

COLD OPENING

I/E. FAMILY SUV - DETROIT, MICHIGAN - FRIDAY MORNING

A black luxury SUV comes to a toll booth as it heads for Ambassador Bridge.

At the toll booth, a strong light-skinned hand gives five dollars to the BOOTH OPERATOR before crossing the bridge.

The hand belongs to family patriarch, GEORGE CARTER (45), with his wife, DIANE (44) and THEIR CARTER CHILDREN are packed in like sardines as they share space with some of their belongings.

A huge moving truck follows them.

The YOUNGER CHILDREN

stare with wonderment at the Toronto skyline while

MR. CARTER

drives agitated by the cramped space.

MRS. CARTER

looks at her phone trying to get a GPS signal while

eldest daughter, VALARIE (15),

has her earbuds in her ears.

MRS. CARTER

glances in the rearview mirror to see

TONYA (5), AISHA (10) and JEROME (10)

clowning around while Valarie listens to her music.

MRS. CARTER

Are you okay, Pooh Bear?

Valarie continues to listen to her music playlist. Noticing this, Mrs. Carter gets more stern in tone.

MRS. CARTER (CONT'D)

Valarie! Valarie! Valarie Alexandra

Carter!

Startled by her mother's voice, Valarie snatches her earbuds.

VALARIE

Yes, ma'am.

MRS. CARTER

Pooh Bear, you seem a little distant.

Do you wanna talk?

VALARIE

Oh, mama, you have nothin' to worry about. I'm just taking in the scenery.

MRS. CARTER

Are you sure?

MR. CARTER

Diane, which way are we supposed to go? I need you woman.

MRS. CARTER

George, what did I tell you about calling me "woman" like that? Well, I'll let you get back to your music.

Mrs. Carter goes back to her GPS and helps a frustrated Mr. Carter.

After the conversation, Valarie wipes her black curls from her brown-skinned face and speaks to the audience.

VALARIE

Putting on a brave face is somethin' I've mastered over the years. Teasing about my looks. Getting called out for "speaking white." Classmates playing down my intelligence.

(MORE)

VALARIE (CONT'D)

Being the middle child of seven. I've faced it all, but leaving my school and best friend in Tennessee is my hardest challenge yet. I mean I'm grateful that Daddy was able to level up in life, but I'm leavin' everything I know for a better life. I just hope the transition goes smoothly, but somethin' keeps irking me about the move.

VALARIE

places her earbud back in her ears.

JEROME

plays a portable video game while

AISHA AND TONYA

watch a movie on the headrest screens.

Mr. Carter becomes tense and aggravated as Mrs. Carter gives him directions.

The Ambassador Bridge frames the Toronto skyline as the family crosses over it.

Downtown Toronto is filled with gray clouds, dancing snowflakes and chilly winds creating an atmospheric wintry haze.

MUSIC BY KENDRICK LAMAR plays in the background as the family enters the city.

END OF COLD OPENING