

SOS Pilot

written by

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EXT. CITY - DAY

It's an overhead shot of the city. CHECK IN is playing.

RADIO HOST

...you're here with the cat man ...
where ya at man?

JABARI

FROM THE KY TO THE CA
FROM THE CA TO THE OH
MAKIN' MOVES, AIN'T NO DELAY
WANT TO SPIN THE MIC WANNA RELAY
THIS MESSAGE FRESH YOU CAN TEST IT
BEST
BUT YOU CANT BEST IT BETTER LIKE
PRIME INVESTMENTS
LOW RISK HIGH REWARD THE WAY THIS
RECORD BLESSIN'
RYAN DOIN' NEW THINGS SO BE SURE TO
CHECK IN

RADIO HOST

...hello?

MARTIN

HAHA, YEAH, ECK ECK ECK
TELL 'EM HARD TO EARN
IT'S BEST TO WATCH YOUR STEP AND
WAIT YOUR TURN OR YOU MIGHT JUST
BURN
BLOWN OUT LIKE A FRESH NEW PERM
THESE TYPE A HEAT'LL LEAVE YOU
CREMATED SLUMPIN' THE URN
SMELLIN' FEAR IN THE AIR
SUCH A PLEASANT AROMA
AND WHEN IN ROME THEY SAY TO ALWAYS
ROAM OVER
THE SIGHTS AND EXPERIENCE THE LIGHT
WHEN IT CHECKIN'
WHENEVER YOU AROUND CAN'T FORGET TO
COME AND CHECK IN

INT. JABARI'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

The mom CARLA (), dad JAMESON (Denzel, old-school), and older brother MIKEY (pot-head) are gathered in the kitchen. Carla is washing dishes. Jameson and Mikey are sitting at the kitchen. Jameson is reading the paper, while Mikey is playing a handheld GameBoy.

CARLA

Jameson, I don't see why you have
to park that thing in the driveway.
It's not humble.

JAMESON

Am I supposed to park it in
Timbuktu? When is it a crime to
have nice things?

CARLA

I wasn't consulted on the station
wagon.

JAMESON

(to Mikey)
Put that thing away.

MIKEY

Wha-Hey I was at Bowser's Castle!

JAMESON

I'll show you a real-life 'game
over' if you don't put that thing
away.

CARLA

Honey, that thing rots your brain.

She plants a kiss on Mikey's head.

CARLA (CONT'D)

And don't be hanging out at the
Skate Park late at night either.

MIKEY

I'm not!

JAMESON

Now listen Mikey, those kids are
losers, and trust me you don't want
to roll that way.

MIKEY

They're my friends, dad.

JAMESON

Those kids?

MIKE

Yeah.

JAMESON

Mike: are you doing heroin?

CARLA

Jameson!

JAMESON

It's a question that needs an answer.

JABARI (Q-Tip) walks out of his room. He grabs a banana from the fridge. He goes to give his mom a kiss on the cheek.

JABARI

I'll see you mom

CARLA

You better get your room straightened up, mister.

JABARI

Mom, I'm totally on it.

JAMESON

Don't use that tone with your mother.

JABARI

What tone?

CARLA

Billy did you take out the trash like I asked you?

JABARI

Yeah mom.

CARLA

And take the cat to the vet?

Billy looks down at the cat. The cat meows an unnaturally deep meow.

JABARI

Uh, yep.

JAMESON

Now I don't know what's gotten into you, boy. Listening to that rap music.

JABARI

It's A Tribe Called Quest, dad, how do you not like A Tribe Called Quest?

Jabari leaves. Asana (bald head, SZA-coded) sits down to some breakfast.

JAMESON

He needs to listen to real music.
Like Louis Armstrong. Remember when
music was real? Instead of all this
boom bap nonsense. This generation.
It's all about sex and women. Pull
your pants up and work a 9-5,
that's how you get ahead.

ASANA

Dad you don't get our generation at
all.

JAMESON

You're right, I don't. See, I don't
know where the hell you got the
idea to shave that head. She had
such natural gorgeous curls! Like
Donna Summer.

ASANA

You just wouldn't get it.

JAMESON

Yeah. See back in the day, girls
were fly.

CARLA

Flyer than you.

JAMESON

Your mama was the flyest of them
all. I was getting to that part.
And boys? We had swagger.

ASANA

You're saying I'm not fly.

JAMESON

No I think you're so fly your hair
grew wings and flied away.

INT. SCHOOL

Everybody is jamming out to Z-90.
Jabari's like a celebrity with
everyone dapping him up.

BEAR

Yo Jabari, heard you on the radio.

JABARI

Oh that? Shit ain't nothin to me.

GIGI

Hey Jabari, I need a study partner
if you wanna come over later.

JABARI

Yeah but we should just knock boots
tho.

He high fives someone.

RADIO HOST (V.O.)

It's Tubular Tuesday. We'll be
right back.

EXT. LUNCH TABLES

Jabari is sitting with Marley, TYLER, EDDIE, JONAH, LENA, and RICO. Jabari is playing a beat on the table with his pencil. Him and Marley start free-styling. A crowd forms around them.

JABARI

*MY RHYMES STRAIGHT FACTUAL,
I BE SPITTIN' MAGICAL LIKE
SUPERCALIFRAGICAL
LEAVE A MESSAGE AT THE TONE IF
YOU'RE CASUAL
RAPPEERS NEED ASSEMBLY THEY NEED TO
READ THE MANUAL—*

Sherry walks up clearing her throat and breaks up the crowd.

SHERRY

Principal's office young man.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Principal Martin is sitting at his desk. A radio is playing.

RADIO

*Here's a clip from Governor
O'Malley's last press conference.
[chhk] These ruffians who are
committing acts of sabotage against
our government, are none other than
the same hooligans who have always
bothered the good people of this
country! [applause]*

PRINCIPAL MARTIN
*Why do I have a bad feeling about
this week?*

MRS. BEANSLEY enters.

MRS. BEANSLEY
Sir, Jabari is here.

Jabari sits down in Kenmore's office. Kenmore is sitting, sternly flipping through papers, occasionally eyeing Jabari across the desk.

PRINCIPAL MARTIN
Jabari, what did I tell you about organizing?

JABARI
Principal, we're exercising our first amendment rights.

PRINCIPAL MARTIN
This isn't a democracy Jabari. I'm in charge here. And guess what? I'm a dictator.

JABARI
We're expressing ourselves.

PRINCIPAL MARTIN
Look Jabari, we have to cancel your performance at The Dance.

JABARI
Why?

Phone rings.

PRINCIPAL MARTIN
Because I said so.

Principal Martin picks up.

PRINCIPAL MARTIN (CONT'D)
...yeah....hold on. I'm dealing with a disciplinary issue.

JABARI
Sir, with all due respect—

Principal Martin covers the receiver and hisses.

PRINCIPAL MARTIN

(on phone)

Yeah...we can't afford the arts
program after the new levy...uh-
huh...

Principal Martin shoos him out. Jabari gets up, but lingers
at the door, overhearing some of the conversation

PRINCIPAL MARTIN (CONT'D)

(on phone)

...if we don't comply they cut our
funding...

INT. GRAHAM HOUSE, KITCHEN

Martha is making eggs angrily.

MARTHA

I swear to God that girl better
have a damn good excuse.

Dave is drinking coffee, but he can't seem to focus on his
newspaper. Ronny is deeply invested in his cereal box.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

I mean, really. There's no respect
around here.

Martha slams a plate of eggs on the table.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Ronny, bus is here. Off you go.

She plants a kiss on his head. He runs off.

DAVE

I hope she's okay.

MARTHA

Oh, I'm sure she's just fine, Dave.
Meanwhile we're worried sick.

Dave gets up.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

DAVE

Martha, I'm going to head over to
the police station. I'll call if I
find anything out.

MARTHA
I'll come too

DAVE
You should stay here in case she
comes back.

Dave leaves. Martha goes outside, smokes a cigarette.

INT. SHERIFF'S DEPT.

Dave is sitting across the desk from Sheriff John Marsh. John is taking notes. The sheriff, Sheriff John Marsh, is sitting at his desk. He is a tired man who is attending to this as one would tabletop puzzle. Bob and Marsha (Becky's parents) are on the other side.

SHERIFF MARSH
So last night, approximately 10pm,
that's when she left.

Dave studies the man. Sheriff punctuates his thought with a pen stab.

DAVE
It's been two days. She hasn't come
home.

SHERIFF MARSH
We'll send a squad car out to the
house. Do you know the address?

DAVE
No, I just knew she was going to a
friend's house for a party

Dave is wracking his hands.

SHERIFF MARSH
An address would be helpful.

The Sheriff drums his thumb against the desktop a few times

SHERIFF MARSH (CONT'D)
That's okay. We'll find it. Ask
around the school. View Heights
right?

DAVE
She's not usually like this I- me
and Martha are a bundle of nerves
right now. She wouldn't just leave.
(MORE)

DAVE (CONT'D)

And if she did just decide to jet off, I couldn't imagine where she would go.

SHERIFF MARSH

You said she has cousins in Starkville.

DAVE

Well, yes...

SHERIFF MARSH

I'll head over there first, just to check all possibilities. In the meantime, Bob and Charlie will head over to school and see what we can find out there.

Sheriff Marsh and Dave stand up.

SHERIFF MARSH

I wouldn't worry, Dave. She probably just had too much to drink and is with a friend or something. We'll check out the school first and see if she's there.

They shake hands.

SHERIFF MARSH

We'll find her, Dale.

DAVE

Martha and I will be praying for it.

Dale leaves with a heavy heart.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Appreciate your time, Sheriff.

SHERIFF MARSH

Take it easy Dave. She'll be alright.

Sheriff looks to his Deputies Bobby and Charlie who are standing by the coffee machine.

SHERIFF MARSH (CONT'D)

Yeah you two just stand there that's perfect.

SHERRY

Sir-

John Simon is already brushing past her.

SHERIFF MARSH

You need to talk with HR, son. I'm very busy.

JS

This is about Becky. She told me something happened.

SHERIFF MARSH

Wait, wait, so you saw Becky.

JOHN SIMON

I didn't exactly see her. Look, I tracked her down and I found a ring that I gave her for our anniversary —

DEPUTY BOBBY

Forget it. Kid's wasting our time.

SHERIFF MARSH

Look, kid. This is no time to be *fucking* around. This is serious.

Theo is sipping coffee, playing the lawyer

THEO

Look, we didn't want to pull this card but, my client has psychic abilities.

EXT. SHERIFF OFFICE

The boys are thrown out on their asses.

THEO

What do we do now?

JS

I don't know but we're not getting any help from them.

EXT. ZIGGY'S

There is a protest group gathered outside the store. Jabari and Marley are leading the charge.

RADIO HOST (V.O.)

What's that? This just in, folks.
There's a protest going on down at
Ziggy's. I think they're protesting
tax increases. Now we don't get
political on this show, but if
you're around, head down and show
some love.

MARLEY

Yo G drop a beat.

[G drops a beat. Jabari raps with political overtones.]

[Marley's verse]

EXT./ INT. COP CAR

Deps. Bobby and Charlie are cruising. Dep. Bobby sees a kid
on a bike. He flashes the siren.

DEPUTY BOBBY

Woah, woah, woah. We got a speed
racer over here. Dep. Bobby leans
his head out the window.

DEPUTY BOBBY (CONT'D)

Hey. Hey kid. Slow down.

POLICE INTERCOM

Brrzzt. We've got a complain from
the Governor about a gathering on
34th and Larchmont. 17.

EXT. ZIGGY'S

Deputy Charlie picks up.

DEPUTY CHARLIE

Copy. Probably just some kids.
Let's check it out.

The cops show up.

DEPUTY CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Alright, alright break it up. We've
got multiple noise complaints.

JABARI

You mean we can't even get together
in a public area? Who could
possibly have a problem with that?

DEPUTY BOBBY

Look we can do this the easy way or
the hard way.

GOVERNOR O'MALLEY pulls up across the street in his red
Mercedes convertible.

JABARI

Oh hell naw.

MARLEY

Livin like a rock star.

JABARI

While everybody else can't eat.

MARLEY

The Government treatin' him good.

JABARI

His prize for playin' the game,
huh? Everyone has a price and we
know his. 'Cept me. I don't got a
price.

DEPUTY CHARLIE

You got a price.

JABARI

No I don't.

DEPUTY CHARLIE

You got one. You've just never been
offered it.

DEPUTY BOBBY

Let's go.

Deputy Charlie steps in the cop car they peel out.

JABARI

We tried organizing. That didn't
work. We gotta accelerate our
methods.

MARLEY

You're gonna get our pork fried
man. I'm too young to be wonton
soup.

JABARI

The oppressor sets the rules of the
struggle. Peaceful gathering didn't
work. We gotta turn it up a notch.

MARLEY

What you have in mind bro?

Jabari thinks.

JABARI

Sabotage.

MARLEY

I hope you know what you doin' man.

EXT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT - LATER

Jabari and Marley are in a car, staking out outside the Gov.'s office. They wait until they see the Gov. exit, get in his car, and drive off. The Gov. is reaming out somebody over the phone.

GOV. O'MALLEY

I told you, I need my tailor back
on Monday...

JABARI

Alright it's showtime.

EXT. OFFICE

Jabari sneaks in using a crowbar on the door.

INT. GOV.'S OFFICE

Jabari is in Governor O'Malley's office. He starts flitting through drawers to no avail. He tries to open one in the desk, but it's locked. He grabs two paperclips off the desk and rakes it open. In there, he finds some choice-looking contracts.

JABARI

And bingo was his name-o.

Jabari grabs the contracts. Under the contracts is a folder marked 'CLASSIFIED'. Jabari grabs the folder. He opens it.

MARLEY

Uh Jabari— the cops are here.

JABARI

Be cool fool they just want fuckin'
donuts.

INT. DONUT SHOP

Across the street, Deputy Bobby and Charlie are having some coffee at the donut shop.

DEPUTY BOBBY
So, are you thinking what I'm
thinking about this missing girl?

DEPUTY CHARLIE
What?

DEPUTY BOBBY
Well I think she probably went to
Florida. There was an article in
the Berkshire Prophet about how
Florida is the number one state to
go to—

Deputy Charlie spots Jabari sneaking in the window.

DEPUTY CHARLIE
A kid's breaking into the
Governor's Office.

DEPUTY BOBBY
Does he think we're fucking stupid?

Deputy Bobby stands up and hits his head on the hanging lamp.

DEPUTY BOBBY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Ow.

INT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Jabari is looking through the classified folder. In it, he sees news clippings of A DISAPPEARANCE OF CINDY LU, as well as arrangements for RELOCATION OF MIKE AND BRENDA LU. He sees CORRESPONDENCES WITH THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

MARLEY
I think they comin' this way.

JABARI
Aight stick to the plan.

Jabari takes out his recorder which is playing a dusty beat. He slides it across the room to the closet.

EXT. OFFICE

The cops are coming from the outside, accompanied by GOV. O'MALLEY.

GOVERNOR O'MALLEY
I want these kids under the jail.

DEPUTY BOBBY
We'll do the convicting if that's alright Governor.

DEPUTY CHARLIE
No we won't.

DEPUTY BOBBY
Well that's what the state judiciary system's for anyway--

GOVERNOR O'MALLEY
Go!

INT. GOV'S OFFICE

Jabari is going to the door, but before he opens it, he stops to hesitate. Just as the door is getting kicked down, Jabari whirls and hugs the wall. Deputy Bobby comes in, shining his flashlight ahead of him. Jabari is clutching the contract with his teeth. The cop scopes out the room while Jabari eyes the open door.

DEPUTY CHARLIE
Alright, kid. Playtime's over. Come out with your hands up.

Jabari slowly sneaks towards the open door. Deputy Bobby stands still. Jabari does the same. Deputy Bobby sneezes. Jabari anticipates the second one, and slips out during. Deputy Charlie turns around toward the recorder. He picks it up.

The Deputy, on beat, move toward the recorder while Jabari, on beat, moves out of the room.

RECORDER
Don't shoot, suckaaa...

Dep. Bobby picks up the recorder.

DEP. CHARLIE
Son of a bitch.

EXT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Jabari makes for the car when he is hit with floodlights and a siren whir.

DEPUTY BOBBY
(over the radio)
Ooh, caught ya red-handed bud.

Jabari puts his hands up reluctantly, the documents in one hand.

DEPUTY BOBBY (CONT'D)
(over the radio)
What's the matter? Deer in headlights?

Jabari looks done.

DEPUTY BOBBY (CONT'D)
Cat caught your tongue? You know the contract's still legally binding if it's stolen by an idiot, right?

EXT. SCHOOL - DREAM

JS is standing outside the school. It is The Big Dance, everybody is celebrating. JS sees a MAN with very dark energy standing outside the school. THE MAN turns around, but just before JS can see his face—

INT. BEDROOM - MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

JS jolts awake in his bed. He immediately flies to his open notebook and writes down everything he can remember...until his pen stops moving.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

JS is walking with Theo.

JS
This is gonna sound crazy, Theo.
But I'm dreaming of the future.

THEO
That's not crazy man. I wanna have four kids in a compound in New Mexico and nobody's gonna stop me.

JS

No, no. I worded that badly. I mean my dreams are predicting the future. It keeps on happening. And last night I saw a man. I know this man has something to do with Becky.

THEO

Did you see his face?

JS

No. I woke up before I could see it.

THEO

Hm...this is concerning man. We need to get you to a psych ward.

JS

What I need is a proper investigation. Unlike what the cops are doing.

They get to Simon's house.

THEO

I gotta feed the cats.

JS

Ok. Meet and my place at 4.

JS walks down the driveway. Mark emerges from the front door.

MARK

Hey.

JS brushes past him.

MARK (CONT'D)

Hey.

JS unlocks the door. Joe comes up and closes it.

MARK (CONT'D)

When I talk to you you respond. Got it?

JS

Yes sir.

MARK

You look at me too.

JS urges himself to look up. Eyes burn with hatred. Mark clocks this.

MARK (CONT'D)

We're gonna have a problem if this attitude keeps up. Trust me, you don't want that.

Mark leaves to his truck. JS enters the house.

INT. HOUSE

Cindy at the table crying softly. She stops as JS approaches.

CINDY

Oh, it's you.

JS

Just little old me.

CINDY

I thought you might like to spend some time with Joe.

JS

You mean like how a mouse likes to spend time with an snake?

CINDY

You just need to give him time to warm up.

JS

When he warms up he scalds you. He's like a tea kettle in that way.

CINDY

Yeah, well. You're full of jokes, aren't you?

JS

Look mom, I don't like the fuckin' guy. That's as blunt as it gets.

CINDY

Well, I think you need to be a little more grateful for everything he does for us.

JS rolls his eyes and heads up the stairs. Cindy sits in a moment of quiet reflection at the table.

INT. WAR ROOM

JS pulls down a cork board.

THEO

Woah.

JS

Here's what I know: he has a black trench coat. He's tall, about 6 feet. And he's gonna be at the school at The Big Dance.

THEO

So...he could be a teacher.

JS

Could be. Or could be somebody who's targeting students, like...

He drifts off before he can say the rest.

JS (CONT'D)

I need you to check every teacher in school. I'll look outside the town. See if I find anyone who matches the description.

INT. AV CLUB

Asana is in the AV Club.

A new image starts on the TV. The jail. Asana watched. Jabari is escorted from a police car. Asana grabs her things. Image returns to Static.

ASANA

What the fuck man.

She leaves.

INT. POLICE STATION

ASANA is waiting in the lobby. The receptionist CHERRY (cousin of Sherry) looks at her concerned.

CHERRY

Can I get you a glass of water hon?

Asana is snapped out of her trance, still a thousand miles away.

ASANA

No, I'm good. Thanks. Do you know when I can see my brother?

CHERRY

I'll check.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM

Dep. Charlie and Dep. Bobby are interrogating Jabari

DEP BOBBY

Ok homie. We're gonna do this again. Where were you on Saturday night?

JABARI

Man I told you: we drove there together.

DEP CHARLIE

Kay. And you let her out at where exactly?

JABARI

At Joe's Pizza.

DEP BOBBY

Kid's wastin' our time.

Dep. Bobby leans in.

DEP BOBBY (CONT'D)

You know what I think? I think you were sick of taking shit from her and you've just had enough. So the two of you went for a walk, tensions got high, maybe an accident happened. It was nobody's fault.

JABARI

Man get out my face.

Knock at the door.

DEP CHARLIE

I want you to think long and hard about what you're gonna say next.

JABARI-

Say, did Becky go missing or something?

DEPUTY BOBBY
This is classified information,
son. But yes she did.

DEPUTY CHARLIE
Then why even bother saying it's
classified.

DEPUTY BOBBY
Hell, he coulda figured that one
out.

They exit.

EXT. INTERROGATION ROOM

DEP CHARLIE
What is it Cherry?

CHERRY
Are you guys almost done yet? That
poor girl's been waiting there
almost an hour.

DEP CHARLIE
We're just doing our do-diligence.

DEP BOBBY
What? I thought we almost had him.
He's this close to breaking.

DEP CHARLIE
Nah. We can let him go we just need
to give him the ol' run-around.

CHERRY
Have a heart Charlie. That girl
lost her best friend and now her
brother's being questioned. I can't
imagine.

DEP BOBBY
I didn't go through the police
academy to take orders from a
receptionist.

DEP CHARLIE
Sure you did. Come on let's wrap
this up.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM

The cops walk back in.

INT. LOBBY

Asana waiting. Cherry comes out.

CHERRY

Sweetie? They're gonna bring him out right now.

ASANA

They are? Oh my God. Thank you.

Jabari enters. Asana flings her arms around him.

JABARI

Woah, hey sis.

EXT. POLICE STATION

They are getting into the car.

INT. CAR

JABARI

It was no big deal, really.

ASANA

Don't say that. I don't know what I would've done if I lost you too.

Asana begins to tear up.

JABARI

Hey you're not gonna lose me.

ASANA

You promise?

JABARI

Yeah, of course. Look I'm not gonna be out on the streets ok? I'm gonna study and be an upright citizen. They're not gonna get their hands on me. I'm not gonna give them the chance.

INT. PASTRY SHOP

Back inside the pastry shop, Rory continues working away at his cake. Yari, the owner, and Linda, the cashier, are also there.

YARI

Your pastries are a big hit!

RORY

It's all about the little details.

Linda is working the cash register.

LINDA

Hi, how are you today? What can I get you?

OLD MAN

Oh, do you have any of those small cinnamon rolls left?

LINDA

Oh, I'm sorry, we ran out of those.

RORY

I can whip one of those up for you. Should take me about 5 minutes.

OLD MAN

Would you? That would be stupendous.

RORY

Sure thing.

Rory goes back. Linda smiles approvingly at him and continues to converse with the old man.

LINDA

Can I get you a coffee?

In the back, Rory pulls out the ingredients and begins to craft one of them. In the process, he cuts himself with his knife.

RORY

(quietly)

Shit.

His blood drips on the cinnamon bun. He watches it. Slowly, he pulls his cut hand up to his mouth and begins to suck it. He dabs the blood off the cinnamon bun and puts it in the oven. In the front, Linda is talking to the old man.

She laughs at something, throwing her head back. Rory's pupils dilate. He takes a roll and begins chopping it.

VOICE (V.O.)

You're getting sloppy Rory.

RORY

What do you mean?

VOICE (V.O.)

*There's a boy. He can see you in
his dreams. He's going to find you.
HE'S GOING TO RUIN YOU.*

INT. FRONT

*He takes the cinnamon roll out to
the old man.*

OLD MAN

*Thank you so much! You've made this
old man's day.*

RORY

I'm glad. Don't mention it.

LINDA

That will be 5.95.

The old man pulls his cash out onto the table and starts counting it. Rory rushes back to the back. He takes a deep breath and returns to making his cake.