

CHERYL'S SONG

Written by

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Based on "Cheryl's Song: Until the Sun Comes Up" Book 1

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Cheryl's Song -

Pilot TEASER

Fade In:

EXT. MARYLAND CAMPUS - DAY ESTABLISHING

CAMPUS SHOTS. Bookstore. CHERYL FIELDS walking across campus, Early 20's, bright, energetic, dark skin, going to class, looks up at the building name: PERKINS HALL.

INT. PERKINS HALL - DAY

Students bustling about, seeming to know where they are going. Cheryl looks for her class.

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. DAY - MONTAGE

- Car window shot of Jefferson Memorial across the water;
- People paddle boating on the Tidal Basin;
- The Hains Point peninsula in motion from a passing boat;
- The U.S. Capitol;
- Rush hour. Busy workers walking across Dupont Circle;
- Various homeless in parks and stairwells of subways;
- The White House rises into view.

-END OF MONTAGE

INT. AGAMEMNON'S DORM ROOM - MARYLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

The lone pledge in the room is on his knees in the middle of the floor. He has a red fisherman's hat, green Army jacket, jeans with belt loops cut off, and combat boots. Seven highly agitated, shouting Kappa Brothers in full Greek paraphernalia surround him. Brother Lucius Wilson, 24, good looking, slim, has the pledge's trifling token (fake pearl) in hand.

The pledge's shoulders shake as he sobs. As we begin to take in the room, it looks as if someone has been fighting in every corner. The other Brothers have stepped back to allow Wilson center stage.

ETERNAL PLEDGE
I'll do anything you
say. Just don't...Don't...DON'T
HIT ME ANYMO-O-ORE.

Pledge rolls real tears, but is still at attention save for shoulders heaving with his sobs.

WILSON
(into Pledge's ear)
You DIS - GUST me.

Brothers drop their heads in shame as does pledge.

WILSON (CONT'D)
(to Dean Agamemnon)
He doesn't deserve our touch.

CGI ON SCREEN - NEWS BULLETIN FORMAT

Dean of Pledges John Snyder. Pledge name: Agamemnon

DEAN AGAMEMNON, 21, movie-star handsome, 6 footplus, the Dean of Pledges, nods agreement.
Brother ALBERT DOUGLAS, 21, handsome, chimes in.

DOUGLAS
Talk him off Line.

All Brothers' eyes turn to JOSEPH LEWIS, 21, dark skin, smooth as black ice in skin tone and demeanor, pretty as a Tahiti sunset.

JOE

All down.

Joe crushes out his cigarette as the other Brothers settle in for the show. He looks to Dean Agamemnon for approval. Dean nods. Joe saunters to sobbing pledge. Joe begins whispering into his ear.

Time Lapse

Joe and the eternal pledge stay in the same place as everything around them changes.

- Brothers laughing in background, Joe has his arm around pledge, kneeling with him, whispering in his ear;

- Brothers are laid back, telling stories. Joe and pledge are seated, talking;

-Brothers are playing cards, some at the window singing. Joe now has pledge's hat and Army jacket in his hands.

JOE (CONT'D)

Where are your Line Brothers?

ETERNAL PLEDGE

They told me to be here at 7.

Joe looks at pledge. He realizes pledge is beaten when it dawns on the pledge he was set up by his Line Brothers.

ETERNAL PLEDGE (CONT'D)

Aw, man.

Pledge hands his boots to Joe and walks out in his socks. Brothers pat pledge on the back and give him the finger behind his back as he leaves. Door shuts. Brothers slap Joe on back and congratulate him.

Agamemnon takes a bottle of dried liquids from behind his bed. Holds up for all to see.

AGAMEMNON

We used to be able to draw blood,
sweat, and tears from our pledges.

BROTHER 1

Mine is in that bottle

OTHER BROTHERS.

Mine too. I'm in there.

Agamemnon gives secret shake to Joe as he sits.

AGAMEMNON

Now we have to talk the weak ones
off. It's a new day, Brothers.

He looks to Brother nearest door.

AGAMEMNON (CONT'D)

Go get the boys. It's pledging
time.

Brothers begin taking off jewelry, watches, chains, and deposit in box Agamemnon passes around. A Brother turns the music volume up high while another closes the shades.

Fade to black.

END TEASER