing but a blazer to match. Rich kid with the personality to match)

JANE(17, conservatively dressed in a light baby blue turtle neck complimented by her blonde hair, petite nose and athletically tall build. Adorably shy and intriguingly mysterious) giggles with a group of party-goers.

TAHJ  
 (to self)  
 Wow.  
 (to Bucky)  
 Who is she?

BUCKY  
 Who's who?

Bucky follows his gaze.

BUCKY (CONT'D)  
 Blondie? No idea.

TAHJ  
 Wait here while I find out.

BUCKY  
 Wait here?!

TAHJ  
 I'll be back.

BUCKY  
 Tahj, don't do me like that! Tahj?

Tahj begins to walk towards Jane.

BUCKY (CONT'D)  
 Tahj?!

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Gun shots are heard from upstairs.

TAHJ  
What was that?

Music cuts out.

Woman screams.

The crowd surges.

It's pandemonium --

Tahj stuck in a trance, honed in on Jane as she's shoved out of view. Partygoers rush past Tahj completely obscuring his view. A SOLO CUP is crushed in his hand as bodies crash together.

BUCKY  
Tahj, we gotta go.

Tahj and Bucky are slammed up against a wall behind them. Everyone is packed inside the room like sardines in a metal can. Tahj's face pressed up against a WINDOW, he looks out to see high schoolers dumping DRUGS into the POOL. They scramble across the yard hopping FENCES.

TAHJ  
Bucky... did you see --

BUCKY  
Yeah I saw, c'mon!

Tahj and Bucky are shoved out the FRONT DOOR by a wave of teenagers.

**EXT. HOUSE PARTY- FRONT YARD - NIGHT**

POLICE LIGHTS shimmer across the house WINDOWS. Teenagers sprint every-which-way across the FRONT YARD as they attempt to escape the premises.

Officers bum rush the house tackling any bodies they can get a hold of. Tahj and Bucky dodge the herd.

Tahj looks over his shoulder to see both girls, Jane and Cora run hand-in-hand in the opposite direction.

**EXT. SIDE-STREET - NIGHT**

Both laugh hysterically back to their CAR.

BUCKY  
Fuck that!

TAHJ  
What the hell was that?!

BUCKY  
Shit was too close, that's what  
that was. You, get home safe.

TAHJ  
You too.

Tahj hops into his CAR and drives off.

CUT TO:

**INT./EXT. CAR- TAHJ'S HOUSE - EARLY MORNING(LATER)**

A modest cream-colored HOUSE. Tahj pulls into his DRIVEWAY.  
He gets out of the CAR and quietly shuts the DOOR.

Tahj scales a weathered TREE and climbs through to the second-  
story WINDOW.

**EXT./INT. TAHJ'S HOUSE- OFFICE - EARLY MORNING(LATER).**

A musky office space. A folded AMERICAN FLAG pinned above a  
cluttered DESK. PHOTOS of a military soldier scatter the  
walls.

Tahj walks through the room, embarrassed...

**INT. TAHJ'S HOUSE- HALLWAY - MORNING**

Hallway door creeks open.