

Zesser

written by

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OVER BLACK

WILLIE BOBO (V.O.)
"THIS MORNING I WAKE UP AND I LOOK
IN THE MIRROR. EVERY PART OF MY
BODY WAS IN THE PLACE MANY PEOPLE
LIE."

FADE IN:

EXT. SHRADERVILLE, ANGUILLA - DAWN

Willie Bobo (late 50s), rail-thin with a ras that reaches down to his kneecaps. He sits on the steps and watches the rain fall with a cane in his left hand. He sings out.

WILLIE BOBO
"I DON'T WANNA ACT TOO HIGH AND
MIGHTY 'CAUSE TOMORROW I MAY FALL
DOWN ON MY FACE."

Nearby a stray dog scurries through the rain. In the distance, we can hear screams coming from the house across the street.

WILLIE BOBO (CONT'D)
"LORD, I THANK YOU FOR SUNSHINE,
THANK YOU FOR RAIN, THANK YOU JOY,
THANK YOU FOR PAIN."

Screams grow louder.

INT. RODNEY'S HOUSE "BATHROOM" - CONTINUOUS

Marry-Anne "Marrie" (16) screams in pain once again. Sweat drips down her forehead as she breathes and begins to push the baby out. Marrie is in the tub giving birth in lukewarm water.

MARRIE
Auuhhhhhhaaaaa! Jesus Christ, Mary
& Joesph. AHHHHHHHHHH!

MIDWIFE
Yes, Marrie. That's it. I can see
the head now hunny. Breathe and
push one more time.

The midwife hunches over the edge of tub inspecting Marrie's cervix.

MARRIE

Rodney! AHHHHH! RODNEYYY

MIDWIFE

RODNEY She needs you.

Rodney, (17) tall, lean, and wickedly mean enters. Nervously sweating, he rushes to the tub and holds Marrie's hand.

RODNEY

Baby. I reach. I'm right here.

Shhh. I got you.

One big push from Marrie and the baby comes out floating in the water. The Midwife picks him up gently and as the baby comes out of the water the baby screams loudly and boisterously.

The midwife clips the umbilical cord swaddles the baby in a warm blanket and hands the baby to Marrie.

MIDWIFE

(smiling)

A boy.

MARRIE

Oh, my sweet baby boy. Aaru. That's his name.

Rodney smiles.

MARRIE (CONT'D)

Means Peaceful. He will be our peace.

Rodney's smile fades away. A hardened look casts over his face.

RODNEY

Marry-Anne. Aaru is not safe on this island. You know that. The boat is waiting for him. A promise is a promise.

MARRIE

(starts to cry)

Just- Just let me go with him na. Let me go with him. He's our boy. He's my boy.

RODNEY

No. They done already know who you are. You are in this. Our son won't be.

Rodney takes the baby from Marrie. He looks at him and sheds a tear. Takes out a knife from his back pocket and pierces the baby's right cheek. An ear-splitting cry comes out from the baby's mouth.

RODNEY (CONT'D)

Now we can always come and look for him one day.

The Midwife looks at Rodney in horror like he is half mad. Rodney looks up and notices. He reaches into his back pocket for his gun and shoots her in the head.

RODNEY (CONT'D)

One less problem to worry about.

Marrie lies in the tub with a plain face unbothered by the dead body.

MARRIE

Can I hold Aaru one more time Rodney? Please.

Rodney is looking into his son's eyes, watching the blood drip from his cheek.

RODNEY

No.

EXT. ANGUILLA - MORNING

The rain has cleared up and the sun has almost fully risen.

WILLIE BOBO

"IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY. IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY."

Rodney exits the house with the baby, hiding him under a blanket.

CUT TO:

OPENING TITLES: - ZESSER

EXT. GRANNY G'S BACKYARD - NOON

SUBTITLE: 23 YEARS LATER, San Fernando, Trinidad

Zaki Chadee (23), is handsome and cunning. Has a scar on his right cheek. He stands in the backyard picking out Julie-mangos from the tree.

ZAKI
 "SWEAR TO GOD I'M WINNING INNA DI
 HILLS I'M CHILLING"

INT. GRANNY G'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Gloria "Granny G", 72, washes meat in the sink and looks out the window at Zaki in the backyard. She shakes her head and goes to the backdoor peering out into the yard with her hand on her hip.

GRANNY GLORIA
 ZAKI!

Zaki is listening to music with his headphones and continues singing to himself, his back facing his granny.

GRANNY GLORIA (CONT'D)
 ZAKI HELLO! BOY!

Zaki pauses his music, turns around, and removes one headphone.

ZAKI
 Oh shoots, Yes, Granny?

GRANNY GLORIA
 Doh go picking no Julie-mango to give to no fast-ass little girls na. I want my mangos eh. I go make chow soon.

ZAKI
 (sucking his teeth)
 I not studying no gyal. Granny You always saying "soon" when is soon hmm?

GRANNY GLORIA
 Doh go steuping teeth at me. Finish picking them mangoes and bring them inside here. And you need to go and help carry your sister to the mall tomorrow after she finish school.

ZAKI
 She not too big to go on she own awa?

Granny Gloria cuts Zaki a stern look and before she can say anything Zaki quickly speaks up.