

ATLANTA

"SECURE THE BAG"

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PREVIOUSLY ON ATLANTA

This episode, "Secure the Bag," occurs during Season 3. EARN and VAN have broken up and now struggle with co-parenting. LOTTIE's teacher recommended to Earn and Van that they enroll Lottie in an elite private prep school for pre-kindergarten. In this episode, Lottie has been enrolled at her new school for at least one semester already.

Earn and ALFRED, also known as "Paperboi," have returned to the United States. They have been home for three months now and Paperboi has not put out any new music.

Darius is still around... being Darius.

Earn's place of residence is unknown.

FADE IN

1 EXT. STREET OUTSIDE ALFRED'S APARTMENT - DAY 1

EARN trots along the sidewalk while talking on the phone.

A JUNKIE (30s, down and out, drug-addict), approaches Earn with his hand out. Earn waves him off. The Junkie scans Earn and smugly calls out,

JUNKIE
You ain't real.

Earn ignores the Junkie, focused on the phone conversation.

EARN
(into the phone)
I know, I know but--

MAN ON THE PHONE (V.O.)
Listen, I'ma be real with you fam,
we're still iffy about giving the
last spot on the tour to Paperboi.
He ain't fye like he was.

Shocked, Earn halts.

EARN
What do you mean? The streets love
Paperboi!

MAN ON THE PHONE (V.O.)
Let's be real Paperboi had one or
two good bangers from last year.
But who's really checking for
Paperboi in 2019?

Earn trudges along as he quickly tries to think of examples. He rolls his eyes in frustration.

EARN
Come on! This is the Urban Hustlas
tour, man. It's like the one time
where it's good for a black man to
fit the description.

MAN ON THE PHONE (V.O.)
Aye. We're trying to sell tickets
and Paperboi ain't doin' enough. He
has no visibility. He doesn't even
post like that on the Gram. Fans
want to see what artists are up to.

(MORE)

MAN ON THE PHONE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Paperboi stays on mute. And a mute
can't be on tour.

Earn begins to retort. A phone rings on the other end.

MAN ON THE PHONE (V.O.)
Look Earn, I've got to take this...

EARN
Ok but--

MAN ON THE PHONE
We'll talk soon.

The call ends. Earn stops in front of Alfred's front door. He exhales deeply before knocking.

2 INT. ALFRED'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

2

DARIUS opens the door for Earn.

EARN
Sup Darius.

Earn extends his hand for a dap. Darius curiously studies Earn for a long awkward moment. Earn scrunches up his face before he nervously laughs.

EARN (CONT'D)
Uhh? What's up?

Darius finally daps him up.

DARIUS
Something about you is off, man...
Are you drinking enough water?

EARN
What?

DARIUS
It's all in your face and it's
dispersing through your energy. You
gotta stay hydrated man.

Earn looks Darius up and down. Before brushing past him.

EARN
Uhh, alright. Thanks.

Alfred doesn't get up or look up from the couch.

ALFRED

Sup Earn.

EARN

Sup.

Darius goes back to sit on the couch with Alfred. Darius grabs the controller and they return to playing their video game.

Thirsty, Earn heads for the kitchen.

3

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

3

Earns looks in the fridge. He finds beer, 3 eggs, Chinese takeout, and a bottle of Hennessy. Earn rolls his eyes.

EARN

(calling out to the next room)
Yeen got no water, bruh?

ALFRED (O.S.)

Don't be actin' bougie, Earn. We got cups and the tap.

Earn goes for a glass in the cabinet and notices the past due bills on the counter. The water bill sits on top.

EARN

(Sotto Voice)
Not for long.

Earn reaches for the glass and heads to the faucet. He gets a text from Van. He checks it.

INSERT - TEXT THREAD

VAN: "I need you to pick up Lottie tomorrow."

Earn replies: "Ok."

Van: "Do you know when you'll have the money?"

PULL BACK

Earn sighs and rolls his eyes as he fills his glass with water. He puts his phone back in his pocket, leaving Van on read.

4

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

4

Earn reenters the living room. Right before Earn is able to take a sip of the water, Alfred's phone rings. It's near Earn, plugged up to the charger, resting on the dining room table.

Earn looks at Alfred. Alfred and Darius don't look up from their game.

ALFRED

Who is it?

Earn goes over to check the phone.

EARN

Tiffany (LHHATL)

ALFRED

Leave it.

EARN

Who's Tiffany LHHATL?

ALFRED

She's an assistant over at Love and Hip Hop. They've been trying to get me on the new season of the Atlanta show.

Earn's eyes widen.

EARN

Why you ignoring her? That could be a nice way to secure the bag, Al.

ALFRED

Cuz I ain't with all that fake ass reality tv bullshit, bruh.

EARN

Sure it's all staged, but Al, this is easy money for a hustla like you.

ALFRED

Yea, but I ain't with the shits or the gimmicks. My life ain't no fucking joke, Earn.

EARN

Shit and neither are these bills. But it'd be great exposure for you.

(MORE)

EARN (CONT'D)
 You'd be able to connect with your fans more.

Alfred smirks and looks at Darius.

ALFRED
 You hear this dude?

DARIUS
 I don't know, Al. Judging by the way Love and Hip Hop helped catapult Cardi B to her success, I'd say it could be a good move.

ALFRED
 Y'all wildin'.

Earn gets closer and sits next to Alfred.

EARN
 Look, it's a new year and we gotta get you out there on some new shit quick.

ALFRED
 I'm already on it. That's why I'm hitting the studio tomorrow.

EARN
 Well before you hit the studio. Let's at least hear them out.

Alfred peers at Earn's pleading face, then he surveys Darius. Darius returns his gaze with a "why not," shrug.

ALFRED
 Fine.

Earn smiles and nods.

EARN
 Cool. I'll call Tiffany back and set it up.

5 INT. LOTTIE'S SCHOOL: CLASSROOM - DAY

5

VAN, dressed in a skirt suit, rushes in holding LOTTIE's hand. Lottie wears her Doctor McStuffins back pack. Van bends down to Lottie's level.

VAN
 Okay, mommy has to go. Have a great day, sweetie.

Van hugs Lottie and kisses her on the cheek. Van rises and Lottie proceeds into the classroom.

Lottie walks over to the cubbies and puts her book bag away.

Van turns around, heading for the door.

Out of nowhere, LOTTIE'S TEACHER eerily appears before Van, blocking her path. The Teacher is holding a permission slip.

LOTTIE'S TEACHER

Good morning Ms. Keefer. Do you have a moment?

VAN

Actually, I really have to run.

LOTTIE'S TEACHER

Well I'll be brief. We have yet to receive your signed permission slip and money for Lottie to attend the class trip--

The Teacher extends the permission slip to Van. Van cuts her off.

VAN

Ok. Let me go ahead and sign it now and I'll remind Lottie's dad to bring the money this afternoon. Cool?

Van bends over at the table near the door. The table has forms, pens, and a jar with money sitting on it. Van grabs a pen. She quickly skims the form without really reading it and scribbles her signature at the bottom.

Lottie's teacher curiously watches her without saying a word.

VAN (CONT'D)

Alright.

Van hands over the slip and heads for the door.

VAN (CONT'D)

Thank you for understanding. Now I really have to go.

Van rushes out.

Another PARENT and CHILD duo enter the classroom.

LOTTIE'S TEACHER

Oh I completely understand.

Lottie's Teacher grabs the jar off the table. She approaches the PARENT (MS. Turner) who just entered.

LOTTIE'S TEACHER (CONT'D)
Good morning, Ms. Turner.

MS. TURNER
Good morning.

Unbothered, Ms. Turner searches for something on her phone.

LOTTIE'S TEACHER
Would you like to make a donation towards our class trip fund?

Ms. Turner pauses and looks up, confused.

MS. TURNER
I thought I paid Johnny's money already.

Lottie puts together a puzzle. Johnny sits down and joins her.

LOTTIE'S TEACHER
Yes, you did. But we started this fund because we want to make sure that all of our students are afforded the opportunity to attend.

Lottie's Teacher slightly nudges her head in Lottie's direction. Ms. Turner looks over at Lottie and Johnny as they put together the puzzle. Ms. Turner understands and nods her head, and mouths "Ohhh."

Lottie's Teacher pushes her lips together and forces a no teeth smile.

MS. TURNER
How about I just write a check?

Lottie's Teacher giddily smiles with delight.

6

INT. LHHATL STUDIOS: CONFSSIONAL ROOM - DAY

6

Alfred sits in front of a green screen with a camera staring him straight in the face. Two bubbly producers, JANIE and CHRISSY stand to the side of the camera and prompt Alfred/Paperboi with questions.

JANIE
So Mr. Paperboi, do you have any baby mommas?

ALFRED
Not that I know of.

CHRISSEY
Are you still dating Instagram
model Sierra from Season 2, Episode
8?

Alfred breaks the fourth wall and looks directly at the camera, smug.

ALFRED
No.

He looks back at the producers. Janie smiles as she pries for a juicy story angle.

JANIE
Sooo are you secretly into guys?

ALFRED
The fuck?

JANIE
I mean it's cool. This is Atlanta
right?

ALFRED
Fuck no.

CHRISSEY
Are you still anti-trans?

ALFRED
Here we go with this shit again.

JANIE
Are you secretly into transgenders?

ALFRED
Fuck outta here.

Alfred rises from his seat.

ALFRED (CONT'D)
I'm out.

Alfred exits the room and leaves Janie and Chrissy disappointed.

7

INT. LHHATL STUDIOS: PRIVATE OFFICE - DAY

7

Earn sits across from MITCH (41, white male), in a nice executive office, walled with glass.

MITCH

If Paperboi agrees to do the next season of LHHATL, he'll not only be guaranteed this amount...

Mitch says as he slides a piece of paper across his desk. Earn grabs the paper and looks at it.

MITCH (CONT'D)

We'll also ensure he gets booked on the Underground Hustlas Tour and we'll send out a film crew to get BTS footage for a short documentary.

Pleased, Earn grins as he reads the paper and listens to Mitch's pitch. All of it seems too good to be true.

Mitch holds his hands up in the air and emphasizes each quoted word as he says,

MITCH (CONT'D)

I can see it now, "Paperboi: On the Come Up."

Mitch flashes a big smile towards Earn.

MITCH (CONT'D)

This is going to do wonders for his career.

Alfred storms towards them from outside the office. Earn looks frantically at Alfred as he approaches, nervous about what he's about to say. Alfred doesn't even open the door.

ALFRED (O.S.)

Earn, we out.

Alfred continues his march towards the exit.

EARN

Well as generous as this offer is, I will need some time to confer with my client.

MITCH

Sure. Get back to me within 24 hours.

Earn rises to eagerly shake Mitch's hand.

EARN
Absolutely.

8 INT. ALFRED'S CAR - DAY

8

Alfred stares straight ahead as he drives his car. Earn looks over at him pleadingly.

EARN
They sound like they were just fishing for a story line. You gotta lighten up, bruh. It's acting.

ALFRED
Man fuck dat. I ain't tap dancing for those folks.

EARN
Man, you trippin. This is a great opportunity. Free promo, the tour, and a docu deal? Fuck yo feelings and lets get this money.

ALFRED
Since when you this thirsty, Earn? You of all people should know about doing your own thing despite what others think you should do, right, Princeton dropout?

EARN
Shit's different. School costs, this pays.

ALFRED
Shit at what cost though? Besides, the Underground Hustlas tour pays and I know I got that shit in the bag.

Earn looks out the window.

EARN
No you don't.

ALFRED
What you mean?

EARN

They don't want you, Al. They say
you're old news and nobody's
checking for Paperboi anymore.

Alfred sucks in his lips, admittedly disappointed by Earn's disclosure.

EARN (CONT'D)

That's why the Love and Hip Hop
deal will help you climb up and
show everybody what's up. It's good
money and it makes sense.

There's an awkward moment of silence. Alfred rubs his beard.

ALFRED

Where you try'na go?

EARN

I gotta grab Lottie.

ALFRED

Bet.

Alfred makes a sharp turn.

9

INT. LOTTIE'S SCHOOL: RECREATIONAL ROOM - DAY

9

Earn enters to find Lottie playing with a white male PEER (KENNY) in a "Make America Great Again" shirt. Lottie appears to be building a tall block tower with Kenny. Lottie doesn't even notice her dad. Earn curiously watches them; he doesn't notice Lottie's Teacher approaching him.

LOTTIE'S TEACHER

Good afternoon Mr. Marks. How are
you?

EARN

Ehh, I've had better days.

Lottie finally looks up and waves at Earn. Earn waves back. Kenny takes blocks away from the tower and erects a wall.

LOTTIE

Five more minutes, Daddy.

Earn nods.

Lottie takes some of the blocks back from the wall to build up the tower again.

LOTTIE'S TEACHER

Well, I hate to nag, but we never received a payment towards the class trip.

Earn sighs.

Kenny takes a block back to build his wall. Lottie scowls at Kenny.

Lottie grabs the block back and puts it back on the tower. Lotties smiles in delight at the high tower.

LOTTIE'S TEACHER (CONT'D)

And we feel it's really important for Lottie to be there and we'd hate for her to be the only child who misses out. So we--

Suddenly the little boy knocks it all down, pretending to be a monster of some sort.

Lottie comes running over, interrupting her teacher.

LOTTIE

(Whining)

Daddy, Kenny knocked over the tower.

Earn bends down to Lottie's level.

Kenny builds the block wall again.

EARN

Yea, Kenny's well on his way to becoming great, ain't he? But how 'bout we go home to our own neighborhood and build up our own blocks?

LOTTIE

Okay, Daddy.

Lottie gets her book bag.

EARN

(To Lottie's Teacher)

See, she's resilient. She'll be fine.

Alfred's car pulls up to the home.

ALFRED

Aye, you think it'd be cool if I use the bathroom real quick?

EARN

Should be.

Earn, Lottie, and Alfred get out the car and head over to the house.

Van opens the door.

LOTTIE

Mommy!

Lottie gives Van the biggest hug before running inside.

VAN

(Calling after Lottie)
Get washed up for dinner, baby.

Earn stares at Van. Van gives him a "you triflin" look.

ALFRED

Aye Van, mind if I use your restroom real quick?

Van opens the door.

VAN

Sure, Al. Come in.

11 INT. VAN'S HOUSE: LIVING ROOM - DAY

11

Alfred enters and heads straight to the bathroom. Van gives Earn the death stare.

EARN

Look, I meant to text you back but I got busy, thought I replied and I must've for--

VAN

Cut the bullshit, Earn. Bullshit doesn't pay the bills. Did you pay the school for Lottie's class trip?

Earn stares blankly.

Van sucks her teeth.

VAN (CONT'D)

Seriously, Earn?

Van lets out a loud, annoyed sigh of frustration.

EARN

I mean, does she really have to go?

VAN

You think we should further marginalize Lottie as the only black girl in her class by having her miss out on the trip?

EARN

It's not marginalizing. We can have her do something else for cultural enrichment. She needs to learn more about black culture anyway. She gets white culture everyday.

12 INT. VAN'S HOUSE: HALLWAY

12

Alfred exits the restroom and hears Van and Earn's conversation as he heads back to the living room.

VAN (O.S.)

You're intentionally missing the point. I need you to contribute, Earn.

EARN (O.S.)

I hear you.

VAN (O.S.)

I shouldn't have to blow you up to do right by her. We may not be partners but we're parents and I need you to get your shit together.

Alfred sighs.

13 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

13

Alfred reenters the room. Van walks off.

VAN (O.S.)

(To Lottie)

Are you ready for dinner, sweetie?

14 EXT. VAN'S HOUSE - DAY

14

Earn and Alfred head down the driveway.

EARN
I know you heard that shit.

ALFRED
Yea, so?

Alfred turns back and looks at Earn.

EARN
Shit like that is why you need to
take the deal, Al.

ALFRED
You still on that?

EARN
Yea nigga!

ALFRED
Nigga, I told you I ain't with it.

EARN
Yea, you ain't with it because you
"keeping it real." But how far has
keeping it real gotten us? Huh?

Alfred continues towards his car.

EARN (CONT'D)
We're just another two broke niggas
from Atlanta trying to keep the
water running, huh?

Alfred ignores Earn.

EARN (CONT'D)
You're a fool if you turn down this
money.

Alfred opens his car door.

ALFRED
Shut the fuck up, Earn!

EARN
Shut the fuck up? Shut the fuck up?
Naw nigga, you wake the fuck up.

ALFRED
Whatever.

EARN
Fuck you going?

ALFRED

I told you, to the studio.

Alfred closes his door. He drives off leaving Earn in the street. Frustrated, Earn puts his hands on the back of his head.

The same Junkie from before walks up to Earn with his hand out. Earn waves him off again.

JUNKIE

You still ain't got no money? Broke ass.

EARN

Broke ass? Nigga, you're the one out here asking for money.

The Junkie sucks his teeth.

JUNKIE

You still ain't real.

The Junkie walks away as Earn rants.

EARN

I'm not real? Nigga, yesterday you were in East Atlanta, now you're over here in the SWATS? You out here begging and getting around better than me. So who ain't real here? Only one of us is really broke, apparently.

JUNKIE

I know. Witcho' broke ass.

Dumbfounded, Earn scrunches up his face.

15 INT. STUDIO BOOTH - NIGHT 15

Alfred spits a verse on a sick beat. He's going in, but it's not completely there yet.

16 INT. STUDIO MIXING TABLE - NIGHT 16

The ENGINEER nods his head to the beat. Darius sits behind him on the couch texting. Near the couch is a mini-fridge.

ENGINEER

(To Alfred in the booth)
It's good, but it's going to need a
lil bit more work.

ALFRED

Word. Word.

ENGINEER

But we'll grind it out some more
until my next client comes in,
aight?

ALFRED

Aight, bet.

17 INT. STUDIO BOOTH - NIGHT 17

Alfred goes back and lays down another verse. He messes it up
and has to restart it.

ALFRED

Aye, y'all got some water or
something? My throat's dry.

18 INT. STUDIO MIXING TABLE - NIGHT 18

Darius gets up.

DARIUS

Don't worry. I got you, bruh.

Darius grabs a water bottle out the fridge. Darius heads in
the booth.

19 INT. STUDIO BOOTH - NIGHT 19

Darius enters carrying a cold bottle of water.

ALFRED

'Precciate you, fam.

DARIUS

No problem, bruh. May you sip this
shit to spit that shit.

Darius hands Alfred the water.

They dap each other up.

ALFRED
Ayeee bars, nigga.

DARIUS
Yea, you know.

Alfred drinks the water. Darius leaves the booth. The track starts again.

20 INT. STUDIO MIXING TABLE - NIGHT

20

Alfred takes it from the top.

Darius sits back on the couch, listening intently with his eyes closed.

The MIGOS (Offset, Quavo, and Take Off) enter into the room. They greet the engineer and dap up Darius.

ENGINEER
(To Alfred)
Alright, that's time.

QUAVO
Naw, let him finish this take while we roll one up real quick, ya feel me?

ENGINEER
Aight. Cool.
(To Alfred)
Last take.

Quavo and Takeoff take a seat on the couch next to Darius. Offset sits next to the Engineer.

Alfred goes in on his verse again, he kills it.

Takeoff carefully rolls the blunt.

OFFSET
Ooo that shit hot bruh.

ENGINEER
Hell yea.

TAKEOFF
I fuck with it.

QUAVO
Shit me too.

Offset turns to his crew members.

OFFSET

I think we should hop on that.

QUAVO

Yea, man. That ATL connection would set the city on fire.

Takeoff lights the blunt and passes it around.

TAKEOFF

Bet.

DARIUS

That would be dope, forreal.

QUAVO

(To the Engineer)
Call him out.

ENGINEER

(To Alfred)
Aye bruh, come out real quick.

Alfred enters the room, dapping them up.

ALFRED

Aye, what up folk?

OFFSET

You killin that track, bruh.

ALFRED

Word, 'ppreciate it.

QUAVO

Yea, we wanna collab.

Darius passes Alfred the blunt.

ALFRED

Word?

OFFSET

Hell yea!

DARIUS

Paperboi and the Migos. Shit would have the streets going crazy.

ALFRED

Well let's see what y'all do with it then?

Alfred cheerfully daps them up.

ENGINEER

So y'all wanna continue to work on
this track?

QUAVO

Yea, but first. Let's kill this
blunt, one time.

OFFSET

Yea, we want all the smoke.

Offset blows a puff towards the ceiling. Time passes. From
the ceiling to floor, the studio is filled with haze.

The Migos and Paperboi are in the booth. Darius sits next to
the engineer.

Darius takes a picture of the four of them.

Offset's phone rings near Darius.

OFFSET (CONT'D)

Who dat is bruh?

Darius struggles with saying the name.

DARIUS

Bel-cal-is?

Offset promptly comes out of the booth and answers the phone.
The woman on the phone is loud.

Alfred raps along in the background.

WOMAN ON THE PHONE (V.O.)

Where you at?

OFFSET

I'm at the studio.

WOMAN ON THE PHONE (V.O.)

Who's that rappin? That don't sound
like y'all.

OFFSET

We outchea doing a track with
Paperboi.

The woman squeals with delight.

WOMAN ON THE PHONE (V.O.)

Ooo lemme hear it.

They listen as Paperboi spits.

WOMAN ON THE PHONE (V.O.)
Ohh that shit is poppin. Y'all gone
have to let me hop on that one.

OFFSET
Shit.

WOMAN ON THE PHONE (V.O.)
Tell someone to send me a video of
y'all.

OFFSET
Bet. Now, lemme call you back, boo.

WOMAN ON THE PHONE (V.O.)
Okay. Byeeee.

DARIUS
That's cute, she wants to see you
working.

OFFSET
She ain't slick. She just tryin to
be out here lurkin' seeing if I'm
where I say I am and if I got my
dick in my pants.

DARIUS
Well, I sincerely hope it stays in
there my friend.

OFFSET
Shit we're just hella
dysfunctional, man.

DARIUS
Aye, everyone across the globe got
dysfunctional families. The
question is to what degree?

OFFSET
Word. That's real. But you mind to
take the video for me while we bang
it out?

DARIUS
See, now I see why she has to watch
you.

OFFSET
Boy you a fool!

Offset hands Darius the phone before heading back in the
booth.

Darius turns into paparazzi taking a few pictures and videos.
The music session goes long into the night.

21 INT. LUXURY SCHOOL BUS - DAY 21

The early morning sun peaks through the bus' window. Lottie smiles as she looks out the window. She's rides along next to Kenny.

Lottie's teacher stands up at the front of the bus, facing her students.

LOTTIE'S TEACHER

I'm so glad we have full attendance today. You all are in for a treat!

KENNY

(To Lottie)

What do you think will be the treat?

LOTTIE

I don't know. I hope it's ice cream.

22 EXT. PLANTATION - DAY 22

Lottie stands with her Peers and Teacher before a vast cotton field. A large black man, JOE, (36, round, with a deep southern drawl) approaches the class.

JOE

Mornin kids!

Lottie smiles in anticipation. Lottie's Teacher is thrilled.

JOE (CONT'D)

Today, y'all are gonna see what life was like growing up in the Dixie!

Intrigued, Lottie raises her eyebrows.

Joe points to the fields.

JOE (CONT'D)

Over there we have peanuts. There we have strawberries. And right here we have good ole fashioned 100% pure American cotton.

The children's eyes follow his hands as he points. They return to him once he stopped.

JOE (CONT'D)
And guess what kids?!

His over enthusiastic demeanor is a bit eerie.

JOE (CONT'D)
Today y'all all get to be pickers!

Some of the kids cheer in delight.

JOE (CONT'D)
Now come along and form a circle
and I'll teach you the pickin'
song.

A HELPER (32, white woman) passes out hand woven sacks to the kids.

Joe sings and claps as the children join in.

JOE (CONT'D)
I like it when you bend your back.
I like it when you fill your sack.
I like it when you don't talk back.
Good ole' Dixie Money!

Joe, the kids, and Lottie's Teacher all head straight for the cotton field and get to picking.

Lottie's bag is soon filled with cotton. Kenny runs over to Lottie.

KENNY
Wow! That's a lot of cotton Lottie.
Can you help me pick more cotton?

Another peer peeks over.

JOHNNY
No, help me Lottie!

LOTTIE'S PEER 1
No, Lottie help me!

Lottie looks puzzled.

LOTTIE
I think I want to pick some berries
now. Excuse me.

Lottie skips away.

KENNY
(sings loud and
triumphantly)
Good ole' Dixie Money!

23 INT. ALFRED'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

23

Someone frantically knocks at the door. Alfred looks exhausted. He plods to the door. He opens it to find Earn.

ALFRED
Dammit man, do you know what time
it is?

EARN
It's almost noon.

ALFRED
Exactly. Niggas trying to sleep.

EARN
I feel you, sleep you must but
we're almost at our deadline for
the Love and Hiphop offer.

ALFRED
Nigga you buggin. I told you last
night, I ain't with that fake shit.
That shit is dead, bruh. What part
of that don't you understand?

Alfred trudges back towards his bedroom.

EARN
The fact about you turning down
easy money with your bills in the
red.

Alfred's phone pings with notifications.

EARN (CONT'D)
Aye Al, your phone is blowin' up.

ALFRED
It died last night. It must've just
come back on. Shit's crazy. I'm
going back to bed.

Earn goes to look at it. He sees 50,000+ notifications via facebook, instagram, twitter, etc.

Earn quickly pulls out his own phone and checks the gram.

INSERT - EARN'S PHONE - DAY

The Migos posted pictures of the four of them working in the studio.

Earn keeps scrolling. He comes across a post from Cardi B.

CARDI B

Aye it's ya girl Bardi. Y'all hear that fire in the background. That's my baby fava's new song with the his crew and ya boy Paperboi, Paperboi. All about that Paper Boy, Shmoney! Okuuurrr!

She lets the hook of the song play a lil bit before continuing.

CARDI B (CONT'D)

That shit's hot right? Momma Bardi might just hop on that track. Yo, Paperboi, what's poppin? Owwww!

The video ends.

PULL BACK

Surprised and impressed, Earn raises his eyebrows.

Earn's phone rings. He answers it.

EARN

Hello.

MAN ON THE PHONE (V.O.)

So you know we gotta get Paperboi on the tour right?

EARN

You on a new tune today, huh?

MAN ON THE PHONE (V.O.)

I told ya, I'm about sales, okay? He's apparently coming with some new heat for the this year and we want in. So he can have the spot on the tour.

EARN

He can have it you say?

MAN ON THE PHONE (V.O.)
 Yup. It's all his. We can email you
 over the paperwork before end of
 business today.

EARN
 Before you do, revise the contract.

MAN ON THE PHONE (V.O.)
 In what way?

EARN
 Paperboi needs to headline...

MAN ON THE PHONE (V.O.)
 Sure, we can make a few
 adjustments.

EARN
 And his price just went up.

MAN ON THE PHONE (V.O.)
 Ok. I'll get right back to you with
 a better offer.

EARN
 Good, I look forward to it.

Earn hangs up the phone. He smirks at the camera.

Earn enters the kitchen.

24 INT. ALFRED'S KITCHEN - DAY

24

Earn grabs a glass and fills it with faucet water.

He pulls out his phone. Earn opens his texts.

INSERT - VAN TEXT THREAD

Earn replies to Van: "I got you."

PULL BACK

He puts his phone away.

He takes a satisfying gulp from the glass to finally quench
 his thirst.

25 INT. ALFRED'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

25

Earn walks over to Alfred's bedroom door. He doesn't knock or open it.

EARN

Aye Al,

ALFRED (O.S.)

What, Earn?

EARN

Mind if I borrow your car to pick up Lottie?

ALFRED

Be back by 6.

EARN

Aight. Bet thanks.

26 INT. ALFRED'S CAR - DAY

26

Earn drives as Lottie sits in the backseat humming a tune and eating a strawberry. Earn watches Lottie through the rearview mirror.

EARN

Mommy packed you some strawberries for lunch today?

LOTTIE

No.

EARN

No? So where'd you get strawberries?

LOTTIE

From our field trip.

Earn looks puzzled.

EARN

That was today? I thought it was Friday.

LOTTIE

Nope.

EARN

So did mommy give your teacher the money?

LOTTIE

Nope.

EARN

So what, they just let you go?

LOTTIE

Yup.

Earn shifts his eyes from left to right.

EARN

(Confused)

Oh, that's nice.

LOTTIE

I know right? And we picked strawberries, peanuts, and cotton all day.

Earn abruptly pulls over. He turns around.

EARN

You did what?

LOTTIE

We went to the plantation and Uncle Joe showed us what it was like growing up in the Dixie and we even got to keep a little of what we picked. See.

Earn looks at the assortment of nuts, strawberries, and cotton Lottie has pulled from her book bag.

Earn tries his best to conceal his anger from Lottie.

EARN

Oh really?

LOTTIE

Yup. And they taught us a pickin song.

(singing)

I like it when you bend your back.
I like it when you fill your sack.
I like it when you don't talk back.
Good ole' Dixie Money!

Earn immediately puts the car in drive.

EARN

Ohhh we have got to tell your mommy about your trip!

LOTTIE
Okay, Daddy.
 (singing)
Good Ole Dixie Money!

Earn beaks the fourth wall as he looks into the camera through the rearview mirror, smug.

27

EXT. ALFRED'S CAR - DAY

27

The same Junkie strolls along the sidewalk down the street. As Earn passes by, the Junkie looks over him and points at Earn.

 JUNKIE
Ayyeee I see yo broke ass driving
now! I see ya, bruh! I see ya!

Earn shakes his head while driving by the Junkie. Lottie continues to sing the "Pickin Song."

 LOTTIE
Good Ole Dixie Money!

FADE TO BLACK