

INT. YELLOW CAB - NEW YORK CITY - SATURDAY MORNING

Lenex is on her cell phone.

LENEX

Yeah, I'm on my way. No, girl, I ended up taking an earlier flight. Couldn't wait to get back. I'm in a cab on my way to the hotel. And I hope to get there in one piece.

She lowers her voice and covers her mouth.

LENEX

Girl, this man cannot drive!

The cab makes a sudden swerve and Lenex is thrown across the back seat.

LENEX

(to driver)

Hey! You think maybe you could choose a lane and actually stay in it?

The cab swerves again and Lenex is thrown back across the seat.

LENEX

Del, I have to go. This man is trying to kill me! I'll call you later.

Lenex disconnects and grabs onto the door to steady herself as the cab continues to swerve.

LENEX

(to driver)

And don't think I don't know you took the long way to my hotel! My luggage tags may say L.A. but I am NYC! Just so you know.

The driver suddenly swerves to a stop just inches in front of a black Jaguar exiting a parking garage. Gets out of the cab, throws Lenex's door open a moment later.

EXT. BROADWAY - MOMENTS LATER

CAB DRIVER

(in a thick accent)

Get out!

LENEX

Excuse me?

CAB DRIVER

Get out! No more backseat drive!

LENEX

You can't drop me here! We're thirty blocks from my hotel!

CAB DRIVER

No more drive. No more!

LENEX

I'm not paying you a dime, you hear me? And I'm going to report you to the cab company, how about that?

CAB DRIVER

I don't care! Get out!

Lenex jumps out as the driver opens the trunk of the car and begins tossing her luggage on the sidewalk.

LENEX

(yelling)

What are you doing? Are you crazy?

The driver of the Jaguar has gotten out of his car by now and is running to assist Lenex. She turns just as he approaches.

LENEX

(shocked at seeing him)

Derek?

DEREK

(also shocked)

Lenex?

The driver tosses the last of her bags onto the sidewalk. Jumps into his cab, revs the engine and races off.

DEREK

(grinning)

I see you still have a way with the Yellow Cab Company.

LENEX

(smiling)

Some things never change.

They stare at each other quietly for a moment.

DEREK

So how have you been, Lenni?

LENEX

Doing alright. You know, maintaining.

DEREK

I know a little something about maintaining.

LENEX

You look good.

DEREK

Thanks. You look amazing, of course. L.A.'s been good to you.

LENEX

It's been great. I'm out there doing my thing.

DEREK

Oh yeah? What's that? What's your thing?

LENEX

Some of this, a little of that. You know.

DEREK

(still grinning)

I know. I've been doing the same.

LENEX

I've heard all about what you've been doing, Mr. Midas Touch. Yeah, we know all about you on the other coast too.

DEREK

A brother's taking care of business. You know. Managing his blowup-uation.

LENEX

Running the game...

DEREK

(finishing her sentence)

Not letting it run me. You know how I do.

LENEX

Yea.

(beat)

Hey listen...is that your car we almost hit?

DEREK

(proudly)

Yup, that's my new ride. 2006 Jaguar XJ.

LENEX

Think maybe we could get in it?

DEREK

(playfully)

Did you need a ride somewhere?

LENEX

I'm staying at the Marriott.

DEREK

I wasn't really headed that way.

LENEX

Derek!

DEREK

(laughing)

Okay, okay. Actually, this works out perfectly because now we can talk about why you up and left me.

LENEX

I'll pass on that, thanks.

DEREK

Oh, we're going to have this conversation.

They start gathering Lenex's bags, placing them in the trunk of Derek's car.

INT. DEREK'S CAR — MOMENTS LATER

DEREK

So what brings you back to New York, Lenni?

LENEX

I miss it. Had some vacation time,
thought I'd spend it here.

DEREK

That's a lot of luggage for a
vacation.

LENEX

It's a long vacation.

DEREK

From what? What do you do?

LENEX

Same ol' same ol'. Nothing exciting.
But let's talk about you. You've been
making some headlines the past couple
of years. You've almost got that Diddy
status, from what I hear.

DEREK

Not quite. I stay behind the scenes.

LENEX

Boy, please. You're more popular than
some of the artists you've signed. And
speaking of artists, who's the next
Payton Pick? Whose life are you about
to change?

DEREK

Girl, you know how I work. That
information is on the low until all
deals are sealed.

LENEX

So you are working on something, then?

DEREK

Of course! I got about five acts I'm
developing right now. And they're
Payton Picks, baby, so you know they
can't be nothing less than fire!

Derek quietly steals looks at her as they ride.

DEREK

So...what's up, Lenex? What's your
situation? Anyone calling you wifey?

LENEX

I've done a little dating. Nothing serious. L.A. brothers are different, you know?

DEREK

How so?

LENEX

I don't know, they just are.

DEREK

I can tell you what the problem is. Once you've been Derek Payton's girl, it's hard to settle for anyone else.

LENEX

Right. That must be it.

They fall into brief silence.

DEREK

So are you ever going to tell me why you left me?

LENEX

We weren't even dating at the time. I didn't leave you, Derek. I left New York.

DEREK

Without telling me you were going.

LENEX

I left you a note.

DEREK

Three years and I've never found a note, Lenni.

LENEX

I'm telling you I left a note.

DEREK

Where? Where did you allegedly leave this note?

LENEX

(clearing her throat)
I, uh, I left it right on the counter.

DEREK

There was no note on the counter,
Lenex. A brother does clean. I think I
would've found it by now.

LENEX

Okay, Derek, dang. I wrote it on the
top of that pizza box.

DEREK

You left me a breakup letter on the
top of a pizza box?

LENEX

It wasn't a breakup letter because you
and I weren't a couple at that time.
Besides, you were asleep on the couch
when Dana and I left that night.

DEREK

And you couldn't wake me? Kind of an
important conversation, Lenni.

LENEX

One I really didn't feel like having
just then. I didn't know how to tell
you.

DEREK

We've been tight since high school.
When have we ever not been able to
talk to each other? You don't just up
and leave like that, Lenni. That
wasn't cool.

LENEX

I'm sorry, Derek. How many times do I
have to say that?

DEREK

I just think you could've woken me up,
that's all. I'm sayin'.

They fall into another brief silence. Now Lenex is stealing
side glances at him.

LENEX

So what's your situation? Who's
calling you boo these days?

DEREK

Ah, there is this one little hottie named Kima. And then this other chick named Tynetta. Oh, and Montell is really special to me too. Whew, Lord. Montell is real special.

LENEX

(rolling her eyes)

Ugh. So the rumors are true then.

DEREK

Dang, y'all all up in my business out there.

LENEX

I understand, though. It takes more than one woman to make up for Lenex Lee.

DEREK

(laughing)

Yes, that must be it.

They drive a few blocks more in silence.

DEREK

So I was thinking...

LENEX

Yes?

DEREK

Why don't we get together tonight? Have dinner, hit a club or two. You know, for old times' sake.

LENEX

For old times' sake.

DEREK

Yea. Unless you have other plans.

LENEX

Derek, I don't think we should get back into anything-

DEREK

Lenni, it's just dinner.

LENEX

When has it ever been just dinner with you?

DEREK

So is that a no?

LENEX

Derek-

DEREK

Pick you up at nine. And don't keep me waiting.

LENEX

Derek, I said no.

DEREK

Wear something pretty.

LENEX

I won't be wearing anything-

DEREK

That's definitely one way to go.

LENEX

D, I'm tired, okay? I just want to chill for the night.

DEREK

Here's your hotel.

Derek pulls under the hotel's carport, jumps out of the car and hurries around to the passenger side.

EXT. UNDER MARRIOTT COURTYARD CARPORT - CONTINUOUS

DEREK

Let me get that for you.

He opens the car door and helps her out.

LENEX

I'm serious about tonight, Derek.

DEREK

So am I. Here, I got this.

Pulls out a small roll of cash, tips the bellhops.

DEREK

I'll meet you in the lobby about nine.

LENEX

Derek-

DEREK

Gotta go, Love. Got places to be right
now.

He jumps into his car and speeds off. Lenex sighs and
follows the bellhops into the hotel.