

INFANTICIDE

Written by

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Based on true events

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EXT. DELMAS 4 STREET - NIGHT

The street is dark with morning dew, piles of garbage border the roads. Stray dogs bark. Then echoes of gun fire resonate everywhere.

EXT. FACULTY OF LAW & ECONOMIC SCIENCES BUILDING - DAY

Dolores steps inside of the gates, wipes the sweat from her forehead. She inhales, looks at the list posted. She sees her name. She screams from excitement.

DOLORES

Oh! I passed! I passed!

She walks out proud.

EXT. DOLORES HOME - IN THE NARROWED PATIO - EARLY MORNING

LOVANAH (33), wears a carabella dress, her hair tied in a scarf sits next. A wooden spoon in her hand roasting peanuts in a pan on a three-foot stove filled with coals.

EXT. DOLORES HOME - IN THE COURT HOUSE - DAYDREAM

Dolores is in suit jacket and pants, briefcase in hand. She enters the doors of a courtroom determined to win her case. She takes a seat in front of the judge.

INT. DOLORES HOME CONTINUE - DAY

Lovanah stares at Dolores in her daydream.

LOVANAH

Dolores....DOLORES! Ou tande'm ti fi?

Dolores snaps out of it. She looks to her mother, continues to scrub the roasted peanuts to remove the husks.

LOVANAH (CONT'D)

Have you heard anything I said?

DOLORES

No, sorry manman, I had a vision of me in a courtroom. It felt real.

LOVANAH

It will be real. If you see it, it can happen.

Lovanah continues roasting peanuts on a charcoal stove with a wooden spoon. Dolores scrubs the roasted peanuts to remove the husks.

INT./EXT. DOLORES HOME - DAY

Lovanah prepares to leave the house with the basket of peanuts. They join their foreheads. Then she gives her daughter a forehead kiss.

DOLORES

Peace Mama.

Lovanah and Dolores make the peace sign. Lovanah is off to sell her peanuts. Dolores heads to school.

INT. DOLORES HOME - NIGHT

A SMALL SHRINE full of Voodoo Spirit paper photos. A candle that stays lit 24/7. Dolores pours water on each side of the candle from . She kneels and prays in silence.

EXT. DOLORES HOME - NIGHT

Lovanah shakes as she opens the door. She takes a look back to make sure no one followed her. As soon as she enters, a black out. All the lights shut off.

INT. DOLORES HOME - NIGHT

Lovanah kneels beside Dolores and pours water. They hold hands to greet the spirits, sign the Holy Cross. They stand up. A kiss on the forehead.

LOVANAH

How did your day go?

DOLORES

(dancing with happy  
face)

I passed my exam mama ... I'm going  
to be a lawyer very soon.

Shocked, Lovanah's breath becomes unbalanced. She embraces her daughter tight, kisses her forehead several times. They both cry.

INT. DOLORES HOME - LATER THAT NIGHT

A lamp light on the table. A small wooden chair, and a three-legged stove. Not much but they eat together with love. Lovanah stirs the Mais Moulén. They sit to eat.

LOVANAH

It's not only when good things happen to pray. Because the spirits are always here to protect us.

DOLORES

I know mama ... Now there's hope one day that peanut basket will come off your head for good.

Lovanah nods her head "Yes". Hope fills her smile.

LOVANAH

Yes there is hope. Keep your dream in your heart. The saying goes:  
(Haitian Creole)  
"Pa lonjé dwèt sou joumou an pou'l pa koulé".

DOLORES

I've only told Jamilee.

Lovanah unties the cloth wrapped on her head. Two fingers take out a lump of money in between her hair. She hands them to Dolores.

LOVANAH

Add that to what you are already have to pay the tuition fees.

DOLORES

Thank you Mom. Peace!

Lovanah kiss her forehead.

Lovanah puts food on the plate and hands it to Dolores. She sighs deeply.

LOVANAH

(Creole)  
Nanpwen komansman ki pa gen fen.  
Yon jou sa gen pou'l fini.

Lovanah cuts an avocado in four parts. Two for her two for Dolores. They eat. Several gun shots fill the air. Lovanah blows the candle out.

EXT. DOLORES' FRONT HOUSE - DAY

As Dolores and Lovanah making the paper cones, Jamilee shows up with a bag in her hand. She salutes Lovanah and grabs Dolores' arm to go inside.

JAMILEE

Good evening Mama Lov. No food?

LOVANAH

No food. You know how things are here. The pot doesn't catch the fire every day.

Lovanah enters the room. Jamilee addresses her.

JAMILEE

Mama Lov, are you going to Joumalonjé's temple tonight?

LOVANAH

No my love. I have things to do. I am not going.

Jamilee goes to give Lovanah a hug.

JAMILEE

How about Dolores? Can she go with me?

LOVANAH

No. She is not going either.

DOLORES

Why Mama? --- why?

LOVANAH

Swallow it. Right now.

Dolores shut her mouth, and bends her head down

JAMILEE

You know, I never had a real Mama. I love you as my Mama. Can Dolores go with me please?

Lovanah looks at Dolores, then Jamilee.

LOVANAH

Go ahead - - But - Be careful.

Dolores faces shines with a smile. Lovanah makes straight eye contact with Jamilee

LOVANAH (CONT'D)  
Dolores is in your hands.  
Understand me?

JAMILEE  
Don't worry Mama Lov.

They both give Lovanah a kiss and leave the house.

EXT. JOUMALONJE VODOO TEMPLE - NIGHT

Alcohol, fried potatoes, fried plantains, and fried conch vendors displayed outside the temple.

JAMILEE  
We are on time. We didn't miss a thing!

The ceremony goes on inside of the Voodoo temple, a crowd of all types of people walk through the gate.

INT. JOUMALONJE TEMPLE - NIGHT

Drummers beats a Yanvalou rhythm. Dolores and Jamilee enter the temple, they head to the dance floor.

Dolores admires the inside scenery of the temple.

DOLORES  
Last year the fringes of that long pillar were all yellow. The white and blue are perfect this year.

As the Tam-tam beats the rhythm, other people on the floor dance the YANVALOU style. Dolores and Jamilee are dancing timidly.

As Dolores and Jamilee are dancing, a wealthy man, JEFF(50) walks out accompanied by a male bodyguard, MARCELIN (40) who carries a LARGE GUN.

JAMILEE  
I promised you a drink. Let's go.

Dolores and Jamilee holds hands to run outside. Their laugh is unstoppable.

EXT. JOUMALONJE VODOO TEMPLE YARD - SAME NIGHT

From afar, Dolores and Jamilee hear the vendors talking loud.  
TRITRI THE TRANSGENDER food seller stands with his hands on his hip.

LGBT TRITRI

Oh, oh! Marcelin what are you doing here? You never told me that you carry such big guns.

Tritri with a mischievous look.

LGBT TRITRI (CONT'D)

Hey, are you coming to arrest me?

MARCELIN

Tritri cool down. I'm working now. I'll come to your house later to talk.

LGBT TRITRI

Okay. No problem...

Dolores and Jamilee stand before Tritri waiting for their turn to buy the drink. They laugh at Tritri's gestures.

LGBT TRITRI

(Haitian Creole)

Medam sa nou vle?

JAMILEE

I need two bois cochon drinks.

As Jamilee buys the drinks, Jeff puts his arm around Dolores shoulder. Dolores turns her head and pushes Jeff hand down. Marcelin turns the gun toward Dolores. Jeff makes a hand stop

DOLORES

Who are you? Don't do that to me.

JEFF ATOUFÈ

I was watching you dance inside. You are very attractive.

DOLORES

Really?

JEFF ATOUFÈ

You may have whatever you want. It's on me.

Dolores and Jamilee look at each other.

JAMILEE

Thank you.

Another LGBT food seller argues with Tritri

LGBT PATRICIA

Tritri you can't take all the clients for yourself. Let that big man buy something from me.

LGBT TRITRI

Careful, if you want him to climb your back, he will make you bark like a dog.

JEFF ATOUFÈ

Tritri too much details. Stop, before you make me make you.

Jeff makes a head sign to Marcelin.

JEFF ATOUFÈ (CONT'D)

Let's go back inside

On the way back inside, Jeff introduces himself and Marcelin as his bodyguard, to the girls.

JEFF ATOUFÈ (CONT'D)

My name is Jeff Atoufè.

(Gesture to his guard)

Marcelin.

DOLORES

I'm Dolores. This is my best and unique friend Jamilee.

INT. JOUMALONJE VODOO TEMPLE CONTINUE - NIGHT

Drummers make a Yanvalou rhythm. Dolores, Jamilee, Jeff, and Marcelin enter the temple. A woman VOICE SINGS:

PRIESTESS WOMAN SINGER

(Haitian Creole)

Ogou bwè li bwè li pa janm sou. Mèt  
Ogou bwè, li bwè li pa janm sou.  
Ougou relé Feray o, jou'm tonbe,  
m'a levé.

The dance floor is full with people, they dance to the rhythm.

INT. JOUMALONJE VODOO TEMPLE - NIGHT

Jeff makes a big smile as he extends his hand adorned with a huge ring with a red stone on it. Dolores gives a shy smile to Marcelin.

JEFF ATOUFÈ

Have a seat and don't even ask.  
Everything on the table is yours.

Dolores and Jamilee glance at each other. A known look. They laugh. Jeff approaches Dolores' ear.

JEFF ATOUFÈ (CONT'D)

I like your vibe.

DOLORES

Really? Thank you.

Jeff pulls the top of the red stone off his ring. He drops some white powder in two glasses. No one notices.

JEFF ATOUFÈ

Do you drink? Take a sip, it will help you both enjoy the night better.

JAMILEE

Thank you.

DOLORES

Thanks.

Dolores raises the glass at Jamilee who does the same. They both drink it in one gulp. DIZZINESS overtakes Dolores and Jamilee hard and fast.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

My head is spinning. I think I should be going soon.

JEFF ATOUFÈ

Are you okay? We will take you home. Don't worry.

INT. THE MOTEL ROOMS - EARLY MORNING NEXT DAY

Dolores lays on the hotel bed inert. As Jeff undresses himself.

JEFF ATOUFÈ

(Slurring)

I'm gonna make you dance baby ...I  
want you to do it the same way you  
did over there.

INT. THE OTHER MOTEL ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Jamilee voice screams with pain. Marcelin's phone falls on  
the floor.

JAMILEE

Aye! No . Get off me. No!

Something covers her mouth. She cries and is in visible pain.  
Marcelin is breathless on top of her. He whispers in her ear.

MARCELIN

A woman like you gave me AIDS,  
stage four. I'm not going down  
alone. Everyone will pay....

Jamilee loses focus and hearing of everything.

INT. THE MOTEL ROOMS - EARLY MORNING

Jeff ties Dolores' hands and mouth. Dolores is too drugged to  
fight. Jeff on the top of her. He is wild with voracious  
moves. Dolores stays still. Tears comes out her eyes.

INT. THE MOTEL BATHROOM - MORNING

Dolores' bed is wet with blood. Dolores is scared and cries  
with rage. She runs to the bathroom.

INT. THE BATHTUB - MORNING

Dolores sits inside of the bathtub back against the shower  
knob. She holds both knees close to her chest. Head to knees.

INT. THE MOTEL HALLWAY - morning

Jamilee walks in the hallway. She looks for Dolores. Holds a  
cellphone in her hand.

JAMILEE

Dolores ... Dolores!

Jamilee checks different doors. A slightly opened door.  
Jamilee runs in and finds Dolores. They hug each other.

JAMILEE (CONT'D)

Your Mom is gonna be worried by  
now. We have to go.

Dolores cries bitterly. Jamilee cries in silence.

DOLORES  
(sobs harder)  
What am I gonna say to her?

JAMILEE  
Nothing...for now...We have to keep  
it to ourselves.

DOLORES  
No. I can't do that to my Mom. She  
trust me. She has to know.

JAMILEE  
WHAT?! That you got raped?...Can  
you prove it?...Just think about  
it.

DOLORES  
What am I going to do?

Jamilee breaks down in tears. Jamilee turns her back on Dolores.

JAMILEE  
The man who raped me said that he  
has four stage HIV.

Jamilee wipes her tears.

JAMILEE (CONT'D)  
He said that he will bring both men  
and women down with him. So, I  
might be positive.

Jamilee passes her arm around Dolores back.

JAMILEE (CONT'D)  
We might end up cleared of  
everything, even though the damage  
is deep..let's go home.

Dolores and Jamilee, both walk away with slow steps. Dolores and Jamilee look around to see which way to go.

EXT. DOLORES HOUSE - DAY

Lovanah stands outside worried. Lovanah looks up and down the street. Dolores sees her mom outside from afar, she pretends to walk normal.