

Scene 1: A chapel in a funeral parlor. Mimic enters on the sneak. He reluctantly heads for the casket. Shine's spirit sees who has been watching his own dead body sees Mimic who can not see him.

MIMIC

Yo, Shine, son, I'm here. It's me Mimic. I know you don't like being alone, so I came early. I had to sneak in. These ass holes funeral parlor people only let you come at the hours they want. Yo, you got on my gold chain. I knew you stole it from me. You could keep it. Just don't let it get messed up or nothing. You know what I'm saying. Yo, last night was wack! You should've been here. I mean, you was here. Yo, Thug's mother came to pay her respects and your aunts, especially, your aunt Teresa wanted to kick her ass. Yo, it was mad crazy...But your mother stopped all the commotion. She said that Thug's mother didn't pull the trigger. And that anyone who came to pay her son his due respect was more than welcome at the wake. Yo, Thug's mother broke down crying like if it was her own son she lost. It was crazy... Did I tell you Thug is in jail? Yeah, man. He got busted in his shorty's house with the gun. He's locked up. Which is a good thing. I mean that was stupid what he did. Shooting you and shit. Remember when we used to played cops and robbers in the stairwell in the projects? Those were the days. We'd shoot one another and get right back up. Thug always wanted to be the criminal and get away with the crime. We used to execute him a lot... You don't shoot your peeps. You know what I'm saying? You don't do that shit. If you got beef with someone, you deal with it. You just don't pull the trigger first. I had a feeling selling drugs wasn't a good idea. Gotta learn to listen to my feelings more. I shoulda said no when you and Thug was trying to talk me into it. It wasn't like I really wanted to do it. I could've worked at the video store for cash. Just wanted to be with my peeps. Yo! Oh shit! Oh shit! Deja vu, son! I saw myself standing here talking to you and you was in a casket. That shit was mad real, kid. And I had this feeling like something freaky was going to happen. That's freaky right? I hate this gift I got. That's what my mom's calls it ever since I told her one day that a kid wearing a red baseball cap was going to get hit by a car, and a kid got hit by car and guess what he was wearing? Guess niggah! A red baseball cap!
(Swallows hard.)

MIMIC

If only there had been a sign of how things would turn out like the Bat signal calling Batman. Maybe there was, but the money sign in our eyes blinded us and shit. Things didn't turn out too good, did they? You're in a dead store. Thug's in jail and me... I'm getting the fuck out of the projects, yo. I'm moving downtown with Raindrop. Taking acting serious. She's been there for me through all of this... This is so fucked up, man. Things will never be the same without you around. This is so unfair, yo. I mean everybody deserves a second chance, right? I'm gonna have mines. Thug will some day have his, but you... You ain't having one six feet under. I guess it doesn't matter 'cause if we'd do it all over again, we might

end up doing the same thing. Right? Maybe not. Some shit been bugging me. I don't understand why didn't you leave. Why did you have to get in Thug's face when you knew he had a gun? Thug says you knew. Why didn't you tell me he had a gun? I don't understand that shit either? I'm not blaming you, but if you knew you could've left and you'd still be here hanging with me. I had things under control, didn't I? Didn't I? Fuck, man...

(Holds back tears.)

MIMIC

Oh, oh! I didn't tell you, but I just got a part in a movie with Robert DeNiro. Word! Serious. Guess what I'm playing if I get the part? Guess. Your friendly neighborhood drug dealer. I already got the experience. Dig it, I only got one line, but at least I get to speak you know? I say, "Yo, wha ju wan?" I already got it memorized and shit. I'm going to dedicate my performance to you because I was at the audition I thought about you and felt your presence. And when I win the Oscar I'm going to dedicate it to you, too. Remember I used to say I'd take you to the Oscar's when I got nominated. We was going to turn the mother out.

(Acts as if he has the statue in his hand while given an acceptance speech.)

To Shine, you would've loved him too, if you would've known him. That's bad, right? Then I'm gonna go over to Jennifer Lopez and give her a kiss. In the mouth! I'm gonna stick my tongue all the way down to her stomach to see what she had for lunch. Don't get jealous niggah, I'm doing it for you. I know how much you like her. Yo, talking about chicks. Jazmin came to your wake. She's thick yo. I saw her crying her eyes out and I put on the Mack on her. I sat next to her, gave her a tissue. Yo, I didn't know you were doing her? You didn't tell your boy. She told me, you and her would meet in the stairwell every night. No wonder you always had to leave your boys. She told me she didn't have the chance to tell you that she's pregnant. With your kid! You're not going to be one of those dead beat dads are you? Yo, she doesn't know how to tell your mother. I'm feeling her, too. 'Cause I told your moms about your music studio and how she can sell it and make money and she said she didn't want nothing to do with it. That it was mines to do what I whatever I wanted. So when I sell it I'm giving the money to Jazmin, so she can take care of Mini-Shine. Yo, would you mind if Jazmin becomes my woman? I'll act like the kid's father. Don't get upset, I see you turning colors. I'm kidding. You never knew how to take a joke. Did I tell you I went to visit Thug today in jail before coming here? He's bugging. The boy is flipping. He's stressing me out. Kept calling me. So I had to go see him. Do you know what he wants me to say to the police?...

(Hears noise coming from the other room.)

MIMIC

Oh, man, they're opening the door for your viewing. There are a lot of people out there, so put your best face on. Yo, stay strong. I'll be there tomorrow for the

burial. I ain't letting my boy leave without me saying goodbye. Save a spot up there for me 'cause I'll be joining you in a couple of years and yo, we'll raise hell in heaven like we did here on earth. Yo, I wish I just could turn back time. I'm serious yo. Like Superman did to save Lois Lane. Remember? He reversed the rotation of the earth. I'd give anything to go back to the days when we had to ask our moms for money to go to the movies. I'd give up my own life. I couldn't do that, cause then I wouldn't be here. I would gladly give up a leg, yo. Wait, then I couldn't play basketball. I know what! I would let my shoulder come out of the socket. Remember? We was playing handball, I took a swing at the ball and my shoulder popped out of the socket and my arm got stuck? Everybody thought I was waving at them. Then, fine ass Damaris came over and she thought I was going mental. Yo, she never talked to me again. It'll be ill to turn back time.

(The lights go off and on.)

What the hell was that? Yo, are you trying to scare me? It worked. Don't do that again. That's what I get for coming to a dead store. I thought they were letting people in.

(Goes to door. Looks out.)

There's some freaky shit going on. Everybody is gone!

SCENE 2. Four hours earlier at the visiting room in a jail. Thug struts in looking afraid until he sees Mimic who's startled.

THUG

Hey motha-fucker! Ahhh! Give me some love.

MIMIC

(Mimic moves away from
him.)

Yo, the correction officers told me not to make contact with you.

THUG

Fuck those bitch ass C.O's, man. Shit. I run this place.

MIMIC

Yo, you've only been here two days and you're running things?

THUG

That's all a playah needs! You know what I'm saying? Look at my Jordans! Got them from a kid that came in yesterday and shit. I went up to him and thanked him for holding them for me. The punk ass niggah turned every color in the book. Then I took them from him. Bad.

MIMIC

They look small.

THUG

Fuck that shit. I'll use them for sandals and shit. I smell your fear, yo.

MIMIC

What?

THUG

I smell your fear.

MIMIC

Niggah what you smell is your own funk. Don't they let you take a bath up in here?

THUG

I ain't taking a bath with these booty hungry niggahs. Shit, no.

MIMIC

I thought you were running the joint?

THUG

I is, my brother. But there is some horny mothafuckers up in here. They're going to have to kill me to get to my boonky hole.

MIMIC

At least you don't got to worry about a crazy niggah with a gat spraying you down.

THUG

Yo, what are you saying?

MIMIC

I'm just saying yo, you can't be shot up in here.

THUG

Yeah, but you could be shanked in 50 different ways. You never know who's coming after you. Yo Mimic is my wifey taking care of my ride?

MIMIC

All I see is her brother burning rubber up and down the block.

THUG

How many times didn't I tell her to let nobody drive my Navigator. She's thick headed. She keeps hitting me up for money, but I'm dry. Yo, son, I need a favor. I want you to take care of my seed while I'm in here, know what I'm saying?

MIMIC

Yo, B. I can't be taking care of your kid.

THUG

You're the only one bringing in the cheese now.

MIMIC

Nah, bro. I stopped selling.

THUG

What? Yo, are you crazy, yo? You can't be giving up my corner like that. That corner was mad lucrative, know what I'm saying?

MIMIC

Yo, can't do it no more.

THUG

I better not hear that nobody else took over my corner 'cause I'm holding you responsible.

MIMIC

Whatever?

THUG

What is that supposed to mean?

MIMIC

Look where you at? We're talking in a visiting room in a jail.

THUG

If you do the crime get ready to do the time.

MIMIC

What about Shine, Yo?

THUG

He's doing time underground. You're the only free one for now, dog.

MIMIC

That was fucked up, yo.

THUG

What?

MIMIC

Shooting Shine. I don't understand why you had to do that shit.

THUG

There's nothing to understand. Forget about that. Got to think how I'm getting out of here. Need your help dog. Dig, you got to tell the police, that it was an accident. The gun went off by accident.

MIMIC

It wasn't an accident.

THUG

Yo, just tell the police we was clowning around like we always did. Then the trigger went off but I had a walkman on blasting Tupac into my ears and couldn't hear the gun go off. I didn't even know he was shot.

MIMIC

What about the blood all over the sidewalk?

THUG

Yo, I thought you was showing me how movies make shooting look real. I didn't know it was real blood. Yo, you've got to tell the police that 'cause I don't want to stay up in here for like ten years.

MIMIC

Yo, that wasn't what happened.

THUG

Yo who gives a fuck what really happened? I already got my asshole legal aid lawyer believing it. If he could believe it so can the stupid cops, the prosecutor and the dumb ass judge.

MIMIC

I don't know man, Shine is dead.

THUG

You can't be worrying about him, yo. You got to worry about you, if you know what I'm saying?

MIMIC

No, I don't know what you're saying.

THUG

If you don't tell the cops my story, then I'm going to snitch you out.

MIMIC

Yo, I got rid of all the drugs in my possession. Flushed them down the toilet partner.

THUG

You ain't reading me right, yo. I'm going to tell them, you was my accomplice. That we both made a move on Shine 'cause he was playing us.

MIMIC

Kid, that would be fucked up.

THUG

Wouldn't it. You be my roommate, yo. Wouldn't you like to be up in here for the next ten years? So get the story straight. Let's see how good an actor you are. You better give the performance of your life 'cause it depends on it! More important than that Oscar you keep dreaming about. I love you like a brother, but I ain't going to be the only one pulling time. Ya feel me?

MIMIC

Nobody told you to shoot no one. I ain't had nothing to do with it.

THUG

Maybe you did, maybe you didn't.

MIMIC

Shine was my best friend. I wouldn't do that to him.

THUG

Yo, B. I think I made myself clear. I want to walk and if I walk, you walk. But if I'm locked up like a fucking monkey, you'll be in the same cage with me.

SCENE 3. Two days earlier. Thug enters. He's talking on his cell phone. Scarface is on TV.

THUG

Yo, Mimic. It's me Thug. Hello. Pick up the damn phone. Call me back asap.

(He turns off phone.)

Oh shit, oh shit, this is the scene when they're coming after Scarface. If he would've left he'd still be alive today. But you gotta respect him. Son, fought to the end. "Say hello to my little friend."

(He takes out his gun.)

Now, you say hello to my little friend.

(Dials cell phone.)

Mimic, man, pick it up, bro. I got to talk to you. It's important. I'm thinking about leaving for a while till things chill a bit. Know what I'm saying? Things are getting too hot. But I got to talk to you about the corner before I go.

(He hears a commotion coming from the street. He goes to the window.)

What the hell is all that commotion out there? The Po-Po is all over the place like fucking roaches. Are they talking to my wifey?

(He dials cell phone.)

Precious is me! Don't say my name. Don't say my name. Don't say my name!.. Didn't I tell you not to say my name? Act like you're talking to your mother... I know I ain't your mother. Don't be stressing me! Shake your head if the if the cops are looking for me. Fuck! Okay. I need you to start a commotion... So I could sneak out the back. Why do you gotta have an attitude for?... I'm about to tell you what to do if you stop running your mouth for a minute and give me a chance... Faint! Throw yourself on the ground. How come you can't do it? What? Because you're wearing your new Tommys. Bitch, I bought them Tommys for you. So I want to see your Tommy Hilfigger wearing ass hitting the ground... You better not hang up on me... Hello! Hello! Fuck!

(Dials cell phone.)

Yo, Mimic. Pick up the damn phone, man. I need your help, dog. They're looking up here. Shit! Gotta to get the hell out of dodge.

(Puts cell phone in pocket.
There's a loud bang on the door.)

POLICE V.O.

Police. Open up.

THUG

(Takes gun out.)

They ain't gonna catch me alive. Going down in a blaze of glory like my man Tony Montana.

(There's another knock on the door.)

Open up! POLICE V.O.

Oh shit! Oh shit! THUG

We know you're in there. POLICE V.O.

THUG
What am I gonna do? What I gonna do? Fuck!
(Looks at gun.)

What Am I gonna do with this?
(Thug tries to hide gun but can't find a place. He puts it under the chair then throws himself face down on the floor, spread eagle.)

Don't shoot!

SCENE 4. A few hours earlier. Mimic is walking on the edge of a roof balancing himself.

MIMIC

If I just let myself go like a pigeon jumping into flight all this shit would be over.
(Thug comes behind him grabs him as if to push him.)

What the fuck?

THUG

(Laughs.)

Look at your face.

MIMIC

What the fuck is wrong with you, man?

THUG

I see my boy standing on the edge of the roof, I think he wants to jump. Just wanted to give you a hand.

MIMIC

Fuck you, aight?

THUG

Yo, B. you got a blount?

MIMIC

Nah.

THUG

I need a buzz, this shit is stressing.

MIMIC

No shit, Sherlock!

THUG

Yo, yo, dig. The cops are going around asking lots questions and shit. Did they go to your house?

MIMIC

Not yet.

THUG

What do you mean not yet?

MIMIC

How long do you think is going to take them to find out the three of us were partners?

THUG

Hopefully, never. What are you going to tell them if they talk to you?

MIMIC

I don't know.

THUG

Tell me what you're going to tell them.

MIMIC

I said I don't know. Maybe I won't have to tell them nothing.

THUG

What you mean?

MIMIC

They got like ten witnesses, yo. Maybe they're saving me for last. Or they might think I might not talk. I don't know. I didn't even know you had a gun.

THUG

Yo, I'm responsible for my boys.

MIMIC

Responsible? If I'd known you had a gun I would've stopped clocking right there.

SHINE

Shine was in on it.

MIMIC

That's bullshit! Shine would've never kept a secret like that from me..

THUG

Don't believe me then!

MIMIC

I won't. Why would Shine get into a fight with you knowing you were packing?

THUG

You know Shine. He never backed down from nobody. I can't wait until all this shit blows over.

MIMIC

Blows over?

THUG

Yo, man, this shit is cutting into our biznes. My cousin ain't very happy.

MIMIC

How could you think about business? You killed somebody.

THUG

(Changing conversation.)

What you doing in the roof, niggah?

MIMIC

Is the only place I can go to where I don't got people looking at me like I had something to do with Shine's death.

THUG

I know what you're saying. I get the same looks.

MIMIC

Motherfucker you killed him. My mother looks at me like she's ashamed of me. Shine's family looks at me like if I could've done something to stop it. When I get in the elevator people get out. I can't take this shit.

THUG

I'm going through the same shit. But I kind of like it. I shoulda killed me somebody a long time ago.

MIMIC

Motherfucker!

(Mimic grabs Thug throwing him to the ground. He hits him. Thug gets away from him. They square off.)

THUG

What the fuck is wrong with you?

MIMIC

You killed our best friend.

THUG

It was his fault.

MIMIC

He didn't pull the trigger.

THUG

He shoulda told me he didn't take the promotion. It's your fault too for not telling me about it.

MIMIC

Don't be blaming that shit on me. I didn't fucking know.

THUG

You should've known.

MIMIC

You know what? You're stupid. I should've known? What kind of shit is that?

THUG

So why are walking on the edge of the roof for? Maybe because you feel guilty!

MIMIC

You stupid fuck.

THUG

I might be stupid, but Shine's death is on you, too.

MIMIC

Fuck you!

(Mimic throws a punch at Thug but misses. Thug grabs him moving him to the edge of the roof.)

THUG

I'm throwing you off the fucking roof.

(Mimic gets a better grab of him.)

MIMIC

Motherfucker, if you do, you are coming with me.

SCENE 5. A few hours earlier at a theater.

MIMIC

I'm here to read for drug dealer number one. No, I don't got a picture with me. My girlfriend told me about the audition. She works for you...Raindrop!. She told me about it when I called her from the hospital because... No, no, I'm not sick... Contagious? Funny. None of that... My boy got shot... No, he didn't make it... It was just a stupid misunderstanding... My name? Mimic... No, just Mimic. Like Madonna. Tupac! Prince. Like that. Mimic! Yeah, I'm ready... The sides?... Oh, the script. I didn't know you called them sides. My bad. Got it right here.

(Takes it out of back pocket.)

You want me to read it? But I got it memorized... It's only one line... Yeah, this is my first audition... Read... Yeah, I'm ready. Who do I talk to?... To her? But she's all the way down there and... Read! Okay. Hey, what would you like?... That's it?

(Starts to walk off but returns more determined.)

Can I do it again?... I know you got mad people waiting, but... This line doesn't sound right... No, I ain't a writer, but... Is this a drug dealer from Harvard? I mean this drug dealer must have a P.H.D. because he don't sound like no drug dealer I know and I know a lot. Could I do it more realistic?... Oh, you're the writer?... No offense... You went to writing school in Jail?... Oh, Yale. I hear it's nice up there... I'll fix it this way. First drop the "hey." "Hey" is like "Hey, could please pass the mustard." I'd do it like this. "Yo, what you want, yo?"

(He flashes a big smile.)

Do you want me to do it with a Spanish accent? No problem. I'm just trying to help. Okay, don't forget to call. Excuse me. Is that DeNiro out there? Oh, shit, yo, I love you, man. Seen all your movies. Even the sucky ones. DeNiro, remember this? You fucked my wife? Joey, you fucked my wife?... You talking to me? You talking to me?... Oh, you are talking to me? You want me to go? No problem. Bob, you and me got to talk, man!

SCENE 6: A few hours earlier.

SHINE

Noooo... I said no... I ain't leaving... I don't want to leave. Do you understand english? Then I'll tell you in Spanish. No quiero irme. I ain't going nowhere... I said no. Are you hard of hearing? I like it here. You go. How do I know that you really are who you really say? You could be the other one. I don't want to live with the other one... He punishes you. What do you mean I've already lived with the other one? The world belongs to him? Well if I been living with the other one, then I want to stay with him. (Quejandose) Why not? It's your fault. Yeah, your fault. You made everything in the world right? So made made drugs, guns, and bullets. Good and evil. Everything! And since it was your fault that I was killed then you could let live a little longer... It's the truth. You don't want to hear the truth? ... I'm not afraid of you. What are you going to do take my life? Too late!... I'm too young to go with you. I have all my life in front of me... No it ain't too late. If you are all powerful then let me live. I ain't asking for much. Let me live a few more years. Twenty years more... Ten! Five! Five! What's five more years? Two. Two more... Please... I don't want to die. I've never been on a plane. I've never been to a basketball game. I've never even been to the movies by myself. Never! My mother is going to stay alone. I'm her only child. I didn't even give her a grandchild. She was always asking me for one. But I was waiting to have money so I could give him what I never had. She needs me. I know this is kill her. She always protected me. I used to hide under her dress when I was scared. I'd like to do it now... Give me a second chance. Please for my mother. I'm begging you. If you give it to me I promise not to ever get involved int eh drug game again. I swear to God. I shouldn't be swearing to you. I know you don't like it... It's unfair! The other day this guy got shot 15 times and he didn't die. I got shot once. Once! It ain't fair that I died and he didn't. You ain't giving me a second chance are you? It's okay. I'll go up after the burial. Okay?

SCENE 7: Five minutes earlier. Mimic is sitting on a garbage can at a street corner reading Hamlet.

SHINE

Yo, yo, what up? What are you doing?

MIMIC

Reading Hamlet.

SHINE

Eating an omelette?

MIMIC

Hamlet, the play by Shakespeare!

SHINE

Oh. I knew that. Just messing with your ass.

MIMIC

Raindrop wants to do a scene from it for acting class. We're gonna go see it on Broadway. You want to come?

SHINE

I'm busy.

MIMIC

Yo, I haven't told you when it's gonna be.

SHINE

Whenever it is, I'm busy. Yo, I can't understand that thou and thus, yonder shit. Yo, you must be the only drug dealer in New York that readeth Shakespeare while he clocketh.

MIMIC

I'm special like that!

(They laugh.)

Where you been, yo?

SHINE

You know! Around.

MIMIC

It's mad crazy out here. We ran out of merchandize two hours ago.

SHINE

Serious, yo?

Yeah, man. MIMIC

Damn! Where Thug at? SHINE

He went to get a refill. He be mad at you, yo. MIMIC

Thug always mad at something. SHINE

That's true, but he's in rare form today, starting fights with everybody. MIMIC

I'm not afraid of him. SHINE

He's jealous of all the money you be pulling down. You know that? MIMIC

Yo, I can't help if I'm good at what I do. He better not start nothing with me today. I'm in no mood. SHINE

I hear you but don't start nothing. MIMIC

I'm not starting nothing, but if he starts it I'm finishing it. SHINE

I hear you. MIMIC

What's up with you? It looks like something is bugging you. Spit it out. SHINE

Everything is okay. MIMIC

You're talking to your boy. I know you better than you know yourself. Remember, I was the first you told you wanted to be an actor. When you told Thug, he just laughed, but I took you seriously. So spit it out, son. SHINE

MIMIC

(Takes out book.)

It's this soliloquy. I don't get it. What kind of actor am I going to be if I don't understand what I read? Maybe Thug is right. I belong here, not there.

SHINE

Thug don't know what he's talking about.

MIMIC

But I should understand it.

SHINE

Should? Let's work it out, son.

MIMIC

See, Hamlet is saying "To be or not to be, that is the question." I read the shit but I don't get it. I mean you either are or you're not. You know what I'm saying? How could you be and not be? I think Shakespeare was on some good drugs when he wrote this shit.

SHINE

Yo, maybe he's talking about making a choice, right? Like when we asked you to sell drugs. You wasn't too sure. You didn't know what you wanted to do. To be a drug dealer or not to be a drug dealer. That was the question - for you.

MIMIC

Yeah, yeah. I can go with that. That makes sense. Make the connection to my own life. Thanks B.

SHINE

Hey, Baby Boy, I'm here for you.

MIMIC

You know I'm taking you to the Oscars with me, right?

SHINE

Can't wait!

(Thug enters in a bad mood carrying a bag with drugs which he gives to Mimic, who inspects it and puts it in the garbage can.)

THUG

"Bout time mothafucker. Mimic told you about how busy it's been?

SHINE

He told me.

MIMIC

(Cutting Shine off.)

Yo, all the crackheads was asking for you.

THUG

Yeah, what's that 'bout?

SHINE

What?

THUG

Why all the heads asking for you?

SHINE

I don't know, yo.

THUG

We in this together. Same org, same corner.

SHINE

I give better counts.

THUG

How's that gonna be when we get the merchandize in bags?

SHINE

I give my good customers a freebee after they buy ten from me.

MIMIC

How you keep count?

SHINE

That's why G-O-D gave me a mind for?

MIMIC

You keep it in that big old head of yours? Look at that head, Thug. It looks like a watermelon. If you shake it, you'll hear the seeds rattle.

SHINE

When I do business, I'm like blockbuster, you buy ten you get one free.

THUG

You're throwing money away, son.

SHINE

How many bags you sell a day?

THUG

A lot.

SHINE

How many 'bout? I tell you how many I sell. 120.

THUG

Bullshit!

SHINE

Serious.

THUG

I don't believe you. You believe him Mimic?

MIMIC

Yo, most of the heads asked for Shine, right?

SHINE

What you sell?

THUG

Yo, I ain't telling you.

SHINE

You sell like thirty? Forty max, Right?

THUG

Yo, it ain't none of your fucking business what I sell.

SHINE

If you was doing so good, you wouldn't be ashamed of telling how much you sold.

THUG

Fuck you aight?

SHINE

Why fuck me? I'm the one doing business.

MIMIC

Who cares? I sell like ten a day and do you see me bitching? Just drop it, okay?

THUG

You better listen to Mimic, yo.

SHINE

I'm tired of his ass scaring business away thinking he's a gangster and shit. I don't like him roughing up our customers.

(Thug approaches Shine coming up to his face. They face off.)

THUG

I am a gangster.

SHINE

A gang of one, that's what you are.

THUG

That's right. What?

SHINE

Punk! Mimic, this ass beat down Louie? Louie don't bother nobody. He just wants to smoke his shit and be left alone. This testicle beats him up for five dollars.

MIMIC

(To unseen customer.)
Yo, this ain't a good time. Come back later.

THUG

Where you was?

SHINE

I don't got to answer to you.

THUG

Yo, Mimic, I don't like niggahs that do shit behind your back.

SHINE

If you got something to say, spit it out, son.

THUG

Someone from the uptown crew told me you was meeting with my cousin.

MIMIC

What?

SHINE

So!

Why didn't you tell me?
MIMIC

Why are you going behind my back for?
THUG

I didn't think it was your business, yo.
SHINE

Now you think you are all high and mighty because you sell more than me?
Ghost is my cousin. Everything got to go through me first.
THUG

That's not what he said.
SHINE

Yo, Shine. Shut up!
MIMIC

Nah, nah, It's about time he hears the truth. Ghost said the only reason he keeps you around is because of me.
SHINE

He said that?
THUG

That's right, yo. He said you was a G.E.D. dropout that can't even sell drugs. Even Mickey Dees wouldn't hire your ass.
SHINE

You happy now?
MIMIC

Fuck him, yo.
SHINE

Asshole!
MIMIC

Fuck Ghost, and fuck you!
(He takes out a gun.)
THUG

Where you get that gun from? Put it way before someone calls the police.
MIMIC

THUG

You are taking my position in the organization, man.

SHINE

Yo, son, you better take a chill pill.

MIMIC

Come on. Put the gun away. We're all friends.

THUG

You took my job. I was supposed to be the one that moved up in the organization. MEEEE! You're looking to get smoked.

SHINE

Fuck you, man. Put the gun down so I could whip your ass.

THUG

Mimic, I-ma cap your boy if he don't shut his mouth.

MIMIC

Shine, let's get out of here. Why didn't you tell me about your meeting with Ghost? Ah? Fucking asshole!

(Mimic puts his arm around Shine and begins to walk him off. As they are about to exit Shine pushes Mimic to the ground charging Thug.)

SHINE

Fuck him, yo. I ain't letting no one scare me out of my place. Yo, niggah, if you're man enough, shoot!

(As Shine moves towards Thug. Thug and Mimic freeze.
Flashback: Shine talks to an unseen Ghost.)

SHINE

What up, Ghost? You asked to see me? Did I do something wrong?

(relaxes)

Cool! When Snakes told me you wanted to see me I started freaking... The corner? The corner is aight! Biznes is good. But you know that. You get the money.

(Laughs nervously.)

I'm sorry. There's nothing funny. I'm just nervous... If you ask, I'll stop being nervous for you... I'm glad you've been hearing good things about me. I'm trying my bestest.

(Laughs.)

I don't mean to laugh. My best. So what do you want?... I appreciate that. It's good when your boss is happy with your performance... Complaints? I don't got any complaints. Everything is cool. I mean we're selling drugs, this isn't a hospital or nothing. Now that I think about it I got one little, kind of insignificant complaint... Nah, it's not important. Distribution is wack. When we out of merchandize we have to waste time picking it up... This is how I'd fix the situation. You should find out how many sells each corner made daily, then have deliveries to replenish the corner... I know you don't want the dealers to have too much merchandize on them in case they get busted. You got a point but that the way the system is today, some corners had more than they need while others got less... You like my idea? You want me to be in charge of it... Yeah, I know what that means? I could never quit. I'd know too much about the organization... Till death do us part. I thank you for the offer, but no thanks. Selling drugs is a temporary evil. I have dreams of legit business. I'm already building a recording studio. And doing a talent search... I'd be turning down a "G" a day with full force protection... Two body guards! You're making this very hard. You know what? I appreciate the offer but no can't do... Mimic?... What about Mimic?... Yeah, yeah, he's getting his stuff together... Yeah, he's still taking acting class... You don't like actors selling your crack? I could understand that. But he's doing good. Don't get me wrong he don't want to be Scarface or nothing unless is in a film but he's down... Thug? Thug is Thug. You know how he is. He's your cousin... Don't get rid of him. I mean, I'm not trying to tell you how to run your business but Thug lives for corner clocking. I know he's losing customers but I more than make up for it. I'll tell him to chill a bit... Yeah, aight, I'll be responsible for him. I really don't want to do that but if that's the only way. I'll take care of it. Okay, thanks for everything... Louie, my cousing? I haven't seen him in a couple of weeks. I hope he's stopped using... What? Did Thug really do that?... He gave him a beat down for five dollars... No, Nobody told me anything. That's crazy... Yeah, keep him on. Keep him! I'll deal with it.

(Back to real time. Thug is pointing the gun at Shine.)

SHINE

PUT THE GUN AWAY!

(Thug shoots him. The stage goes dark. Red lights flash on and off as an ambulance is heard.)

MIMIC

What the fuck did you do?

THUG

The gun went off!

MIMIC

Call an ambulance! Shine don't close your eyes.

SHINE

Don't tell my mother, Mimic. Don't tell my mother. Don't tell her.

SCENE 8: Shine and Thug are hanging in the corner dealing.
There's tension in the air.

SHINE

Ten dollars! Chill! There's enough for everybody. Make a line! I said make a line. Yo, Thug, Mia have to get some from your stash. I'm running out. What's up Pops? I got your escape right here. Take trip to the land of never mind. Where everything is forgotten and the high is the only reality. I should've been a poet, maybe I make it into a rap song.

(Raps.)

Welcome to the land of never mind. Where gold and dreams is all you find.
Where all the words are always kind. Uhu! With this drug of mine. Boy!

THUG

You talk a lot of shit!

SHINE

(To unseen costumer.)

Yo, yo, Face, what the hell you doing here again? Where are you getting all this money? I know you ain't rich. Stop stealing from your mother. No, I ain't selling you shit. You need to go to drug rehab, son. This shit is supposed to be only recreational. Don't be looking at Thug. Bye! I said bye! Yo, Face, say no to drugs.

THUG

Yo, when is Mimic coming back?

SHINE

Don't ask me.

THUG

Forget it, then. Don't talk to me I'm here to make money.

SHINE

You don't have to worry about that.

(To costumer.)

What up, Clingon? What are you doing down here? You're like fifteen blocks from where you usually cop. Oh shit! Funny Bags? Thanks for telling me. Later. Clingon, say no to drugs. Yo, Thug.

THUG

Wasn't you not going to talk to me?

SHINE

True that, but dig this. Funny Bags was just shot.

THUG

Funny Bags from uptown?

SHINE

Is there any other Funny Bags.

THUG

There's downtown Funny Bags. East side Funny Bags. Bronx Funny Bags. Harlem Funny Bags.

SHINE

That's some popular ass name. Peep this. They wanted to rob him but Bags refused to be a vic and they pulled out a shotgun, and blew his head off his neck. That shit went rolling down the street.

THUG

He's dead. Too bad. More custies for me. More money.

SHINE

Is that all you think about?

THUG

I never liked that kid anyway. Good for his ass.

SHINE

Yo, that's three dealers dead this week, yo. Dealing with 5-O is bad enough but with a crew of robbers that's another thing.

THUG

Yo, nothing is going to happen to us. Nobody's messing with Ghost's shit.

SHINE

Yo, what about Black? He was robbed last week.

THUG

Yeah, but he didn't get killed.

SHINE

He still worked for Ghost. Your cousin doesn't give a shit about us. It ain't his ass ending up deep sixed.

THUG

Yo, don't be getting scared on me.

SHINE

I don't feel like dying over this shit. Yo, I'm closing shop.

THUG
Where are you going?

SHINE
Home kid. I'm not going to be a vic.

THUG
Yo, they ain't coming here.

SHINE
I'm bouncing. Later.

THUG
We got protection.

SHINE
I don't see Ghost's guards around here.

THUG
(Takes out gun.)
I ain't letting nobody take my hard earned cash.

SHINE
Oh shit!

THUG
Let one of them motherfuckers come around here. I'm gonna catch me a body or two.

SHINE
Let me see that.

THUG
Yo, you ever hold a real gun before?

SHINE
Yeah--nah.

THUG
Okay, but don't point it at me. Point it down.

SHINE
Wow, this is heavy. Cool.
(Inadvertently points gun at Thug.)

THUG
Watch out! You're pointing it at me.

SHINE
My bad.

THUG
Give it to me!

SHINE
I won't do it again!

THUG
You better not!
(Thug goes to unseen customer. Shine looks at gun then at Thug.)

SHINE
Freeze bitch!

THUG
What the hell you doing?
(Thug tries to hide behind the garbage can from Shine who's laughing.)

SHINE
What's the matter?

THUG
You better put that gun down or I'm going to shove it down your ass.

SHINE
(Points gun to the ground.)
Here, yo.
(When Thug comes out from behind the garbage can shine points the gun at him.)

Here!
(Thug runs away again.)

THUG
Put it on the ground. I said put it on the ground!

SHINE
Aight! Dag. Don't blow a gasket.
(Shine lays gun on the ground while still laughing. Thug runs over pushing him out of the way before taking gun.)

THUG

I should put some lead in your ass to see how you like it.

SHINE

Wait till I tell Mimic we got protection.

THUG

You can't tell Mimic, yo.

SHINE

Why not?

THUG

You know how Mimic been shitting bricks with all the robberies. That's why he doesn't want to deal at night.

SHINE

Just want to make him feel safe.

THUG

You know how Mimic is. He's going to look at the gun like something bad. And he'll make a big deal out of it. It's better if he doesn't know.

SHINE

You right.

THUG

We ain't telling Mimic, right. Word is bond.

SHINE

You got my word.

(They shake hands.)

THUG

Are you gonna let a gang run you out your corner?

SHINE

Hellz no.

THUG

Yo, I'm protecting my boys. You know what I'm saying. Anybody that comes after yall, got to go through me first.

SCENE 9. Two weeks earlier. Shine is selling in the street corner.

SHINE

How did the birthday party go? I bet she was surprised. How old is she now? Six? Getting big, ah? Aight! See you around. Yo don't let your kid see you doing this shit. Later! Pa, say no to drugs.

(Looks at watch.)

I can't believe this shit.

(His cell phone rings.)

Hey, Boo... Nah, they ain't back yet... Don't you think I know they're two hours late?... All I know is that Mimic took Thug to see a play or something. They're probably chilling having a good time while I got to hold the fort down for them. I'll be there. I'll ring you up and you come to the stairwell. Aight?... They are finally coming down the street. I can't leave till I give them a rundown. I ain't hanging up. They made me wait for them now they got to wait for me. I'll be there. Damn girl it ain't been that long. You know I miss you, too.

(Mimic and Thug, who's carrying a potato chip bag and laughing at Mimic, enter. Mimic goes to give Shine a five but shine ignores him.)

THUG

Don't ever ask me to go with you again.

MIMIC

You don't have to worry about that. Why did you have to act like my sister's two year old?

THUG

I don't know what you're talking about.

MIMIC

I take you downtown and you act like you've never been out of the projects, niggah. You know what you are? A project hillbilly.

THUG

At least I know my place.

MIMIC

What the fuck is that suppose to mean?

THUG

You from the projects and you go downtown to hang with actors and shit. Look around. You belong here.

MIMIC

Yo, I belong where I say I belong, dog. Nobody is cutting me down. Especially, not you.

THUG

They only let you hang with them because you got money and their broke ass don't. That's the only reason.

MIMIC

I can't wait when the day finally comes that you become a human being. Eating potato chips and peanuts in the theater. We weren't at a baseball game, dumb ass. You know how much noise cracking peanuts open makes in a theater?

THUG

At least I didn't have to listen to that stupid play.

MIMIC

This is what I get for trying to open your little close mind. There's a big world out there. This ain't all there is, ya feel me?

THUG

You worries 'bout you, I worries 'bout me.
(He throws bag on the ground.)

MIMIC

Pick that shit up. This is our block.

THUG

I don't work for the sanitation department.

SHINE

(To Mimic.)

Yo, man, what took you so long?

THUG

He wanted to go to eat with the actors, especially that crazy chick Raindrop with purple hair. Yo, the chick has a piercing through her nose and her eye lid. Her cheek. I bet she got one down there, too. Do she?

MIMIC

She's mad nice.

SHINE

Yo, Mimic, you knew I was waiting for you to get back. I got things to do, too. And it's been dead out here like if all of a sudden all the crackheads are rehabbing and shit.

MIMIC

My bad. The cast wanted to eat. They invited me. I couldn't say no. They're all in my acting class.

THUG

Dig this, Shine. They went to eat in this rat hole with no real food. I ask for a burger and when I bit into it I almost threw up. What kind of meat was that?

MIMIC

I've told you a hundred times it wasn't meat. It's tofu.

THUG

You hear that Shine? The motherfuckers eat toe-food. It tasted like toe jam.

MIMIC

How do you know how toe jam taste like? Don't tell me you be eating toe jam.

THUG

Then this idiot foots the bill. Then his girlfriend, Raindrop, was all over his shit. She sat on his lap the whole time. Feeding him. She'd put some toe-food in her mouth and fed him like a bird. I don't know, that whole scene was wack. I wanted to throw up.

SHINE

It's just a different scene that's all.

THUG

I'm glad I'm back here at the projects where everything is normal.

MIMIC

Do you get scared when you're not in the projects?

SHINE

So how was the play?

THUG

That's another thing. I thought this motha was taking me to see The Lion King. That's why I went, right.

MIMIC

I told you the name of the play was The Lion Is King. But you don't listen.

THUG

So we go through this basement and come out in this yard, then go through another basement. I swear I musta seen a hundred rats. And guess what. We're the only two idiots in the audience. In the play there are these people in cheap ass lion costumes with rifles hunting people. What kind of retardaness is that? Oh yeah, and one of them shoved a plastic rifle on my face. I grabbed it from him and was 'bout to shove it up his ass if it wasn't that Mimic stopped me. That play was so dumb they should've killed the writer.

MIMIC

The play is too deep for you to understand.

THUG

It's too bad for me to understand. It'll never become a movie, video or DVD.

MIMIC

The play talks about how man is making lions extinct. And the writer is asking the question how would man like it if they were the one hunted down.

THUG

That's stupid 'cause that'll never happen.

MIMIC

It does happen. We hunt ourselves down.

THUG

Are we going extinct? Are we going extinct? Ah? Ah? Ah? No! There are more people in the world today than ever.

SHINE

It could happen though. The play sounds cool.

THUG

You two are whack.

SHINE

Yo, I'm out. Shift's been up.

MIMIC

I'll make it up to you next time.

SHINE

No problem.

THUG

Don't let him take you to see the Lion is King.

(Thug goes to slap Shine five
but Shine ignores him and
opens up his cell as he exits.)

You see that?

MIMIC

You always do that to him.

THUG

Yeah, but nobody does that to Thuggy.

MIMIC

Thuggy? Man, your name is Rogelio.

THUG

Don't be saying my name out loud. You're gonna mess up my rep.

MIMIC

You don't got a rep to protect, ROGELIO!

THUG

Not since I've been hanging with you. Yo, if I ever see you acting in a play like that, I'll go on the stage and drag your ass off it myself and beat you down like there's no tomorrow. The Lion Is King.

MIMIC

Are you going to keep talking about this?

THUG

I wanted to see Uncle Scar, Mufasa, and little Simba.

SCENE 10: Lights shift. A week earlier. Thug and Mimic are hanging on the street corner.

THUG

Yo, son, my pockets are thick. Corner clocking is the shiznits, yo. Who ever said crime didn't pay, never committed a crime, son. I got cheese everywhere. Even coming out of my ears, yo.

MIMIC

That's wax mothafucker.

THUG

(As he counts a wad of money.)
Mo money! Mo Money! Mo, mo money.

MIMIC

Are you going to let the everybody know how much money you got.

THUG

Fuck the world. Donald Trump let's the world know. The Microsoft guy let's them know. Every movie star Is always showing off what they got. Why can't I do it?

Mimic

Because they didn't make their money selling crack in a street corner.

THUG

Money is money. It's all green dead presidents. This Jackson here was probably touched by a president of the United States, and now it's going in my pocket. Maybe if you start putting more time in and quit that acting shit it'll be in your pocket one day.

(A sharp, short police siren is heard.)

MIMIC

Shit, the cops.

THUG

Fuck them, yo. Are you talking to me? You watching me? No, no. I'm watching you.

MIMIC

Shut the fuck up, man.

THUG

You're going to whip my what? Take off your badge and say that to my face.

MIMIC

Do you have a death wish?

THUG

Nah, man, they can't come to my place of business and tell me what to do.

MIMIC

Okay, you really lost it. I am now moving away from you.

THUG

(to police)

Why don't you go back to Long Island? What the fuck you doing in New York City? Go back to the dunes and shit... Come back I don't care. My door is always open. That's right leave! Drive that piece of shit car out of here.

(to Mimic)

You saw that? They left. Punk mothafuckers. Fucking white boys coming to New York and think they can run shit.

MIMIC

You are fucking crazy! You know they are going to be watching us right?

THUG

Fuck them, yo. Yo, you see how Shine is so nice to the crack heads.

THUG

Yo, what's up with Shine? You see how he be nice to the crackheads?

MIMIC

Shine likes to talk to everybody.

THUG

We're selling drugs not working for Mcdonalds. We don't have to smile at those low lifes. I know why he's doing it. So they can come back to him. He's trying to play us, son.

MIMIC

Shine ain't like that, yo.

THUG

You should keep an eye on him.

MIMIC

Stop being so paranoid, son.

THUG

I don't like what he's doing.

| | |
|---|-------|
| | MIMIC |
| (Mimics him.) I don't like what's he's doing. | |
| | THUG |
| Don't start mimicking me. | |
| | MIMIC |
| Don't start mimicking me. | |
| | THUG |
| Stop that shit. | |
| | MIMIC |
| Stop that shit. | |
| | THUG |
| Stop Mimic. | |
| | MIMIC |
| Stop Mimic. (Thug walks away from Mimic angrily. Mimic mimics his behavior in an exxagerated manner.) | |
| | THUG |
| Stop the shit! | |
| | MIMIC |
| Stop the shit! I'll stop if you cut the shit with Shine. We are all in this together. Aight? Aight? | |
| | THUG |
| I don't know about that, man. | |
| (Shine enters with three bottle of beers.) | |
| | MIMIC |
| Sh! | |
| (Shine walks pass Thug who has a hand out for a beer, giving Mimic one first, he then gives one to Thug.) | |
| | THUG |
| Yo, I said wanted a forty. | |

SHINE

We're making money so I bought some Heines. Move up in the world.

THUG

You think you're better than me?

SHINE

Where did that shit come from? Man, drink your beer and shut up.

MIMIC

You know what I'ma do with my money? First, I'm going to see every Broadway show there is. Then I'm going to buy every play ever written. Then, I'm going to go to a good acting college, like Yale. It's expensive, too! And then I'm hiring Robert Deniro to be my acting coach. 'Cause I want to win an acadamy award.

THUG

Yo, yo, I'm going to buy my baby mom some rock ice, bling, bling, then we're buying us some Tommy's. Not that bootleg Tommy Shine likes to wear. Then I'm buying my baby girl mad barbie dolls, yo.

SHINE

Not me, I ain't spending my money.

THUG

You cheap.

SHINE

I'm saving it, yo. For my recording studio.

THUG

Recording what?

SHINE

Studio stupid. I'm going to be a mogul like Diddy.

THUG

All the talent is taken, yo.

SHINE

I'm discovering me some new talent, yo. There are a lot of brothers out there that need a break. And I'm giving them that break.

THUG

You're going to break your legs that's what you're going to break.

MIMIC

Let the man's dream alone, yo.

THUG

It's like my moms always dreaming of hitting the numbers and never do.

SHINE

Yo, I talked to my super and he's renting me two rooms in the basement. I'm gonna clean them up and begin to buy recording equipment.

THUG

I don't know why you want to do something else when you got the best job there is.

SHINE

Yo, clocking is temporary, son. I going litig.

THUG

Not me, yo. You be poor mothafucker while I be driving my Lincoln Navigator, son. Don't be asking me for no ride either. I-ma be living large, kid. I'm going to move up in my cousin's organization, be his right hand man. Move all the way to the tippy top. KnowwhatI'msaying?

SHINE

If that's what you want, hey, I'll go visit you in jail or in the morgue.

THUG

Yo, don't be wishing me no bad luck.

SHINE

Yo, you know how everybody in the hood who wanted to be Scarface ended up.

THUG

Yo, yo, my cousin is looking out for me.

SHINE

(Shine takes out money and
starts counting it.)

Money is a tool.

THUG

What the hell are you talking about?

SHINE

Money is like a hammer, plyers. A saw.

THUG

The boy has lost it.

SHINE

Don't you remember Mr. Birnbaum's Economics class? He said money is a tool.

THUG

I got the best z's in that class.

MIMIC

My moms says money is the root of all evil.

THUG

Not having money is the root of all evil.

SHINE

You both wrong. Money is to be used, son. You can't be scared of it and you can't love it. It's like a nail holding a painting up on the wall.

THUG

I don't care what you say. I love my money.

MIMIC

Damn, Shine, you got a lot of money there. Lookithere, Thug.

THUG

That ain't shit, yo. I-ma going to be making more than that.

SHINE

In your dreams. In just a month I'm out selling soldiers that was out here for years, yo. I'm the man. Don't be jealous, son. Papa will teach you the tricks of the trade.

THUG

You ain't got nothing to teach me.

MIMIC

See, I don't care if ya sell more than me. Because I know that I ain't gifted at selling drugs.

THUG

Yo, my cousin told me yesterday, for you to get your shit together or he was dropping your ass.

MIMIC

Yo, I ain't got time to be out here all day. I'm late for my acting class.

| | |
|---|-------|
| What? You're acting that guy? | THUG |
| What guy? | MIMIC |
| What you ma call it? Uh! The guy that wrote in english that nobody understands. | THUG |
| Shakespeare? | MIMIC |
| Yeah, him. | THUG |
| No. I'm doing a contemporary playwright. | MIMIC |
| Look at my boy with ten dollar words and 3 dollar pants. | THUG |
| I'm out! | MIMIC |
| Yo, you can't be out now. | THUG |
| Shine is here. | MIMIC |
| Nah, I going to see my boo. | SHINE |
| Boo who? | MIMIC |
| I don't kiss and tell son. | SHINE |
| It's probably some chicken head. | THUG |
| I'm going to let that one go, son. | SHINE |
| | MIMIC |

Don't let me find out you're doing a bird. Nah, nah. I'm just joking. I'm bouncing.
 (He shakes Thug's hand and partially hugs him.)

THUG
 Are we going to meet later at the spot? I'll bring the blunts.

MIMIC
 I'll bring the covassier.

SHINE
 I got the hydro.

MIMIC
 I'm bouncing.

SHINE
 Yeah, aight. Yo later.
 (He goes to shake Thug's hand, but Thug turns him down.)

THUG
 Leave a message!

SHINE
 See, If I snuff him, they gonna say I was wrong.

MIMIC
 Let's be out.

(Mimic and Shine exit. Thug finishes drinking his beer. He goes up to a person.)

THUG
 What you want yo? Speak up, mothafucker! Pay up first niggah.

(He takes the money, then goes to the garbage can, taking out a vial out of a bag which he hands over. Goes over to another person.)

THUG
 Yo, what you want? Who you asking for? Shine? You see Shine around here? Fuck Shine. I'm the man. Buy from me. Then get out of my face before I put my foot... Fool asking for Shine. Shit. Yo, yo Louie, you owe me three dollars. I said get over here, Louie. Don't make me chase you down if you know what's good for you. Now, where's my money? I...I...I... Speak clear motherfucker. Where's my money? All right, you go home, get your food stamps trade them at the store

and bring me my money... Sh! I don't care if your baby is hungry. You want crack, you got to pay. Or I'll get a gun and clock your ass. You better be back in less than an hour. Stupid ass crackheads trying to get over on me. Yo, how many?

SCENE11: Two weeks earlier. Shine and Mimic are in the corner selling drugs. This scene is kind of layback. Mimic looks around before selling he's very careful.

SHINE:

Mimic.

(He points with his lips to a customer. Mimic looks around carefully not to be seen.)

MIMIC

What you want?

(Mimic goes to garbage can getting a bag giving it to customer.)

This is crazy, man.

SHINE

I know.

MIMIC

We're out here in a street corner selling drugs and act like nobody can see us.

(Shine laughs.)

What you laughing at?

SHINE

Yo, you're still selling drugs like if nobody's suppose to know you're selling.

MIMIC

This shit is hard, bro. People are ringing my buzzer, knocking on my door at all times of the night.

SHINE

I know. My mother asked me yesterday why am I suddenly so popular?

MIMIC

My mother, too.

SHINE

What did you tell her?

MIMIC

What am I gonna tell her? I had a total mental freeze. What did you tell yours?

SHINE

I acted like I didn't hear her.

MIMIC

My moms almost found my stash yesterday, son. She was doing laundry and picked up the jeans I had my stash in. When she was about to go into the pockets I told her that they wasn't dirty yet. She held them up looking at them up and down. Yo, my heart was beating at the speed of light, son.

SHINE

I'm glad you wasn't busted 'cause she would've called my mother and both our asses would be up shits creek.

MIMIC

I know.

SHINE

Hold up. Getting a phone call.
(Answers phone.)
What's up?... It's Thug.

MIMIC

Ask him when he's coming?

SHINE

Mimic wants to know when you're getting here... He said to stop shitting bricks... He's laughing.

MIMIC

Tell him I said fuck you.

SHINE

Here, you tell him.

MIMIC

I don't want to talk to him.

SHINE

Mimic said to tell you fuck you... He's laughing... Aight got to go.
(Closes phone.)
He'll be here in a minute.

MIMIC

I don't believe this shit. He got us involve in this shit and he ain't here. Where is he?

SHINE

Spending his money. Looking at some gold chains in the jewelry store.

MIMIC

Great! Now he's gonna advertise he's a drug dealer.

SHINE
Yo, when did you get a cell phone?

SHINE
A couple of days ago.

MIMIC
And Thug got your digits and I didn't? When was you going to tell me?

SHINE
I forgot to tell you. Here!
(Gives Mimic business card.)

MIMIC
What the fuck is this? You got a business card, too?

SHINE
Yo, bitnez!

MIMIC
Yo, I don't know man. This might've been a mistake. You know selling drugs. I just don't feel right about it.

SHINE
I don't know Mimic. I mean there are benefits.

MIMIC
Maybe I'm fucking blind but I don't see them.

SHINE
Chicks, babes, honies.

MIMIC
I ain't going out with a Crackhead.

SHINE
I ain't talking about a Crackhead, yo. You're starting to dress better and chicks started checking you out. Today I was coming down in the elevator and guess who was in it? Guess?

MIMIC
How the fuck would I know?

SHINE
Destiny. That's right boy. And she looked at me.

MIMIC

What's so special about that?

SHINE

Son, she's never looked at me before and we've lived in the same building since we was born. And you know what she said? I like your shirt. She liked my shirt. Shit, I'm buying ten like this one. You know I've had a crush on her since third grade.

MIMIC

So she finally talks to you 'cause you're selling drugs.

SHINE

Nah, she's not like that. She asked me what was I doing. Did I have a job or something 'cause I was looking prosperous. She used the word prosperous, yo. She's smart.

MIMIC

And you told her the truth.

SHINE

Hell, no. Her brother is doing 30 years in the slammer for drugs. She hates drugs. So dig this. And when we parted ways I said to her, "see you later." And you know what she said?

MIMIC

How the fuck would I know that?

SHINE

She said, "okay." She said okay, son.

MIMIC

So when is the wedding?

SHINE

Wedding? I ain't have my first kiss, yet.

MIMIC

I was kidding. You ain't got a sense of humor.

SHINE

Yo, didn't you go downtown to sign up for that acting class?

MIMIC

I didn't sign up for it.

SHINE

Why not? I mean you want to be an actor, right?

MIMIC

Before signing up for a class you could sit on one and see if you liked it.

SHINE

And what? The teacher is a prick?

MIMIC

Nah, you know.

SHINE

I don't know.

MIMIC

It's just a dream. You know.

SHINE

So make it real. I thought we was gonna go to the Academy Awards together?

MIMIC

The whole shit is weird. There was this girl with purple hair, son. Purple hair! With like three piercings. And she was acting a scene out and she was really good. Her name was something like Raindrop. Raindrop. That's a crazy name. Then they had the whole class do an exercise called the mirror exercise right. You're giving a partner and one leads making faces or movements right and the other has to do the same thing. That shit was easy cause I'm used to mimicking people. And guess what. I was paired with the crazy purple hair Raindrop. She's making all these faces and I'm making them too. She put her face really close to mine. I swear bro, like our lips almost touched. And we put our hands out like this.

(Stretches arms out, palms up.)

But our hands couldn't touch. Like I was feeling her energy. We was laughing. And when we finished she said I was good. Then a pretty boy came over and she got all happy and she hugged him and kissed him and left with him.

SHINE

You like her! You like her!

MIMIC

She's so different from all the girls in the hood. She's so free.

SHINE

Yo, Mimic you got to go back to class. Ever since I've known you, you wanted to be an actor. You got to try it dude.

MIMIC

I don't know.

SHINE

You better get your ass to class. That's all I'm saying. Hold up. Got a call. Who the fuck is this?... Precious!... Thug gave you my phone... Damn!

MIMIC

She got your phone number, too?

SHINE

Thug ain't here... Diapers?

(To Mimic)

Baby Thugerina needs diapers.

MIMIC

Shit, Big Thug needs diapers.

SHINE

(To phone)

Why don't you wait till he gets here and I tell him to call you. I'm not an answering machine... Okay, I'll tell him.

(Closes phone.)

Precious is a pain in the ass, kid. She wants Thug to buy her some Baby Fat jeans. Those two deserve each other. What was we talking about before being rudely interrupted?

MIMIC

Nothing.

SCENE 12: Two weeks earlier. Mimic and Shine enter. They are stressed especially Mimic.

MIMIC

Yo, I'm stressing B!

SHINE

Just chill.

MIMIC

That shit in the train was close. Thank God nothing happened.

SHINE

Thug is still talking to his mother.

(Noticing Mimic's stress.)

Yo you need to relax.

MIMIC

You right. You right.

(Mimic starts doing breathing and movement exercises for actors.)

SHINE

What the hell are you doing?

MIMIC

Relaxation exercise for actors. I saw it on TV.

SHINE

Yeah, but now you're stressing me. Niggah, we're in the street.

MIMIC

Join me then. Take a deep breath in and...

SHINE

Get the fuck out of here.

(Thug enters.)

THUG

What's up with him?

SHINE

I think he's a palm tree or something.

THUG

Earth to Mimic. What the hell was that?

MIMIC

You wouldn't understand.

THUG

Yo, dig, my moms wanted me to go to the supermarket. She be bugging.

(Thug puts a bag of drugs in the garbage can.)

MIMIC

Did anyone see us?

SHINE

I don't think so.

Nobody saw us. THUG

Yo, I don't want my mother to find out. MIMIC

Neither do I. SHINE

Nobody wants that. THUG

Yo, wasn't that fucked up when the police came in the train. SHINE

I almost shit in my pants. MIMIC

I smelled it too. THUG

I said almost. MIMIC

Especially when Thug kept staring at them. SHINE

Yeah, why did you do that? MIMIC

They was staring at me. THUG

Are you SOS? MIMIC

SOS? THUG

Stuck on stupid. We had illegal drugs in our possession and you're challenging them. The po-po don't need much to crack our skulls open. MIMIC

I ain't taking nothing from nobody, po-po or no po-po. THUG

I'm just glad nothing jumped off. SHINE

You think they are looking for crack. THUG

They don't look cracked out. SHINE

(Calling out.) THUG
Yo, yo.

What you doing? They might be undercover po-po. They look and act like crack heads. MIMIC

I've seen him around the block for a long time. THUG

He could still be undercover. MIMIC

Thug, Mimic is right. SHINE

Okay, what about that cat over there? THUG

Under cover. SHINE + MIMIC

Yo, not everybody in our neighborhood is undercover. THUG

How do you know they're not? MIMIC

He got a point. SHINE

So let me get this straight. The old church ladies, the Korean cleaners people, the Arab store people, the greasy Chinese restaurant people, the Dominicans in the restaurant, the winos in the street, the fine big booty birds and all the brothers in the basketball courts is undercover. THUG

We're not saying that. SHINE

Shit, I'm saying it. All undercover! D.T.! All of them! MIMIC

You is scared! THUG

Yes, I am! MIMIC

Yo, shine didn't I tell he'd chicken out. Shoulda left him out. THUG

Really? Well, then, goodbye. Have a nice career selling drugs. MIMIC

Wait! Come on man. We just got to be careful. SHINE

So how are we supposed to sell drugs if we can't let nobody know we're selling? THUG

Don't look at me. MIMIC

Yo, I'm here to make money. You wit' me? THUG

Louie, what's popping? MIMIC

What's up coz? SHINE

I didn't know Louie was your cousin. MIMIC

Dealing? SHINE

Us? Nah! MIMIC

Who told you? THUG

You got a nose for dealers. MIMIC

You better not be undercover? THUG

He ain't D.T.. I didn't know you was on the pipe! SHINE

What you want then?... Mimic get him a dime. THUG

Why me? MIMIC

You're closer to the stash. THUG

(Moves away from garbage
can.) MIMIC
Now, you're closer.

What the hell are you laughing at Louie?... Yeah, today is our first day
dealing, so what? You better stop laughing at us, stupid crack head. THUG

Don't talk to my cousin like that. SHINE

He's laughing at us. THUG
(Goes to garbage can retrieving
a vile from the bag.)
Ten dollars!

Don't worry about it, Louie. It's on the house. SHINE

What? THUG

SHINE

Just pass the word that we got the best stuff around. Say hello to aunt Teresa for me. Don't forget to pass the word.

THUG

What the hell was that about? I don't give freebees.

SHINE

Yo, it's an investment. Louie will tell everybody. Word of mouth best advertisement.

THUG

All I know is that there ain't no money in my pocket.

MIMIC

Ain't you afraid that Louie tell your family that you're dealing?

SHINE

He smokes the shit!

MIMIC

Oh shit! I thought that was her.

SHINE

Who?

MIMIC

My next door neighbor Ms. Jones. She's been eyeballing us the whole time.

SHINE

She's coming this way.

THUG

Just tell her to mind her damn business.

MIMIC

Hi, Ms. Jones. I'm just hanging with my friends... No, we ain't up to no trouble.... Yes, I know that the streets are trouble. I'll be going up stairs in a little while... Yeah, my mother is home, cooking I hope... I'll stay out of trouble. Bye. I'm fucked, she's going to tell my mother.

SHINE

Chill, she didn't say nothing.

THUG

I didn't like she was looking at me. Like she was giving me the evil eye. If something bad happens to me, I'm going to beat her down.

MIMIC

How did you make this about you. It's about me! See, this is a sign for worse things to come. I should quit right now.

THUG

But this is our first day.

SHINE

We should at least sell what we got.

THUG

Yeah, man, Ghost got a no return policy.

MIMIC

AIGHT! Damn! There goes somebody.

THUG

YO-YO!

Scene 11. A day earlier. Same street corner. Mimic and Shine enter rapping the words of a popular violent rap song.

MIMIC

Where is he at?

SHINE

I told him to buy a forty not to brew the mothafucker.
(Thug enters drinking from a
forty ounce beer.)

MIMIC

Yo, niggah pass that shit.

SHINE

He's hogging it up like always.

THUG

What's the blood clot, mon?

MIMIC

Now, he's Jamaican.

THUG

Yo, I know once I pass it to ya thirsty niggahs, I won't be getting it back.

MIMIC

Just pass the shit, yo. Damn!

THUG

Here, yo.

MIMIC

Look, at this shit, he done drank half of it.

THUG

Stop busting a nut.

SHINE

You're holding the bottle now, drink some and pass it.

MIMIC

We paid for it three ways, now if I drink my third, you ain't gonna have enough but to wet your lips.

THUG

Are you still crying?

MIMIC

Next time, I'm getting first sips.

THUG + SHINE

DRINK!

(Mimic drinks.)

SHINE

Yo, niggah, you ain't leaving nothing for me?

MIMIC

Here.

(Gives bottle to Shine.)

THUG

Yo, Shine, save me a sip.

SHINE

Get the fuck out of here, you begging ass mothafucker.

THUG

Bet! You is stingy.

MIMIC

Mothatfucker you drank most of it.

THUG

Yo, yo, Mimic, you know why they call Shine, Shine? 'Cause of his yellow ass teeth.

SHINE

Is he snapping on me?

MIMIC

Yeap!

THUG

His teeth are so yellow, his tongue wear sun glasses.

MIMIC

You tongue wear sunglasses! You're going to stand there and take that?

SHINE

Stop instigating, cause obviously, the boy doesn't know who he is messing with. I'm the champ of snaps.

THUG

Yeah, right! Your teeth are so yellow, you spit butter. When you drink water it turns to lemonade, that's how yellow your teeth are.

MIMIC + THUG

Lemonade, that cool, refreshing drink.

MIMIC

Are you going to stand there and take that?

SHINE

Of course not. I'm just waiting for the boy to run out of steam.

THUG

Yo, I got a thousand of them. I'm ready for your ass this time. Your teeth are so yellow, crows fly down and pick at them thinking they are corn.

MIMIC

That's corny.

THUG

Yo, Mimic, his teeth are so yellow he looks like he was blowing the Simpsons. He went to church on Sunday and everybody said "I see the light."

SHINE

Son, you got so many teeth missing, it looks like your tongue is in jail. You're so stupid, you tripped over a cordless phone. You were so ugly at birth, your parents named you Shit Happens. Niggah your breath smells so bad, when you talk on the phone people hang up.

MIMIC

Damn! People hang up.

SHINE

I hang up on him all the time. I know you do, too, Mimic. Admit it!

MIMIC

I'm not saying.

SHINE

The kid's breath is kicking!

THUG

That one was good. But not as good as your mom's was last night.

SHINE

Did I hear him right?

MIMIC

No mother jokes, aight?

SHINE

Nah, nah. He opened the door.

THUG

That's right. I'm taking it to the next level.

SHINE

Yo, son, Mimic is right, let's get off moms, because I just got off yours.

THUG

Your mother is so stupid it takes her two hours to make minute rice.

SHINE

That snap is older than the crust in yo mama's underwear and staler than your breath.

THUG

Hey, you can't talk about my mom's cause I ain't got one. My dad and me just use yours.

SHINE

Speakin' of yo mama, when I was doing her doggy style last night, I realized which side of the family you get your looks from.

MIMIC

That one hurt! Okay my peeps, time for you to stop this shit.

SHINE

I could go on for ever. But I'll stop if Thuggy had enough.

THUG

I'm still here.

SHINE

Let's get ready for round two, then.

THUG

Yo, Mimic, who won the first round? I did right?

SHINE

That's bullshit, niggah. Be real, Mimic.

MIMIC

It was a tie, aight? Let's get off the mother jokes.

SHINE

I don't know what you're worried about? All you have to do is laugh.

MIMIC

Every time we do this someone ends with their feelings hurt and then they want to fight.

SHINE

That's Thug, not me.

THUG

That's bullshit! Let's get it on.

SHINE

Take your first shot.

THUG

Your momma is so old, she was a waitress at the last supper. Jesus would you like some water?

SHINE

Your mother is so old her social security is 1. 1. Niggah

THUG

Your momma is so fat, the last time she wore a Malcom X jacket a helicopter landed on her. It's true I saw it. Donald Trump came out and shit.

SHINE

Your momma is so fat when she rubs her thighs together, I swear I smell bacon. Extra crispy!

THUG

Your momma is so fat when she walks backwards she bleeps.

SHINE

Your momma is so fat her blood type is ragu. That's one fat lady. You've seen her right, Mimic? You know you want to laugh. No comebacks? Come on, son. I think he's out for the count. 1, 2...

THUG

Your mother is so stupid she thinks Taco Bell is a telephone company.

SHINE

Your momma is so stupid, she took a knife to a drive by shooting.

THUG

Hello Taco Bell. No long distance.

SHINE

Your momma is so stupid, she sits on the tv and watches the couch.

THUG

You want to talk to Shine?

SHINE

You bald headed momma is so stupid she bought a glass door with a peep hole. You really got to be stupid to do that. She's so stupid she tried to put M&M's in alphabetical order.

MIMIC

Yo, I'm stopping this bout.

SHINE

Nah, I ain't ready to stop.

MIMIC

Come on, Shine, he's had enough.

SHINE

His mother is so ugly she entered an ugly contest and they said sorry no professionals. Yo momma's house is so dirty, she has to wipe her feet before she goes outside. Is he dead yet, nah I see him breathing. Yo, momma's is so poor, her doormat doesn't say welcome, it says welfare. Your momma is so short you can see her feet in her driver's license. Your momma' is so poor she goes to KFC and licks other people's fingers. Yeap, he's still breathing. Did I talk about his stupid mother yet?

MIMIC

Yeah, man, stop it.

SHINE

Wait, wait, let me put him out of his misery. Your momma's so stupid she went to the Gap to get her teeth fixed. And now for the knockout punch. You hairy, bald headed momma is so stupid she had you! That's a lesson to you, son, for the next time you think you can take me on. Snapping on me and shit. I'm the best. I got skillz. What's my name? I said, boy, what's my name? Shine is my name, snapping is my game. Boy, my mouth is faster than a semi-automatic.

THUG

FUCK YOU!

SHINE

What's the matter? The baby wants to cry.

THUG

Fuck off, yo.

SHINE

Why are you fronting, son?

THUG

Yo, Mimic, me and this niggah are 'bout to throw down. On the real.

SHINE

Let's motivate, son.

MIMIC
Are you motha's going to cut the shit. I hate all this drama.

SHINE
Punk.

THUG
You want some of me?

SHINE
Let's get it on, biatch!

MIMIC
Here we go.

(Thug and Shine start moving around each other before throwing punches. Then they grab one another and wrestle. Mimic jumps in the middle.)

MIMIC
Break it up. Ya a bunch of assholes. Break it up.

(As he try pulling them apart Mimic's shoulder pops out of the socket. He screams moving away from them.)

SHINE
What happened, son?

MIMIC
Get away from me. Just finish killing each other. This happens to me for being the peace maker.

THUG
Yo, you thought we was fighting for real?

SHINE
This is my boy.

THUG
We was playing with your ass.

MIMIC
You both can go to hell.

SHINE

Yo, Mimic, did you pull your arm out your socket? Let me put it back in place.

THUG

Just pull the sucker.

MIMIC

You touch my arm, I'll kill you both ten times.

SHINE

Yo, Mimic, you aight?

MIMIC

Nah. Yo, my arm is aight, but I'm tired of having no c.r.e.a.m.

THUG

(Sings.)

Cash Rules Everything Around Me. Cream get the money. Dollar, dollar bill, yaaaaaaa!

MIMIC

He's your boy.

SHINE

Your boy!

MIMIC

The truth is we so poor, we can't afford to pay attention. The real deal is that we're so poor, it took all our money to buy a forty. And I'm thirsting for more. YouknowwhatI'msaying?

SHINE

I could use some victory sips myself.

THUG

Let's pull a lick, yo.

MIMIC

Get the fuck out of here.

SHINE

Yo, son, you got brain damage?

THUG

Yo, we go to the bodega, Mimic and you start a commotion and I grab three forties and put them under my shirt and walk out.

MIMIC

Yo, don't your mother swipe her benefit card there?

THUG

You, snapping, yo?

MIMIC

Nah, it's the truth. My moms does it, yo. And Shine's moms, too. They know them in there.

SHINE

And they know us.

THUG

Yo, that's why it'll be easy, yo. We'll blind side them, they won't expect it.

MIMIC

Nah, I ain't down with that. I don't want my moms to go berserk on me. She's still mad at me for getting arrested for jumping the turnstile.

SHINE

Yo, we need some cheese, yo. 'Cause I want to catch a buzz.

THUG

Yo, Yo. I got another idea.
(Pause.)

MIMIC

We ain't robbing a bank.

THUG

No, no, yo. Listen, listen. Yall know my cousin, right?

SHINE + MIMIC

Ghost?

THUG

Yeah, he could set us up with a corner.

MIMIC

Oh, niggah, please.

THUG

I'm serious, yo.

MIMIC

I don't know if I want to sell drugs, man.

THUG

The bills come rolling in like a bank, yo.

MIMIC

Yo, Shine what do you think? No, right?

SHINE

I could bankroll my music studio.

MIMIC

You'd do it?

SHINE

What do we have to lose, Yo? I mean, we ain't got nothing now. It'll be just for a little while.

THUG

So are we down or what?

MIMIC

Nah, man, count me out.

THUG

Ah, come on. You can buy all the clothes you want.

MIMIC

It ain't 'bout clothes, yo.

SHINE

You would be able to afford acting school. And you could go to Broadway plays, yo.

MIMIC

But my heart ain't in it. To be a dealer, you got to put on a mean mug all the time. You can't smile. You got to look like you're in an important club that everybody wants to join but they can't. I don't see myself as a dealer.

SHINE

Look at it like you're practicing a part in a movie, yo.

THUG

Yeah, yo. So when you do Scarface, the musical, you'd know how to act the part.

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Scarface the musical? | MIMIC |
| 'Cause I won't clock if you don't. | SHINE |
| One for all. | THUG |
| And all for one. | SHINE |
| The three amigos. | THUG + SHINE |
| So are you in? | SHINE |
| Do I call my cousin or what? | THUG |
| To hell with it. Got nothing to lose. Call your cousin. | MIMIC |
| You got a quarter? | THUG |
| No, niggah. (Mimics him.) You got a quarter? | MIMIC |
| Yo, you know we poor. | SHINE |
| Call him collect. | MIMIC |
| You can't call a drug dealer collect. | SHINE |
| Ghost is his cousin. | MIMIC |
| | THUG |

We're not calling him collect. Let's go see him.

MIMIC

Yo, he lives over forty blocks from here. I ain't walking up there, yo.

THUG

Let's take the train, then.

MIMIC

We ain't got money for the train.

THUG

We'll hop the train, yo.

MIMIC

I don't want to get busted again, yo. I ain't pay the last fine. They'll put me in jail for a couple of days, and my moms will hit the ceiling and bounce of the walls.

THUG

That's if you get busted, yo. Can't do the time if you don't get busted for the crime.

MIMIC

I can't risk it, yo.

THUG

You are making me mad, yo. Acting like a punk.

MIMIC

Get mad. I don't care.

THUG

Stop acting like a biatch.

MIMIC

You better step off.

SHINE

Cut it out. Yo, Mimic, if you don't want to go into it, we don't have to.

THUG

What? I thought we was going in?

SHINE

You can't force nobody.

This is bullshit. THUG
 Yo, I'm in. Aight? Let's go. MIMIC
 Train or walk? THUG
 Whatever? MIMIC
 Let's flag down a cabby and when we get there we run out. THUG
 Let's get it over with. MIMIC
 There's one. SHINE
 Yo, Taxi! MIMIC
 (Mimic raises his hand and the
 shoulder pops out of his socket.
 His arm points straight up.)
 My shoulder popped out.
 Yo, let's get in the cab. THUG
 I can't get in a cab like this. MIMIC
 Damn man. Let's take the train, then. THUG
 And have all these people look at me. Nah. I got to go home and have my
 moms fix it. MIMIC
 (The lights go off for a
 second.)
 What the hell was that? Like the lights was turned off. THUG
 THUG

Niggah, it's day time, hello. It was a dark cloud that crossed in front of the sun.

MIMIC

What dark cloud? There ain't a cloud in the sky.

THUG

There, son.

MIMIC

You're seeing things.

THUG

Man, you're blind.

MIMIC

Yo, shine you see a cloud?

SHINE

Nah.

THUG

Then it was a plane.

MIMIC

Did you see or hear an airplane?

THUG

Then it was a big bird.

MIMIC

Big Bird? Niggah, you better stop watching Sesame Street. Big Bird!

SHINE

Maybe it was one of those dinosaurs birds.

THUG

Like an Archaeopteryx. A Pterosaur? Pterodactyl!
(They stare at him surprised.)

SHINE

Niggah, you better stop watching Jurassic Park.

MIMIC

He's burnt out three cd's already.

THUG

So if it wasn't a cloud, a plane or a bird? What was it then? Ah? Ah?

SHINE

Maybe it was a sign.

(Mimic is lit up by a special light putting him in another dimension.)

THUG

Like a stop sign?

SHINE

No. Maybe it means that if we go into business with your cousin something bad could happen to us.

THUG

Nothing is going to happen if we sell drugs, except we're going to have cream in our pockets.

SHINE

Yo, yo, you don't know that. All signs are bad. It's like a red traffic light. It says you better stop or you're going to crash.

THUG

I don't believe that, man. That's only one sign.

SHINE

What about Mimic's shoulder?

THUG

Okay two, but everybody knows two strikes don't get you out.

SHINE

It does in softball.

THUG

I'm talking baseball niggah. Mimic what the hell you doing over there?

MIMIC

Deja vu!

THUG

Deja what the hell are you talking about?

MIMIC

Vu niggah. DEJA VU. Don't tell me you don't know what that is.

THUG

...I know... It's... It's you know... a drink you get in a bar.

MIMIC

NO!

SHINE

It's like how can I put it. It like you're going through something for the first time but it feels like you lived it before.

THUG

That never happened to me.

MIMIC

Well, it just happened to me, aight. But it was like a deja vu in the future.

THUG

How could you live something before it happens?

MIMIC

Look, I don't question it. I'm just the vessel.

THUG

So now my boy is a fortune teller.

SHINE

So what did you see, son?

MIMIC

The first thing I saw was the moment when the three of us agree to sell drugs and take a taxi to Ghost's house.

THUG

That just happened.

SHINE

No shit Sherlock. Go on Mimic.

MIMIC

Then I was transported into the future. BANG! The three of us was clocking and we was making lots of cream.

THUG

That's what I was talking about. And you said all signs was bad.

MIMIC

And you killed Shine. Shot him dead right there.

THUG

You is crazy. You know that?

SHINE

Yo, what are you doing killing me, yo?

THUG

You ain't dead.

SHINE

Yeah, I don't like the fact that you are killing me in Mimic's deja vu.

THUG

You probably deserved it. What did the fool do?

SHINE

Why did the fool kill me?

MIMIC

It's a little fuzzy. But his ass ended up in jail, though.

THUG

Get the fuck out of here. I'm never going to jail.

MIMIC

There's one more thing. When I went to see you at the funeral parlor, lights went off then back on by themselves.

SHINE

Like just now!

MIMIC

Then I promised that I'd let my shoulder pop out of its socket if I could turn back time like Superman.

(Mimic and Shine look at his
stuck arm. They scream.)

THUG

What the hell are you girls screaming at?

SHINE

His arm is out of the socket! Just like in the deja vu.

THUG

He can't turn back time. He ain't no Superman.

SHINE

It could happen yo, like in Terminator.

MIMIC

Yeap. Uhu!

SHINE

That niggah came from the future to the present and shit. Yo that could be mad real.

THUG

Mimic don't got that kind of power.

SHINE

Yo, Mimic is mad sensitive.

MIMIC

That's right, son. My mother can see what's going to happen in the future. She says sometimes the future comes to you in weird ways.

THUG

And sometimes it comes in caca like what's coming out of the two of you mouths.

SHINE

Yo, yo. Remember when Mimic predicted we was going to get suspended from school.

THUG

Niggah, I could've told you that. We set fire to the school.

SHINE

But you didn't say nothing and Mimic did. He got a gift.

MIMIC

What I'm saying though, maybe a portal opened up for me and I went into the future.

THUG

The portal in your ass. That's what opened up.

MIMIC

I know what I saw. I looked around. Hung out. Checked out the chicks.
Then came back for my peeps with the 411. Yo, Thug, in about a year your
sister gonna be fly!

THUG

You better not look at my sister if you know what's good for you.

SHINE

I believe you went into the future, son.

THUG

Yo, he's pulling your leg. How could he go into the future if he was
standing here the whole time?

SHINE

It's mental. You wouldn't understand.

MIMIC

Educate the boy.

THUG

Okay, okay. If you can see the future what am I thinking.

MIMIC

That's easy. Something stupid.

THUG

You got me. You was lucky on that one. Okay, okay. What am I gonna do
now?

MIMIC

(Chants something
unintelligible.)

Something really, really, stupid.

THUG

(Kicks Mimic on the ass.)

You didn't see that coming.

MIMIC

Boy, if you touch me again, I predict death by my two goddamn hands.

THUG

You ain't no fortune teller. Yo, Shine, you don't really believe in that,
right?

SHINE

I respect it, yo. You never know. I was thinking. Maybe Mimic turned back time and we're living in it. Wouldn't that be freaky?

THUG

You mean to tell me that Shine came back to life after I killed him?

SHINE

I knew you killed me. You admitted it. Call the police.

THUG

You guys are cookoo for Coco Puffs, I swear.

MIMIC

There was something else. Shine you dog.

SHINE

What? What?

MIMIC

You was banging Jazmin.

SHINE

Jazmin? She doesn't give me the time of day.

THUG

She's thick, yo. You should hit on that or I will.

SHINE

I don't know.

THUG

I thought you believed in that deja vu thing.

SHINE

Jazmin, ah?

MIMIC

And you left her pregnant. And she became my woman. Stop turning colors. I didn't hit on her.

SHINE

You better not! That girl is going to be mines. She's having my mini-me.

MIMIC

Oh, and I got a part in a movie with De Niro.

THUG
Yo, did you see something good for me?

MIMIC
Yeah, you went to jail.

THUG
Go to hell.

MIMIC
Yo, the deja vu is the third sign.
(Mimic's shoulder pops back
into place.)
Yo, it never popped back by itself. I ain't clocking!

SHINE
Me either yo.

MIMIC
First it was my shoulder popping out, then the sun going off, then deja vu
and now my shoulder popping back. That's four signs. Four! I'm out!

THUG
I don't believe this. Nothing is gonna happen to us, jo.

MIMIC
You have to read the signs, son.

SHINE
They're there like the bat signal.

THUG
So we are just gonna keep being poor?

MIMIC
Yo, my boy is the manager in a video store. He offered me a job. It ain't
that much but it'll keep cream in my pocket until I become a movie star.

THUG
I could see you punking out but not us, right Shine?

SHINE
Yo, I ain't letting you kill me. I'm putting an application in that new record
shop they're opening down block.

THUG

You're getting a job just because of a deja vu? You mugs are stupidstitious.

MIMIC

You have to respect the signs.

SHINE

Yo, Thug they have a help wanted sign over at the Korean sneaker store. You should apply for the job.

THUG

What? Nah, man. Not me.

MIMIC

You should go for it, son. You'll get sneakers in discount. Could set up your peeps with mad savings.

SHINE

Word! You know how much you love sneakers.

THUG

Man! I don't know man. Damn son! What about my Lincoln Navigator? Nobody gets rich selling sneakers.

SHINE

Yo, one day you could end up owning the store, yo. You never know. You can call it "THUGS."

MIMIC

Or Thuggys."

MIMIC + SHINE

ROGELIO'S!

THUG

(Pause.)

I want to clock with my peeps. 'Cause you got to have backup when you clock. And I don't trust no one but you two. I don't even trust my cousin. Are you sure you ain't down? Last chance. Damn.

(They shake their heads no.)

MIMIC

Yo, let's get out of here and go see the Jackie Chan movie.

THUG

But we ain't got no cream, yo.

MIMIC

Let's ask our moms for some.

SHINE

And we can buy a huge popcorn and extra large huge soda and share it.

MIMIC

Let's go see Jackie Chang kick some ass.

(Shine tickles Mimic. As they start to imitate a kung fu fight. They stop fighting and start to exit. But Thug stops looking in the direction of his cousin's house.)

THUG

Yo, my cousin's crib is that way.

(Shine and Mimic look in the direction Thug has pointed to.)

MIMIC

And my Mom's house is this way.

(Mimic and Shine begin start to walk towards their mother's home then stop and look at Thug who's just standing looking in the other direction.)

MIMIC

Are you coming or what?...

THUG

Yo, I'm out.

SHINE

Yo, son, didn't you hear Mimic's deja vu?

THUG

I don't believe in that shit. Ya momma's boyz do what ya got to. I ma' do mines.

MIMIC

Thug. We know what's going to happen to you if you go down that road.

SHINE

It's destiny, son.

THUG

Hey, ya two ain't coming. Our destinies changed. Didn't you Back To The Future? If you change one thing in the past, it changes the future.

MIMIC

That's true. But yours can change for the worse. You could even end up dead.

THUG

Or maybe not! But I know one thing for sure, If ya don't come, Mimic you won't get your movie with DeNiro!

MIMIC

Or maybe I'll get a part where I don't have to be a drug dealer.

THUG

And Shine won't get Destiny. She ain't going out with no store clerk. And forget about your recording studio.

SHINE

Hey, if Destiny is meant to be, it'll happen. And I'll make my recording happen no matter what.

THUG

Ya so stupid! Look around. We live in the ghetto. The only people living large is the dealers. Everybody else is broke. Always borrowing. Hoping they hit the lottery or that a Brinks truck crashes in front of their building. I don't want to be a dream killer, but yo, ya really think ya gonna make it? How long it gonna take ya? I want what's coming to me now, dogs. I can't wait twenty years to get what's coming to me. There is a lot of bullets out here with no names on them flying around. You never know when one is going to bust your head open. Tomorrow might not come.

MIMIC

You're right about that, yo. But I've got to listen to my feelings. And they're not just talking to me. They're screaming at me that this is wrong. The Déjà vu was as clear as day. I know you don't believe I turned back time. I don't think I believe it myself. But if it happened, then we're getting a second chance. And you can't turn your back on second chances. You can't!

SHINE

You better listen to Mimic, yo.

THUG

I'm out!

(Thug exits.)

MIMIC

THUG! THUG! Fuck man! I'm going after him.

SHINE

Let him go, man

(Hold Mimic back.)

MIMIC

He's so fucking hard headed.

SHINE

He wouldn't be Thug if he wasn't.

MIMIC

I've never been wrong about my predictions.

SHINE

Yo... I know. That's why I ain't clocking. You ain't got to tell me things two twice. Come on. Mimic what are you going to do?

(PAUSE)

MIMIC

Let's go ask our Moms for some money to go to the movies.

(Shine begins to do karate moves to Mimic who at first doesn't respond, then he begins to defend himself without much enthusiasm. Then he not only defends himself, but begins to attack. As the lights fade they begins to exits towards their mother's house, Mimic takes one more look looking for Thug before exiting.
BLACKOUT

END OF PLAY