

CREDITS ROLL:

Dark

CUT TO:

EXT. BED STUY BROOKLYN - DAY

Above a busy block. Looking down, we see a street. It's a chaotic scene. People moving back and forth with urgency. Ants, who know something bad is about to happen. Like a drop of rain, we move straight down to street level and are pulled down the sidewalk where we see this place up close and personal.

With so much activity it seems more like midtown than Brooklyn. This is not your average day. This is more than rush hour. This is an evacuation.

-A line of cars, people trying to get out of town at the last minute, is slowly making it's way down the street. We can hear honking, and the occasional angry yell.

-People sit on their stoops watching the activity. A radio blares out their window.

NEWS ANNOUNCER

Huge. Gigantic. Stretching almost 1000 miles across we are looking at the biggest storm in east coast history.

-Someone inside a house is taping their windows, like one does in preparation for a storm.

-We see very old, not very well cared for brownstones.

NEWS ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

What we're worried about here is not the storm itself, but the surge. All this is happening during high tide. Water from the ocean could be pushed in and overwhelm the sewers leading to flooding all over the city.

-Broken windows.

-Boarded up doors. Some for the weather, some abandoned homes.

-We come in on GUS, African American, (30's). He wears a tired suit, one size too big, and 10 years too old.

He opens and closes his hand like it hurts, then he covers something in the pocket of his jacket. We can just make out the red cap of a cheap bottle of vodka. We move forward leaving Gus to walk alone, but not before we notice a slight limp.

-A creaky old woman sits in the window staring out at the street. A television behind her on, the weatherman, front and center.

WEATHER MAN

So let me make this clear. Stay in doors tonight. Watch for flooding. We're expecting the brunt of the storm...

-People having a barbecue on their stoop.

-We see a bodega with pictures of Puerto Rican food in the windows and hand written signs that read "***Esta Bueno y Fresca!! and We accept Wic***".

TWO MEN WITH HOODIES stand nearby talking. Their faces obscured.

A BOY (15) runs out the front door of the bodega followed by a man, MANUEL(40s).

MANUEL

You don't steal from me. I'm a find you, you little...

The boy hands whatever he stole off to one of the men with hoodies and keeps running.

Manuel sees the exchange and stops.

The men laugh and make threatening gestures at Manuel as the kid runs away.

MANUEL (CONT'D)

Funny, yeah. Ha ha. Fine. Fine...

Manuel puts his hands up, intimidated, and goes back.

We move on.

There is a building being taken apart for renovation. A sign for "***Future Condos***" sits outside. A HOMELESS MAN, stands next to it singing at the top of his lungs. He aggressively asks people for change as they walk by.

2 NEIGHBORS having a good natured, but heated argument.

The boy runs by them and they both watch.

NEIGHBOR 1

It was not, it was that..(voice gets quiet)

He looks down the block toward the bodega.

NEIGHBOR 1 (CONT'D)

It was that Nick. His boys steal anything you don't nail down.

NEIGHBOR 2

Why you gotta stay away from him. I'm telling you...

Then further down. What you may call the end of the block. A street that literally leads no where. A dead end with one old building.

A 3 story low rise brick structure, big enough to contain 5 or 6 apartments on each floor.

On it's stoop sits an African American man in his 30's, NICK. He wears sunglasses, a tracksuit, and pulls on a cigarette.

The two men in Hoodies approach him.

HOOD 1

We got the shit.

Nick looks around, gets up and walks very close to the man.

NICK

Shut the fuck up.

He opens the front door of the building, mumbling and shaking his head as we glide past him.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT BUILDING - 1ST FLOOR

The building is a patchwork of architecture from the 40's to the 80's. It has asbestos and lead paint is written all over it.

The first thing you see inside is the staircase weaving up the middle of the building. At it's base is a hallway that goes straight back to several apartments, and a door under the stairs, the kind that usually leads to a cellar.

Nick and his hoods walk straight, back into the hall, *but we go up the stairs*, around two flights, passing TENANTS with suitcases coming down.

We move on up. The layout of every floor is similar.

As we go past the 2nd floor, we see a man, CURTIS(20's) unlocking an apartment and going inside. He looks nervous and stands at the door listening as Nick and his hoods walk down the hall on the first floor. We don't stop here, no, we move on.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT BUILDING -3RD FLOOR- HALLWAY/STAIRS

At the top of the stairs we stop. A woman, ANNIE(30's), Latina, walks by us. She seems tired and sad, something about her says she's on the raggedy edge.

We follow her down the hall where she opens a door and walks in.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY

Annie turns left and disappears into a kitchen. We continue to move down the hall, where we see a master bedroom at the end, with a bathroom next to it. Halfway down we move through an open door.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - ELI'S ROOM - DAY

ELI,(8), an African American boy, is laying on the ground looking at a book.

The title reads, ***Famous Ghosts of the USA.***

He is looking down at a photo of dark stair case. At it's bottom is a dark figure. A caption reads: ***People saw the ghost as a dark spectral visage. Almost human...***

Eli is totally freaked out.

The sound of a door slamming.

His head pops up, startled.

Eli stands and moves into the hall.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT: HALLWAY

Eli steps into the dim hallway, of what is a railroad style apartment.

At the end of the hall, by the front door, near the kitchen, he watches his father, Gus, hang his jacket on a coat rack and walk into the kitchen.

Eli looks at the pocket of Gus' jacket.

He notices the red top sticking out.

Running down the hall to the coat, Eli grabs the bottle from the jacket and runs back.

CUT TO:

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT: BATHROOM - DAY

Eli runs in, unscrews the top of the vodka and pours it out in the sink. Then he turns on the tap, washes it down the drain, replaces the cap, and runs back into the hall.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - DAY

Eli quietly runs back to Gus' coat and replaces the bottle.

Then he stops.

The muffled sound of voices talking softly with purpose.

ANNIE (O.C.)
How did it go?

GUS (O.C.)
How it usually goes.

He can't hear so he cautiously and quietly moves forward.

ANNIE (O.C.)
What happened?

GUS (O.C.)
More experience. Same thing as before.

Arriving at the kitchen door, he stops, watching what's happening inside.

GUS (O.C.) (CONT'D)
But...they said they have a job opening in security. I'm going back to interview next week. With my background I have a good chance.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT: KITCHEN

Eli sees Annie, standing over Gus who is sitting at a small kitchen table. She's been cleaning. A rag in one hand and cleaning product behind her on the counter.

On the table we see small piles of paper, bills.

Eli can make out the words FINAL NOTICE and OVER DUE.

He stands just outside the door in the dark of the hallway.

Gus is slouched down in a chair.

Annie sighs and sits down with him.

She gives him a look. Sad. Loving.

He slides a hand across the table, onto hers.

They are silent for a moment.

ANNIE

Did you call the VA?

His hand moves away.

GUS

Why? Get put on a list for six months...

Annie rises and continues cleaning, now, out of frustration.

ANNIE

Your parents are spending the night. Their place will flood. Give them our bed. We'll sleep in Eli's room. Manuel will be here too. Wanted to sleep in his store. Afraid of looters. Can stay on the couch. Richard and Curtis will stop by too. I should get things ready. Make sure we have-

Gus stands and puts his arm around Annie's waist.

She looks down at him. Their eyes meet.

GUS

Everything's gonna be fine.

She looks away, shaking her head.

A moment and Gus lightly punches the table.

Annie lifts Gus' hand. She sees bruises on his knuckles.

He pulls his hand away.

Annie stops, when she notices Eli in the doorway.

ANNIE

How long you been there?

Eli shrugs.

ELI

Minute.

ANNIE

Creeper.

ELI

Not a creeper.

ANNIE

You creeped in here.

ELI

I got little feet.

He moves into the room and latches onto his father.

Annie gives Gus a death stare.

GUS

Please just...

Gus stands and looks at Eli.

GUS (CONT'D)

Hey man. You want to help me start
boarding up the windows?

ANNIE

Did you go to Manuel's?

GUS

Shit I-

ANNIE

Gus.

GUS

Shoot. Sorry. I forgot. I'll go
now.

He looks back at Eli, smiles a smile that's all worry, and
walks out of the room.

ANNIE

Gus.

CUT TO:

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - DAY

Gus, on the other side of the wall, stops.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT: KITCHEN - DAY

Annie, stands staring at the empty doorway.

ANNIE

Stay away from Nick.

CUT TO:

Gus stares forward for a moment, then walks away.

CUT BACK TO:

Annie, as she hears the sound of a door opening, and closing.

ELI

Can I go?

She doesn't hear Eli. She just stares forward.

ELI (CONT'D)

Can I go?

ANNIE

What? No. We have company coming.
Clean your room. You want your
grandmother to see it like it is
now?

He watches his mother for a moment. She crosses her arms and
lets out a breath of pure stress.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Well? Go on.

Eli scurries away, but peers back around the corner.

He sees his mother trying so hard not to crack. A tear flows down her cheek. She breathes in, wipes it away, and goes back to cleaning.

CUT TO:

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT: HALLWAY

Eli backs away from the kitchen, and slowly sneaks toward the apartment's front door. As he goes, he passes a wall covered with photos of their family; Annie, Gus, and Eli, as well as more of just Eli and Gus. In most of them they are all smiling. Happy times. Ghosts of the past.

The last photo seen, is one of just Gus, wearing Army desert camo.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY/STAIRS - 3RD FLOOR

Eli over a banister down through the middle of the stairs.

He sees his father on the second floor landing, then he follows.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT BUILDING: HALLWAY - FIRST FLOOR

Eli arrives at the bottom of the stairs and moves toward the front door. Then he stops.

He turns around and sees the cellar door open just a crack.

Everything is quiet.

Eli walks over and sees a master lock hanging open.

He reaches for the door.

BAM! A noise in the other direction.

He turns toward the front door.

GUS (O.C.)

Hey!

Eli moves in the direction of his father's voice.

EXT. ELI'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Eli slowly opens the front door and the first thing he sees is blood on the ground.