

**ACT II - B: COMPLICATIONS AND HIGHER STAKES (SAMPLE)**

EXT. STASH HOUSE - NIGHT

We descend upon an old dilapidated home in the hood with barred windows. Two GUARDS with concealed weapons keep post on the porch.

INT. DEBRA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Between a pair of two shapely legs, we see Nico with his shirt off as he sits on the couch and strokes his dick.

INT. STASH HOUSE - GARAGE - NIGHT

We push in on a table. Drug paraphernalia, two small electronic scales, compressed bags of marijuana and five kilos of cocaine litter the table.

Three SOLDIERS prepare the bags of marijuana. Woody grabs a stack of cash then proceeds into the house.

INT. DEBRA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A voluptuous butt in a thong walks into frame, climbs on top of Nico and rides him wildly.

INT. STASH HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Woody enters. Smoke and D-Mack sit at a table and counts the money. Woody drops the stack on the table.

SMOKE

Armando and his crew are supposedly taking a hit out on this house. We need to get as much shit out of here--

O.S. BANG! BANG! BANG! Two THUDS hit the ground.

INT. DEBRA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The unidentified woman jerks her body like she's been shot. She collapses on top of Nico from exhaustion.

INT. STASH HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Four armed GUNMEN with heavy weaponry, including Rolo, storm the house. Smoke, Woody, and D-Mack grab their pistols and take cover.

One of the soldiers run out the garage BLASTING wildly. The gunmen take aim with his sawed off shotgun, POW! The soldier flies backward from the blast.

D-Mack crouches behind a counter and calmly prepares his gun. He jumps to his feet and starts blasting. BANG! BANG! BANG! The gunman takes five rounds in the chest.

Rolo rounds the corner as the gunmen lifeless body drops like a ton of bricks. He takes aim at D-Mack with his chrome .50-Cal Magnum. BANG! One to the dome.

D-Mack flies back as visceral splatters across the room. The other two gunmen run into the GARAGE. RIT-TI-TIT-TAT!

Smoke and Woody emerge from around the corner. BANG! BANG! BANG! They hastily shoot they way out the back door. Rolo takes cover.

The sound of O.S. TIRES SCREECHING!

Rolo and the gunmen snatch up the drugs and stacks of cash.

INT. NICO'S HOME - TANIA'S ROOM - MORNING

BAM! BAM! BAM! Tania shoots up and jumps out of bed.

TANIA

Okay, okay! I'm coming!

NICO'S HOME - FOYER

Tania opens the door. Smoke stands at the entryway panicky.

TANIA

What the Hell, Smoke!

SMOKE

Where's Nico?

TANIA

I thought he was with you, but apparently that ain't so.

SMOKE

Man, a lot of shit just went down!

TANIA

Well, he ain't here. Should I be worried or is this just some bullshit?

SMOKE

I don't know. I have to find him.

TANIA

Well, if he ain't dead, you can tell his ass he can at least call a bitch and let her know he's alive.

Tania slams the door and leans back on it. Her face changes from calm to concern.

EXT. SMOKE'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Tania enters through the gate. We maneuver through the backyard of a middle-class suburban home. Nicki, in a bikini, sits on the steps of the pool.

NICKI

Hey, girl! What you doing here?

TANIA

Just needed to talk.

Tania places her belongings on the patio furniture. She approaches the side of the pool, sits and dangles her feet.

NICKI

Are you okay?

TANIA

Looking at you chilling like this makes me think I shouldn't be fucking concern.

NICKI

Why do you say that?

TANIA

Nico left last night and didn't come back. I was pissed, but when Smoke showed up-- I... I just don't know how to feel.

NICKI

You should stop worrying. This just comes with the territory.

TANIA  
He could be dead.

NICKI  
Highly doubtful.

Smoke enters as cool as a fan.

SMOKE  
What y'all up to?

TANIA  
Damn, nigga you come to the house  
all crazy looking for Nico-- what  
you think I'm up to?

Smoke snaps his head back.

SMOKE  
Dang, Nia. Chill.

NICKI  
(calmly)  
Tania is worried about Nico.

Smoke looks at Tania then cuts his eyes to avoid eye contact.

SMOKE  
Man, he awight.

TANIA  
Why the fuck he hasn't called me?

Smoke just stares at her blankly. Tania can't read him. Her nostrils flair as her face tightens.

Nico enters. Tania looks back at him with evil eyes then looks at Smoke in confusion. She jumps to her feet and snatches up her belongings. Tania stomps pass Nico.

TANIA (CONT'D)  
Thanks for letting me know you are  
alive bitch!

Irritated, Nico shakes his head in frustration.

SMOKE  
Man, what's going on with y'all?

NICO  
Nothing, nigga. What's up?

Nicki gets out the pool, lies across the lawn chair, and eavesdrops.

SMOKE

That nigga, Armando, had his goons hit our spot. It's a blood bath over there. They got everything.

NICO

What all they get?

SMOKE

About five kilos of coke and about 50g's.

NICO

That's over a hundred grand!

SMOKE

That's not all. They took out D-Mack.

Nico pinches the bridge of his nose.

NICO

Fuck! I'm so sick of this son of a bitch. We need every muthafucka on the street to find this bitch!

Nicki glances over at them curiously.

SMOKE

On it. Woody already out there preparing the troops. We gon get this muthafucka!

NICO

Man, hit me up when y'all find him.

Nico gives Smoke dap then exits the yard.

NICKI

Smoke, what's up with them?

Smoke sits on the chair next to her.

SMOKE

Shit, I don't know. My nigga tripping. If he ain't beefing with her, then he running through some chick. His mind ain't right. Plus, we losing money left and right fucking with this nigga, Armando.

(MORE)

SMOKE (CONT'D)

He crashed one of our stash houses,  
so now we have to set up shop at  
our other spot.

NICKI

You don't think that Armando  
already know where y'all next spot  
is at?

He gives Nicki a perplexed look.

SMOKE

Highly doubtful because not too  
many people know about that spot.

NICKI

You're talking about the spot near  
Rockwell?

SMOKE

Yep, but I ain't worried because we  
gon get that nigga before whatever  
snitch ass nigga blab their mouth.

INT./EXT. TANIA'S LEXUS - DAY

Tania drives aimlessly through the city. She finds herself at  
the intersection of Madison and Western. She looks over to  
her side and sees Rockwell Gardens Housing Projects.

EXT. ROCKWELL GARDENS HOUSING PROJECTS CORRIDOR - DAY

Tania knocks on the door of Sandra's apartment. A WOMAN opens  
the door.

WOMAN

May I help you?

TANIA

Uh... yeah. I'm looking for Sandra.

WOMAN

Oh, Sandra moved out about three  
months ago.

TANIA

Do you happen to know where she is?

WOMAN

I've been seeing her up on Madison  
and Pulaski. You might want to try  
up there.

Tania gives a weak smile then walks away disappointingly.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Tania car pulls up to the corner of Madison and Pulaski. She exits the vehicle and sees her mother on the block.

TANIA

Mom.

Sandra turns around. Tania's eyes draw wide as she sees how grimy her mother look.

SANDRA

Well, well, well... looka what we have here. Little Miss Sunshine decides to show her face around here.

TANIA

I came to see how you are doing.

SANDRA

I'm good. Just doing me.

Tania looks on with pity.

TANIA

Mom, why couldn't you just do as Nico asked and get clean, so we could have a better home?

SANDRA

Bitch, please! That nigga ain't gon tell me what to fucking do. We were just fine until he brought his ass over to my fucking apartment making demands. Fuck that nigga!

TANIA

Mom, but we weren't fine.

SANDRA

Oh, so now that you got that nigga buying you flashy cars and clothes you think you're better than me, huh? You wanna come down here passing judgment. I don't need this shit from you. If life is so fucking great over there, then take your ass back.

TANIA  
That's not what I'm trying say.

SANDRA  
Fuck you and that nigga!

Sandra walks off dismissively and approaches a trick. Tania stands there lost.

EXT. NICO'S HOME - DAY

Tania pulls up. She sees a car parked next to Nico's. Pissed off, she pulls in at an angle blocking both cars.

INT. NICO'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Tania enters with a chip on her shoulder. That quickly dissipates to shock when she see Nico cuddled up on the couch smoking a blunt with Debra.

Nico glances over at her with a smirk on his face.

NICO  
Hey, Shawty. Where you been?

Tania just stares at him in disbelief. She huffs as she turns and stomps her way up the stairs. O.S. DOOR SLAMS.

NICO'S HOME - TANIA'S BEDROOM

Tania enters. Her eyes scan the room in astonishment. The TV, laptop, iPod, you name it... it was there. Tania, in a mad dash, throws herself across the bed. Arms and legs flail.

Tania sits up and regains her composure. She grabs her cell phone and scrolls through the contacts. ANTOINE'S name appears on the screen. She presses talk.

ANTOINE (V.O.)  
Hello.

TANIA  
(quietly)  
Hi, Antoine?

ANTOINE (V.O.)  
Yeah.

TANIA  
This Tania.



ANTOINE (V.O.)

Wow, now this is a call I wasn't expecting. What's up, Ma?

TANIA

Hey... well... I was just calling to see if you would like to go out sometime?

ANTOINE (V.O.)

You not going to stand me up, huh?

TANIA

No, no, no. I think it would be cool if we could hang out.

ANTOINE (V.O.)

Awight, so when you want to hang?

TANIA

How about tomorrow? We can meet up in Indy?

ANTOINE (V.O.)

Ok, that's cool.

TANIA

Alright, I'll call you tomorrow with more details.

Tania hangs up and smiles wickedly.

INT. NICO'S HOME - TANIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tania tosses and turns as she hears loud O.S. MOANS and the HEADBOARD BANGING against the wall repeatedly. She places the pillow over her head, still hears Nico and Debra.

Tania turns on her back and stares at the ceiling. She shakes her head as anger consumes her.

INT. NICO'S HOME - KITCHEN - MORNING

A sluggish Tania enters. Her face tightens when she see Debra eating cereal at the table wearing Nico's t-shirt.

Tania ignores her as she grabs a glass and pours water. Tania grabs a bottle of aspirin and pops two in her mouth. Debra watches Tania's every move.

DEBRA

Hi.

Tania looks Debra over and cuts her eyes.

DEBRA (CONT'D)  
Wow, you sure are rude.

Tania looks at her in incredulity.

TANIA  
Who the fuck are you?

DEBRA  
I don't think you are in any position to ask me anything. I should be asking you that. Who the fuck are you?

Tania stares at her ice-cold. BLACKOUT.

SMASH TO BLACK.

KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE ON: Butcher knife at Debra's neck. Pull back to see Tania standing over Debra.

TANIA  
DON'T YOU EVER QUESTION WHO THE FUCK I AM! BITCH, I LIVE HERE! WHO THE FUCK ARE YOU?!?

Nico runs into the kitchen and grabs Tania from behind. He knocks the knife out of her hand. He holds onto her as Tania struggles to break free.

TANIA (CONT'D)  
GET THE FUCK OFF OF ME!

NICO  
CALM THE FUCK DOWN! I ALREADY TOLD YOU ABOUT THAT SHIT!

Nico pins Tania up against the wall.

NICO (CONT'D)  
Debra, go upstairs and get dress. Go home. I'll call--

Tania snaps.

TANIA  
--ARE YOU ACTUALLY GOING TO SIT UP HERE AND TELL ME YOU GOING TO CALL THIS BITCH?

NICO  
Debra, just go.

Debra exits hastily.

TANIA  
Your little whore is gone, so you  
can get the fuck off of me! I won't  
kill the bitch!

She wrenches free and pushes Nico off of her. Nico knows he  
messed up, so he shrinks back.

NICO  
(calmly)  
Tania, baby girl, you have to calm  
down.

Tania stands there defiantly with clenched fist.

TANIA  
FUCK YOU!

Tania leaves.