

Cottonmouth is sitting at the piano in his office. His cousin Maria walks in.

COTTONMOUTH
You could've called first.

MARIAH
Oh, Now I need an invite.

COTTONMOUTH
I can't imagine the kind of pressure you're under. Especially after that shit show of an interview.

MARIAH
You need to drop this Luke Cage shit. Shut it down. Get your head back in the game.

COTTONMOUTH
Don't lecture me about the game. I was born in this shit. I finally got his bitch ass in my pocket.

MARIAH
My party chairwoman called me tonight to me I had to step down from the council. The fundraising for my complexes dried up since you got arrested. My reputation is in the shithole!

COTTONMOUTH
Maybe Madam Councilwoman need to step off her high horse and get her hands dirty.

MARIAH
We family, Cornell. Mama Mabel taught us that....

COTTONMOUTH
Mama Mabel, Mama Mabel! Go on with that shit. All the things I could've did with my life.. my music. But who does she send to that uppity-ass boarding school? You. She put you in school and forced me to run the streets.

(CONTINUED)

MARIAH

You idiot. She sent me away to keep me away from Pete!

COTTONMOUTH

You know damn well what that woman made me do. I was 14 years old.

MARIAH

Uncle Pete betrayed us.

COTTONMOUTH

Uncle Pete was the only one who ever had my back. Mama Mabel was always sheltering you, protecting you, and for what? All that education an just as shady as me.

MARIAH

Me protected? All I did your whole life was protect you! Your junkie mama dropped you off at Mabel's and never looked back! Your daddy didn't want you! Who was there changing your diapers? Tending your needs? Dealing with your whining?

COTTONMOUTH

I saw the way you used to flirt with Uncle Pete when I was little.

Maria smacks Cottonmouth.

COTTONMOUTH

(laughs) Running around half-naked all the time. You wanted it, Mariah. You wanted it and you know it.

Maria grabs a wine bottle and hits Cottonmouth in the back of the head with it.

MARIAH

NO! NO! I did not want it! No! You shut up! No, I didn't want it!

Grabs a microphone stands and smashes Cottonmouths face in.