

FAKE FRIENDS

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FADE IN:

1 EXT. SALVATORE'S NY PIZZA - DAY**1**

WE OPEN at a pizza restaurant, your regular corner store pizza joint. It's a busy day and customers are coming in for lunch. We see cars in traffic and people covering their noses from the funky smell of the atmosphere as we push into the restaurant.

2 INT. SALVATORE'S NY PIZZA - KITCHEN - DAY**2**

The BUSBOYS are in the back of the kitchen washing the dishes and then... SLAM!... The manager, SALVATORE (42) slams a tub of dirty dishes on the counter.

SALVATORE

(with a yucky grin)

Here you go boys, basket of dishes for washing. Sure to have cleaned real good this time, oui? You boys doing good job!

Salvatore, an Italian chef, abuses his authority as he walks off. The busboys, OBI (21) and Green (19), two brothers, deal with this every day. It's routine.

GREEN

You already know what I'm 'bout to say...

OBI

We been over this a thousand times. Just shut the hell up and let's wash these dishes cuz'.

GREEN

Bro look, I'm tired of this bald bitc-

OBI

SHHH! Aye, you want that nigga to hear us yo? What did I say bro? We here just in case, remember? You promised bruh.

Green is annoyed but hears his brother out.

OBI

We don't "need" to do this shit.
But it's extra bread to fall back
on at the end of the day if worst
comes to worst, you feel me?

In his Steve Harvey voice impression --

OBI
We stacking bread both ways baby.

Green sighs and looks up -- the opportunities they could make
for themselves.

GREEN
Ehh... A'ight bro.

OBI
We brothers, a'ight? I can't leave
my scrawny little brother all by
himself in the cold.

Salvatore looks through the window of double doors leading to
the kitchen, watching the boys laugh over the unwashed
dishes. He leaves his customers and walks over to the
kitchen.

SALVATORE
You laugh but no dish wash, eh? I
find a dishwasher to take your
spot, oui?

OBI
Right on it Mr. Salvatore.

They catch each other's gaze for a moment before Salvatore
walks back to help customers.

OBI
(under his breath)
Pussy. Let's just hit this shit so
we can get the fuck outta here.

The brothers wash the filthy dishes as Salvatore continuously
peeps through the window to see if they are washing how he
likes his serveware to be washed. They head to clock out.

3 EXT. GRAND CONCOURSE STRIP - DAY

3

Obi and Green leave the restaurant and walk down the street
to meet up with two of their friends. They're part of a
street gang called THE ROYALS who make money selling crystal
meth to junkies on the strip of the Grand Concourse.

We hear the honking of cars stuck in traffic as the factories in the distance pollute the air.

4 EXT. 2273 CRESTON AVE. - DAY

4

We cut to a tall duplex with a gate as we see people playing dominoes next to the corner store. We pan left from the corner store to the duplex and push in past the gate.

5 INT. 2273 CRESTON AVE. - LIVING ROOM - DAY

5

BROOKE (21) and POUND (22) are talking in the living room of Pound's house. They're the lifelong friends of Obi and Green and are also a part of The Royals. They wait for the brothers to arrive to start working.

BROOKE

A'ight, lets go over this again. We got 4 days left in the week a'ight. If we wanna make the four bands for that down payment on dat whip then we gotta work.

POUND

Fasho. Obi and Green Bean said they would be here by now.

-- Obi and Green walk in.

GREEN

Watch that funny shit, kid. Say my name, or shut that shit up a'ight?

Green lunges towards Pound before his brother stops him.

OBI

Aye, aye, aye bruh, y'all stop with all that man. We here to work yo, not disrespect our elders right bro?

The brothers share a laugh.

BROOKE

Aye yo, can we get the hell on bruh? Are y'all done?

OBI

Man, we can't ever have a little fun sometimes B?

BROOKE

(mocking OBI)
 Man, do you want to get that car or
 not O-B?

OBI
 Yea, yea, a'ight. P, let's work,
 bruh.

KITCHEN

Obi and Pound walk into the kitchen and begin the cooking process. Pound turns his customized, 80's styled boombox on, and plays the track of "Can It Be All So Simple / Intermission" by Wu-Tang Clan. He turns the volume up.

BROOKE
 You can't turn that down just a
 little bit? Damn, yo.

POUND
 (romantically)
 Who's house are we in again? Damn,
 yo. Shut up, man. I know you like
 my music, momma.

BROOKE
 (under her breath, nobody
 can hear her)
 I swear, y'all piss me off for
 real.

LIVING ROOM - LATER

After eight hours of cooking, Obi and Pound are finished. Obi and Pound The group separates the crystals into hundreds of 2-gram sacks to sell the next day.

POUND
 Aye, folk. I think we did it this
 time with this batch.

GREEN
 Of course you would know. I bet yo
 old ass would be able to tell.

POUND
 Don't even play with me like that,
 son. You know I don't mess with
 that shit, a'ight?

Pound didn't find that joke funny.

POUND (CONT'D)

My folks used to do this shit before, and the smell alone was enough to have the fiends trying to bang down the front door. That shit was scary bruh.

GREEN

Aye, well the smell doesn't matter. Our product been straight for the past couple months. They'll buy that shit even if it smells like shit.

BROOKE

Let's just bag this all up so I can get to the numbers, and we can go home.

6 INT/EXT. 2273 CRESTON AVE. - NIGHT

6

The crew is done with their work for the day, and Pound walks the others out to say goodbye.

POUND

Aye, y'all get home safe, a'ight?

OBI

Yea, bruh. You stay safe too, a'ight?

Pound and Obi do their special handshake as if they were back in their days in high school.

GREEN

See'ya, gramps.

POUND

Stay safe, my little Green Bean.
(laughs)

Green sticks his middle-finger up as he and Obi walk down the street.

BROOKE

You stay safe too. You never know what can happen in these streets.

POUND

Yea fasho, shawty. You know you can depend on a real-nigga like me to keep us safe.
(smiling bold and proud)

BROOKE
Sure. See'ya tomorrow.

7 INT/EXT. 2273 CRESTON AVE. - LATER

7

On multiple instances, the next door neighbors of Pound have complained about the smell coming from his house. But this time, an alarming, heavy banging sound comes from the front door of Pound's house as he is on his couch.

POUND
(to himself)
Now who the fuck is banging on my damn door when I was just falling asleep. I'm about to tell this old man to get in a damn retirement home.

Pound opens the front door and speaks before realizing he's confronted by three men in all black, with ski-masks and baseball bats.

POUND
Aye, folk, who the hell y'all--

OVER POUND'S SHOULDER

The THUGS viscously drag Pound out of his house, and begin to beat him on the street in the dead of night.

THUG 1
Where the hell y'all shit at!?

THUG 2
Yea, run that shit, son!

POUND
(struggling)
Man, y'all-- ain't getting-- shit off-- me.

THUG 2 knocks Pound down with a hit to the side of his head and the three thugs rush into his house to find the crystal meth. They rush out with the meth after tearing his living room apart before Pound can get up to stop them.

As the thugs run out, they throw up gang signs to Pound before leaving him bruised. They are from The Royals' rival gang, T.C.F., The Concourse Family.

THUG 1
This our block, nigga. Remember that, son. C.F. shit, boy.

8 EXT. 2237 MORRIS AVE. - DAWN**8**

We cut to the street of Obi's apartment where he and Green live. A calm wind breezes on the street as we pan up to the third floor where the brothers stay.

9 INT. 2237 MORRIS AVE. - BEDROOM - DAWN**9**

Obi wakes up to go to the bathroom when he looks at his phone. He's missed 4 of Pound's calls from a couple of hours before.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

OBI
(into phone)
Hey, bro. I missed your calls, yo.
You a'ight?

POUND
(into phone)
Pull up on me bro. C.F. got our
shit, yo.

OBI
(into phone)
What'chu mean "they got our shit?"
What the hell happened with the
meth?

POUND
(angrily into the phone)
Just pull up, bro. I don't have
time to explain.

END PHONE CONVERSATION

Pound ends the call. Obi's face shows he's frustrated as he wakes Green to go to Pound's house.

10 INT. 2273 CRESTON AVE. - LIVING ROOM - DAY**10**

Inside of Pound's house we see everything in the living room has been damaged and is out of place. We pan around to see the cushions of the couch are spread out, the television is broken, the table holding the meth is cleared, and even their supplies are gone.

Obi and Green walk into the house and see Brooke helping Pound wrap his head-- blood-dried from the incident.

OBI

(frightened)
Who the hell did all this?! What happened, yo?!

BROOKE
The Family jumped Pound for our meth.

POUND
Slick bastards... They came after y'all left. I tried calling you, Obi. Don't worry about me, a'ight? I'm good. We need to get that meth back, ASAP.

The crew talks amongst themselves and creates a plan to find where the T.C.F gang has their products.

POUND
They're on Walton Ave. I saw them when I was walking to McDonald's, by the playground.

OBI
A'ight, then we move tonight. Green and I will go see what we can do.

11 EXT. MOUNT HOPE PLAYGROUND - NIGHT

11

Obi and Green, dressed in black, walk through the dark night, dodging stained streetlights whenever they pass by. They walk up some blocks to get to Mount Hope Playground.

They arrive and see a group of guys hanging around the playground. Obi and Green stay low so as to not be seen and post themselves behind a building next to the playground.

GREEN
A'ight, so fill me in.

OBI
I'm gonna walk up to the McDonald's right across. You just stay here and watch my back for any funny shit.

GREEN
A'ight, bro. I trust you

Obi walks from out the corner of the building he was behind and begins walking to the McDonald's when he's immediately confronted by the group. They pull out multiple guns that seem to be loaded.

T.C.F MEMBER
 Woah, woah, my brother. You know
 where you at right now?

OBI
 (pretending)
 Nah, yo. I don't want trouble, I'm
 just trying to get some food for my
 son an--

T.C.F MEMBER
 (laughing)
 I don't give a damn about your son,
 bro. Get off my playground or die
 tonight, family.

Obi, frozen in his tracks, turns around and goes down the
 opposite street from the building where Green is posted
 behind. He puts a finger out under the streetlight and
 gestures to go back down some blocks they had come up from.
 They meet up and decide to go back to Pound's house.

12 EXT/INT. 2273 CRESTON AVE. - LATER

12

Obi and Green arrive at Pound's house and share what happened
 with Pound and B as they try to find another way to get
 revenge on T.C.F. Obi bangs on the door to get Pound's
 attention.

OBI
 Open up, yo!

OVER POUND'S SHOULDER

POUND
 Who's there?

GREEN
 It's us, yo. Open this damn door we
 gotta recoup.

Pound opens the door and lets them in, pistol in hand.

POUND
 Y'all better stop with that
 banging. I had this joint loaded,
 man.

OBI
 I almost got popped trying to
 avenge yo ass, now you trying to
 kill me too?

BROOKE

Calm down, yo. Obi, what happened?
Did you guys find anything at all?

OBI

Nah, yo. One of them, looked like
their leader, ran me off the
playground. Said he was gonna kill
me if I didn't step.

Brooke stomps off down the hall, disappointed by Obi and Green. Obi thinks of the ways they can get back the meth and remembers his close relationship with a local investigator.

OBI

Anyways. I got another idea that
can work. It's probably 50/50 for
us.

GREEN

Bro, we don't need half the meth
right now, we need 100%.

OBI

Shut up, dumbass. That's why I'm
going alone this time. I wasn't
talking about the damn meth-- I got
a guy who can help us. Trust me,
yo.

Obi calls the investigator and asks to meet the next day. The crew goes to their homes.

13 EXT/INT. 46 PRECINCT POLICE BRONX - DAY

13

We cut to a building surrounded by cops on the job and flooded with cop cars in the parking lot-- a drug dealer's nightmare, but Obi is okay. His father-figure-like friend, Ricky (33), walks out to meet Obi.

RICKY

What's good, Mr. Hollywood? Too
good for a call, and after all this
time?

OBI

I've been working, Rick. Needed to
get myself together. You got
anything for me?

RICKY

Yeah, yeah. Follow me.

MAIN HALL

Obi follows Ricky into the building, up the stairs, and to his office. On the way, Ricky says good morning to his fellow officers who are giving Obi and him an unsettling look.

RICKY

(to Obi)

Don't worry about them, if they ask, you're applying for a job.

They walk past what seemed to be the whole work force. Obi has never seen this many police officers in one space, all while getting looks from each officer they passed.

RICKY'S OFFICE

RICKY

A'ight, so look. From what you told me, you're looking for T.C.F members. Are you involved with them?

OBI

Sort of...Three of 'em jumped my boy and raided his house.

RICKY

What were they looking for?

OBI

The shit you taught me how to make.

It's quiet for a few seconds...then Ricky responds.

RICKY

What do you need from me?

OBI

Names, phone numbers-- hell, their orders from the deli, anything. I need to get our shit back, yo. I need this.

RICKY

Listen. I can't let you drag me into this with everything you're asking for. The most I can do for you is a name and their last known locations.

OBI

That's good enough, Rick. I've picked up some skills myself, you know.

RICKY
(chuckles)
Alright, then. Billy Mann, BP on Third Ave. Think you can get what you need with that?

Obi stares at Ricky with a grin on his face and pulls out a fat stack of cash-- mostly one-dollar bills, but almost \$1,000. Ricky looks at the money...he looks back at Obi...

RICKY
That enough for an address?

Ricky is tested for his loyalty to his work. He looks back at the money and back at Obi. He takes the bait, sliding the band of cash into the drawer of his desk.

RICKY
1881 Walton Ave.-- sly prick. You did pick up some skills, huh?

OBI
(grinning)
What can I say? Thanks, boss.

Obi walks out of the office and out of the building to go home.

14 EXT. 1881 WALTON AVE. - DAY

14

We cut to the apartment of BILLY MANN (23), where most of the T.C.F members hang around. Three guys are gambling with dice to the side of the apartment while two are sharing a joint on the other side. Four others are having a conversation by the entrance of the apartment.

Billy walks out of the worn-down apartment and heads over to smoke with his friends TYLER (20) and CHOP (24).

BILLY
Pass that, yo.

TYLER
(coughing)
What's good, bro? What happened with the meth? You got it?

BILLY
(laughing)

Yeah, I got that, son. Don't worry
it's safe.

CHOP
So, what's next?

BILLY
(grinning)
What'chu think, bro? It's time to
make that mula.

They disband and everyone goes their separate ways.

15 EXT. BP GAS STATION - MIDNIGHT

15

Billy drives in a black, tinted, Chevy Malibu to the gas station to buy gas and some snacks. He parks by a pump, goes into the store to ask for gas by his pump, and buys a huge bag of Funions and some Skittles.

He goes back to his car...it's silent and pitch-black as he looks up at the sky. Just then, a man comes from behind him and slams his head between the door of the driver and the car. He's out cold...

DISSOLVE TO:

16 INT. 2237 MORRIS AVE. - BASEMENT/LAUNDRY - LATER

16

Obi comes out from the hall to wake up his hostage. He was the man at the gas station, and he needs answers. He splashes a bucket of water on Billy-- he wakes up in a panic.

OBI
Hey...Hellooo, is anybody there?

BILLY
(scared)
Where the fuck am I?! What is this?
Who are you?!

OBI
(reassuring)
You're in safe hands man, don't
worry, I'm your friend.

Obi socks Billy in the face and yells.

OBI
What happened two nights ago?

BILLY

(confused)
Huh?!--

He socks him again.

OBI
Pound? 2273 Creston Ave.? Meth? Any
of those ring a bell?!

Billy takes a minute to breathe. He thinks and realizes
what's going on. He's been kidnapped for what he, Tyler, and
Chop did to Pound.

OBI
I need our shit back. Now.

BILLY
Y'all snitch-asses ain't getting
shit back, son.

Obi pauses his torture and investigation.

OBI
Snitch?... The hell you talkin'
bout, yo?

BILLY
Clueless...What else should I
expect from a-

Obi socks him once more before pulling out a loaded handgun
and shoving it in Billy's face.

OBI
Tell me everything before I blast
your head off, kid. Try me right
now, I dare you.

BILLY
(unfazed, smiling)
I don't think you're ready for what
I got to say.

Obi shoves the gun to his head and gives him a serious stare.
Billy can see it in his eyes-- he's gonna kill him if he
doesn't talk.

BILLY
A'ight, a'ight, damn...You gotta
keep yo circle tighter, kid. That
shawty in yo group set him up,
a'ight? Now get the fuck off me.

Obi takes a step back and almost falls to the ground as Billy spits out a bloody tooth.

BILLY

Strong right for a sucker like yo-.

BANG...Obi shoots him in the head. The sound of the gunshot rings loudly through the cracked walls, as the body of Billy Mann drops in his chair...

Obi couldn't believe hearing that one of his crew members caused their whole operation a setback, and Pound to get robbed.

17 INT. 2273 CRESTON AVE. - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

17

Obi returns to Pound's house with Green. Brooke has been there since the incident to help Pound with his injuries. The brothers walk in and Obi looks at Pound, then Green, and finally to Brooke.

OBI

A'ight, so look y'all.

Just then, Brooke receives a phone call that she quickly denies. Obi is tense and stares at her for a few seconds...

OBI

I found one of the motherfuckers
that jumped Pound... Y'all wouldn't
believe wha--

Again, Brooke's phone rings. This time, she answers, walking into the hall to speak away from the rest.

HALLWAY

BROOKE

(into phone)

Aye, not now, yo. I'm in the midd--

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

MAN

(angry)

What the fuck happened to Billy,
yo?!

We only see his mouth, not his full face.

BROOKE

(into phone)

What are you talking about? I don't know, man.

MAN

You know what I'm talking about, you bitch. The deal is off, yo. I'm pulling up.

END PHONE CONVERSATION

BROOKE

(into phone)

Wait!!

She exits the hall when--

OBI

Who was that?

She's quiet for a moment.

BROOKE

That was the office at the dealership. They sai-

OBI

(serious)

I heard you, B. The whole thing. What've you been doing behind our backs?

BROOKE

Yo, what are you even saying right now, son? I haven't been doing shit, bro. Get up off my neck, I got a life too.

OBI

(angry)

BROOKE!..Tell me the truth

She's annoyed by Obi.

BROOKE

Listen, yo. I haven't been doing shit but helping Pound's injured ass for the past two days, yo. What are you talking about?

Green rushes into the hall as Pound limps behind him. They try to calm Obi and Brooke down. Everyone is panicking and yelling.

GREEN

(to Obi)
Yo, yo what's going on, bro? What
the hell happened out there?

OBI
You want to know what happened?!

There are voices outside of Pound's house. They seem to be
getting closer when--BANG, BANG, BANG.

TYLER
(shouting)
Open the door, kid.

CHOP
(laughing)
Y'all are gon' get it today!

Pound goes to the door to confront the rival gang. He looks
out a window, there are about seven of them, waiting for them
to answer the door. It's getting darker outside.

POUND
(shouting)
The hell do y'all want man? You
already have our supplies, just get
the hell on, yo.

OUTSIDE

CHOP
We're here cuz yo girlie couldn't
keep her word.

INSIDE

GREEN
What are they talking about?..

Everyone stops to look at Brooke.

TYLER
(shouting)
C'mon and open up. We gon' start
havoc if you don-

Pound opens the door and a cold breeze fills the house as the
rival gang members walk in

TYLER
Now...Anybody got anything to tell
me about Billy?

The room is silent when-

BROOKE

Please, Ty, don't do this! Let's just leave.

GREEN

Leave?! What the hell are you talking about, B?

TYLER

(laughing)

Wait. Homegirl ain't tell y'all suckers? She's with us as of now.

Brooke's face is calm as if nothing didn't just happen. Obi, Green, and Pound are in silence as the gang laughs at them.

OBI

(stunned)

I don't get it. Why, B? After everything, everything we've done together.

BROOKE

I don't owe y'all anything. I needed bread, so I got bread. Same thing y'all doing, or was at least trying.

OBI

I don't understand... We're frie-

BOW...Brooke looks down...blood is dripping from her stomach...we cut to Pound with a gun in his hand.

TYLER

Oh shit, yo. We gotta get the fuck out of here man forget this shit, son. She ain't worth it.

The group swiftly leaves as the sound of the gunshot is left ringing in Obi's ear.

GREEN

(muffled, to Obi)

Yo...Yo...Aye!...

Obi snaps back to reality. His lifelong friend lays on the floor in a pool of blood...the breeze from the outside chills the room.

OBI

She really did it.

GREEN

Yo...This doesn't even feel real,
bro. Pound why would you do that,
yo?!

POUND

Listen, yo. She had it coming. A
damn traitor could never be, or
have been my friend. She was faking
this whole time.

GREEN

Man. Still, yo. What are we gonna
do now, huh?!

POUND

Just shut up and let me think, god-
dammit. I'm about to call my cousin
to come take care of this.

Obi shuts the front door and walks down the hall to the
bathroom. He looks at himself in the mirror.

BATHROOM

OBI

(to himself)

I need to go home.

He turns the faucet on and splashes his face with cold
water... Just then, Green walks in. The brothers stare at
each other through the mirror.

GREEN

What do we do, bro?

It's silent...

OBI

I think we need to leave here...
Back to Harlem, yo. We need to see
ma'.

The brothers walk back into the living room to Pound.

LIVING ROOM

OBI

Hey, bro... I know with what just
went down and everyth-

POUND

Y'all are good, bro... Go back to
your mom's, yo. This shit ain't
even worth it anymore.

OBI

But what about you, yo. We can't
just leave you like this.

POUND

I'll be fine, bro. I already got
someone to handle this shit. My
cousin is going to stay with me for
a little bit. Trust me...

They all hug each other, even Green to Pound. The brothers
walk out the door. The door closes, and it's warm again.
Pound lets out a sigh.

POUND

God dammit...

FADE OUT.