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from **BODY & SOLD: USA**

Based on real stories from American young people who ran away from home and were "introduced" to prostitution through different pimp-predator strategies.

This scene takes place at a bus station, created with a few chairs. Jeanette enters. She is 13, pretty, African-American or Hispanic-American. She is carrying a backpack with a small teddy bear sticking out. During her monologue, she re-packs some of the things in the pack, and Billy drifts in. He is a good-looking African-American man in his late 20's or early 30's, dressed in a casual but well put-together outfit. He spots Jeanette and watches her.

JEANETTE

I was nine when I first ran from home. I'm thirteen now.

My parents shouldn't've never had kids. Things they did to me, I don't ever tell nobody. Just my brothers. But it's different for boys. When I was nine, I finally ran, and the police picked me up. They told me I shouldn't go back. -, the social - like the agency - they said I shouldn't go back home - and they were right - so I went in a foster home. I went to three different foster homes. The first family was really nice. Then my foster mother got sick and couldn't take care of kids any more, so I got moved. And the next one, I got into these fights with the lady. She just was all up in my face about everything. So they moved me again. In this last home, there were some weird things happening. It was the same as in my real home --I mean not exactly the same, because my real Dad was more violent, but ... anyway, I couldn't stay at that place. So that's why I'm gonna get on a bus to somewhere.

I have twenty dollars. I found it in my foster-mother's purse. She was going to spend it on clubbing anyway. I have an extra pair of pants and a shirt and an extra pair of shoes. But you know, I forgot to bring *any* damn extra underwear, can you believe it? But I brought my small teddy bear.

She laughs a little, picks up her pack and Billy catches her eye.

BILLY

What's good?

JEANETTE

Hey.

BILLY

So - you getting a bus today? Taking your teddy bear for a ride?

JEANETTE

Yeah. I guess.

BILLY

Want to talk a little? I'd like to talk with you.

Jeanette shrugs her shoulders.

BILLY

You new to the city?

JEANETTE

Nah, I live right here -- over by the --

BILLY

No, no, no! Don't tell me where you live! You don't know nothin' about me. You don't have to say nothin', it's all right. I know what it's like to be runnin' alone. Yep, I do.

JEANETTE

Runnin'?

BILLY

Yeah. You're runnin' away right? Somethin' not going right at home?

JEANETTE

Kind of.

BILLY

I can help you. Because I've been there myself. But you don't have to listen to me. I'm just talking to keep warm, you know.

She smiles a little. He laughs.

BILLY

Your teddy bear doesn't need to talk to keep warm. He's got that fur.

He reaches out to touch her teddy bear. She pulls back.

BILLY

Don't be scared!

JEANETTE

I'm not scared.

Billy moves off. Jeanette turns away from him.