

Screenplay

9 LIVES

IT WAS THE WINTER, IT WAS COLD, IT WAS THE COLD WINTER.

FADE IN: CITY HALL ATMOSPHERE

ext:day. The trees were blowing in the wind as the traffic starts and the avenue near the train station comes alive(clothespin atmosphere).

LENNY

You late man,we got a job to do.

ANDRE

Man we don't get paid for this so i come when i get ready.

LENNY

We do get paid, you don't feel the love in the air or the smiles from the kids faces or even the money as a token of appreciation.

ANDRE

Okay give everyone else the same guilt trip lecture.(laughs)

LENNY

Believe me(gazing at the clear sunny sky)i can see clearly now the rain is gone.singing)

ANDRE

(looking at him confused)What?

Cut to: Early morning Passing in Traffic Big Mills showtime manager bumps into the group.

BEY

Hey excuse me are you Big Mills from uptown records. Yeah you they a&r right.

BIG MILLS

Yeah how'd you know

BEY

I know you from other things and other places.

(CONTINUED)

BIG MILLS  
Well good what's up

BEY  
Well we got a group and we want to  
be heard.

BIG MILLS  
Okay, are y'all worth my time  
because everybody want to be heard.

BEY  
(listen)

ext:day. They start to sing and play.

BIG MILLS  
I like what i hear and i think i  
can do something with y'all.

BEY  
Okay give us a number we can call  
it's two more of us so we would  
love to audition correctly at a  
later time.

BIG MILLS  
Here's my card call me when y'all  
ready.

ext:day. The other two walking together joking and  
laughing.

LENNY  
You late!

BEY  
Yeah but with good reason, tell him  
Train.-(calling all angels)

JUSTIN  
We were held up by someone  
important.

ANDRE  
Oh yeah who?

JUSTIN  
Big Mills the manager from uptown  
records. He's looking for groups  
and we worked out an audition.Ha!

LENNY

Okay well let's get started.

ext: day. They begin laughing and playing their first song.

Music gets lower.

ANDRE

How many times you gonna kill the  
note man.

LENNY

I got my thing bro worry about you  
being my back up. You a back up  
remember that.

Pan out: They continue playing. As the sun goes down.

Fade out: Scene picks up later that night at Bey's gig. The  
strip club.

DIXIE

You ready girl, (bey stairs  
angrily) I know i ask that every  
night but i ask myself that too  
before i start every night.(sits  
quiet thinking)

BEY

You need to make sure your reason  
for being hear is more important  
than what your getting ready for  
and then you won't have to ask that  
question.(gets up and starts to  
walk out)

DIXIE

Wait can i walk out with you?

BEY

Come on scary. (laughing)

int:night. Main floor strip club.

The music is on and the men are staring as they walk out.

BIG BOSS

Lets go, lets go, get on  
stage!(smacks bey on the ass)

BEY

I hate this place.

(CONTINUED)

DIXIE

If your reason for being here  
super(stumbles at the word)

BEY

SHUT UP!(GETS ON STAGE)

int: night. stage strip club.

Men are hollering obscene comments and its aggravating Bey  
as she shakes it off and makes the money.

Cut to: Bey getting her key in the door to go in the house.

int:night. Bey's house.

BEY FATHER

When you gonna do something with  
your life!(bey ignoring and mocking  
her father's comments.)

BEY'S FATHER

continues)yelling!

BEY

Gets fed up and leaves the room.

BEY'S SISTER

What you gonna do?

BEY

Look whatever happens you know i  
love you but i gotta go.

BEY'S SISTER

Where you gonna go?(crying)

BEY

I don't know but i gotta get the  
hell out of here!

int:night. Bey packing her clothes starts to walk out.

Cut to: Andre's job as a waiter at the restaurant.

ANDRE

I'm so tired of this shit, i like  
it, it's like it's driving me crazy  
so much i enjoy it you know what  
I'm saying.

(CONTINUED)

EXTRA WAITER

Mike Andre is back hear losing it again.

ANDRE

(picking up orders)  
Soon I'll be on that radio and everybody will be cleaning the back to my music.

EXTRA WAITER

He's losing it!(telling supervisor, everyone laughs)

ANDRE

(Andre clocks out )  
It's about time see y'all tomorrow man.

Cut to: Andre house

ANDRE

What's the problem now?

ANDRE'S WIFE

You living a dream and the problem is it don't feed growing kids.

ANDRE

Look i don't know what to tell you i can't, i don't know anything else besides i don't want anything else! look baby it's gonna work out.

ANDRE'S WIFE

No it's not! why don't you just leave i can handle it on my own.

ANDRE

No you can't(looking suspiciously)

ANDRE'S WIFE

(Looks back with a guilty look)  
Look I'm sorry but i have to think about me and OUR children first.

ANDRE

(looks pitiful and walks out)  
I know what i gotta do. Well i know what you are asking.(cries)

Cut to: Lenny house walks up and sees an eviction notice.

(CONTINUED)

LENNY

Shit what the fuck now no no no!  
not now come on please!(sits on  
hallway floor and cries then dozes  
off.)

PAN:BLEND OUT AS IF TIME PASSED BY.

int:night. Passer by through the hall tells him to get up  
and go in.

LENNY

I might as well get used to it.

INT:night. He goes in

OVER THE SHOULDER: DOOR CLOSSES

INT:NIGHT. HE WALKS IN THROWS HIS STUFF AND GRABS HIS GUITAR  
AND PLAYS. SINGS A SAD SONG LOOKS AROUND AND NOTICES HE'S  
ALONE LOOKS AT A PICTURE OF HIS EX-WIFE AND KIDS AND THINKS.

LENNY

Maybe i should give this bullshit  
up, get a job and try to get my  
family back.(throws notice on  
table)

CLOSE UP: to notice, says eviction immediate.

Int:day. Justin's job as a aid at the local skating rink for  
teens.He blows the whistle!

JUSTIN

Time out, Timeout. Listen you in  
the red if i have to warn you one  
more time you will be sent to the  
timeout bench.

YOUNG TEENAGER

Flips him the finger

JUSTIN

Uhhh! i fucking hate this job. You,  
You! right there out!  
O U T OUT!!

TEEN AND GIRLFRIEND

Oh my god listen to him! out out  
out haha

(CONTINUED)

TEEN AND GIRLFRIEND

I hope i don't be like that when  
I'm older haha

TEEN AND GIRLFRIEND

Yeah i wonder what he was like when  
he was younger.

TEEN AND GIRLFRIEND

Yeah he's probably one of those  
angry adults mad at younger kids  
because his life is trash hahaha  
see you out there! weeeeeeee(  
skates away)

JUSTIN

(Looks in the midst and puts  
head down then skates off  
disappointed.)

MEDIUM CLOSE UP: HE PUNCHES OUT

MANAGER SKATING RINK

Hey where are you going i got a 100  
kid party up next you can't leave!

JUSTIN

Fuck this do it yourself man.

MANAGER SKATING RINK

You can't leave or your fired!

JUSTIN

I can't do this anymore i quit.

SIDE SHOT CLOSE: SINGING AND HUMMING TO HIS TUNES WHILE  
SEATED ON THE BUS.

CUT-IN: TRAIN'S HOUSE

JUSTIN

This is bullshit!

JUSTIN'S WIFE

No but when all of our life's  
savings is on music equipment that  
we can't afford that's bullshit!

JUSTIN

Fuck! Fuck! Fuck!(cries out of  
disgust and anger)

Fade to: The neighborhood club Friday night talent search.  
Everyone's there.

(CONTINUED)

Int: Lenny's first at the table as the rest walks in and sits with him. He's looking worried.

ANDRE

Oh shit what's wrong bra?

LENNY

The same shit just a different day, sorry man I'll be alright.

ANDRE

I got the same story too but it seems (cut off)

BEY

It seems it's getting worse. Look at us. Look at what we are becoming. Our dream seems to be just, that a dream.

JUSTIN

I don't want to give up, how can i live with that, but how can i live with this.

ANDRE

I mean we doing shows we performing everywhere local and in other cities but we ain't getting nothing for it. I don't know how long i, (cut off)

BEY

Ain't that Big Mills?

ANDRE

Yeah, and look he want us to come over.

FAR AWAY SHOT: SIGNALING FOR GANG TO JOIN HIM.

LENNY

Well hopefully his story better than ours.

JUSTIN

Let's go it's VIP what are we waiting for?

CUTAWAY: BIG MILLS AT THE TABLE TALKING AND LAUGHING WITH FIVE OTHER PEOPLE.

(CONTINUED)

BIG MILLS

(laughing) Have a seat i want y'all to meet some good people. This is your whole gang huh.

BEY

In the flesh.

ANDRE

Hey we really want to talk to you about getting us in the right position. I mean we good and the people love us but it still seems as if no one's hearing us.

BIG MILLS

Well i asked around you know, and i hear you guys got what it takes so i would love to plug you in and get you on but, right now I'm tied into a serious situation with the whole budget into this project as a matter of fact let me introduce them. Everybody meet the headbangers.

HEADBANGERS

Good to meet you.

THE GANG

Good to meet you too.

WAITRESS

The usual Mr. Mills.

BIG MILLS

Yeah the usual, make it three.

WAITRESS

Coming up

BEY

So, you are the lucky five.

PINK

Yep, how are you? Meet, Mariah, Em, Akin, and Kid.

PAN: EVERY SIGNALS A HELLO.

BEY

Colorful bunch, how'd you guys meet?

(CONTINUED)

AKIN

In college we were all in the same major in arts and we all love each other style of music and we linked together and had the top song in the nation in the college band arena anyway.

MARIAH

So here we are still at it.

EM

It's definitely been a long ride.

KID

Yeah and it's about to get longer but more fruitfully exciting.

BIG MILLS

Glad you mentioned fruitful because what i have planned for you is the best campaign that any record label can offer. When we are through you will be known across the world. All you gotta do is keep making hits.( rubbing hands together.)

Continuation: Big mills.

Hey you know just for kicks and laughs um let me hear you guys sing. You know show them why you got a deal.

PINK

Hey okay, ready everyone.

AKIN

Always

MEDIUM CLOSE UP: STARTS TO SING AND CREATE A BEAT.

BIG MILLS

That's an original.

LENNY

Hey that's cool um can we give y'all a little something.

BIG MILLS

Stole the words right out of my mouth.

MEDIUM CLOSE UP: STARTS TO SING AND GETS SOME HEAD NODS FROM THE OTHER BAND.

(CONTINUED)

WAITRESS

Here you go. ( she pours )

BIG MILLS

Hey can i matter of fact you guys  
are musicians right,

EVERYONE

right.

BIG MILLS

So let me hear you guys start and  
then you guys come in. You know  
blend in and find what's missing  
and and your taste to it.

ANDRE

Sounds good to me.

WIDE:STARTS TO SING. THEN THE OTHERS BLEND IN. MAGIC  
HAPPENS.

BIG MILLS

Damn it almost sounds as if all of  
you should,

BEY

Should what

EXT:night. looks up at attention.

BIG MILLS

What you think i think this could  
be the start of something big. Both  
of you have a fan base both of you  
are ready i only have room for one  
group so why not the two become  
one. I think it can work. I tell  
you what try it produce for me  
three songs and then make your  
decision but i tell you this if you  
can work together it'll mean more  
support from the label. What do you  
think.

LENNY

It's worth a shot. (looks around  
for everyone's approval)

EVERYONE

Agrees and shakes hands.

( CONTINUED )

EM

We all just getting in this game on this level so what's the worst that can happen I'm all for it.

EVERYONE

Yeah, yeah let's do it.

BIG MILLS

A TOAST, TO SOMETHING MAKING HITS TOGETHER, ALL OF US. 9 MEMBERS IN A GROUP, 9 PERSONALITIES, 9 TALENTS,DAMN, I'M MANAGING 9 LIVES, YEAH, 9 LIVES.

Ext:night. outdoor deck. They toast

FADE AWAY: THE NEXT DAY IN THE STUDIO

The crew having trouble trying to come up with something.(a musical hit.)

WIDE: THE WHOLE CREW-PAN:

BEY

Okay let's try this.( starts to play.No good)

LENNY

Let's just take sometime off and think. Tomorrow we will come up with something.

EM

Who made you the captain?

LENNY

Nobody i just figured,it needed to be said.

EM

Yo just cause this is how it's arranged don't mean shit we still have an independent deal. We make our own decisions!

LENNY

What is it with you man? , we in this together.

KID

Hey man, the fuck we are.

(CONTINUED)

ANDRE

Everybody calm down now look at what's happening.

AKIN

You calm down! What's happening is you and your fucking fake ass rock crew is stealing our shine.

PINK

A, is right this is our fucking time!

BEY

Fuck you and your group I'm out, i quit!

JUSTIN

Hold everyone we have to learn how to do this together!

MARIAH

Lenny's right now everybody calm down this is what BIG MILLS wants.

Int:night. BIG MILLS WALKS IN.(SLOWLY)everything is quiet.

BIG MILLS

I tell you what, if this don't get you to swallow your pride and realize what you are dealing with i don't know what will.

CONTINUATION:

The top execs told me to give the word to you straight and plain so there's no misunderstanding.

LENNY

Alright lay it on us.

EM

Yeah lay it on us(sarcastically looks at Lenny.)

BIG MILLS

(looks at both of them.) There's a new group out from Europe and the company is looking to invest a great deal if not all of our budget in them. They have a tremendous buzz and for the life of me i can't sway their decision. They have

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BIG MILLS (cont'd)  
given me one chance to prove to  
them i have the right thing going  
on. They told me to be in Europe in  
three months to work with them.  
Which would have been sooner had i  
not convinced them to give me a  
shot with you all.

ANDRE

Three months! I knew this was too  
good to be true. And y'all sitting  
here arguing over who's group it  
is! No body got a group now! we  
getting put on the shelf for some  
group out of Europe!

LENNY

Yeah BIG what can we do in three  
months that's gonna change their  
mind because from the looks of  
things we might as well hang it up.

BIG MILLS

If you want this! Then three months  
is all you got to prove it. Because  
right now they not interested in  
you or you or you, they interested  
only in a group producing a hit, if  
that can't happen, hell without  
ever meeting y'all or even knowing  
your names they'll let you  
go.(takes a breath)

CONTINUATION:

So whatever your differences  
you were having they're the same  
now,three months or no deal, either  
work with it or work without it.  
But if you can't make them  
believers, there's nothing i can  
do. I'm sorry.(leaves)

AKIN

If that don't wake you up then i  
don't know what will. Us them them  
us we the same now either we find  
what we are missing or we back to  
what we wanted to miss.

BEY

We all said our goodbye's too that  
life and our hello's to this new  
dream. I'm not ready to wake up.

(CONTINUED)

PINK

(picks up instrument) We all have  
to find where we fit in.

JUSTIN

(grabs mic clears throat.) Okay  
everybody swallow your pride  
imagine yourself living on the mean  
streets a lonely dirty has been and  
never was because of your ego.

ANDRE

Damn man that's sad.

KID

(starts to play) everybody imagine  
where you fit in.

MARIAH

(grabs other mic) starts to hum and  
sing.

LENNY

(starts to play) It's all or  
nothing.

EM

All or nothing, let's do this.

Int: night. They start to play and laugh together.

FADE AWAY: NEXT DAY STARTS

EXT: DAY. THE GANG WALKING DOWN THE STREET TALKING.

ANDRE

Okay we got three months to make  
some noise and prove to them we are  
the next big thing. What's the best  
way to do that.

LENNY

Justin you still got that radio  
contact?

JUSTIN

Yep sure do. And i see where you  
are going I'm on it.

BEY

Where are you going?

(CONTINUED)

LENNY

Well seeing as how we don't have any promo money we can't throw a concert under a well known name and tail end it. So the only way to make noise is to become the main name.

EM

If we create a hit or the best thing to it then maybe,

JUSTIN

Maybe we can convince the radio stations to play it constantly until they request it.

PINK

How the hell you gonna do that?

JUSTIN

I'm owed a favor at that station and it's time to cash in.

KID

Well alright.

ANDRE

Then we create a buzz, they play it in all the clubs and nightspots.

LENNY

We start a frenzy, then perform with anyone who's looking for a stage. We headline as the main event and

AKIN

And we look like the superstars,

MARIAH

And BIG SHOT RECORDS now direct their attention to us,

LENNY

Then with a lot of luck we will still be considered the budget, plus created a buzz and hopefully get the green light on an album.

EM

Sounds like a plan.

(CONTINUED)

PINK

That or wishful thinking. Either way it's all we got and it's possible.

BEY

What do we got to lose.

JUSTIN

A contract.(looks down sadly)

BEY

Can't lose something you never had.

INT: BIG SHOT RECORDS MEETING. day-(coke sniffing)

BIG MILLS

(does a line) Yeah i think the motivation i gave them will work. Most musicians perform better under pressure.

EXECUTIVE 1

And if they don't?

BIG MILLS

Then they wasn't worth our time.

EXECUTIVE 2

(does a line) to be honest with you I'm not having no fun with this group. They better perform or i will find someone.

BIG MILLS

They will, and if its fun you want, then I'll arrange some,huh, For all of us, if you know what i mean.( devilishly laughs)

EXECUTIVE 1

If i know you, and i like to think i do it involves the sexy one from the group.

BIG MILLS

Hey why not add some excitement to her life. We might get a hit out of it.

EXECUTIVE 2

Dude you are fucked up but count me in.( does another line and laughs)

(CONTINUED)

BIG MILLS

I wasn't pimping for nothing. I graduated. This is referee status. I don't play games with the players no more. (sarcastic and cool confident strolls away.)

CUTAWAY: STUDIO WITH THE GROUP.

int:dawn-studio BIG MILLS WALKS IN.

BIG MILLS

Anything i want to hear yet or you guys are taking it light.

AKIN

We definitely not doing that.

BEY

You wanna hear something?

BIG MILLS

Of course. That's why I'm hear. (sits)

LENNY

Okay guys let's go, hear it is.

INT: DAWN- THEY START TO PLAY BEY STARTS TO SING MARIAH AND PINK BACKS HER.

BIG MILLS

I like, I like. when can i hear something that sounds like a hit.

ANDRE

Damn what are you looking for?

BIG MILLS

I'm looking for fire, that spark that gets the world moving not just the club or concert but that tune and voice collaboration that make the world sing along and let loose.

PINK

You don't want much, we will deliver by tomorrow.

EVERYONE

(laughs) yeah tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

LENNY

I'll tell you what well damn sure try.

BIG MILLS

Well that's all i can ask. Hey B let me speak with you.(walks toward door)

EVERYONE

(looks away at them leave)

EM

Come on y'all let's get to it.

Ext: dawn- hallway comes out to talk to BIG MILLS

BEY

What's up?

BIG MILLS

You, listen, i need you to do something if you want an edge on this group getting a confirmed yes to the budget. I got it in the bag , but i know how i can seal it for you guys.

BEY

How is that?(looks obvious)

BIG MILLS

The top execs are throwing a listening party for the new group hot chicks. Why don't you come, get to know some people, you know, work the industry.

BEY

Okay i can do that.(smiles)

BIG MILLS

Okay I'll see you there and we'll discuss things further. Oh and listen let this be between us, you know it's an exclusive party and who they invite is who they invite. If it was up to me i would have everyone there but you know.

BEY

Yeah i know don't worry it's still for the team.

(CONTINUED)

BIG MILLS

That's the right attitude. Well you better get back to your team. I'll call you with the details.

BEY

Okay see you there.

BIG MILLS

(smiles and watches her walk away.rubs his hands together.  
) Yeah I'm about to come up.(says like a sigh of relief)

ANDRE

What was that about?

BEY

Nothing let's get to work.(smiles)

LENNY

Looks like more than nothing.

BEY

Nothing than you should concern yourself with.

EM

We a group everything concerns us all.

BEY

Well I'm all for the group by any means necessary.

AKIN

Huh, OK rebel.

BEY

Now let's get to work!

EVERYONE

Yeah okay(laughs)

FADE AWAY: TONIGHT AT THE LISTENING PARTY FOR THE EXECs.

BIG MILLS

Hey glad you can make it. I got some people you need to meet.

BEY

See this here is where i need to be right here where the action is.

(CONTINUED)

BIG MILLS

If is action you want then you in  
the right place. Come meet the  
executive directors for BIG SHOT  
RECORDS. Sonny, Slim meet Bey

SONNY(EXEC 1)

Glad to meet you.

BEY

You too.(smiles)

SLIM(EXEC 2)

I've heard good things about you. I  
hope there all true.

BEY

If they are good then there true.

SLIM(EXEC 2)

Let's talk for a minute come with  
me.

BIG MILLS

(whispering to Sonny) He don't  
waste no time.

SONNY(EXEC 1)

No he don't.(quietly signaling to  
slim I'm next.)

SLIM(EXEC 2)

Let's get some drinks.

BEY

That's fine with me.

SLIM(EXEC 2)

Come with me V.I.P. area.

Int: night- VIP area secluded people in the back doing lines  
coke and kissing.

BEY

So this is what goes on win rich  
people get together.(unimpressed)

SLIM(EXEC 2)

Somewhat, the rich you can tell  
they are always the quiet ones  
sitting to the side the wealthy  
yeah the are the wild ones they  
live while rich now they don't give  
a fuck.

(CONTINUED)

BEY

That's how you tell the difference?

SLIM(EXEC 2)

Yeah, but let's talk about you.(hands her a drink)

BEY

My favorite subject.(sarcastically responds)

SLIM(EXEC 2)

I like to get to the point. I like your image and i believe in your success now i don't know about the rest of them and don't get me wrong i want you with the group i just need you to know that at any given time you may be considered for a solo deal.

BEY

Why me why not Mariah, pink or any of the guys.

SLIM(EXEC 2)

(grabs her leg softly and rubs) Why not you? besides if you caught my eye than it's something about you and keep in mind i make the final call.

BEY

(looks concerned of his attempt to subdue her with his power and success with words) um i don't know about this.

SLIM(EXEC 2)

Hey I'm just trying to make a new friend and in this business it's a cold world and if you have no friends, no one to call on you will fail and fall and wither away. You need someone in high places to call on.(he leans in to kiss her neck)let's go somewhere more comfortable.(grabs her hand) Come with me.

BEY

(grabs her drink swallows it down and leaves with him thinking and

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BEY (cont'd)  
softly says.) I need more than a  
friend.

PAN: BIG MILLS AND SONNY WATCHING FROM AFAR.

BIG MILLS  
Batters up!

SONNY  
Welcome to the business.

BIG MILLS  
I been in the business, and  
truthfully my line of work was more  
easier to swallow.(smiles but looks  
sorrily at Bey and Slim walk away.)  
At least the girls new what they  
was getting themselves into.

SERIES OF SHOTS: BEY IS HALF NAKED.

SERIES OF SHOTS: BEY AND SLIM DRINKING HARD LIQUOR FROM THE  
BOTTLE.

SERIES OF SHOTS: BEY IS FULLY NAKED AND GETTING CARESSED BY  
SLIM.

SERIES OF SHOTS: BIG MILLS WALKS IN WITH SONNY.

SERIES OF SHOTS: THEY PUT BEY ON THE LINE OF COKE AND SHE  
SNIFFS AND CHOKES.

SERIES OF SHOTS: THEY TURN HER OUT ROUGHLY.

SERIES OF SHOTS: SHE IS IN THE CORNER TRYING TO COVER UP  
WITH HER SHIRT. SHE IS SHAKING IN SHOCK AND DISAPPOINTMENT.

Ext: day- Andre ,Em, Pink, Lenny , Akin, Mariah , Kid ,  
Justin , are all putting up flyers for their concert on main  
street.

LENNY  
Anybody heard from Bey.

ANDRE  
Not me, i think she had a rough  
night she dialed my cell and  
sounded kinda groggy last night.

LENNY  
What she say?

(CONTINUED)

ANDRE

Something about her doing this for the group.

JUSTIN

Doing what for the group?

ANDRE

Who knows, she hung up and i guess went to sleep.

EM

We all doing something for the group so she should be here too.

LENNY

Maybe she got a logical reason for missing today's work.

MARIAH

Give her a chance to explain herself.

PINK

Hey if we all got to stick it out then everyone should be here. Now i don't know about you but I'd rather split royalties eight ways instead of nine.

KID

Discipline is what it's all about if she don't have it she has to go.

AKIN

That's the way we always ran our groups.

LENNY

Everybody calm down give her a chance now.(phone rings) Hello?

CUT-TO: BEY AT A HOTEL.

BEY

Hello, how is everyone?(sounding hungover)

LENNY

We are good, what's this about you doing something for the group.

(CONTINUED)

BEY

Oh please you don't know the half of it. I had a long night promoting at an listening party and i stayed to talk to the right people or at least i thought they were, anyway i did it for the group and that's that! I should've left(thinking back) but i didn't.

LENNY

Oh well, can you make it? Are you okay?(loudly speaking trying to alert the group she's not feeling well, excuse her)

BEY

I feel fine now. I just had to figure out some things that's all.

LENNY

Okay well I'll take care of your part and I'll see you at rehearsal.

ANDRE

You man what happened?

LENNY

She had a long night and fell she'll be okay, she'll be at rehearsal.

Int: day- At rehearsal they come up with the first seven songs and they are dynamite waiting to be lit.

Int: studio

ANDRE

I think we got that fire BIG MILLS is looking for.

EM

I think you right I'm bout to call'em.

LENNY

What's gotten into you? You sung with so much feeling.

BEY

I guess I'm ready now.(sniffs)

(CONTINUED)

LENNY

Well alright.

EM

I'll give the guy a call and tell him WE are ready.

SPLIT SCREEN: EM CALLS BIG MILLS.

BIG MILLS

What you got for me?

EM

The next platinum no double platinum album.

BIG MILLS

It's finished?

EM

It's seven songs in and ready for you.

BIG MILLS

Good good i can work with that they better be worth the trip for me.

EM

(jokingly)It will man just get your ass over here before we give it to another record producer, this is that fire.

BIG MILLS

Yeah alright be right there.

CUTAWAY:BIG MILLS AT THE OFFICE.

BIG MILLS

I think they ready.

EXECUTIVE 1

Go check it out call me if they got heat. Oh and set up another party.(haha)

BIG MILLS

(looks sorry) I got you covered.

Ext: day- Outside the big shot records building.(horn beep!)

(CONTINUED)

BIG MILLS

What's up Mack?

MACK

What's happening a Mills you still owe me man for that favor. Hop in.

BIG MILLS

Where we going?

MACK

Don't worry. I just want to speak with you now check it out. I think it 's time you show me some appreciation and return the favor your owe.

BIG MILLS

A Mack i really appreciate what you did for me man but i'm out the game now. Shit i ain't mack a bitch since i started this A&R job.

MACK

Yeah and who got you that job? Huh, when you needed to have one to be released who stuck they neck out! Look man i always looked out for you it's time you repay me!

BIG MILLS

Man what you want from me then?

MACK

Look Money Mills i love you man i ain't trying to hurt you but hear me out i took the hoes off the street and got in the escort game and it's good you know, but i'm having trouble getting me some fine ass younger women.

BIG MILLS

Funny how that's where i always come in.

MACK

Didn't i give you your first bitch when you tried to slide in this game. I showed you the ropes!

(CONTINUED)

BIG MILLS

Alright man! alright, look i might  
can do something for you but you  
got to give me a figure to work  
with, that's believable and  
attainable at least for the  
beginning.

MACK

10,000 a week.( blows out cigar  
smoke) I got high class clientele.

BIG MILLS

You lie you lie you lie.(laughs)  
Give me your number.

MACK

(hands him a card) By the way the  
chick you was at the party talking  
to that you introduced my clientele  
to. That's who i want Money.(looks  
serious)

BIG MILLS

Okay, Okay then I'm off the hook.

MACK

Then you clean with me. Taking it  
easy right pimping.

BIG MILLS

Taking it easy, always. Catch you  
later.

MACK

(speeds off) Show me what you made  
of!

BIG MILLS

(thinking) Fuck i always get caught  
up in some shit. Taxi! Taxi!  
shit.(drives pass him, he heads for  
the subway)

CUT TO: STUDIO THEY ARE GETTING READY TO REHEARSE AGAIN.

Int: Day-studio. Big Mills walks in serious looking.

LENNY

You ready?

(CONTINUED)

BEY  
I'm ready, yall ready?

EVERYONE  
We're ready.

LENNY  
Let's do it.

Int: day- They start and it's that sound he wanted. It's fire He listens and sits down.

BIG MILLS  
(stands and give them an ovation.)  
Bravo! That was amazing. Look let me take the cd and go over it with the execs and give you guys a call with their response.

BEY  
Hey let's wish for the best.(winks)

BIG MILLS  
Yeah speaking of the best come here for a second Bey let me talk to you.

MARIAH  
Speaking of the best, what?

Int: day- Walks out of the studio.

BEY  
What's up?

BIG MILLS  
Look I'm going to be straight with you and i want you to think about it and call me later.

BEY  
Talk to me and if it's about the other night,

BIG MILLS  
No not about that. But speaking of that i kinda feel responsible for your success. I want you to make it. I want the world to see the successful you.

BEY

Why me and,

BIG MILLS

Why not you. Listen if this group goes good and they like the product. It's still alot fame and realistically speaking no fortune.

BEY

No fortune! then what the fuck are we wasting time for. This was your idea and besides what the fuck was that about the other night if it won't help the group!

BIG MILLS

Look quiet down okay. That got you guys a guaranteed return favor.

BEY

Some favor.

BIG MILLS

Let me get to the point. If this group blows up and the music is accepted. You guys will be a group in demand but can't afford to accommodate your audience. Think about it, split the profit nine ways and you got enough to probably keep a good image of success.

BEY

I figured that but i was hoping that it would be different.

BIG MILLS

Well it's not and the truth of the matter the only group to make anything will be the execs. But i want you to at least fall on your feet while your in demand.

BEY

How am i gonna do that?

BIG MILLS

By taking control and seizing every opportunity so that you get paid on all angles. There's alot of ways to get alot of money you just got to be open to them.

(CONTINUED)

BEY

Wow I'm not surprise to hear that line. I've heard it before.

BIG MILLS

Okay well then you know not just your music is in high demand and i think you better use what you can to get to the top. See it don't matter how you get there as long as you get there.

BEY

So what you got now?

BIG MILLS

I want to introduce you to someone who can guarantee you 10,000 a week working with high class clientele like the execs and who knows if you play your cards right, you can control the game, maybe from another level. Can i set up the meeting.

BEY

Let me think about it i got alot on my plate right now you know with the album and my responsibility to the group and all.

BIG MILLS

Oh okay cool well if you don't think long than come to this cocktail mixer tonight at the rooftop my table will be in the back.(looks at the cd)

BEY

I love making music Big and i want to get paid for what i do.

BIG MILLS

Babygirl the reality of it is sometimes the best music given to the world was not only accredited to the author but most of the time he never seen a dime. Seize all opportunities. Hope to see you tonight.

BEY

Hey Big you got any(smiles ) you know.

(CONTINUED)

BIG MILLS

Huh, Yeah babygirl here. (she grabs it he grips her hand tight.) Be on time tonight.

BEY

Okay.

CUTAWAY: BACK IN THE STUDIO.

PINK

What was that about?

BEY

Nothing but hey anybody free tonight?

EVERYONE

Yeah what's up?

BEY

We been invited to a cocktail mixer tonight.

LENNY

Cool let's do it.

ANDRE

Hey yall this is it all or nothing. 9 lives everybody in.

EM

Come on everybody 9 lives put your hand in.

EVERYONE

(puts hand in raises it in excitement.) It's our time!

EXT: DAWN- BIG MILLS CALLS MACK.

BIG MILLS

A, be at the rooftop tonight.

MACK

Damn rookie you work fast.

BIG MILLS

We clear after this. Oh and Mack do me a solid man and that number you told me, deliver for me minus my cut off the top. So you better keep her busy.

(CONTINUED)

MACK

Same ole' Money Mills, you'll be back in the game soon. Just give it time.

BIG MILLS

I hope you wrong. I'm Taking it easy.

MACK

Taking it easy. Get right to it tonight.

BIG MILLS

Yeah(hangs up)

CUT TO: BIG MILLS WALKS IN GREET'S ALMOST EVERYONE SPOTS MACK IN THE BACK, PROCEEDS IN HIS DIRECTION.

INT: NIGHT- ROOFTOP PARTY.

BIG MILLS

What's up Pimping?

MACK

(blows out cigar smoke) Where she at?

BIG MILLS

She'll be here.

PAN: P.O.V. THEY WATCH THE WHOLE GROUP COME IN.

BIG MILLS

Damn she brought everyone. Check this out I'm gonna introduce you to the group as a manager. When you get her alone you can spit your rap to her and she'll know then who you are.

Int:-night\_ BIG MILLS WAVES THEM OVER. THEY COME OVER.

BIG MILLS

9 lives glad all of you can make it. I'd like you to meet someone this is Mack from L.A. he's a manager as well.

EVERYONE

(shakes hands and share hello's)

(CONTINUED)

MACK

I hear alot of great things about  
the group. This is the next big  
thing huh.

ANDRE

That's right we are.

BIG MILLS

Excuse me guys, I'll be right back.

Int: night- Big Mills walks over to the D.J. booth and grabs  
the mic.

BIG MILLS

A D.J. your night just got easy.  
Put this C.D. in I'm changing this  
into a listening party.(starts  
talking on the mic)

BIG MILLS

Hey everybody. I want you to meet a  
new group coming out of New York  
and they are on fire. 9 Lives stand  
up.

9 lives

(stands up suprised)

BIG MILLS

I want everyone to listen to the  
new sounds of 9 Lives.

DJ

(plays music) Check it out that was  
Big Mills from Big Shot records and  
i'm am officially off and will join  
the crowd.(puts on the c.d.)

Int:-night- Everyone starts to listen to the music.

LENNY

We didn't know it was a listening  
party.

BIG MILLS

Well it wasn't but it was a good  
opportunity to get the business  
interested in your music in case  
the execs don't move fast enough.

(CONTINUED)

MARIAH

That's our manager looking out for our best interest.

BIG MILLS

That's what i do.(looks at Bey) Hey guys go and mingle talk to the people about your new project.

EVERYONE

Okay with us.

BIG MILLS

Oh and order what you want tell them it's on Big Mills tab.(grabs Bey's hand) Hold on one minute.

BEY

What's up. Meet your new employer.

MACK

(Get's up and takes her hand and walks toward the back door) I'd like to talk to you in private.

Int:-night- They walk and stop outside the on the terrace.

CUT TO: EM TALKING TO FEMALE MODELS ABOUT HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALBUM.

EM

Dude it's almost like the album is out and were famous already, no one will let me pay for anything.

ANDRE

Yeah which is good because you don't have any money.

CUT TO: LENNY TALKING WITH PARTY GO'ERS.

PARTY GO'ER(MALE)

Wow sounds good do you have any lead songs?

LENNY

Well as a matter of fact i do and also i composed mostly every track on the album, not to steal the credit but it's due to me.(connects eyes with Mariah as she walks pass.)

(CONTINUED)

MARIAH

Allow me to introduce myself I'm one of the members to 9 lives and i am the one your are listening to now.(walks away looking at Lenny.)

LENNY

Nevermind her, she's always kidding around.(laughs at her sarcasim.)

PARTY GO'ER(MALE)

Well i like it and listen if things go right you wont need me but if not here's my card.

LENNY

Thanks alot. Hey nothing wrong with knowing people.

PARTY GO'ER(MALE)

See you around.(looking for Mariah,walks away.)Hey excuse me!

INT: -NIGHT-MARIAH AT THE BAR SITTING ALONE.

PARTY GO'ER(MALE)

Excuse ME allow me to introduce myself, my name is Larry and i'm from Platinum records and i would like to give you my card. I know talent when i hear it and i like your voice, please give me a call.

MARIAH

I'm in a deal now and my manager is,

PARTY GO'ER(MALE)

BIG MILLS i know, i also know a few other things about him. He's a friend but business wise i'd like to see you with someone, should i say a little more genuine and legitimate.

MARIAH

And that's you i supposed.

PARTY GO'ER(MALE)

Well it's like a said i like your voice and i know i can take your talent and make the world like it as well. Honestly with a group of

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PARTY GO'ER(MALE) (cont'd)  
nine you should start to think  
about your solo career.

MARIAH  
Okay Larry i won't forget your name  
and i will use your number and  
hopefully if not anything else you  
can tell me all the things i don't  
know about the industry.

PARTY GO'ER(MALE)  
That's why i'm here. Consider me a  
new friend other than a business  
contact.(smiles and stares  
flirtastiously.)

CUTAWAY: PINK IS KICKING WITH A FEW MALE MODELS.

PINK  
(laughing and taking shots) You  
guys are going to get me drunk.

MALE MODEL 1  
Hm good that's the plan(laughs)

PINK  
That's the plan huh?

MALE MODEL 2  
Hey baby let's blow this party i  
got some treats for us and we can  
have our own party at my uncles  
penthouse,it's only a block away  
and it has a jacuzzi that fits 8.

PINK  
Okay.

INT:-night- Bey and Mack are walking through the party.

BIG MILLS  
Good to see you two got to know  
each other.

MACK  
Money, you alright with me.

BIG MILLS  
Good. See about me later.

(CONTINUED)

MACK

Look I'm not the type that talks to amuse myself. This thing that we are in is the limelight. When the lights are cut off it's the climax of all the hard work these squares put in. You ready to get this money?

BEY

Yes i am.

MACK

Tonight!

BEY

Okay. Tonight.

MACK

See that guy right there.

BEY

Yes him with the blue collar and matching tie.

MACK

Yeah him. Very rich and powerful man. He don't like to speak much he like to get straight to the point and he loves an aggressive woman. Can you handle it?

BEY

That's easy. How much?

MACK

Do a good job. This is your first for me. If i get a bad report then you get nothing if it's good and my name is still golden with him then you'll get your agreed upon 30 percent.

BEY

30 percent?

MACK

30 percent Bitch! I'm doing you a favor, after a week, with my clientele, you'll be making every bit of 10 to 18 thousand.

(CONTINUED)

BEY

I'm sorry(suprised look) I was not thinking. When should i approach him?

MACK

You don't, i will, then I'll signal you to leave.

PAN: ALL ROUND THE ROOM AND WATCHING EVERYONE LAUGHING AND MAKING CONNECTIONS.

POV: SIGNALS BEY TO LEAVE. ANDRE NOTICES HER LEAVE BUT KEEPS QUIET.

Ext: Pink and the male models are walking to the elevator on the way to the penthouse.

MALE MODEL 2

Here guys take these.

PINK

What's this a mint?

MALE MODEL 1

It's the party enhancer, it's cool and fun take it.

MALE MODEL 2

Come on everyone together.

INT:night- Elevator they all take the pill.

CUTAWAY:THEY GET OFF ON THEIR FLOOR AND THEY ARE WALKING AND LAUGHING TO THE PENTHOUSE.

PINK

Ohhh i think it's kicking in.(laughs)

MALE MODEL 1

Mine sure is.

OVER THE SHOULDER: THEY WALK IN BEAUTIFUL PENTHOUSE SUITE.

PINK

T+his is nice whew(almost falls,male model 2 grabs her)

MALE MODEL 1

Pour us some shots.

(CONTINUED)

MALE MODEL 2  
(goes to bar) Here guys(they take  
shots.)

Int: -night-they walk toward the jacuzzi.

MALE MODEL 2  
Everyone's clothes off let's skinny  
dip.

MALE MODEL 1  
Okay i'm in.

PINK  
Me too.

WIDE: THEY GET IN AND START TO HUG AND KISS EACH OTHER. PINK  
LOOKS CONFUSED.

PINK  
Huh, oh hey guys don't forget,  
hello i'm here, i'm lonely.(goes in  
between them and starts to get kiss  
and caress them they all mena'ge.)

DISSOLVE:INSERT- THEY TOAST THE GOOD LIFE AT THE ROUND TABLE  
EVERYONE'S INCLUDED.(BACKGROUND MUSIC)

SERIES OF SHOTS: 9 LIVES ON TOUR IN NEW YORK.

SERIES OF SHOTS: 9 LIVES ON TOUR IN FRANCE.

SERIES OF SHOTS: 9 LIVES ON TOUR IN TOKYO.

SERIES OF SHOTS: 9 LIVES ON A YACHT TOASTING AND LAUGHING.

SERIES OF SHOTS: 9 LIVES TAKING PICS ON ALL THE AWARDS  
SHOWS.

INT: day- Big Shot Records new penthouse loft office. Justin  
walks in.

EXECUTIVE 1  
How is my genius?

JUSTIN  
Everything is going well. I just  
have some things to discuss with  
you.

EXECUTIVE 1  
Shoot.

(CONTINUED)

JUSTIN

Well it's concerning my involvement with the group i mean, well I'm the artist the fans are requesting,

EXECUTIVE 1

Hold on one sec, (pushes the talk button on the conference phone)  
Slim get in here.

EXECUTIVE 2

What's the problem Sonny?

EXECUTIVE 1

I think your gonna want to hear this.

EXECUTIVE 2

Okay I'll be right there.

INT: day- Slim walks in and greets Justin.

SLIM(EXEC 2)

Pop star! how's things,

JUSTIN

Good, i just have a few issues.

SLIM(EXEC 2)

Issues, come on now not already, i here the the tour is selling out worldwide, the album is selling well. Things could'nt be better for ya.

JUSTIN

Well as a matter of fact they could.

SONNY(EXEC 1)

Slim listen to him. He wants a deal.

SLIM(EXEC 2)

A deal talk to me Justin what's on your mind?

JUSTIN

Okay hear me out, I'm the lead singer on the majority of our songs. I feel that i should either receive a bigger split which i know can't be done so i think now is the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JUSTIN (cont'd)  
time that i start to work on my  
solo project.

SONNY(EXEC 1)  
I knew it was going this way.  
That's why i called you in.

SLIM(EXEC 2)  
That's okay we can handle this. How  
about we line you up with a new  
manager tomorrow and you can focus  
on your solo career.

JUSTIN  
Well the thing is i have a manager  
and he says as a solo artist i can  
do better somewhere else.

SONNY(EXEC 1)  
Hold on Justin we brought you in  
this game and before you make any  
stupid decisions you have a deal to  
honor.

JUSTIN  
Everything's negotiable and i was  
wondering let me out the 2 album  
deal and i do a new deal with you  
for two solo albums. I'm the one  
they want, I mean are you even  
listening.

SLIM(EXEC 2)  
Sure we listen right.

SONNY(EXEC 1)  
We listen always Justin, You Listen  
you have a point your, jumping the  
gun though i think, but i like your  
ambition and i think i can work  
something out.

JUSTIN  
I knew you guys would understand.

SLIM(EXEC 2)  
Hey Justin keep this quiet for now  
until we get the stipulations  
worked out. You understand.

(CONTINUED)

JUSTIN

Hey no problem. My lips are sealed.

INT: day- Justin Leaves.

EXECUTIVE 1

Well he's gonna talk and everyone will be here soon.

EXECUTIVE 2

(presses secretary button.) Lisa screen all calls and take no appointment for meeting from the group 9 lives. We'll get back to ya.

SECRETARY

No problem sir.

INT:-DAY- THEY STARE AT EACH OTHER WITH WORRY.

CUT TO: DAWN- LENNY LOFT APARTMENT.

LENNY

He's going solo! what the fuck i knew this would see i knew this would happen. Where is everybody else we need to have a meeting! Call everyone! At the studio now!!

ANDRE

Dude it's probably the best thing i mean we doing good and all but the money between all of us is not cutting it. Even tours are not in our control.(stressed out) It just seems like the work don't fit the bill.(hears dial tone) Hello? hello?

Ext:night- Bey is in the back of a Phantom with Mack.

MACK

Look baby we are successful and it's just like i told you, the rest of them bums are struggling and you, look were i brought you. The Top!

BEY

It just seems like this is my life and my dream of being a musician is a facade.

(CONTINUED)

MACK

That's because it is babygirl. This is what you are good at. You are a musician and a hellified actress, I watch you work this game like a musical symphony is playing behind you. This is your domain. Fuck the rest. While those bastards are scheming you out of your royalties they giving it right back.

BEY

Yeah, I'm the queen bitch this is my home. Welcome, motherfuckas.  
(laughs)

MACK

Here baby this will relieve you of those aggravating thoughts, and make you feel unstoppable.

BEY

(looks worried) What is it?

MACK

Nothing you can't handle. Sit back.(he injects her with heroin.)

BEY

(her eyes roll back as she relaxes heavily.) Ahhh.

MACK

Yeah, you gonna be perfect,  
yeah(blowing out cigar smoke)

Ext: Phantom pulls away from the studio.

CUT TO: NIGHT- STUDIO EVERYONE WALKS IN EXCEPT JUSTIN AND BEY.

LENNY

It figures Justin's not here. Did anyone talk to him!

EM

Yo i did and he has a fucking point if anytime is the best time to get ours it's now!

AKIN

(playing drums loudly.) We built this together.

(CONTINUED)

EM

Look maybe you are satisfied with splitting crumbs nine ways but I'm not! i need a better deal too. I have the two hit songs o the fucking album and the fans are following my trend. You say we built this together but on that stage day in and day out some of us are soaked in sweat and putting our best out there but it's not enough in return!

AKIN

Okay, I'm just a drummer. Fuck man! I seen this coming, after this tour fuck this shit. I'm out.

Ext: Akin on the payphone.

AKIN

Hey Juice what's up it's me man.

JUICE

What's up bro? how's it going?

AKIN

Not good man i think the group is falling apart and that don't even really recognize my contribution.

JUICE

It's no suprise. I told you this would happen.

AKIN

Hey man is that deal still on? Am i still in, can i still get in.

JUICE

Dude your my friend for life after this you will be good. All you have to do is meet me tomorrow at the shop and I'll give you the details.

AKIN

Juice, thanks man i really need this and afterward I'm not gonna do it again.

JUICE

Hey man just do this and you might not have to do it again. Hey who

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JUICE (cont'd)  
know you might be good enough to  
finance your own indie album.

AKON  
Sounds good, i hope so man.

JUICE  
Do this and I'll back you on it,  
everything split halfway. See you  
tomorrow.

AKIN  
See you tomorrow.

Int: Big Shot Records. Lenny tries his luck at a deal.

SLIM(EXEC 2)  
Lenny we know why your here. You  
heard about a solo deal with  
Justin. Listen these things happen.

SONNY(EXEC 1)  
Yeah Lenny, You being the captain  
of the group should know. This is  
disappointing to all of us. We had  
high hopes for you guys to survive  
as a group.

LENNY  
Well i tried my best, and i also  
appreciate the extra love for  
assuming the responsibility. But  
I'm really here to ask about  
myself.

SLIM(EXEC 2)  
Really!

SONNY(EXEC 1)  
What about you Lenny?

LENNY  
Well i don't know if you know but  
the group is all headed in another  
direction and i was wondering about  
being given a deal to do a solo  
album.

SLIM(EXEC 2)  
(looks at Sonny) You know with  
record sales these days and having  
prior obligations we won't be able  
to do that.

(CONTINUED)

SONNY(EXEC 1)

Yeah Lenny that won't be possible. Your best bet is to try to get the group together for a sophomore album.

LENNY

(looks frustrated) Come on now i think everyone's head is in their ass right now and they are complaining about the split it's too many of us. Nobody's coming back together. I know you guys seen it coming.

SLIM(EXEC 2)

As a matter of fact we did Lenny and you know right and right is you have received a larger split. Maybe that sparked a fued. Who knows?

LENNY

Well whatever happened, or started this, i figured i could get a solo deal it's obvious why my cut was larger right?

SONNY(EXEC 1)

No Lenny, what's obvious is you are a good road captain which takes a little more responsibility and you organize groups well but primarily your pay comes from hit records. If it was based on your better management skills you would be working at U.P.S. as a supervisor or something.(laughs)

LENNY

Did i not produce hit records? Come on!

SLIM(EXEC 2)

Lenny! let's be honest here, no one recognized you, they were into the rest of the group. Come on Lenny, let us help you out. Let's negotiate your royalties or something.

SONNY(EXEC 1)

Yeah Lenny do yourself a favor. A solo deal is not in the future for

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SONNY(EXEC 1) (cont'd)  
you. The truth is to be blunt, you should convince the group to return and hope they keep you.

LENNY  
Let me tell you something when i went out on the stage everynight those fans felt me they recognized me and I'll prove it to you and you'll be sorry. Oh yeah! all of you will be sorry!( walks out and slams the door.)

Int: Day- P&M ent.law firm meet Mariah at the health club.  
They walk up.

MARIAH  
Who are you?

P&M ENT.LAW FIRM  
We are P&M and associates. We are an entertainment law firm.

MARIAH  
Yeah i heard of you.

P&M ENT.LAW FIRM  
Listen we hate to bother you but it has been brought to our attention by close friends of yours to show you this.(hands her paper)

MARIAH  
(reads paper) What! I figured this all along. Who sent you to me? Who gave you this?

P&M ENT.LAW FIRM  
We can represent you.

Int: Mariah Carey calls Em and Kid on three way.

SPLIT SHOT THREE WAYS: EM, MARIAH, KID ON THE PHONE.

KID  
I guess you heard huh?

MARIAH  
This is fucked up, what was all that shit about us being an equal team huh!

(CONTINUED)

EM

I told everyone he was a fucking snake. He says we needed supervision! Fuck the fucking group. We have a deal with another label.

MARIAH

Fuck this I'm suing i have a lawyer!

EM

Give me his number.

Int: day- Andre 3000 hangs up phone.

ANDRE'S WIFE

Who was that?

ANDRE

(sorrily hangs up and looks down and then at his wife.) Okay baby that's it, it's about the family. I'll make this decision for us.(grabs his culinary arts book and walks out.)

Int: dawn- Mariah goes to Europe.

NEXT ENTERTAINMENT REP.

So good to see you MiMi.

MARIAH

So good to be here. I'm ready to hear what you have for me.

NEXT ENTERTAINMENT REP.

Good, Good take a walk with us and we can discuss it.

Ext: They walk through the offices and he introduces everyone.

NEXT ENTERTAINMENT REP.

Here at Next we have your best interest at hand. We want you to prosper, if you don't make it we don't make it.

MARIAH

That sounds like a moto.

(CONTINUED)

NEXT ENTERTAINMENT REP.  
It's is. Let me introduce you to Miguel he is going to handle your production and music

MIGUEL  
Good to meet you MiMi.

MARIAH  
Good to meet you.

NEXT ENTERTAINMENT REP.  
Meet also Duval he will be your marketing rep.

MARIAH  
Good evening Duval.

DUVAL  
Good evening MiMi.

NEXT ENTERTAINMENT REP.  
Also last but not least Shadrock he will be your manager and,

MARIAH  
I don't need a manager i have my own.

NEXT ENTERTAINMENT REP.  
Sorry he comes with the deal. He's very much needed to supervise our project.

MARIAH  
(looks at her agent) Oh really.

MARIAH'S AGENT  
(looks back) I know, call the lawyers.

Ext: Night- Bey is coming from another tricks hotel room.

BEY  
Over here!(signals Mack)

MACK  
How'd it go baby.

BEY  
Good baby, listen i need to talk to you.

(CONTINUED)

MACK

what's up babygirl what's on your mind?

BEY

I need to collect all my money. Nothing against what we doing, i just think it's my duty to help my group.

MACK

Fuck that group. This game don't got feelings baby. Look who you gonna roll with me or them they falling apart, just like i told you.

BEY

I just don't feel to good about it that's all. But maybe i have to and then we can go on.

MACK

Look baby take this and relax and then later we'll discuss all your money.(sarcastically says it)

Int: night- Mack pulls over and gives her a cold shot no cut and she shakes after she stops he throws her out the car with the needle in her in a dark alley.

CUT TO: DAY- NEWS IN ON AND LENNY IS WALKING PASS A STORE AND CATCHES THE NEWS.

COFFEE SHOP NEWS.

(T.V. voice over.) In the news today Bey group member from 9 lives body surfaced from a dark alley this morning. Police says it looks like a possible overdose of a intravenous injected drug heroin and cocaine an autopsy is help held along with further investigation.

COMMENTATOR T.V.

Such a sad story, a once hit making group careers fall so short.

COMMENTATOR T.V. 2

Yes it is, on to sports!,

(CONTINUED)

LENNY

(starts to cry while walking away)  
Oh God what has happened?

INSERT: 2 WEEKS LATER IN NYC.

Int:-day- Justin is in the studio singing.

JUSTIN

(singing a solo song)

JUSTIN'S NEW MANAGER

(steps in the booth) Yo man come  
check this out.

JUSTIN

Dude i almost had that note.

JUSTIN'S NEW MANAGER

No man you gonna wanna see this.

OVER THE SHOULDER: THEY WALK INTO THE T.V. ROOM.

COMMENTATOR T.V.

While we all mourn the very recent death of once band member Bey from the group 9 lives this new report just came in another group member Akin the groups drummer was found with two other suspects at a hotel in Miami allegedly purchasing over 200 kilos of cocaine from a Federal agent. The sting operation was set up following a tip from an informant that reported seeing the drummer with known drug offenders. The feds in turn set up surveillance on the famed drummer and no less than a week they caught him red handed.

COMMENTATOR T.V. 2

Things are rapidly going downhill for this group. What will happen next?

JUSTIN'S NEW MANAGER

Damn bro what do you want to do?

JUSTIN

(throws remote on chair.) Back to work.(walks out nonchalantly)

(CONTINUED)

Int: Day- Lenny and Pink are discussing things she's obviously drunk.

PINK  
How's things Bud.(lights a  
cigarette.)

LENNY  
Things are bad Pink.

PINK  
I've been watching the news and i  
heard about everything and  
everyone. It's sad we are the  
biggest ridicule in history.

LENNY  
Pink I'm sorry about the way things  
went I'm not sure how to explain  
the percentage split but i was told  
to do,

PINK  
Wait dude i can care less at this  
point. I don't want this life  
anymore.

LENNY  
Yeah i didn't think it would be a  
nightmare. They make it look  
like so much fun on the outside.

PINK  
And on the inside your losing your  
fucking mind. Huh, fame, it's a  
deadly drug and one way or the  
other it kills you either inside or  
out.

LENNY  
Yeah your right. Hey Pink you  
shouldn't be doing that stuff.

PINK  
I don't think your in a position to  
tell someone what they shouldn't be  
doing. Don't ya think?(she leans in  
and snorts a heavy line)

LENNY  
I guess your right, hey remember  
when we all got together(laughs  
then gets serious) Pink! Pink! you  
alright! Oh no!

(CONTINUED)

PINK  
(shaking eyes rolling in her head)

LENNY  
(Goes outside hallway door and  
screams.) Call an ambulance!

Int:- dawn- Hospital emergency room. Andre 3000 shows up.

LENNY  
Thanks for coming man.

ANDRE  
I got your call flew straight here.  
where is everyone.

LENNY  
No one will talk to me.

ANDRE  
How is she?

LENNY  
She'll live.

ANDRE  
How you doing man you look like you  
need some rest.

LENNY  
Everything's going downhill fast  
man i don't know what to do  
anymore.

ANDRE  
This music business is not my kind  
of game.

LENNY  
Yeah me neither. Hey man I'm sorry  
for the way things went.

ANDRE  
It's okay man the others don't feel  
the same though.

LENNY  
I know i tried to call no one will  
answer the phone. I was the group  
leader that's the only reason,

(CONTINUED)

ANDRE

(frustrated) When we merged we were equal Lenny your greed came before your loyalty to the group.

LENNY

(puts his head down) I know your right how can i make it up to you man.

ANDRE

It's okay we all make mistakes. But i can't make the one i keep making all the time and that's putting this group before the ones who really love me. Lenny I'm out what's left of the group I'm going to culinary arts school.

LENNY

I knew you would leave too. I don't blame you we don't have a group anymore. You take of yourself buddy.

ANDRE

See you around man.

LENNY

See you around.

CUT TO: DAY- AKIN IS IN JAIL LOOKING AT T.V. FROM PRISON.

Int: prison recreation room. M.t.v. news is on.

T.V.

And today's hot topic the hit group 9 lives is quickly wasting away as new reports of foul play has erupted from contract issues regarding group leader Lenny and other members as they fued over unfair and hidden payouts and percentages, But the big story is the once distant member Bey who was found weeks ago dead from an overdose her funeral is today, all the while the group's drummer Akon is still awaiting trial in county prison for narcotic distribution charges.

(CONTINUED)

CELL MATE

Damn bro aint that you(laughs)

AKIN

Fuck you man.

CELL MATE

No fuck you everybody, else  
is(laughs and walks away.)

AKIN

I gotta get outta here. I gotta  
call my lawyer.(looks down in  
distress.)

Ext: day drizzling rain.- Funeral burial ground for member  
Bey.

PASTOR

Ashes to ashes dust to dust from  
mother earth we came so to her we  
must return. Amen.

Ext:day drizzling rain everyone puts down flowers and starts  
to walk away.

LENNY

(Tries to talk to Mariah and The  
rest of the gang.) Let me please  
express my apologies,

MARIAH

You will, in court.(walks away)

EM

Yeah group meeting in court see you  
there oh and a be on time.(walks  
away.)

FADES TO BLACK:

FADES IN: THE FRONT BUILDING OF THE COUNTY CIVIL COURT HOUSE

Int: day- The judge gives the ruling.

JUDGE

In the case of the 9 lives vs  
Lenny. We fine the defendant guilty  
of unfair and hidden practices and  
awards the plaintiff with proper  
payout according to the contract,  
and recorded monies and profits  
made. Ruling has been made and  
court is adjourned.(bag the gavel)

(CONTINUED)

LENNY

(looks at Andre) I'm lefted with nothing.

ANDRE

(puts his head down walks away)

LENNY

(looks at everyone and starts to sing one of his songs.)

EM

They never noticed you. Consider yourself lucky to have performed with me.

LENNY

(looks frustrated) They noticed me.

DISSOLVE: INSERT- 2 YEARS LATER.

Ext: Corner Cafe N.Y.C. Big Mills is talking to the newest hottest group.

BIG MILLS

I can make you guys bigger than the beatles. You got a good buzz but i'm talking about getting you a worldwide frenzy of fans.

GROUP MEMBER #1

Hey aren't you the manager from that group 9 lives/

BIG MILLS

Um, no i'm not but i know the guy who was his name was Mack. Some people get him confused with me.

CUT TO: DAY- ANDRE AT HIS NEW RESTAURANT.

Ext: day- The front of 3000 vegan cuisine. Andre looks proudly then walks in. It's busy.

ANDRE

Hey guys your doing an excellent job. Is everything okay with your food?

CUSTOMER

Yes it's fine could we get another glass of water?

(CONTINUED)

ANDRE

Certainly, Certainly, uh Tisha  
another glass of water for table 3.

ANDRE'S WIFE

Coming right up.(looks at him and  
smiles.)

CUT TO:- DAY- COUNTY JAIL

Int: day- Jailhouse phone.

AKIN

Hello listen i have to get outta  
here man. You gonna have to pay for  
my lawyer i'm completely broke.

JUICE

What! i ain't gotta pay for shit.  
Look i'm tired of you trying ot  
blame me for your fuck up.(bang  
hangs up)

AKIN

Hello? Hello! Fuck!

CUT TO: DAY- REHAB FOR MUSICIANS.

Int: day- Pink is teaching classes on getting back to what's  
important in life.

PINK

Every day is different and you can  
move ahead when you make up your  
mind to do so. Anyone have any  
questions?

CLASS

(raises there hands with  
anticipation)

CUT TO: DAY- MARIAH'S NICE HOME

Int: day- Mariah has three a daughter and a husband.

MARIAH

Have a good day in school baby.

DAUGHTER

Okay mom.

(CONTINUED)

MARIAH

You too honey.

MARIAH'S HUSBAND

Okay baby, see you later on(rushes out.)

MARIAH

Okay( waves them away then goes into the next room to start on her book.)

CUT TO: NIGHT- LISTENING PARTY FOR NEW GROUPS.

Int: Nightclub for rich executives. Em and Kid are present.

EXECUTIVE 1

Welcome to the life of headache.

KID

Better than the life of hell.

EM

You can say that again.

EXECUTIVE 2

Okay guys your in the game now get to it find some talent.

EM

Hey we don't work for you.

KID

Yeah, you find us some talent.

EXECUTIVE 1

Okay i'll take them first.

EM

Your first to screw them up then we'll rebuild them.

EXECUTIVE 2

In this game they are screwed up way before us. Don't worry give it some time you'll be getting your first subpoena soon enough.

EXECUTIVE 1

Yeah and when you do invite us to the party.(laughs)

CUT TO: DAY- M.T.V. STUDIOS.

(CONTINUED)

Int: day- Justin is getting interviewed by MTV vjays.

MTV VJAYS

So Justin, it's good to see you still at it. Do you keep any contact with anyone in the group.

JUSTIN

Yeah some, i still talk to Em and KR from time to time.

MTV VJAYS

After the lawsuit how is your relationship with Lenny?

JUSTIN

I don't talk to him at all nothing against him but i here he's in a bad situation right now. But enough about them June 16th, Back again, is in stores everywhere!

STUDIO AUDIENCE

(applauds loudly)

CUT TO: DAY-CENTRAL PARK

Ext: day- Lenny is homeless and seems to be crazy.

LENNY

Hey! Hey! watch me sing! Look!  
Look! Watch me sing! Watch me sing!

Ext: day- School kids passing by. they throw things at him.

Ext: day- Lady and child walks pass and crosses the street to avoid him. The daughter keeps staring at him.

DAUGHTER

Mommy why is he screaming?

MOMMY

He's crazy dear don't pay any attention to him.

DAUGHTER

He's funny.

MOMMY

He's obviously lost his mind.  
Come on dear.

Ext.-day- Lenny starts to sing looking at the little girl and smiles.

(CONTINUED)

DAUGHTER

Claps and smiles back. He's not  
crazy mommy.

LENNY

(Stops singing packs up his guitar,  
and stares with a smile.) She  
noticed me. (He walks away into the  
sunset.)

FADE OUT: SUNSETS AS LENNY WALKS AWAY MUSIC COMES ON.