

# **BLACK MOSES**

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**MARCUS  
MOSIAH  
GARVEY**

***THE MAN, THE MYTH,  
THE MOVEMENT***

Two Jamaican men, one a notorious black activist and the other a prominent Jewish lawyer, unite in a battle against racial injustice.

JAMAICA- 1899

2. INT. EMPTY GRAVE - NIGHT FALLS

MR. GARVEY

When I was your age, my father took  
me down in a hole like this.

YOUNG MARCUS

Why, sir?

MR. GARVEY

Do you know what fear is, Marcus?

YOUNG MARCUS

It's being scared, like now.

MR. GARVEY

Yes, it is. But fear is also a  
weapon.

YOUNG MARCUS

A weapon?

MR. GARVEY

It can be a weapon that one man uses  
to control another man.



If you have no fear, no one can control you.

-Mr. Garvey

Until you master your fear, Marcus



I will master my fear.

Rise! You mighty race! Rise up!

BE BLACK!

BUY BLACK!

THINK BLACK!

AND ALL ELSE WILL TAKE CARE OF ITSELF!





4. INT. BACKSTAGE THEATRE NIGHT.

We pull out from close up on Amy's eyes to see that she is sitting in the wings of a stage, where Marcus is finishing his speech. She is not watching Marcus, but listening intently.

She forces a radiant smile for Marcus as he joins her in the wings of the stage. They hug, taking a moment to revel in the jubilant reaction to the speech.

MARCUS GARVEY

They'll come after me.

AMY GARVEY

I know.

MARCUS GARVEY

It may get very difficult. Again.

AMY GARVEY

I know. We could lose what little we have left.

MARCUS GARVEY

And if we did?

They will never silence you.

*-Amy Garvey*

They will never silence me.

*-Marcus Garvey*

6.INT. KING'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The Colonial Officers arrive at a door guarded by a soldier, who seems to be expecting them. He taps briefly on the door and opens it as the two men enter.

GOVERNOR A.S. JELF

True, but this Garvey is a menace.  
They don't just listen to him, they  
rise to him. He has to be stopped.

RICHARD FIENNES BARRETT LENNARD

Well, we could allow George Osborne  
Marke to proceed with his case  
against Marcus Garvey in Jamaica.

GOVERNOR A.S. JELF (conspiratorially)  
We have to stop him.

RICHARD FIENNES BARRETT LENNARD  
Stop him?

GOVERNOR A.S. JELF  
His printing press?

In his hands, it is a weapon.

- Governor A.S. Jelf

10. EXT. SHAARE SHALOM SYNAGOGUE - DAY

ABRAHAM JUDAH, 57, white Jewish man, stands patiently, waiting for LEWIS ASHENHEIM, 53, white Jewish man, to exit with ESTELLE ASHENHEIM, 48, white Jewish woman. They are saying goodbye to people as they walk out.

Lewis spots Abraham, who motions for him to come over so they can speak.

This is not about politics, Lewis  
or even race or religion.  
This is about justice.

- Abraham Judah



A color photograph of a man with dark hair and blue eyes, wearing a brown corduroy jacket over a light-colored shirt and a dark, patterned tie. He is looking slightly off-camera with a serious expression. In the foreground, a newspaper is partially visible. To his right, a woman's hands are shown pouring coffee from a pot into a cup. The background is a domestic interior.

13. INT. HOME OF LEWIS ASHENHEIM - DAY

Lewis is sitting at the breakfast table with his wife, Estelle. She pours coffee as he reads from the paper.

ESTELLE ASHENHEIM

You also know that everyone will try to talk you out of representing him.

LEWIS ASHENHEIM

Justice Adrian Clark has already been bending my ear about the multitudes of flaws in Mr. Garvey's character and concept, and the madness of defending him.

ESTELLE ASHENHEIM

There are flaws aplenty among your brother lawyers, Lewis, just as there are among the ladies in my charity.

LEWIS ASHENHEIM (seriously)

Justice Clark said he's anti-Semitic.

*What does your conscience tell you?*

*- Estelle Ashenheim*

*I feel I have no choice but to take this case.*

*- Lewis Ashenheim*

15. EXT. MISS MAISY'S DRESS SHOP - DAY

The bell rings on the dress shop door as Estelle enters. Amy is pretending to be a shop assistant, and has her back turned.

ESTELLE ASHENHEIM

I suspect you are as protective of your husband as I am of mine.

AMY GARVEY

I suspect I am.

ESTELLE ASHENHEIM

But when it comes to injustice and righting a wrong, Lewis holds nothing back.

AMY GARVEY

Neither does Marcus It appears we are married to similar men.

*Cut from the same cloth.*

*- Estelle Ashenheim*

*Or from a different cloth, but by the same Divine tailor.*

*- Amy Garvey*



23. EXT- STREET FROM LIBERTY HALL TO THE WHARF - DAY  
Marcus & Lewis walk out of the gates and down to the wharf.  
He looks out across the water.

MARCUS GARVEY

My ancestors crossed oceans  
of hate to get here.

LEWIS ASHENHEIM

And my ancestors came  
escaping generations of hate.

MARCUS GARVEY

Our ancestors didn't exactly  
arrive on the same boat.

LEWIS ASHENHEIM

Yet, you and I find ourselves  
in the same boat now.

Marcus chuckles, then looks at Lewis.

Marcus and Lewis shake hands, then turn to look out  
at sea as the music plays.



So the Jew and the Gentile join forces, eh?

- Marcus Garvey

To right a wrong

- Lewis Ashenheim

37. INT. LIBERTY HALL - DAY

Marcus is working on the press, his sleeves rolled up past his elbows.

Melvin enters quietly, watching Marcus for a while.

MELVIN KING

You crossed a line, when you talked  
to the Grand Wizard of the KKK.  
They castrated and lynched our  
people, Marcus.



You crossed a line Marcus.

You crossed a line that can't be uncrossed, even by you!

- Melvin King

18. INT. KKK CABIN - NIGHT

Marcus and Melvin walk into a wide room with one desk in the middle and a row of chairs against the wall.

EDWARD YOUNG CLARKE, 52, Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, is sitting at the desk. There are two empty chairs across from him. Five men carrying rifles are lounging against the walls.

GRAND WIZARD

It seems to me, you're either Daniel in the lions' den, or Solomon, in the valley of the shadow. Which do you think it is?

I think I'm closer to Moses, at the Red Sea.

-Marcus Garvey



You don't want us gone.

You want us dead.

*- Marcus Garvey*

21. INT. OFFICE OF MARCUS GARVEY, LIBERTY HALL - DAY

Marcus leads Lewis directly to his office, motioning for him to take a seat across from him.

MARCUS GARVEY

And if you were not so personally connected, would you have taken the case against the English Insurance Companies following the earthquake?



9. INT. MELVIN'S ROOM AT LIBERTY HALL - AFTERNOON

Melvin's tone is bitter and Iris looks worried.

MELVIN KING  
We should leave.

IRIS EWART.  
(disbelief)

You've been with them from the beginning. You were in prison with  
Mr. Garvey. How can you suggest such a thing?

Iris, you don't know what it was like

- Melvin King

32. INT. SUPREME COURT, KINGSTON, JAMAICA - DAY

Chief Justice Barrett Lennard sits on the bench as presiding judge.

Lewis Ashenheim and Marcus Garvey are seated at the defendant's table, with John Cargill at the prosecutor's table.

Marcus stands, and clears his throat, Lewis stops talking, his heart suddenly cold. He puts a hand on Marcus' arm.

MARCUS GARVEY (ignoring Lewis)

Mr. Chief Justice, I, along with my co-claimants, founded the voluntary Societies known as the Universal Negro Improvement Association Parent Body, and African Communities, working to uplift the Negro race.

Lewis interrupts, concerned that Marcus will inadvertently undermine the case.

*Marcus, please sit down.  
- Lewis Ashenheim*

32.INT. SUPREME COURT, KINGSTON, JAMAICA - DAY

Amy reaches for Estelle's hand. She knows that anything can happen now and nothing will restrain Marcus.

Amy grips Estelle's hand more tightly.

A wide-angle shot of a courtroom audience. In the foreground, a woman with short blonde hair and a man with a shaved head are looking upwards and slightly to the right with expressions of concern or awe. Behind them, other spectators are visible, some with glasses, all directed towards the same point of interest.

What is he doing?

- Estelle Ashenheim

I dont know.

- Amy Garvey

RICHARD FIENNES BARRETT LENNARD

I therefore hold you, Mr.  
Ashenheim in contempt of this  
court, and I order that you be  
remanded into custody immediately!

The courtroom reacts in shock at the harsh response from the judge. Estelle gasps. Amy's face is granite. Lewis Ashenheim and Marcus Garvey look at each other. Marcus is angry. Lewis's expression is stony.

Consider your next move carefully.  
The court is adjourned.

— Richard Fennes Barrett Lennard

33. EXT. COURT STEPS - DAY

On the steps of the courthouse, Lewis grabs Marcus's arm and forces him to face him. Lewis is shocked that Marcus is angry instead of apologetic, and feels his own anger quickly rising.

LEWIS ASHENHEIM

Marcus, your outburst in there just lost us everything.

MARCUS GARVEY

What did you lose, Lewis? Three hundred pounds? You're a successful lawyer. You'll go on with your illustrious career. I lost my home, my movement, and my life's work! I have lost the future of an entire race of people!

Marcus! Where are you going?

- Lewis Ashenheim

35. EXT. A LONG NARROW LANE - DAY

We see through the eyes of a man, running in fear, and we hear his labored breath.

It's Marcus Garvey.

Running fast downhill, he looks over his shoulder to see a mob of ten men chasing after him.

The men are shouting and waving sticks and clubs. Marcus continues running.

They're closing on him fast. They catch up ...



42. INT. SUPREME COURT, KINGSTON, JAMAICA - DAY

Lewis Ashenheim and Marcus Garvey are seated up front

CHIEF JUSTICE HENRY ISAAC CLOSE BROWN  
Are you claiming that the judgement  
was so seriously in error?

LEWIS ASHENHEIM

I believe Judge Barrett Lennard approved the illegal  
seizure of property by the bailiff against Mr. Garvey  
based on his mistaken ruling linking the UNIA New York  
branch with the UNIA Jamaica branch.





42. INT. SUPREME COURT, KINGSTON, JAMAICA - DAY

CHIEF JUSTICE HENRY ISAAC CLOSE BROWN

I hereby set aside Chief Justice Barrett Lennard's judgement, and assign costs in your favour of Mr. Garvey.

The two Jamaican Societies are fully cleared of all involvement in the financial affairs of the American Corporation.

In summary, Mr. Ashenheim, the fight you have waged on Mr. Garvey's behalf has resulted in a clear victory for him, and his co-defendants.

salus populi suprema est lex, Defendamus, Mr. Ashenheim.  
The welfare of the people is the highest law to defend.

*The fight you have waged on Mr. Garvey's  
behalf has resulted in a clear victory for him, and his co-defendants.*

*- Chief Justice Henry Brown*



49. EXT. VILLAGE IN GHANA - DAY

Melvin King is reading a Marcus Garvey speech to the young men.

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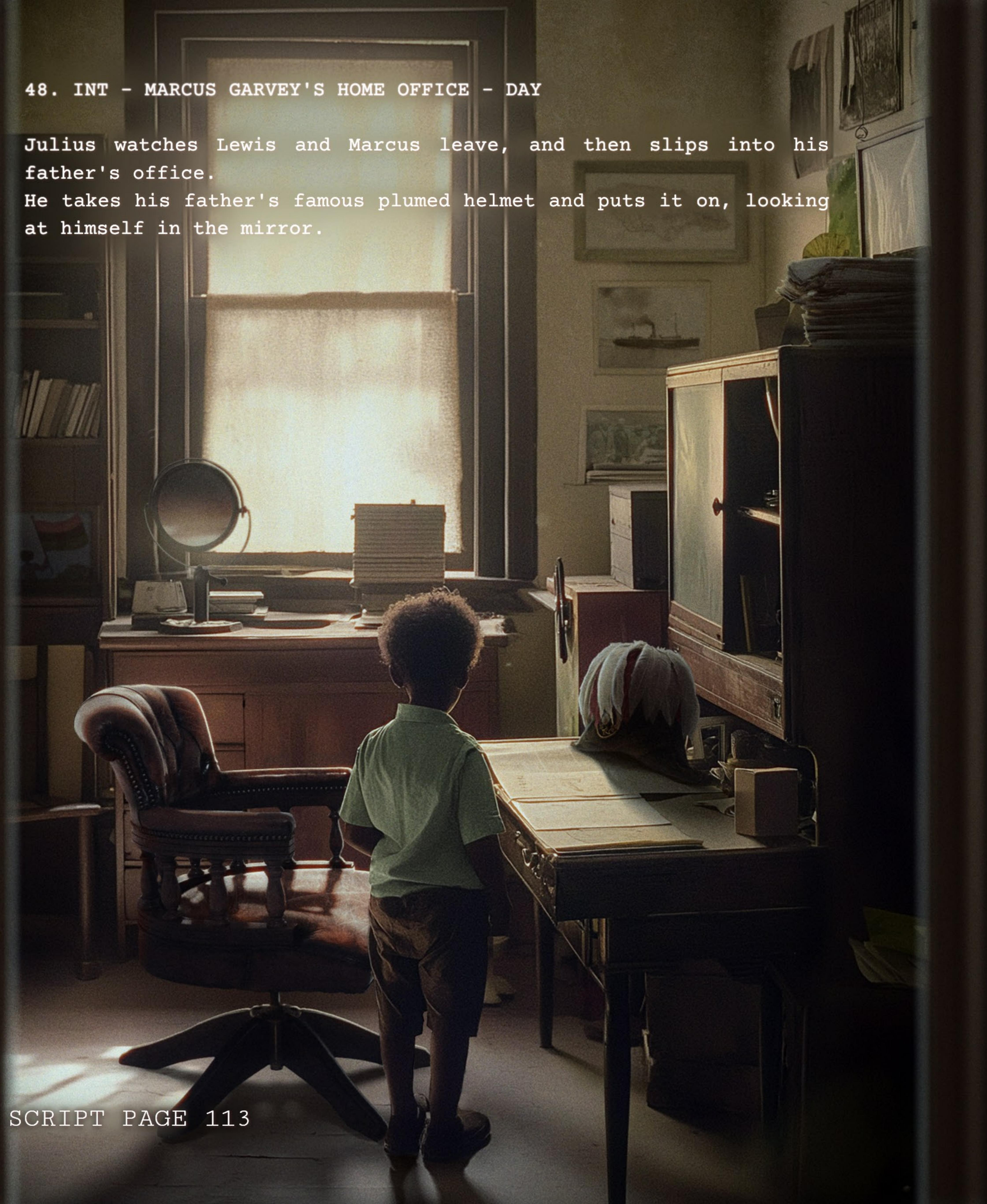


*Do you think people will remember us and the battles we waged...*

48. INT - MARCUS GARVEY'S HOME OFFICE - DAY

Julius watches Lewis and Marcus leave, and then slips into his father's office.

He takes his father's famous plumed helmet and puts it on, looking at himself in the mirror.



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after we're gone?

- Marcus Garvey



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