

THUNDER DOESN'T STRIKE TWICE
(WORKING TITLE)

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. SNOWY ROAD - NIGHT

A deer feeds in a nearby grass patch, it raises its head as a car speeds by

It runs off into the wilderness.

INT. MODERN SEDAN - NIGHT

JAMAL, a stoic, 20 something African-American, is driving.

He looks out the driver's side window from time to time.

ANTWAN, Jamals' more rebellious, 18 something African-American younger brother, is sitting upright on the passenger's side, his eyes closed and arms folded.

JAMAL

Yo, so what's the word?

Antwan opens his eyes, his focus is broken.

ANTWAN

Can't really focus with you constantly asking that.

JAMAL

Just answer the question, Twan.

Antwan closes his eyes.

Moments later, he opens them again.

ANTWAN

No, I don't feel anything for miles.

JAMAL

You sure?

ANTWAN

Positive...I mean...if you wanna check, you can.

(beat)

Oh wait, that's not your thing.

JAMAL

Whatever man, just trying to make sure...okay?

Jamal turns his attention to driving, clearly pissed off.

Antwan looks at Jamal, he takes a breath and unfolds his arms.

ANTWAN

Look...I'm sorry.

(beat)

I'm just on edge right now. We've been riding for weeks, and we finally find a place to lay low back there and---

JAMAL

I know little brother, I just want us to be all-good...you know?

ANTWAN

I know, it's just...all the moving around.

Antwan lays his head on the passenger side window.

ANTWAN (CONT'D)

Are you sure they're still chasing us?

JAMAL

I'm sure.

ANTWAN

How sure?

JAMAL

Completely sure.

ANTWAN

But how, how can you be so sure? No one was at that motel with us except for that old lady, and I doubt she was chasing us.

JAMAL

Just trust me, little brother.

Antwan balls his fist, clearly frustrated with Jamal.

ANTWAN

That's another thing...you keep saying the same shit.

(beat)

Michigan, "Just trust me."

(beat)

Milwaukee, "Just trust me."

(MORE)

ANTWAN (CONT'D)

(beat)

How do you want me to trust you if
you aren't telling me anything?

Jamal turns his attention from the road, slamming his hand on
the wheel.

JAMAL

Look...trust me or not, that's on
you, bro. I made a promise to keep
us safe, I'm not going back on that
promise...not after everything
that's happened.

ANTWAN

Yeah right...and keeping me in the
fucking dark is super helpful, I'm
not a little fucking kid anymore J,
I can handle it.

JAMAL

Look, if you wanna know something,
sit there and shut up until we get
to where we are going.

ANTWAN

And where is that?

JAMAL

Somewhere safe.

Antwan sucks his teeth, clearly pissed off.

ANTWAN

(softly)

You sound like dad.

JAMAL

WHAT DID YOU SAY!?

A deer steps out into the road, it raises its head as
headlights come into view. Jamal is too distracted to see it.

JAMAL (CONT'D)

Say it again, I dare you!

ANTWAN

Man, what...J...WATCH OUT!

Jamal faces the road but it's too late.

The car hits the deer with full force.

The car skids off the road and begins rolling down a nearby hillside.

Jamal flies out the windshield and hits a tree. The car pins him.

Antwan flies out of the car and lands in the snow near the wrecked car. The deer lands inches away from Antwan.

Antwan loses consciousness.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. RESEARCH FACILITY - DAY

Jamal, Antwan and their mother, SHANDA, are running down the hall of the research wing, loud GUNFIRE splinters behind them.

The group reaches an exit door of the wing.

Shanda grabs Antwan's hand.

SHANDA

Hey, my little man...everything's gonna be alright, okay?

(beat)

Just listen to your brother, can you do that for me?

Antwan shakes his head in agreement.

ANTWAN

But, I wanna stay with you, mama.

SHANDA

You can't baby because mama has to...has...to go get daddy. Then we'll come get you and your brother, how does that sound?

Shanda turns her attention to Jamal.

SHANDA (CONT'D)

(to Jamal)

You keep your brother safe.

JAMAL

I will.

SHANDA

PROMISE ME!

JAMAL

I promise!

Shanda tears up, she hugs the two brothers, she squeezes them tight.

Antwan pulls away from her and wipes away her tears.

ANTWAN

Don't cry mama, when you get daddy
we can be a family again, okay?

Shanda is speechless, she shakes her head in agreement.

Shanda gets up and turns her back to them.

SHANDA

(back to them)

Now you two get going and remember
to watch out for each other,
always.

Shanda charges down the hall, in the distance loud SCRAPS,
and BENDS sounds are heard, streaks of GUNFIRE follow.

END FLASHBACK:

EXT. SNOWY WILDERNESS (CRASHED CAR) - NIGHT

Antwan opens his eyes. He is laying in the snow, he rises to his feet paning the area.

The car is smoking, Jamal is seen pinned in front of the car, his face split open.

Antwan isn't fazed by the sight of his brother. The deer that was hit is struggling, it is close to dying.

Antwan makes his way over to the deer.

ANTWAN

You look pretty banged up there,
don't worry, I gotcha.

Antwan places his hand on the deer and breathes in deeply.

When he exhales, the wind blows LOUDLY, he is breathing life into the deer.

The wounds on the deer begin to heal.

The deer stands, stares at Antwan, then bolts into the snowy wilderness.

Antwan smacks his teeth.

ANTWAN (CONT'D)
Yeah, your welcome.

The car moves behind Antwan.

Jamal pushes the car off himself.

Jamal turns the car over, exposing his wounds.

They slowly start to heal themselves.

JAMAL
(to Antwan)
You good?

ANTWAN
Yeah, I'm good, but didn't you get
the worst of it?

Jamal chuckles

JAMAL
Yeah, but I'm a fast healer,
remember?

ANTWAN
Right...so where are we?

JAMAL
Beats me, but the car is done for,
looks like we're on foot from here
on.

Jamal begins streching, when he is done he knells down with
his back to Antwan.

JAMAL (CONT'D)
Climb on.

Antwan climbs on Jamal's back.

JAMAL (CONT'D)
Hold on tight, okay?

ANTWAN
Yeah...yeah, I know the drill.

Jamal closes his eyes, he breathes deep and opens them.

He plants his feet into the ground and takes off at an
incredible speed, dashing through the woods.

EXT. SNOWY WILDERNESS - RUNNING

Jamal is carrying Antwan on his back, he is running through the wilderness at an incredible speed.

JAMAL
Trees!

ANTWAN
I see them!

Antwan holds out one arm in front of Jamal, his arm breaks through branches and trees effortlessly.

A large mountain comes into view, Jamal speeds up.

JAMAL
Mountain, up ahead!
(beat)
Hold your breath!

ANTWAN
I see it!
(beat)
Hold my wha---

Jamal increases his speed.

Jamal and Antwan begin to blur and they pass through the mountain.

EXT. SNOWY WILDERNESS (OTHER SIDE OF MOUNTAIN) - NIGHT

Jamal plants his feet into the ground. He slows down until he comes to a complete stop, Antwan exhales esthetically.

JAMAL
You good?
(beat)
I did tell you to hold your breath.

ANTWAN
Yeah, at the very last second.

Antwan brushes Jamal off, he braces himself near a tree to catch his breath.

Loud SCREECHING sounds are heard close by.

JAMAL
I hear trucks,
(pointing)
This way.

Jamal walks off. Antwan huffs and puffs after him.

ANTWAN

Wait up!

EXT. TRUCK REST STOP - NIGHT

A truck pulls into the depot as another one leaves.

A truck driver cups his hands together, in an attempt to warm them.

A couple leaves the restaurant cuddling up to each other.

EXT. WILDERNESS CLEARING - NIGHT - SAME TIME

Jamal and Antwan come to a clearing in the trees overlooking the Rest Stop.

JAMAL

(looking at the Rest Stop)

Remember.

ANTWAN

Yeah...yeah no acting like a freak,
got it.

JAMAL

Twan---

Jamal hesitates.

JAMAL (CONT'D)

Never mind, let's go.

ANTWAN

What?

JAMAL

I said it's nothing, come on.

EXT. SNOWY WILDERNESS (CRASHED CAR) - NIGHT

A sinister-looking black car pulls off the road near the crashed Sedan.

The engine cuts out, and the front doors open simultaneously.

Two Agents step out of the car, both dressed in black suits with dark tinted glasses.

They make their way down to the car.

AGENT #1
They crashed here.

AGENT #2
Apparently so.

Agent #1 makes his way along the side of the car. The driver side door is pinned by a tree.

Agent #1 presses his hand against the tree and pushes it out of the way, he then proceeds to tear the driver side door off its hinges.

Agent #2 sees a blood trail leading into the forest. He kneels down and presses his fingers on the blood.

AGENT #2 (CONT'D)
This is the younger one's blood.
(pause)
What about the adult?

Agent #1 searches the car. He comes out and adjusts his suit top, dusting it off.

AGENT #1
The adult is with him. They are not far.

Agent #2 walks away from the car and looks at the path Jamal and Antwan took. There are broken trees and smashed branches, the snow where Jamal ran is all melted away.

Agent #1 joins Agent #2 as they stare into the wilderness.

AGENT #2
Apparently not.

INT. TRUCK REST STOP (RESTAURANT) - NIGHT

Jamal and Antwan enter the restaurant.

A group of Truckers turn to see who has entered.

Jamal's shirt is ripped up and bloody.

ANTWAN
(softly)
I think they're looking at you.

JAMAL
(softly)
Shut up.

MARGRET, a waiter, rushes over to Jamal and Antwan.

MARGRET
Oh god, what happened to you two?

ANTWAN
We ran into some trouble on the
otherside of that.

Antwan is point towrds the mountain.

MARGRET
And you walked all the way
here...in the freezing cold?

ANTWAN
No...we ran.

MARGRET
What?

Jamal hits Antwan on the back.

JAMAL
Don't mind him, he's such a kidder.
(beat)
We had a little accident up near
the mountain. Lucky thing we saw a
truck pass by so knew something was
nearby.

MARGRET
Good thing too...out there, you two
boys wouldn't have survived the
night.
(beat)
But what happened to your shirt,
sweetheart?

JAMAL
Nothing seriou, thank god, think I
snagged it on a branch or
something.

MARGRET
Well it's a good thing you found
this place, these winter nights can
be brutal.

JAMAL
My thoughts exactly.

MARGRET
Well, grab a seat, you two, and
I'll check in back for something
you can change into, sweetheart.

JAMAL
Thank you, ma'am.

Jamal and Antwan sit in a nearby booth.

After a while Margret comes to the table with a jogging shirt
for Jamal.

JAMAL (CONT'D)
Thank you, where is your restroom?

MARGRET
(pointing)
Over there, sweetie.

JAMAL
Thanks.
(to Antwan)
Remember.

ANTWAN
Yeah...yeah, I know.

Jamal gets out of the booth and heads to the back.

WAITRESS
Well, since your here you wanna
orrder soemthing, darling?

ANTWAN
Let's see...

Antwan stares into Margret's eyes.

ANTWAN (CONT'D)
I'll have some pancakes, Margret.

Margret is surprised.

MARGRET
How'd you know that was my name?
(beat)
Im not wearing my tag today.

ANTWAN
(sarcastic)
Lucky guess.

INT. PURSUIT CAR - NIGHT

Agent #1 is driving.

Agent #2 has just gotten off the phone.

AGENT #2
What did she say?

AGENT #1
To continue our pursuit.

Agent #1 puts the phone away.

AGENT #1 (CONT'D)
They want us to expose them.

AGENT #2
Understood.

INT. TRUCK REST STOP (RESTAURANT BATHROOM) - NIGHT

Jamal leaves one of the stalls wearing the fresh shirt.

He walks over to the sink, turns it on and splashes water into his face.

He looks at himself in the mirror.

JAMAL
Keep us safe, no matter what.

Jamal's nose starts to bleed, he is worried.

He frantically wipes the blood away and leaves the bathroom.

INT. TRUCK REST STOP (RESTAURANT) - MOMENTS LATER

Jamal leaves the bathroom, he is clearly bothered by something, he nervously looks at the other people in the restaurant until he comes to his and Antwan's booth.

JAMAL
We need to go, now!

Antwan refuses to get up, he's confused by Jamal's frantic state.

ANTWAN

What are you talking about, Margret
just took my order.

Jamal sits down in the booth, he leans in closer to Antwan.

Jamal is angry with Antwan for using that particular power.

JAMAL

Margret
(beat)
Did you read her mind?

ANTWAN

I mean---

JAMAL

You know they can track us like
that.

A loud BELL echos in the restaurant, The door opens and the
agents enter.

Jamal's eyes grow wide, he buries his head behind a menu.

ANTWAN

What are you doing?

JAMAL

Agents are here...don't turn
around.

Antwan sits back in his seat, he is puzzled by Jamal's
reaction.

The two Agents sit down at the restaurant counter.

Margret comes from in the kitchen too great them.

MARGRET

We don't get a lot of suits out
here, what can I do you for.

One of the agents shows Margret a photo on his phone, it's
Antwan and Jamal.

Antwan turns to make eye contact with Margret.

AGENT #1

Have you seen these two?

Margret glances at the photo than Antwan and Jamal.

Her and Antwan's eyes meet.

MARGRET	ANTWAN
(dazed)	(controlling)
No I haven't seen them.	No I haven't seen them.

Agent #1 remains at the counter while Agent #2 gets up and begins walking towards Antwan and Jamal.

MARGRET (CONT'D)
Excuse me...wait, what did I just say?

Agent #2 arrives at Antwan and Jamal's booth, stares at Antwan, making Jamal very nervous.

Antwan is still puzzled, Jamal grabs Antwan's hand and leaves the booth.

JAMAL
Sorry, we were just leaving.

ANTWAN
J, what's going on?

Agent #1 stands in front of the entrance to the restaurant, he locks the door.

Antwan clenches his fist tightly.

A Trucker leaves his table and approaches Agent #1. The other truckers egg him on.

JAMAL
(nervous)
Excuse me, sir.

Trucker #1 puts his hand on the Agent #1's shoulder.

TRUCKER
You heard the man, move aside, damn suit.

Agent #1 ignores Trucker #1

TRUCKER #1
Hey num-nuts, did you hear me?

TRUCKER #2
You tell him!

TRUCKER #3
Yeah, get the hell out of the way, suit!

TRUCKER #4

Uh-oh, your him riled up.

The Agent grabs Trucker #1's hand, he squeezes it and flings him across the restaurant. Trucker #1 crashes through a booth. The other Truckers charge Agent #1.

Agent #2 goes to assist, slamming Truckers #2 through a glass pie holder and Trucker #3 through the counter.

Antwan presses his hand against Agent #1 in front of the entrance sending him flying through the glass.

Agent #1 breaks his neck on the way down.

The Agent #2 sees this and charges, Jamal punches Agent #2 sending him flying through the restaurant counter.

Antwan and Jamal quickly exit the restaurant.

JAMAL

(to Margret)

Sorry for the damage.

Margret is Flabbergasted.

EXT. TRUCK REST STOP (PARKING LOT) - NIGHT

Jamal and Antwan rush out of the restaurant. They are in a panic.

JAMAL

Go find a working car!

ANTWAN

What about you!?

JAMAL

Go!

Antwan rushes off. Jamal sees the car the Agents took, he digs his hands into the metal of the car, smashing it in the process.

Jamal lifts the car over his head and throws it into the wilderness.

CUT TO:

INT. TRUCK REST STOP (RESTAURANT) - NIGHT

Margret and the group of Truckers are shocked by Jamal's inhuman strength.

TRUCKER #4
What the hell!

TRUCKER #3
Did he...did He just throw that car?

CUT TO:

EXT. TRUCK REST STOP (PARKING LOT) - NIGHT

Antwan calls out for Jamal, he has found a decent Sedan for them. The keys are not in the car.

ANTWAN
Jamal, I found a car!

Jamal rushes to the car and climbs in the driver's side.

JAMAL
Move over!
(beat)
Where are the keys!?

ANTWAN
I couldn't find them.

INT. TRUCK REST-STOP (RESTAURANT) - NIGHT

Agent #2 pulls himself from the wrecked counter, his glasses are broken, and his suit is torn along the sleeve.

He walks outside, stepping over the exposed glass of the front door.

Antwan sees Agent #2 walking out of the wrecked entrance.

ANTWAN
Jamal,
(pointing)
He's back up, what do we do?

Jamal is frantically searching for the keys, turning over the dash and the glove compartment.

JAMAL
Give me a second.

Antwan gets out of the car and stands feet away from the Agent #2, he turns his attention to a nearby stationary truck.

Antwan closes his eyes and reaches his hand out at the truck. He breathes in deeply, the truck begins to float. Hovering just inches off the ground.

CUT TO:

INT. TRUCK REST-STOP (RESTAURANT) - NIGHT

Margret faints at the sight of the truck floating off the ground.

The other truckers are too busy recording what they see to notice Margret faint.

CUT TO:

EXT. TRUCK REST STOP - PARKING LOT

Antwan hurls the truck at the Agent #2, it lands on top of him with a THUD.

CUT TO:

INT. DECENT SEDAN - NIGHT

Jamal sees Antwan levitating the truck, he is in disbelief at what he is witnessing.

He places his hand on top of the car's dash and closes his eyes.

A spark of lighting pulsates from his hand, and the car flickers to life.

JAMAL

Got it.

CUT TO:

EXT. TRUCK REST STOP - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Antwan is visibly weakened from throwing the truck.

JAMAL (O.S)

Antwan, come on!

Antwan stumbles to the passenger side of the car, he is barely able to make it in the car.

JAMAL (CONT'D)
(to Antwan)
Twan, you ok?

Jamal reaches over and helps Antwan into the car.

ANTWAN
I'm fine, just go.

Jamal backs the car up onto the street and slams his foot on the accelerator, and the Sedan speeds off into the snowy night.

INT. DECENT SEDAN - NIGHT

Jamal keeps checking the side and rearview mirrors.

Antwan is still feeling the effects of throwing the truck.

JAMAL
Twan, you threw a truck.
(pause)
How'd you do that?

ANTWAN
I don't know
(pause)
I...I...I just reached out and
thought about and...it happened.

Jamal occasionally glances over at Antwan.

JAMAL
But it doesn't make sense.
(beat)
We can do some crazy things, but
nothing like---

ANTWAN
Forget the truck, Jamal!
(beat)
Who were those guys?

Jamal turns to focus on the road.

Antwan wraps his hands around his head. He is clearly in pain.

ANTWAN (CONT'D)

Jamal now isn't the time to be Mr Secret. Who were they?

(beat)

One of them threw a guy clean across the room---

JAMAL

Agents!

ANTWAN

What?

JAMAL

They were Agents.

(beat)

And they aren't dead.

ANTWAN

But I just dropped a truck on one of them. What do you mean "Not Dead?"

JAMAL

Not dead as in "not dead."

(beat)

They're like us.

Antwan sits back in shock, as the car speeds off.

EXT. TRUCK REST STOP - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The turned-over truck rumbles and moves, Agent #2 climbs out of the wreckage, his arms all twisted and mangled.

His body resets itself, fixing the broken bones and contusions.

Agent #1 opens his eyes, his neck is broken.

He sits up and rests his head, snapping it back into place.

He gets up and walks over to Agent #2

AGENT #1

They got away?

AGENT #2

Apparently so.

AGENT #1

Make the call, I'll clear the restaurant.

AGENT #2
Understood.

Agent #1 walks off, he is headed towards the restaurant entrance.

Agent #2 pulls a phone from his pocket and dials a number.

A woman picks up on the other line.

WOMAN (V.O.)
Report.

AGENT #1
The subjects escaped.

WOMAN (V.O.)
Can they be tracked?

AGENT #1
Affirmative.

WOMAN (V.O.)
Then proceed as planned.

AGENT #1
Understood.

Agent #1 hangs up.

INT. TRUCK REST STOP - RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Agent #2 walks up the restaurant steps, he steps over the exposed glass.

The customers all crowd around Agent #2, they are in apparent shock.

TRUCKER #1
What the hell, you...you were under
that truck, I saw it. You were
dead.

EXT. TRUCK STOP - NIGHT

SCREAMS along with SNAPPING noises come from various people inside the restaurant building.

Agent #2 steps out of the building, he steps over the glass, and dusts his suit off.

AGENT #1
Is it taken care of?

Agent #2 presses send on one of the Trucker's phone before snapping it in two.

AGENT #2
It is.
(beat)
And, for us?

AGENT #1
We are to continue the pursuit.
(beat)
Can we do that?

AGENT #2
We can.

The two Agents begin walking down the snowy road.

FADE TO BLACK.