

We hear sounds of a trashbag landing inside a donation box. FADE IN. JOY is placing a black trashbag inside a donation drop off. Her friend VANESSA is in the car with her.

VANESSA

Where do you even get all these clothes?

JOY

Some of my own, some of my brothers, anything that doesn't get claimed in the lost and found?

VANESSA

Who does this even help?

JOY

People in need, they take this to the city and give them out to kids who need them.

VANESSA

I don't see how you keep all this charity stuff. I guess it's good and all.

JOY

Be lucky that you don't depend on this to live. Some people are in need and I love to help them out, I suggest you do the same.

VANESSA

Ok, ok, calm down. No need to lecture. You're buying me dinner, right?

JOY

I guess-

CUT to title screen saying "Light in the Dark City".

RYAN and ADAM are hanging out. ADAM is drinking some alcohol.

ADAM

Yo want to smoke?

(CONTINUED)

RYAN

No, not right now. Gotta be
somewhere in a little bit.

ADAM

What's up?

RYAN

Gonna get some money.

ADAM

From who?

RYAN

George, asshole owns me almost a
\$100 and I'm not playing around
with him anymore.

ADAM

Give him a break.

RYAN

I'm tired of messing around with
this

ADAM

He'll pay you back soon, don't
worry

RYAN

Can I trust him? Because if I keep
letting this shit go by people are
going to walk all over me.

ADAM

Nobody is going to walk all over
you-

RYAN

Shut the hell up. I'm losing ground
in this business and letting people
go with these kind of debts isn't
going to get me anymore. I'm not
the most threatening looking guy
and I gotta prove that I'm with it.
Now I'm going to go and make sure
George pays his money back and if
you gotta problem, try and stop me.

ADAM

Chill out a bit, guy's on tough
times-

RYAN
Not my problem

ADAM
Yo, wait, hey!

RYAN exits.

3

EXT GEORGE'S SPOT - DAY

3

GEORGE and NOAH are sitting back, messing around with the area, being a punk. We cut to RYAN who is walking towards them briskly. He makes his way there and GEORGE and NOAH notice him.

RYAN
How you doing boys?

NOAH
Who the hell is the punk?

GEORGE
Ah shit.

RYAN
Got some money in your pocket?

GEORGE
Ryan, slow down.

RYAN
100 is a lot money.

GEORGE
Better step back.

RYAN
The hell you gonna do?

GEORGE
I'm not playing.

RYAN
Seriously, who do you think you are?

NOAH
Step back, we'll pay you.

GEORGE
Nah, we ain't payin' him.

(CONTINUED)

RYAN
Hell yeah you are.

CUT to JOY who is also in the area, picking up trash and smiling at passerbyers. She looks to see GEORGE and RYAN about to fight. CUT back.

GEORGE
Step back.

RYAN
How about you?

NOAH
Step back!

RYAN
Get the-

GEORGE punches RYAN and knocks him to the ground. JOY sees this and starts running. GEORGE and RYAN tussle and soon NOAH comes over and starts kicking RYAN. RYAN is knocked down again and is kicked about until JOY comes over and stops it.

NOAH
Get his wallet! Get his wallet!

GEORGE and NOAH run off while JOY helps RYAN out.

RYAN
Get the hell off.

JOY
You're bleeding, let me help.

RYAN
Stop!

JOY
Look, I'm not going to let you suffer.

RYAN
I can take care of my own-

JOY
And it wouldn't hurt if I patch you up. Seriously, I'm good and you're good too.

RYAN submits to her pleading and lets her clean up his wounds.

4

EXT SIDEWALK - DAY

4

JOY and RYAN are walking side by side down the sidewalk, talking. It is getting darker.

JOY

So, what was up with all of that?

RYAN

Nothing.

JOY

Oh so you randomly got in a fight, no reasoning whatsoever?

RYAN

Yeah.

JOY

I doubt it.

RYAN

And what the hell is up with you?

JOY

What do you mean?

RYAN

Who the hell walks around here and acts like the damn ambulance?

JOY

It's the least I could do to help.

RYAN

Why would you want to help?

JOY

I want to make this world a better place.

RYAN

Wow, how cliché.

JOY

I'm sorry that I actually care.
What do you do?

RYAN

You know what? I do drugs. I sell drugs. I spray graffiti, beat people up, take their money. Soon enough, I'm going to own this town.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RYAN (cont'd)

Control all the trafficking that goes on, run gangs and have people's lives in my hand.

JOY

Why would you want to control a city that's already destroyed. A city that you destroyed.

RYAN

I grew up here. It ruined me. Now I'm going to make sure that it burns to the ground. Now I don't know why the hell you keep following me around but I suggest you go away. I don't need my mom looking over my shoulder.

JOY

I just want to make this city shine. Why can't you just accept that.

RYAN

What's your name?

JOY

Joanne, but my nickname's Joy.

RYAN

How fitting. Well my name's Ryan and you can leave me the hell alone.

RYAN exits. JOY walks away and finds Ryan's wallet thrown to the ground from NOAH and GEORGE earlier. She looks at where RYAN walked off to.

5

EXT RYAN'S HANGOUT - DAY

5

RYAN walks back up to ADAM who's passed out.

RYAN

Wake up.

ADAM

Yo what the hell! (Realigns his thoughts) What happened?

RYAN

George's a big guy. He, uh, got a bit rough.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

I told you. You keep prancing
around and you get your ass kicked.

RYAN

They took my wallet.

ADAM

I don't know how we're going to-

RYAN

I can almost guarantee that they'll
be at the grind, we can catch them
there.

ADAM

We're not really big guys.

RYAN

We'll pick up Nico and then we can
head over there, take it back. I
need everything in there, let's
just hope they're only wanting the
cash.

ADAM

I don't want to get involved.

RYAN pulls out a knife.

6

EXT PARKING LOT - DAY

6

JOY is on the phone with VANESSA. She has her keys out and
is walking to her car.

VANESSA

So these guys were fighting?

JOY

Yeah.

VANESSA

And you tried to break it up?

JOY

Well it's not a big deal-

VANESSA

You could've gotten hurt, what the
hell Joy!

(CONTINUED)

JOY
The poor kid-

VANESSA
He's a thug, he just smokes weed
and screw around! He's going to get
his ass kicked some other time,
there's no point.

JOY
He's a **human**.

VANESSA
This didn't happen at The Grind,
did it?

JOY
The Grind? (She takes out the
wallet)

VANESSA
It's the place where all the edgy
kids hang out after school.

JOY
Where?

VANESSA
Around the Clear Crossing drainage
ditch.

JOY
Oh ok, well I got to go.

VANESSA
Please, be safe.

JOY
Don't worry.

JOY hangs up.

7

EXT THE GRIND - DAY

7

GEORGE and NOAH are hanging around the grind, talking. Some
kids are messing around and causing trouble. Cut to ADAM,
NICO and RYAN hanging nearby, ready to go.

RYAN
We gotta hold them up and catch
them by suprise and then take the
wallet and leave. This isn't just
about the wallet, this is also
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RYAN (cont'd)
about showing them whose boss. If
George or Noah has any cash on
them, we take it. Let's make it
clean.

CUT to JOY who is quickly walking towards the area. CUT back to NOAH and GEORGE laughing. CUT to RYAN and his crew sneaking to the area. They hide and move forward until they are right on GEORGE and NOAH. CUT back to JOY who sees RYAN, ADAM and NICO pop up.

RYAN
Hands up.

GEORGE
You sticking us up?

RYAN
Where's my wallet?

GEORGE
I don't got it.

RYAN
Then where the hell is it?

GEORGE
I tossed it, not too far from when
we kicked your ass.

RYAN
Adam, check his pockets.

NOAH
Yo we ain't got your wallet.

RYAN
Well you got our cash.

NOAH
C'mon-

GEORGE punches ADAM and knocks him down. NOAH busts out and hits RYAN. The background people begin cheering the fight on. GEORGE knocks RYAN back and they fight. NICO knocks NOAH out and RYAN takes the knife and cuts GEORGE. GEORGE runs off along with NOAH and everyone begins to scatter. JOY runs in and helps RYAN out who also got cut.

RYAN
He's got our money!

(CONTINUED)

JOY
Your wallet's right here-

RYAN
What the hell, let off!

JOY
You're bleeding-

RYAN
I need the money!

JOY
Ryan stop.

RYAN
What the hell, they got away!

JOY
We need to-

RYAN
I'm so tired of you coming in to
save me! How'd you even know I was
here?

JOY
I just-

RYAN
Who do you think you are?

JOY
I brought your wallet back-

RYAN
Ok great, but why do you keep
following me around?

JOY
Because I care.

RYAN
And I don't. You're not making this
any better! You're-you're just the
light, in this dark city, this city
that will be forever dark. You
can't change it. Now leave me
alone- just leave. Please.

JOY
Ok.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

Ryan-

RYAN

Shut the hell up Adam!

NICO

Yo, if you ever want to fix me up-

RYAN

Nico, you too!

JOY

Bye Ryan. There's so much out there
for you.

RYAN

Cut it with your cheesy bullshit!

8

EXT A DONATION DROPOFF - DAY

8

VANESSA is sitting in Joy's car as she drops off donation clothes.

VANESSA

Two in one week? Wow.

JOY

We managed to pull a big donation
yesterday. Enough for a whole bag.

VANESSA

Say, what happened after I called
you yesterday.

JOY

Nothing. Nothing at all.

VANESSA

You're obviously hiding something
but I'm not going to dig. So you're
going to buy me some Wendy's?

JOY

No, pay for yourself.

VANESSA

Wait, what?

9

EXT THE ROOF OF A BUILDING - DAY

9

RYAN stands at the edge of a building, looking around. He examines the sight and looks down. The camera pans. He looks like he is about to jump but backs up and falls to the ground of the roof and lays there, contemplating the course of his life.

FADE OUT