



ASHBURTON

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- ◆ Title: Ashburton
- ◆ Length: 10 Episodes
- ◆ Genre: Dramatic Sitcom
- ◆ Pilot Budget: \$50,000
- ◆ Shoot: Fall 2023

WRITER & DIRECTOR

Eric Cotten



In 2016 he founded and is currently President of the non-profit Baltimore Filmmakers Collective (BFC), whose mission is to educate, train and assist the underserved Baltimore community in expressing itself via media. This includes educational classes covering script development, pre-production, filming, and post-production. Eric has been writer/director/producer/executive producer on over 26 short films including AFRONAUT (2014) Sundance/Tribeca and SXSW. His first major short (writer/director). THE LOVE WITHIN (2016) was accepted into several festivals across the country. His script LITTLE NIBS (2019/2020) advanced at the Austin Film Festival and PAGES screenwriting competitions.

He has assisted as a mentor (2019-present) to junior and senior students at MICA, JHU, Morgan, Stevenson, and Towson film/screenwriting programs.

The short (writer/director) TORI (2020) has screened at over 20 festivals nationally and internationally, including several top 25 festivals- including BronzeLens and the Maryland Film Festival.

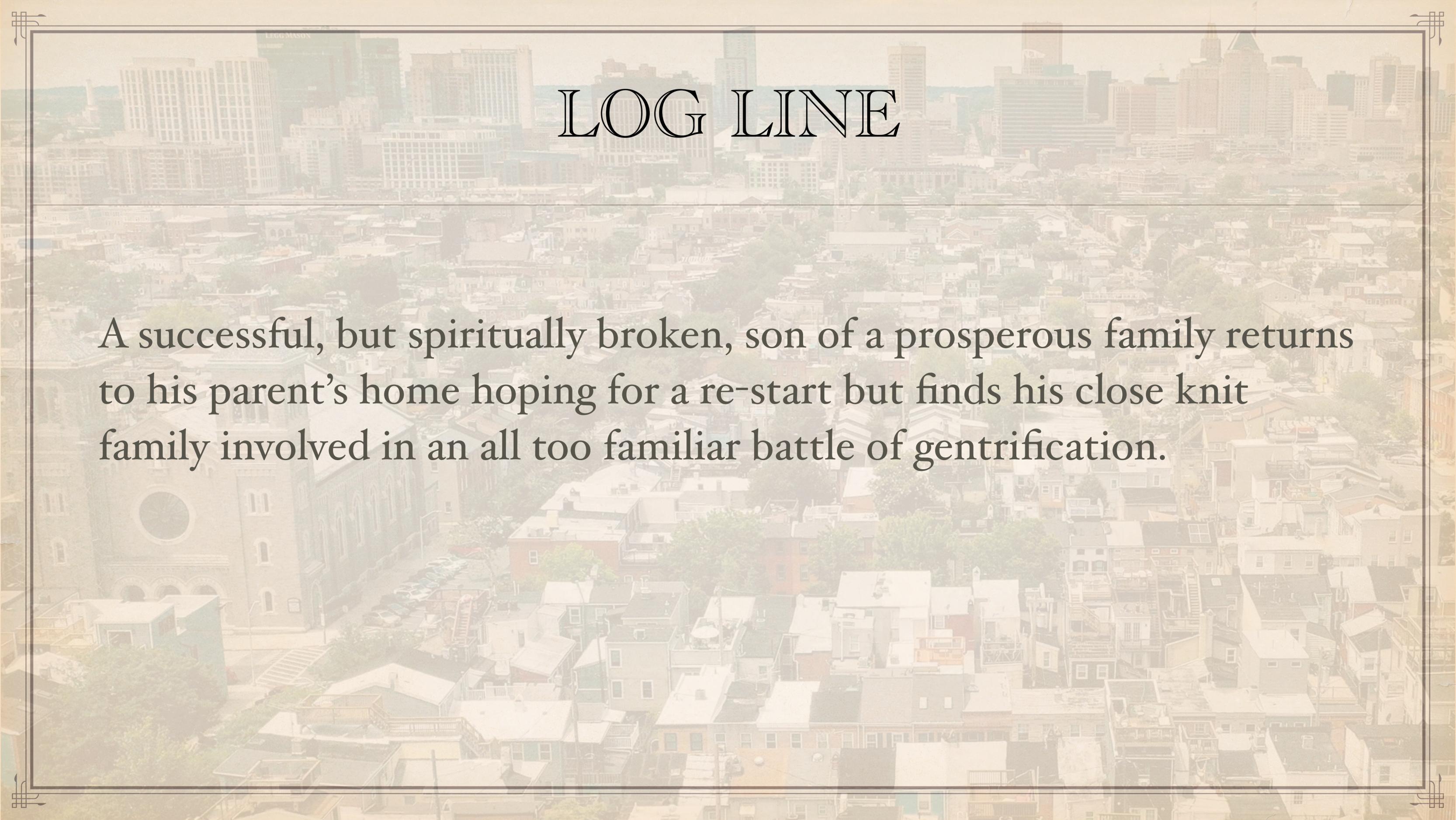
He was accepted into the prestigious Stowe Writing Lab 2021 for the draft of first feature script DAGMAR.

The Covid impacted production (writer/director) SCRUNCHIES (2022) has played at numerous festivals including Maryland Film Festival (2022).

Currently, he has several projects in development.

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Philadelphia, showing a dense residential area in the foreground and a prominent skyline of skyscrapers in the background. A large, ornate church with a prominent circular window is visible on the left side. The word "STORY" is centered in the middle of the image in a large, black, serif font. The entire image is framed by a thin black border with decorative corner elements.

STORY

An aerial photograph of a city, likely New York City, showing a dense residential neighborhood in the foreground and a skyscraper-filled skyline in the background. The image is overlaid with a thin black border and decorative corner elements. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

LOG LINE

A successful, but spiritually broken, son of a prosperous family returns to his parent's home hoping for a re-start but finds his close knit family involved in an all too familiar battle of gentrification.

SYNOPSIS

Dean Reed, a Community Investment Marketing genius and his loving wife Terri, suffer through the downturn in the California housing industry and decide to return to Baltimore to recalibrate their careers and support Dean's aging parents.

An amazing dentist, Terri is offered and accepts a position at Johns Hopkins. Having no luck, longing for a child, and feeling her internal clock winding down Terri looks into family planning options.

Dean realizes that many of the socio-economic realities that he witnessed in his California career are pressuring his family and parents into difficult decisions; primarily the rapid gentrification of Ashburton.

Dean's parents, Glenn and Rose, leaders in the Ashburton community who pride themselves on setting an example for their children— who have all become successful, are physically strong and work on their health on a regular basis. However, a life threatening diagnosis shakes the family and community.

How will Dean navigate his questionable career in marketing which has destroyed Black communities in California while supporting his family and community in Baltimore?

SETTING



❖ West Baltimore, MD

❖ 2020s - Current

❖ Ashburton Neighborhood

❖ Spring

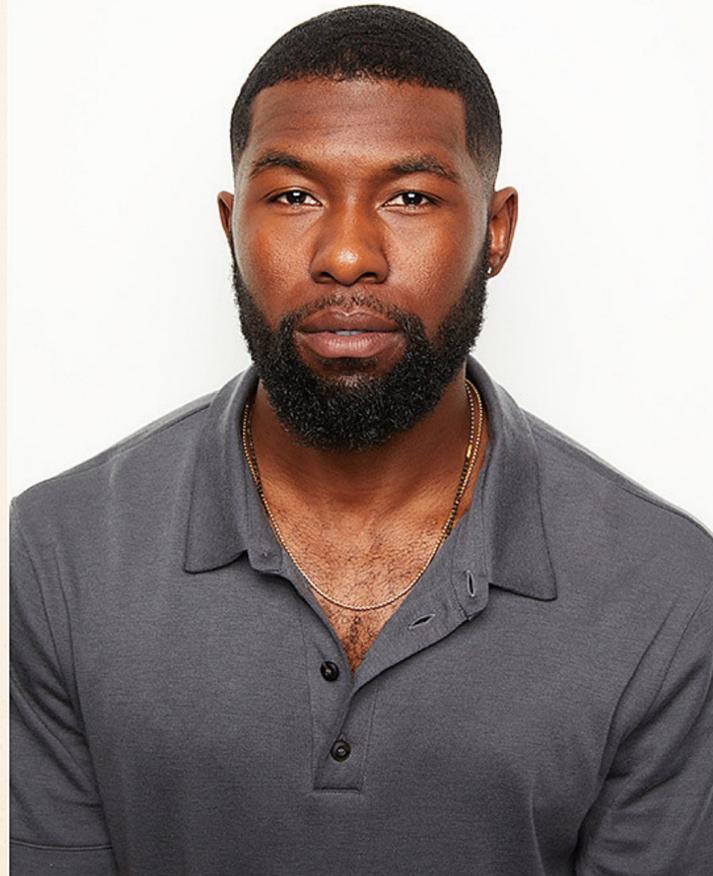
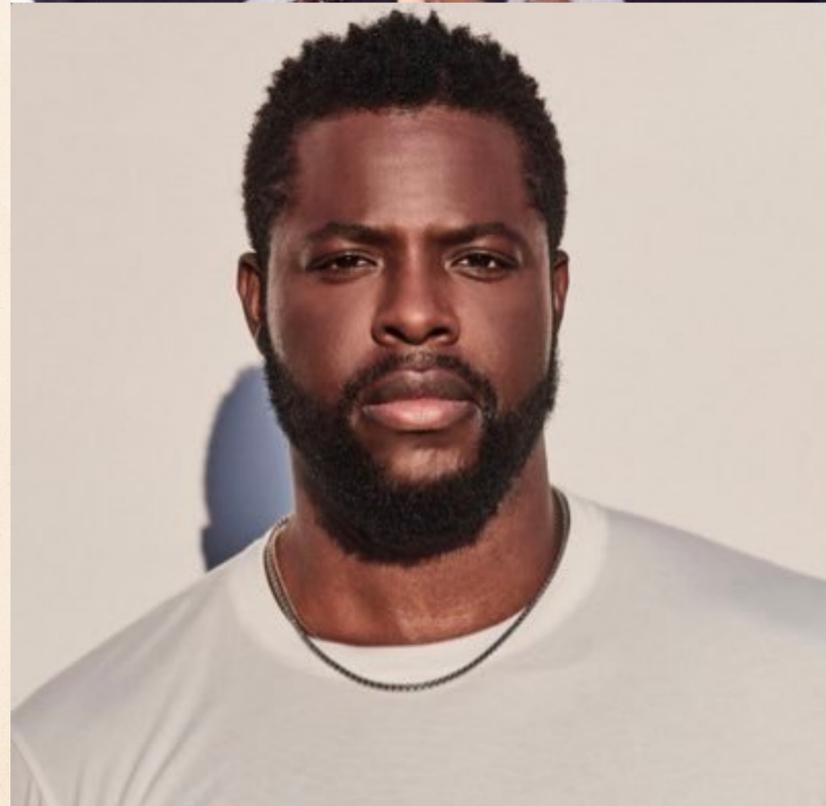
An aerial photograph of a city, likely Philadelphia, showing a dense residential area in the foreground and a prominent skyline of skyscrapers in the background. A large, ornate church with a prominent circular window is visible on the left side. The word "CHARACTERS" is overlaid in the center in a large, black, serif font. The image has a warm, slightly faded color palette and is framed by a thin black border with decorative corner elements.

CHARACTERS

DEAN REED

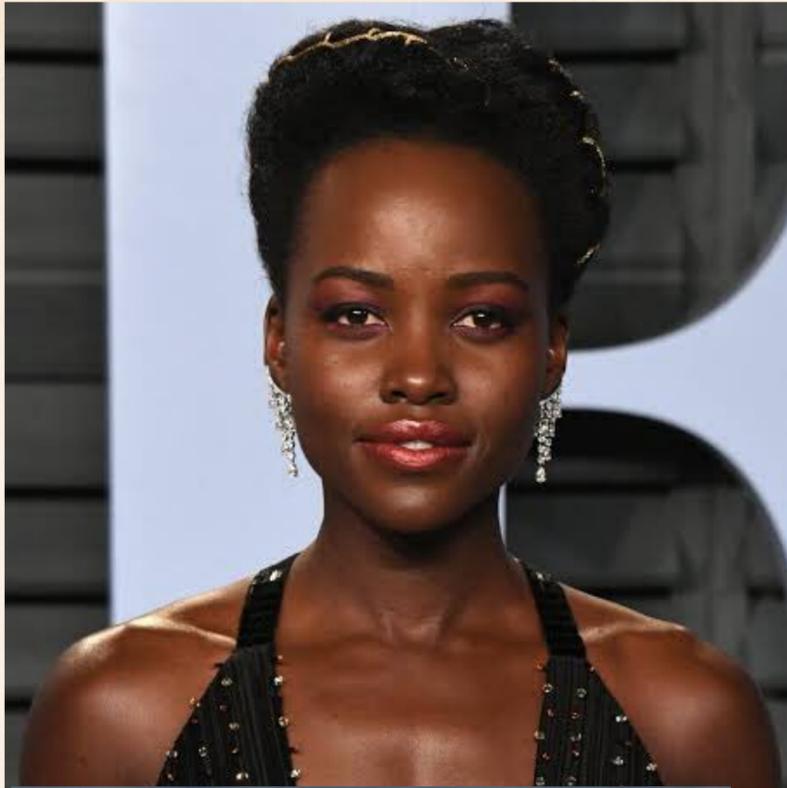
- ❖ 40 y/o
- ❖ Marketing Expert
- ❖ Ex Military
- ❖ Always feels like he is an underachiever; never really close to his family.
- ❖ Deeply in love with his more financially successful wife.
- ❖ Got out with minimal training that could translate into a high paying civilian job.

Dean feels like a fraud in comparison to his more successful sibling and parents



TERRI REED

- ❖ 40 y/o
- ❖ Dentist
- ❖ Exotically Attractive
- ❖ Ex Military Officer
- ❖ Terri sees Dean as a damaged, underachieving person but, a faithful husband and her true-life partner.
- ❖ Dean's lack of career success doesn't bother her. She is more concerned about their inability to have children even after multiple IVF treatments.



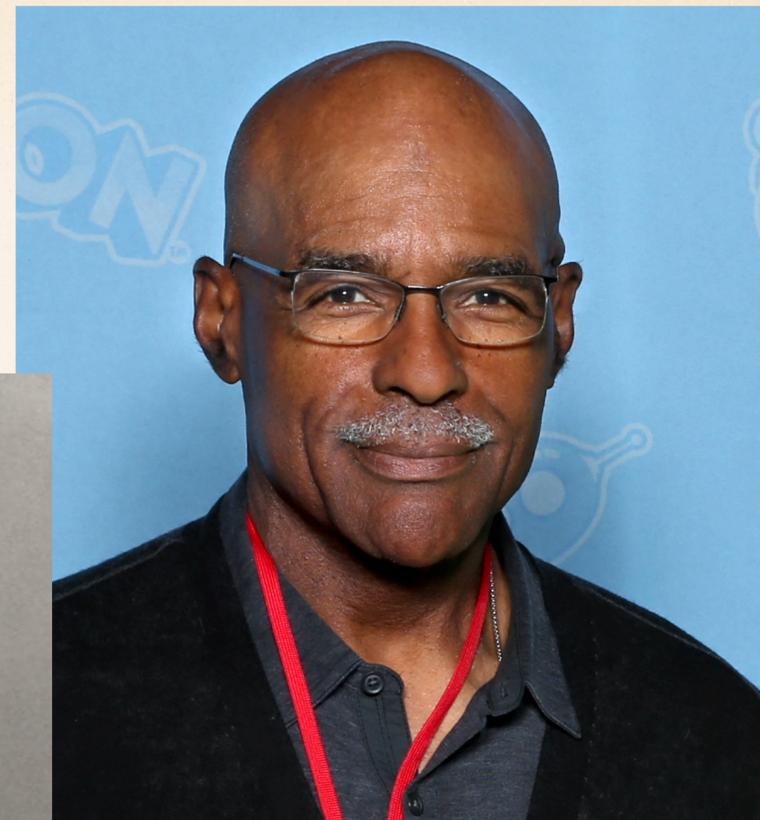
ROSE REED

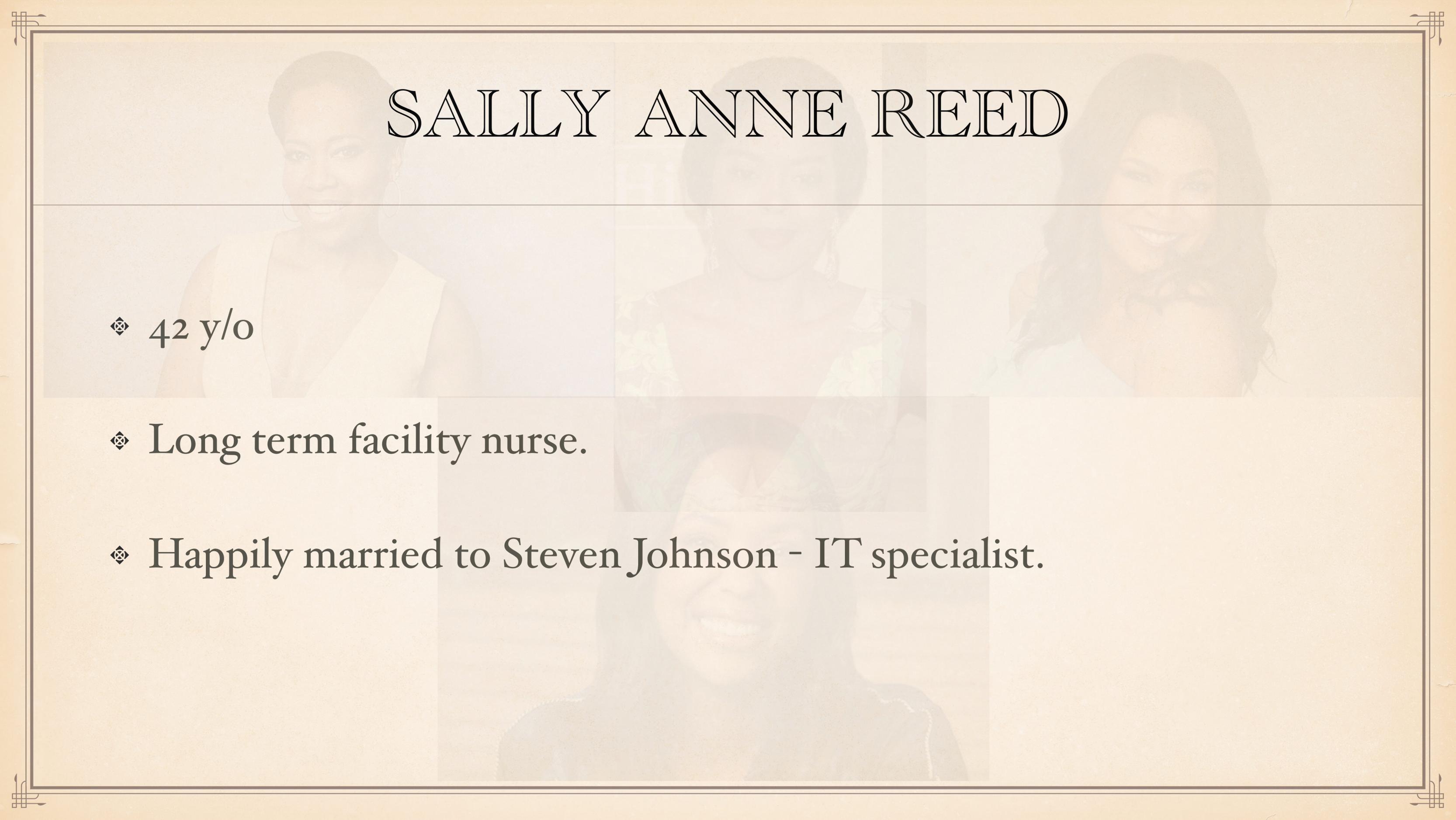
- ❖ 60 y/o
- ❖ Married to Glenn Reed over 40 years.
- ❖ Clinical Bedside Nurse
- ❖ Matriarch of the Reed Clan
- ❖ Attractive
- ❖ Raised all six of their kids in a house they purchased back in 1975 which was transitioning from all White to Black community ASHBURTON.
- ❖ Somewhat of a health nut



GLENN REED

- ❖ 60 y/o
- ❖ Patriarch of the Reed clan. Devoted father and great role model for his kids and grandkids. Loves sports and fishing.
- ❖ Adores his wife, Rose. Very physical with her, very touchy feely, in public and in the house.
- ❖ In great shape. Glenn works as an engineer for a local aerospace company.





SALLY ANNE REED

◆ 42 y/o

◆ Long term facility nurse.

◆ Happily married to Steven Johnson - IT specialist.

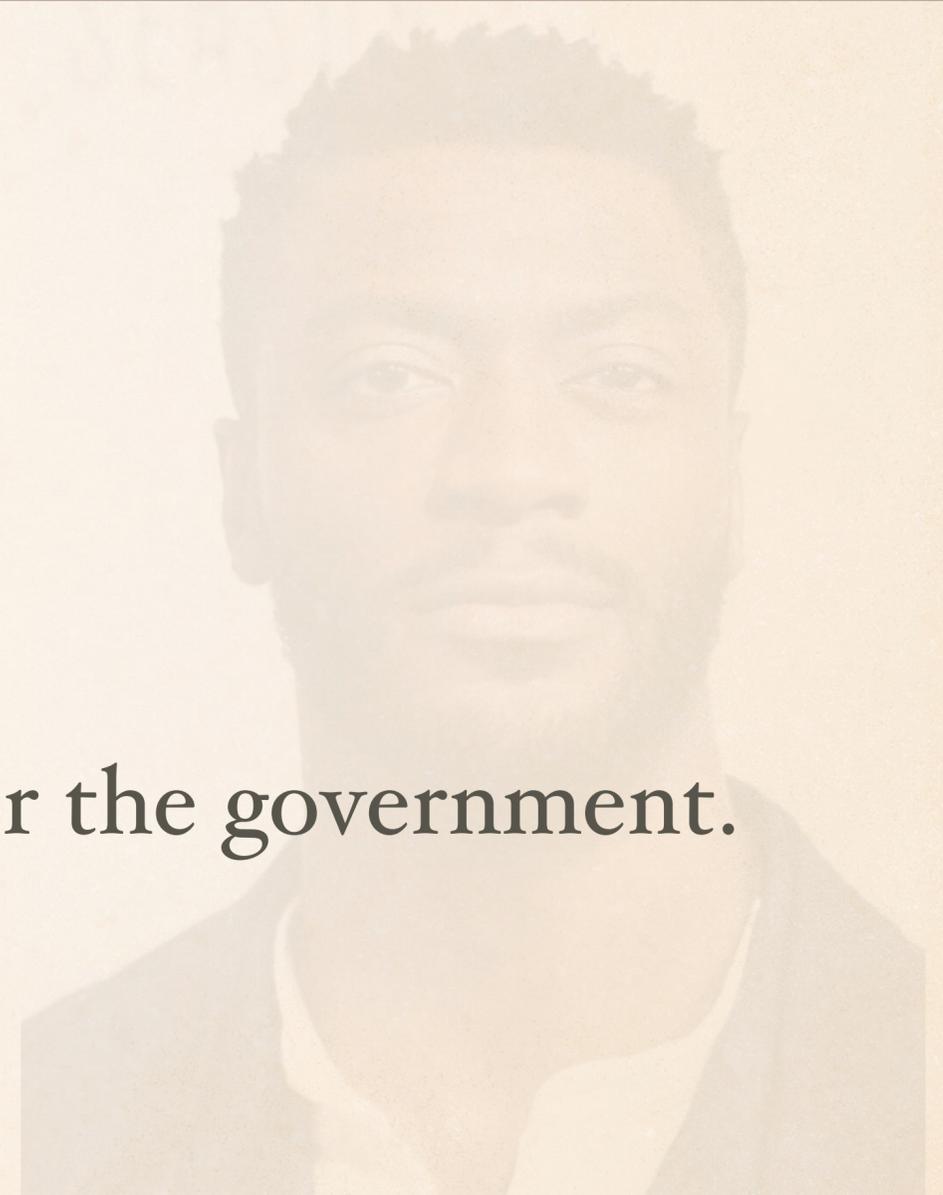
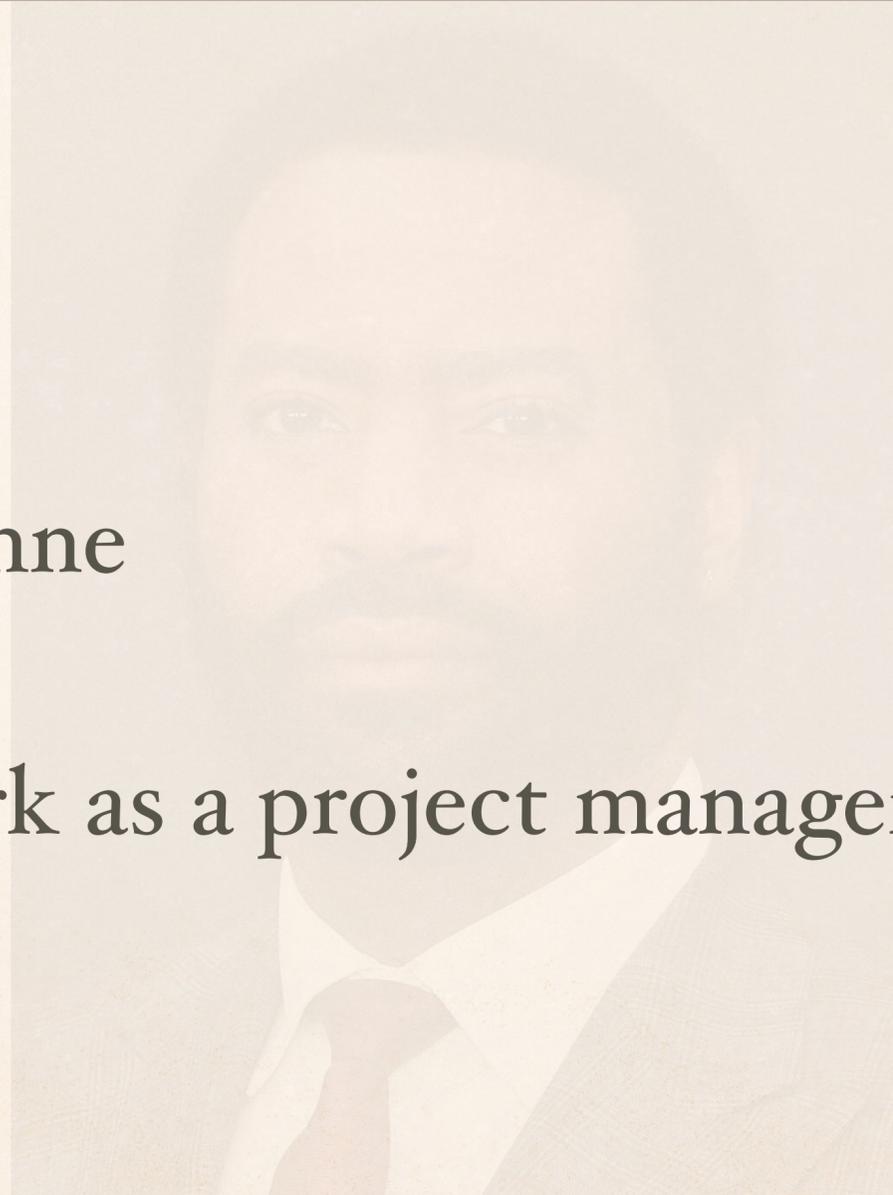
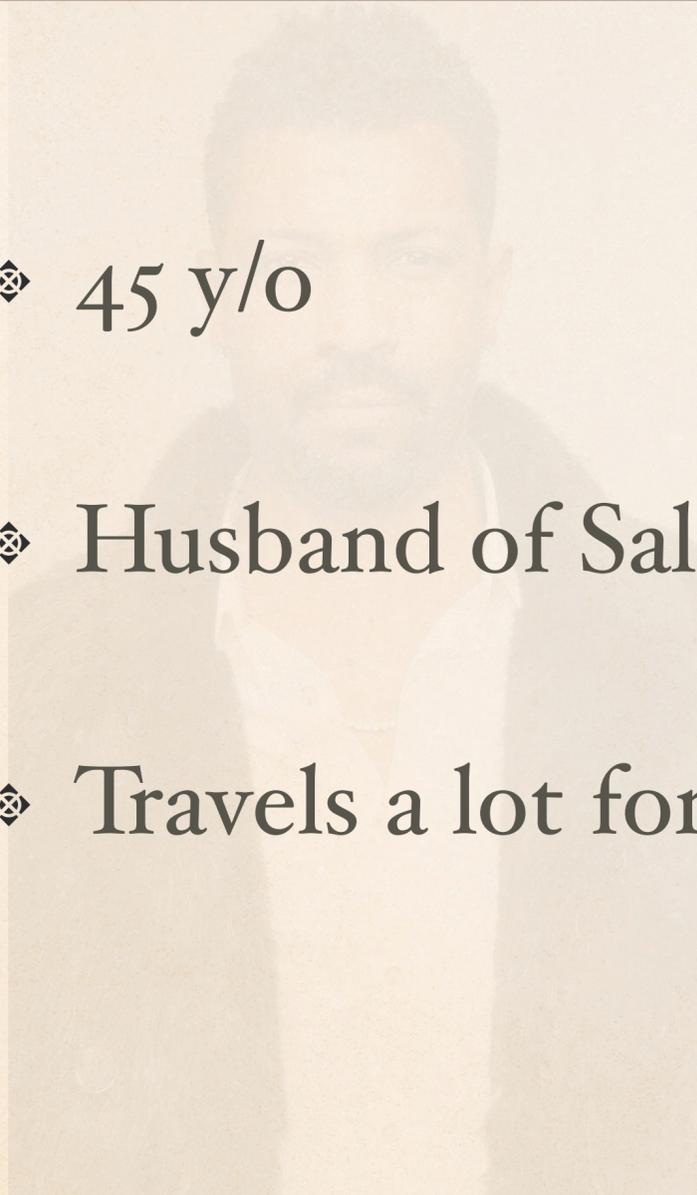


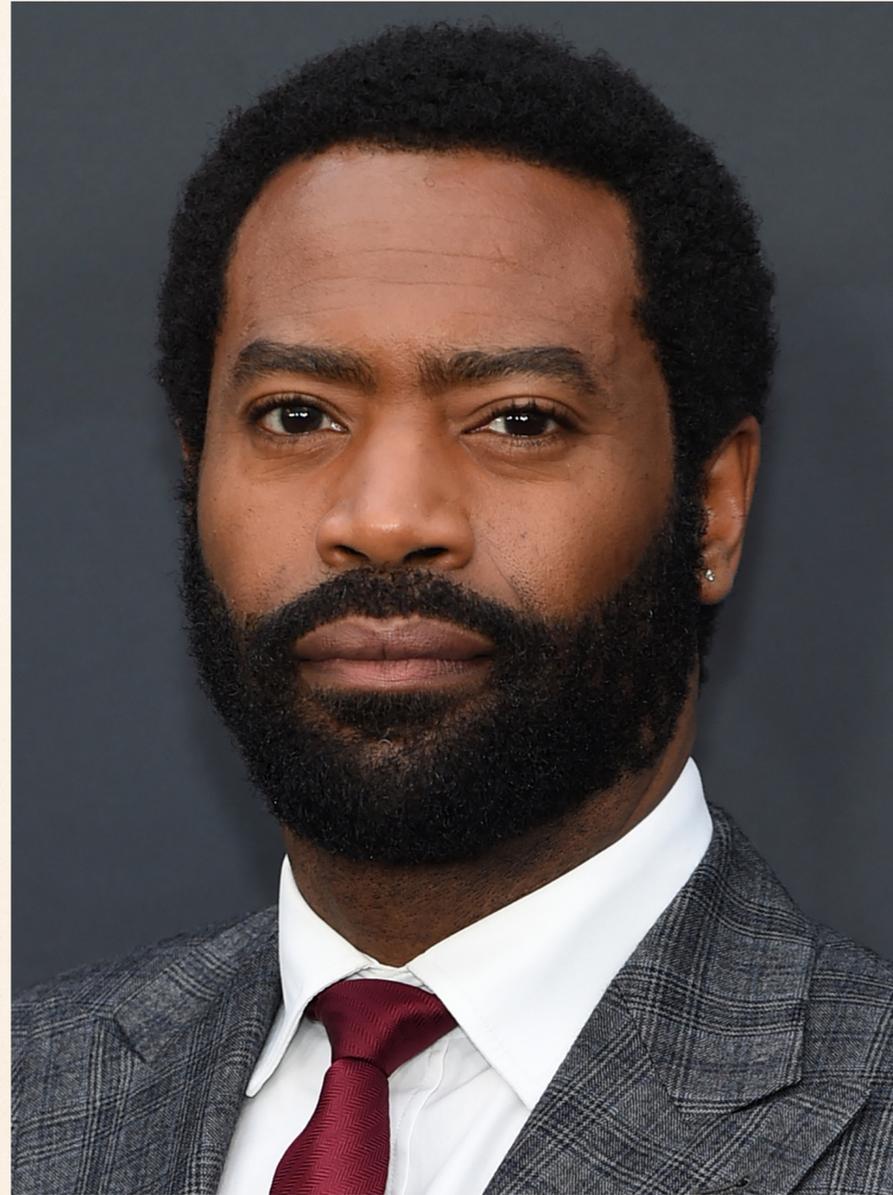
STEVEN JOHNSON

❖ 45 y/o

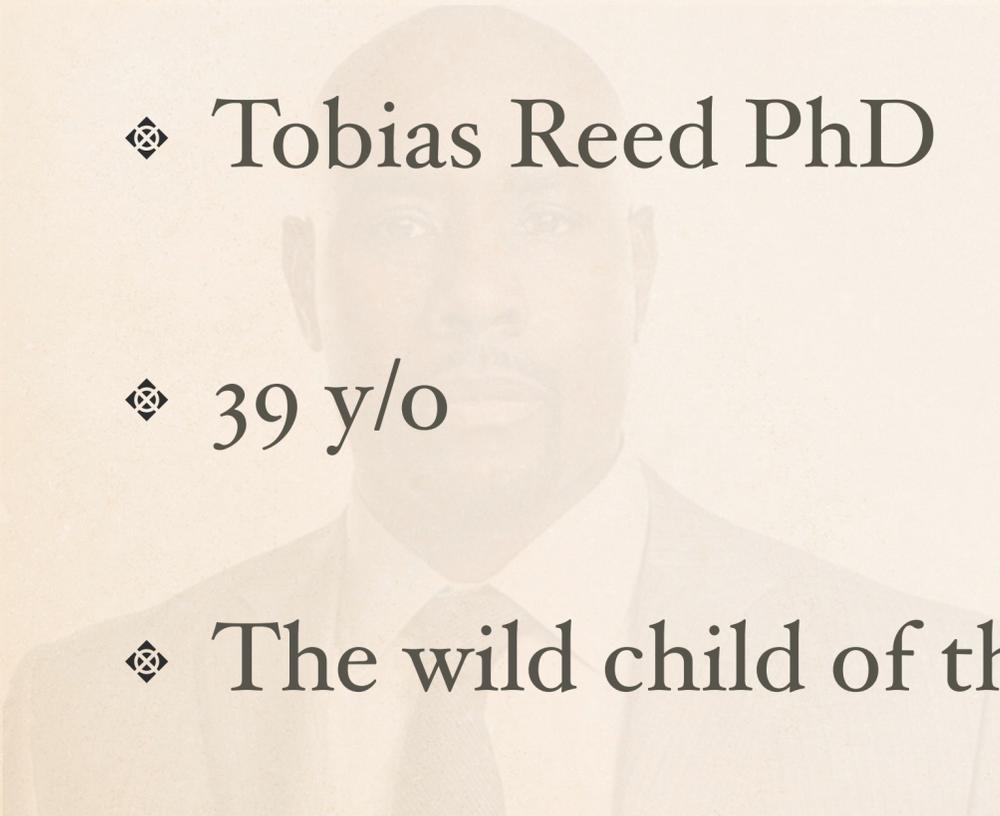
❖ Husband of Sally Anne

❖ Travels a lot for work as a project manager for the government.





TOBIAS REED

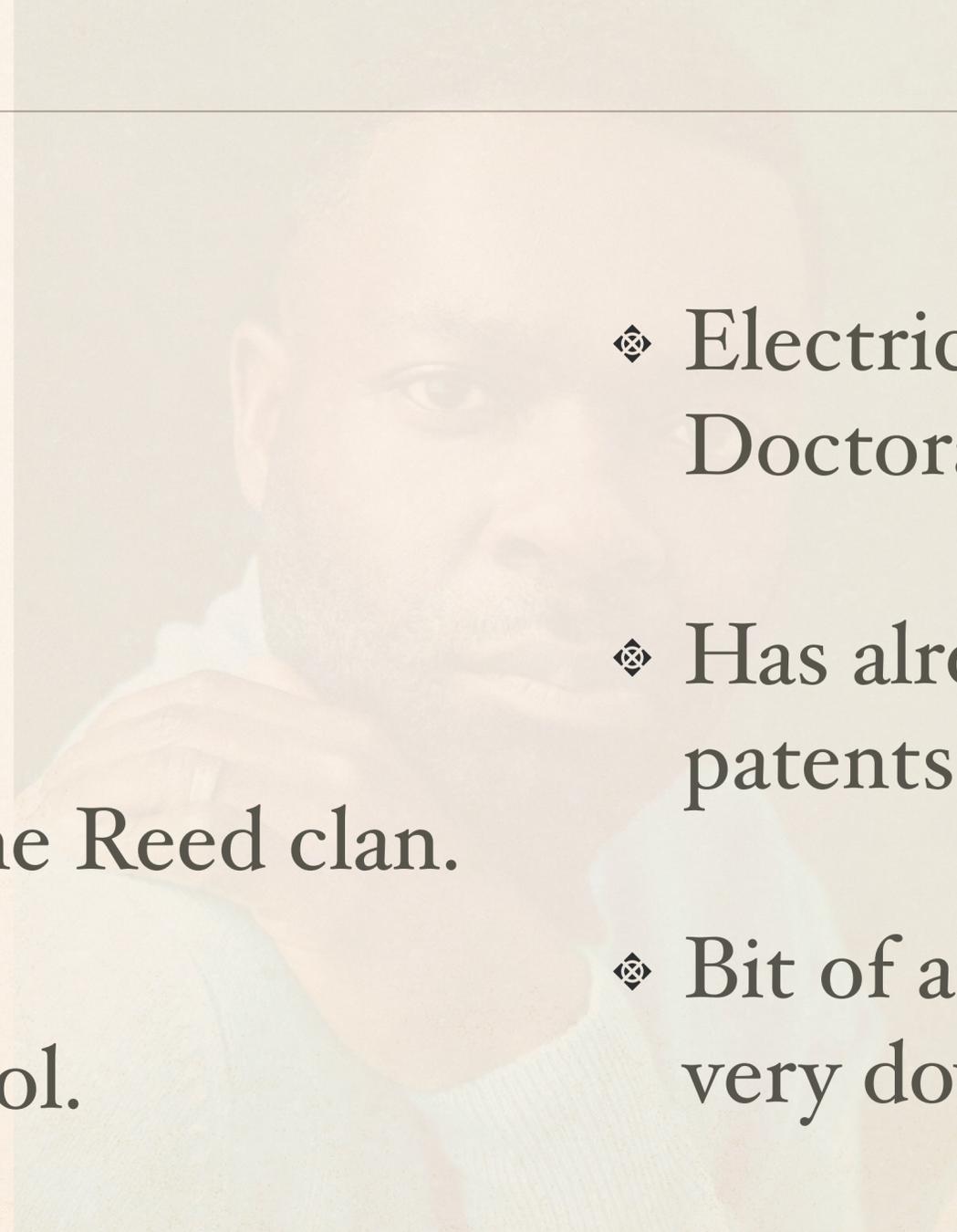


❖ Tobias Reed PhD

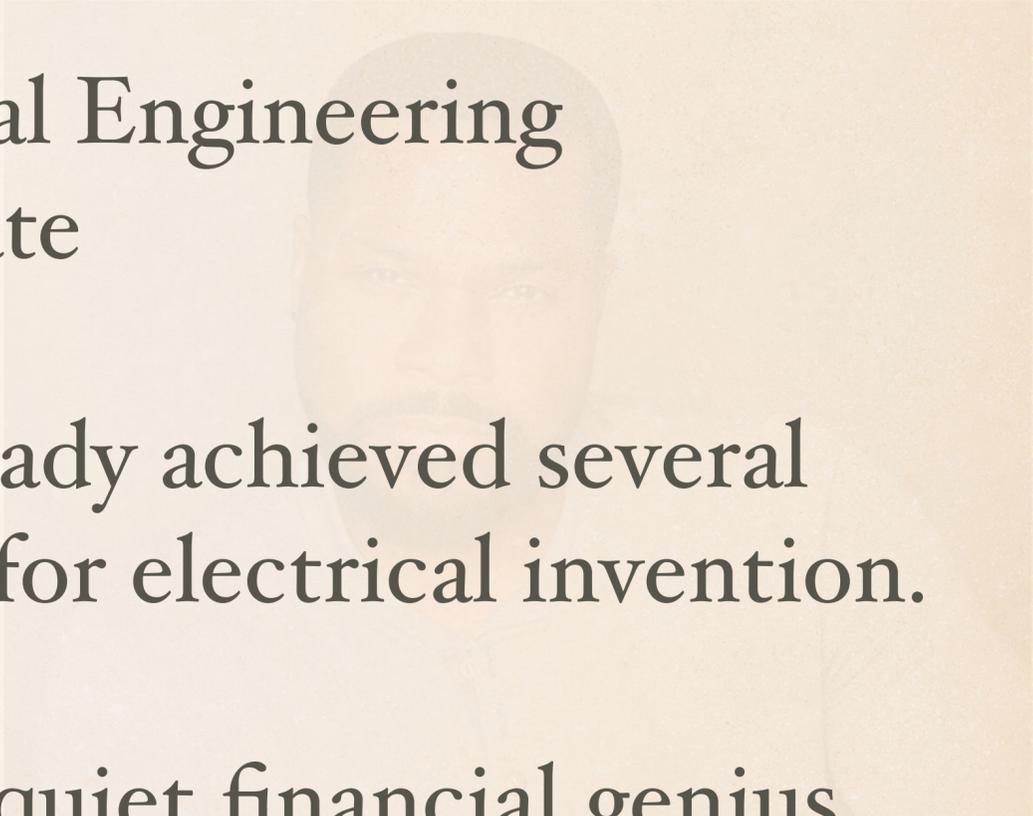
❖ 39 y/o

❖ The wild child of the Reed clan.

❖ Chronically in school.



❖ Electrical Engineering
Doctorate

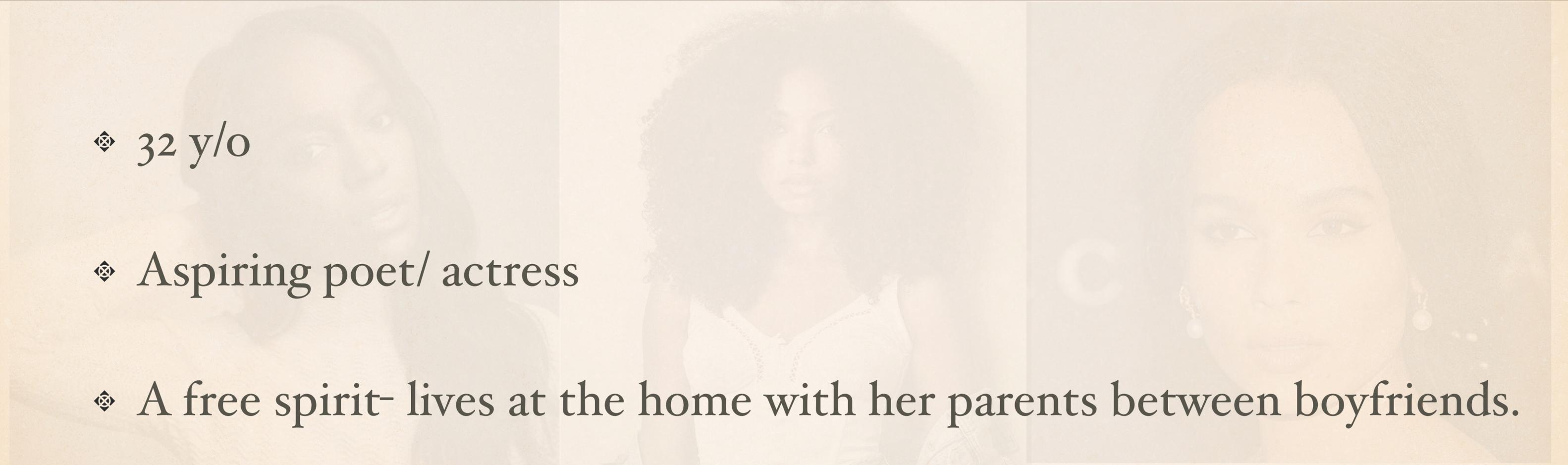


❖ Has already achieved several
patents for electrical invention.

❖ Bit of a quiet financial genius
very down to earth.



PRECIOUS REED



❖ 32 y/o

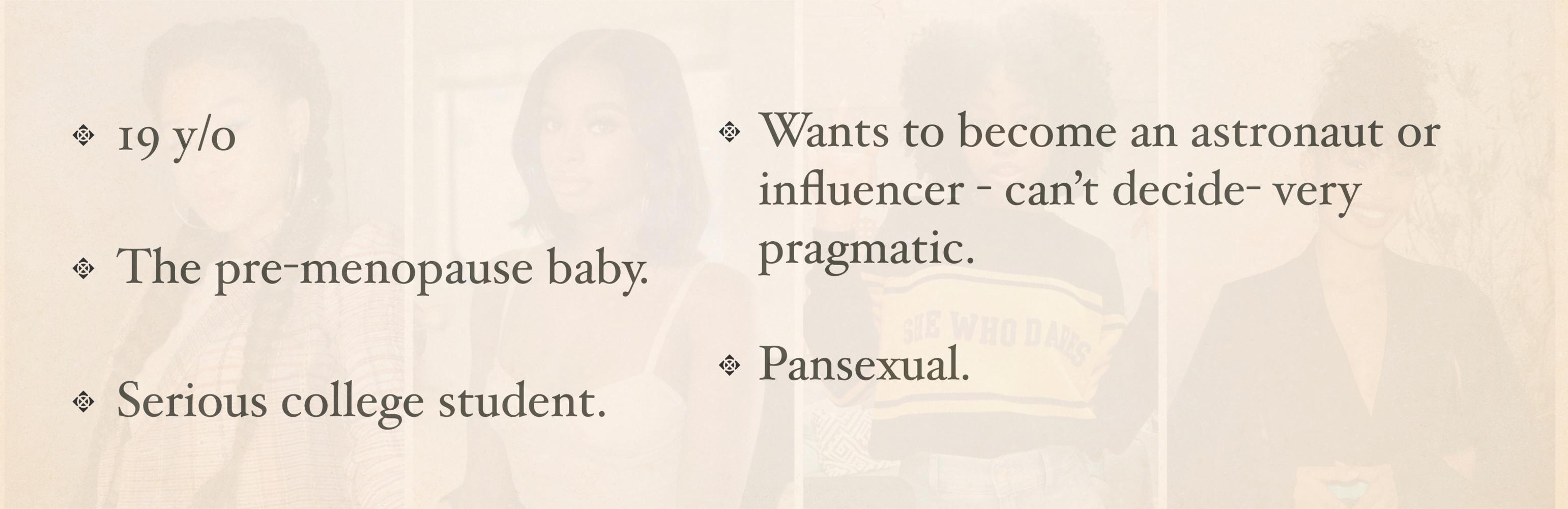
❖ Aspiring poet/ actress

❖ A free spirit- lives at the home with her parents between boyfriends.



DELIAH REED

- ❖ 19 y/o
- ❖ The pre-menopause baby.
- ❖ Serious college student.
- ❖ Wants to become an astronaut or influencer - can't decide- very pragmatic.
- ❖ Pansexual.







EPISODE 1

PILOT

Dean and Terri have a conversation about Dean's desire to move back to Baltimore to help his family rehab the family home.

They arrive to the family house late while the rest of the family is out at dinner. Dean and Terri go down memory lane while walking around the house before going to bed.

The next morning they awake to a bunch of overzealous White real estate investors standing over them, excited to talk the family into a quick sale of the house. Dean aggressively pushes them out as the family rushes in.

This leads to a deep family discussion about why Dean came home and what the gentrification process means to the community. The family seems naïve to him. He has a new purpose.

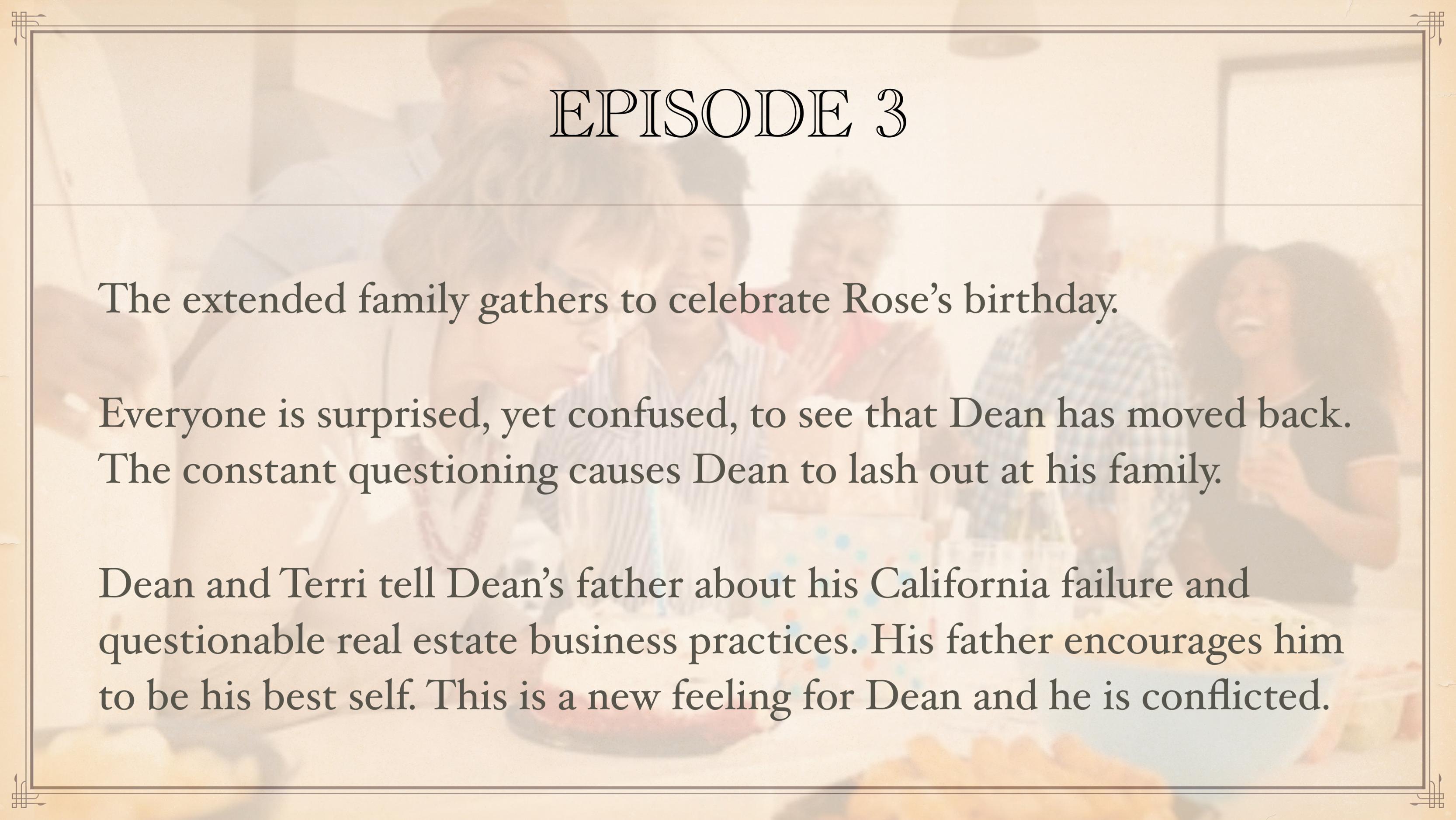
EPISODE 2

Dean and Terri explore the neighborhood.

Terri starts her new position.

Dean gets a job with a White marketing real estate firm.

Rose and Glenn try to understand what is going on with Dean to make him come back to Baltimore.

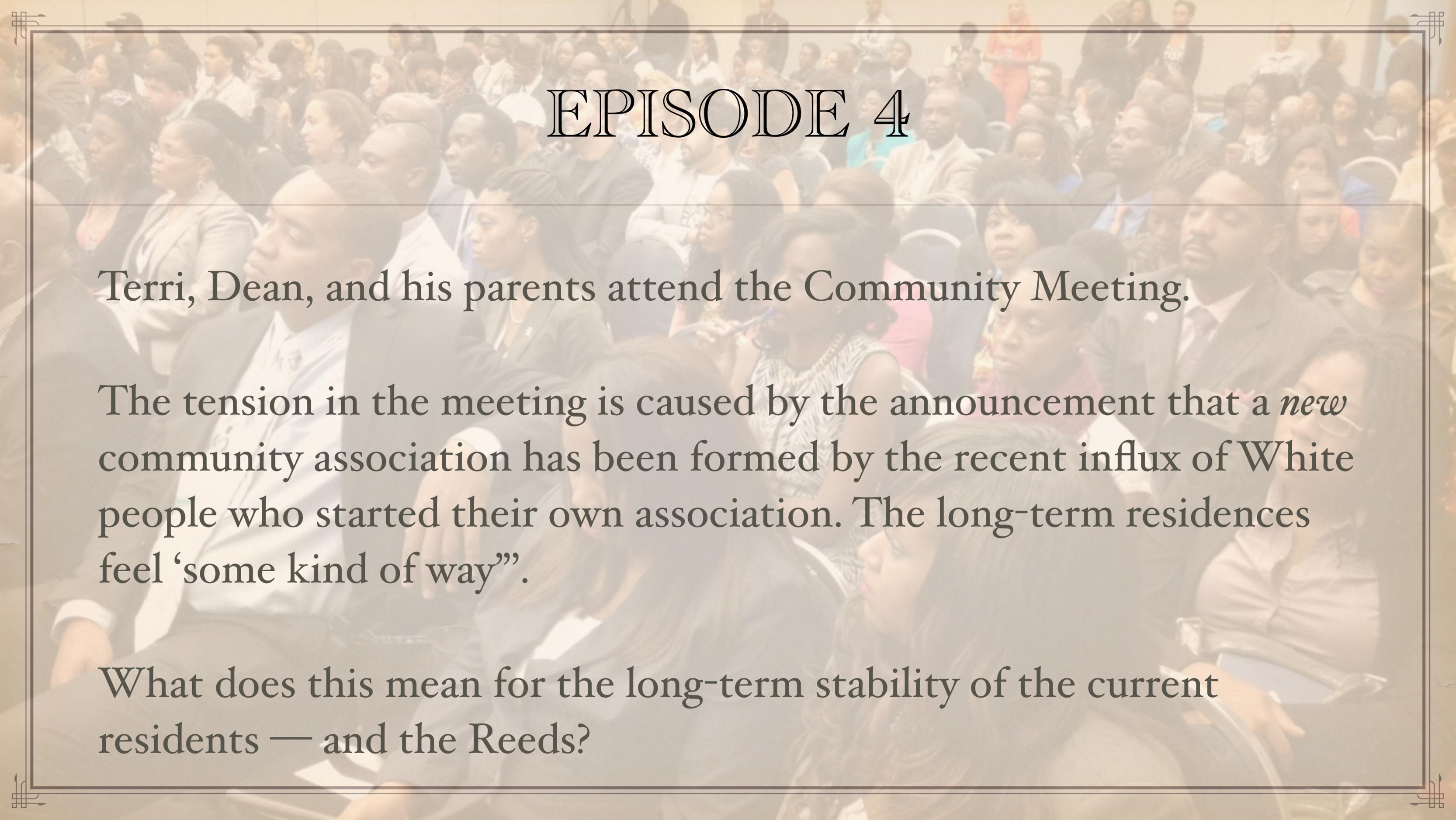
A blurred background image of a family gathering around a table with a birthday cake. The scene is warm and festive, with people of various ages and ethnicities. A woman in the foreground is smiling and looking towards the camera. In the background, a man is holding a young child, and another woman is looking on. The overall atmosphere is one of a close-knit family celebration.

EPIISODE 3

The extended family gathers to celebrate Rose's birthday.

Everyone is surprised, yet confused, to see that Dean has moved back. The constant questioning causes Dean to lash out at his family.

Dean and Terri tell Dean's father about his California failure and questionable real estate business practices. His father encourages him to be his best self. This is a new feeling for Dean and he is conflicted.



EPISODE 4

Terri, Dean, and his parents attend the Community Meeting.

The tension in the meeting is caused by the announcement that a *new* community association has been formed by the recent influx of White people who started their own association. The long-term residences feel ‘some kind of way’”.

What does this mean for the long-term stability of the current residents — and the Reeds?

EPISODE 5

Terri is aggressively recruited for a Hopkins based dental practice. Dean is recruited by a new real estate firm, though he is baffled by the real reason for the recruitment — The company has no history in the Baltimore market. (Ultimately, he finds out it's for his familiarity with the Ashburton housing market. He will be their inside guy. He is conflicted.)

Terri tells Dean with their new health insurance Terri can start IVF treatments at Hopkins.

Though reluctant, Precious finally brings her mystery boyfriend, from an upper middle class Indian family who immigrated to Canada, home. The problem? He claims to “not see race” and talks like everything is fair with the world. Precious knows this mindset will irritate her grounded family who might try to talk her out of dating him.

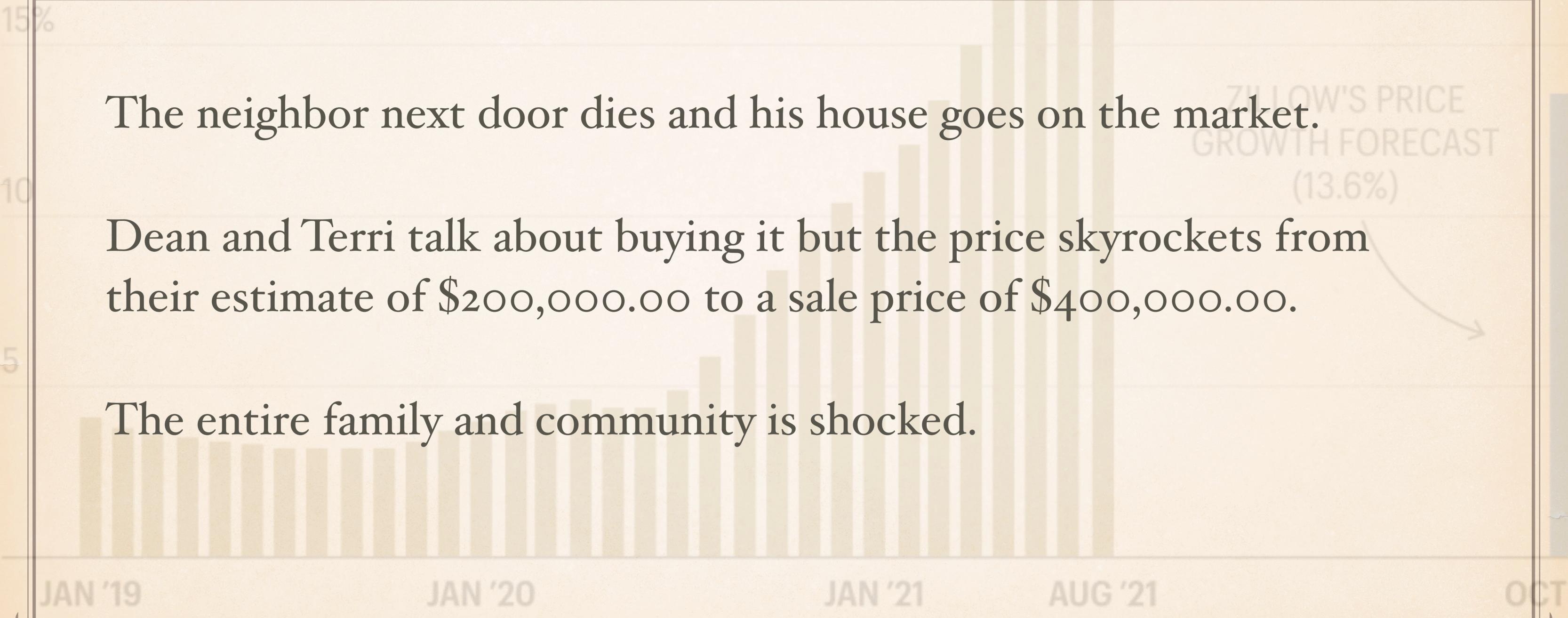
EPISODE 6

The neighbor next door dies and his house goes on the market.

Dean and Terri talk about buying it but the price skyrockets from their estimate of \$200,000.00 to a sale price of \$400,000.00.

The entire family and community is shocked.

ZILLOW'S PRICE
GROWTH FORECAST
(13.6%)



EPISODE 7

The new White driven Homeowners Association has a meeting and wants to create a legally binding HOA in cooperation with the city.

Many Black residents see this tactic as a way to police Black people out of the community.

Dean is asked to assist the new association by his job. He doesn't tell the family.

EPISODE 8

Tobias is the subject of a newspaper article exposing his wealth which causes the family to feel like they have a target on their back by people suddenly asking for money.

The stressful situation brings the family closer together.

EPISODE 9

THE POLICE

A sudden increase in police presence puts everyone on edge. The police are seen less as an increase in security, but as a tool of the White HOA to force out marginal Black people.

Rose reaches out to influential residents to organize a community response.

EPISODE 10

Life is challenging for Dean. The demand of the job; trying to retain the position but not submarine the community, is wearing on him.

The couple wonder if staying in Ashburton is the right thing to do considering all the negative changes taking place.

After being rushed to the hospital, Glenn receives life changing news about his health.

Terri makes a surprising announcement.

COMPS

