

Shooting
Version

COMPENSATION

a film by Zeinabu irene Davis

Written by Marc Chery and Zeinabu Davis

SCRIPT PAGES

&

BREAK DOWN SHEET

Wgaww...
Final Draft

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EXT. MALINDY'S BEACH (KEMIL AVE.) - SUNSET

TITLE CARD: *Chicago, circa 1906*

The shores of Lake Michigan, the nearby sand dunes of Indiana or Michigan appearing like otherworldly shapes in the twilight time. Foaming, blue water lapping at a distant rocky shore. Crisp white clouds moving against blue sky.

A lone woman in period attire is writing in her diary, a picnic basket nearby. MALINDY BROWN's regal bearing evokes a woman unwilling to accept the lot predestined for her by society. She pauses, enthralled in thoughts and ideas, her unyielding and indomitable gaze piercing towards the horizon.

TITLE CARD: *Malindy Brown, a woman of much talent and great learning unjustly hampered by society.*

EXT. LOCAL CHURCH - DUSK

Malindy and the young, enthusiastic PASTOR of a small Southside Chicago church welcome new African American MIGRANTS from the South, including a young girl, TILDY, her mother, MALVINA and her aunt, NIDIA. There is a special moment shared between Tildy and Malindy as Tildy walks through the church doors.

TITLE CARD: *Pastor welcomes new arrivals from the South to Chicago.*

INT. MALINDY'S PLACE - DUSK

Small, unassuming but clean and orderly place. A sewing machine in a corner. Finished dresses hanging. Modest period furniture, including a bookcase overflowing with books. Malindy's kneading dough on a small dining table.

CONTINUED

Malindy's so into the dough that she fails to see her door contraption for at first, one that lets her know that Tildy, Malvina and Nidia in period maid and laundress outfits are patiently waiting outside her door, smiling shyly and vainly adjusting their outfits before visiting such an illustrious person of the small Black community in turn-of-the-century Chicago, one who reads and writes as well as white people and even counsels their idealistic young Pastor.

When Malindy finally sees the sway of the door contraption, she grabs some of the finished dresses hanging on a clothes rack and goes to her front door.

She opens the door and hands the dresses to the women who "ooo" and "ahh" their beauty and craftsmanship. Tildy, however is awestruck by the sheer amount of books Malindy has. Malindy sees Tildy's interest in the books and gives her a book. Tildy is overjoyed at such a wonderful present, and looks shyly at her mother for approval of the gift. Malvina and Nidia offer Malindy two baskets of foodstuffs in return. Tildy and Malvina awkwardly do the sign for thank you.

WOMAN

Thank you, Malindy.

MONTAGE:

of still photographs of the Great Migration (1890's-1940's) of Blacks from the Jim Crow South and of their life in Chicago, followed on the screen by Malindy's diary entry.

TITLE CARD:

The new migrants from Mississippi have arrived, so full of hope, so full of ambitions. One is heart-broken to know that the harsh realities of discrimination and life in the North will soon shatter their most cherished dreams. Our people will prevail, Oh God! But when...?

CUT TO: