

The door swings open. In the doorway is CHASE MONROE, (35), a diminutive black man wearing lycra shorts and a wife-beater t-shirt. The local news BLARES from a television in the background.

CHASE

Shhhhit, you might as well hope for spring water in hell. Cause ain't nothing getting done. That bitch owns this place. She don't want to spend her money.

TONY

How do you know that?

CHASE

Man, I'm a loan officer. I looked that shit up when I moved in here. I do my research.

TONY

Really?

Tony sticks his hand out.

TONY

We've never formally met, Tony Turner. How you doing? -- I've seen you every now and then for about...

Chase shakes his hand.

CHASE

Shhhhit, probably six years something like that. Give or take a few months... Name's Chase. Chase Monroe. you know how it is? In the morning I got to go out and make my cheese and by the time I get off, god damn traffic has me twisted up so bad, I just want to crawl in my crib and recharge and shit like that, so I can do it again. I'm just not feeling it. Know what I mean? -- But I be smelling that shit you be smoking.

TONY

It's my medicine. Sorry.

CHASE

Shhhhiit medicine, my ass. I feel ya though.

(MORE)

CHASE (CONT'D)

But, as far as that bitch Nadine go, she's ain't gettin nothing done. She'll just be stringing your ass along until you get tired of saying something about it. I know her game.

TONY

But then I have to listen to my wife complain. And it's worse now that I got a kid.

CHASE

I heard that. That's why I got rid of my bitch. But, let me tell you about this one. She ain't gonna spend any of her cheese. You know what her last name is right?

TONY

Isn't it Gold or something?

CHASE

Shhhhit, you got that right. Nadine Gold. She may sound like she should be answering your door but her last name is a precious metal which means that bitch is tight. Mother fuckers' from the desert always be tight. So you might as well just forget about getting that heater. You know what I mean, cuz?

TONY

I was that loud, huh?

CHASE

Hell yeah. I'm in here trying to do my goddamn yoga and you two are out here fucking up all my vibes.

TONY

Is that what this get up is about?

Tony motions to his outfit.

CHASE

Hell yeah, flexibility.

Chase does a graceful martial arts maneuver and then bows.

TONY

Wild... So Chase, I thought loan officers' made good money. Why do you live here?

CHASE

Shhhhit, after my ex and the man get done fucking with my ends. It's a goddamn wonder I ain't walking round the streets smelling like shit and piss and arguing with myself.

TONY

It's like that huh?

CHASE

Hell yeah. I see you got tangled in that family thing. I think you gots to be crazy to become a mother fucking breeder today. My old lady kicked my ass out when I told her I did not want to be somebody's daddy. I told the bitch not to get pregnant, so what she go up and do.

Chase shakes his head.

TONY

You didn't want kids?

CHASE

Fuck no!

Tony is surprised.

TONY

No problem. I felt the same way too, for a long time.

CHASE

I told that bitch before we got married. She knew.

TONY

How long were you married?

CHASE

Bout five years.

TONY

You had no problem leaving her after that much time?

CHASE

Shhhhit. I told her you gots to get the fuck out. I kicked that bitch and the little bastard out. I didn't care. Sent her to her mammas. Pig feet eating heifer.

TONY

That's pretty cold.

Chase is incredulous.

CHASE

Shhhhit, what's cold-blooded is that bitch coming back the next day with johnny law and the mother fucking court telling me I can't stay in the house I pay for.

TONY

That's how you ended up here?

CHASE

Hell yeah. Tried to moved out of state, but they tracked my ass down. Quick too. Just ganked my shit before I even see it.

TONY

What happened to the house?

CHASE

She got it now!

TONY

With your kid?

CHASE

Hell yeah. I'm still paying for the food in their stomachs, the clothes on their backs, and the roof over their head. All over something I didn't want.

TONY

You don't feel guilty, like God's going to be mad?

CHASE

Shhhhit, fuck God. Cause them little bastards grow up to become huge mother fucking problems that I got to deal with. For the rest of my life. Thank you, Jesus but no.

TONY

Come on. Some kids grow up to become good people.

CHASE

Good people? Shhhhit, them are the worst.

TONY

Well what about you? You must think you're alright.

CHASE

Fuck no. I left my goddamn wife because she got pregnant. I ain't alright. I am a cold-hearted mother fucker. Exact reason why I shouldn't be having kids.

TONY

I think I turned out alright.

CHASE

Mmmm hmmm. You know, them that profess to be so righteous are always the most wretched.

TONY

What are you talking about?

CHASE

You don't want no kid, man. That's all I'm saying. Know what I mean? But hey, if you planned for it.

TONY

No. There was no plan, it just happened.

CHASE

Just happened? Shhhhit, like oops, I'm pregnant? Yeah right. How old is you all.

TONY

In our thirties.

CHASE

Uh,huh. So you didn't want no kids?

TONY

Shelby really wanted kids and...

CHASE
But what do you want, for real?

Tony thinks about the question.

CHASE
This going to be your first kid?

TONY
Yeah.

CHASE
Shhhhit, walk away.

TONY
What?

CHASE
Just walk away. Mother fuckers do that everyday in the hood. You don't owe her nothing.

TONY
That's what you did?

CHASE
Hell yeah. I told that bitch I didn't want no kids. Sounds like you don't neither.

TONY
I'm just not sure.

NEWSCASTER (O.S.)
...now the weather with Jersey Turner.

Tony leans around Chase to look at the TV.