

MARKED

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Drama

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MARKED

INT.LAUNDRY PRODUCTION PLANT-DAY

A large room of women fold and sort linen into bundles and then cart.four women to each large white industrial table.

Laqwanda 25 black.pretty.fit.is in a far corner table.She is all business.Her beautiful yet determined face is focus on fold, sort, count.

She tallies up her bundle count and pulls a pencil from her hair net and records her total on a pad.She looks disgruntle as she spots her supervisor 30's Latino.

SUPERVISOR

(spanish accent)

Hope you made your numbers this hour.Cant afford to be short.

LAQWANDA

(finishing bundle)

Rita you know I make production most of the time...don't trip.

SUPERVISOR

Big bosses coming down on me so I'm just doing my job.

LAQWANDA

I hear you...look,I got a full cart ready to go to the hospital.

Laqwanda smoothly scoots a blue cart just pass the folding table and her supervisor. No appreciation from the face of the proud Latino supervisor.

SUPERVISOR

Line it up with the others going out.

Laqwanda's supervisor walks away checking her clip board.Soon as she has gone Laqwanda's younger sister joins her at folding table.

KASHARA

What she talkin bout now?I know she aint talking bout numbers,she cheat for her little friends all the time.

(CONTINUED)

LAQWANDA

It's nothing, been here too long to let her get to me...what you doing you better get back on line.

KASHARA

Girl it's break time...lets go.

LAQWANDA

Get me some M-n-M's out the machine and a Pepsi.

CUT TO

EXT. PLANT BREAK AREA-DAY

Laqwanda is sitting at a table checking her cell phone. Kashara places a honey bun and soda in front of Laqwanda.

LAQWANDA

Sis, I didn't want no honey bun...

KASHARA

They out of M-n-M's, be happy wit dat. What time you think we leave today?

LAQWANDA

If everything goes well we should get off at bout four.

KASHARA

Sounds good...mama said she got the kids. You take your last test tonight right?

LAQWANDA

Yup..you know it.

KASHARA

Maleea will be off by five, Shondra's party starts at 10. We'll save some drink for you.

LAQWANDA

It's the weekend and all, but I think I'm gon stay home wit mama and work on my resume. Shondra said it's an opening at her job.

(CONTINUED)

KASHARA

She said she had you after you got your certificates. So will you give this place a two weeks notice?

LAQWANDA

Maybe or I may tell them to go to hell...them and their production numbers.

KASHARA

Proud of you big sis. A graduate in Office System Technology. Make me want to go back.

LAQWANDA

You can. For me it was kinda hard but....

In the middle of Laqwanda's sentence the supervisor busts out of the break room exit door, speaks into her walkie talkie and then harshly yells break is over to all that it applies.

Laqwanda places her uneaten honey bun in her pocketbook. Cracks the top of her soda and turns it up as all her co workers pass her going back to work.

Her supervisor sizes Laqwanda up. Then an unapproved expression comes across the supervisor's face.

SUPERVISOR

(spanish accent)

Laqwanda I need to see you in the office.

LAQWANDA

For what?

SUPERVISOR

We'll talk when we are in the office.

LAQWANDA

Was it something that I done? That was my first time not getting production numbers in years.

SUPERVISOR

Ok Laqwanda.. You right, you been here what three, four year? You good worker. But lately... I mean look now, you last off break.

(CONTINUED)

LAQWANDA

(upset)

You stopped me! You been pickin at me since the Christmas party, guess cause James and the other managers didn't notice you.

SUPERVISOR

(mildly upset)

That's it lets go to the office I'm going to write you up.

LAQWANDA

For what? Nothing?

SUPERVISOR

For coming from break late and being late this morning.

LAQWANDA

Since you want to lie bitch, I quit. Fuck yall.

A touch of resentment flashes in the Latino supervisor's eye. But she turns from Laqwanda and goes back into the plant.

Kashara was standing at the break door the whole time. She sticks her head out to catch Laqwanda before she leaves.

KASHARA

Laqwanda! Laqwanda! You coming back to get me right?!

CUT TO.

INT. LAQWANDA MOTHERS HOME-NIGHT

Laqwanda is sitting on her light pink queen size bed typing at her lap top computer.

A video shows up introducing Irlen Syndrome.

Laqwanda in a indian sytle position pushes her lap top a few inches back but still squints her eyes.

On the video the woman(white) 40's is explaining.

WOMAN

Irlen syndrome is the eyes hypersensitive photoreceptors. In simple terms, the signals from the eye are not

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WOMAN (cont'd)
getting to the brain intact and/or
on time.

Laqwanda's inquisitive mother enters the wide open bed room
holding Laqwanda's four year old child.

PEARL
Look at'cha...all close on the
computer.Gon be talkin bout yo eyes
hurting in a minute.

LAQWANDA
My eyes aint gon be hurtin
Mah...you looking for a pull up?

PEARL
Naw I want to know who ate up my
chocolate chip cookies?

LAQWANDA
Ah Mah I ate them...sorry.I been
wanting some M-n-Ms all day,that
was the closest thing to it.

PEARL
Well you need to go to the store.

LAQWANDA
You don't suppose to have them
anyway.

PEARL
Girl you ain't no doctor.Speaking
of sweets,your honey came by.

LAQWANDA
Who Montrail,please,that crazy boy
ain't nothing but my baby daddy
that's it.

PEARL
I like Montrail,he is a good
guy.Treats you like gold.

LAQWANDA
Ain't nothing Mah,I mean he nice
and all but...I cant deal with
someone who wants to be under me
all the time and he stay broke.

PEARL

Because he truly loves you and this baby. *I know he is having a tough time finding a job but it's hard right now.*

LAQWANDA

Mah Montrail is just weird, for real. He a good father and all, but no, I just can't see myself with him.

PEARL

Well I think he alright. All these boys want to play gangsters or thug. Seem to me you would want to build yall'a little family.

LAQWANDA

I hear you Mamma... what was he talking bout?

PEARL

Nothing much, just came to see his baby and you. I told him you should have been here from work.

LAQWANDA

Work... oh yeah Mah I quit that.

PEARL

I could see that coming, but you should't have quit until you had another job. Can't count on people's words.

LAQWANDA

You right mama. But I could not take them anymore... so I just left.

PEARL

Hope your friend's job work out for you. So glad you stuck with that school.

Suddenly the door bell rings. Laqwanda folds down her laptop and slides off her bed.

She approaches the front door and looks through the peek hole. She seems disappointed at the sight, but opens the door anyway and allows Montrail (20's) black, to come in and sit.

Montrail is dressed in modest jean and polo shirt. His head wear is a Middle Eastern Afrocentric wrap.

(CONTINUED)

LAQWANDA

Montrail you over here again?What you need now?

MONTRAIL

Laqwanda my beautiful angel,I tried to call you.But it went to voice mail.How are you queen?

LAQWANDA

Anyway,look Montrail,Moses,Mustafa whatever you calling yourself now,next time wait for me to return your call.Mama got the baby.

MONTRAIL

No I came to see you my celestial being.I wanted to tell you that I found a job.

LAQWANDA

Bout time,doing what?

MONTRAIL

I'm a shuttle driver for Big Brads car dealership.

LAQWANDA

You gon be driving people around while they getting they car fixed?

MONTRAIL

Yeah that's it.With this extra income..I think we should move in together,you know,do this right.

LAQWANDA

Do this right,nah,besides I quit my job today,so your job came right on time.

MONTRAIL

You quit? What happen?Oh I know,Rita got to you.

Laqwanda briefly softens then hardens her demeanor.

LAQWANDA

Montrail you know how they do...management probably be calling me back soon.

(CONTINUED)

MONTRAIL

My beautiful love light..you don't
have to work.I worship the ground
you walk on.....

LAQWANDA

Saying stuff like that...so
unnecessary.

Suddenly a trio of young ladies burst on the scene.One of
them has their cell phone in the air playing the latest hot
party song.

Pearl holding Laqwanda's daughter enters the living room to
see what is going on.

The lyrics tells the ladies to shake what they want and
throw their hands in the air. They turn the living room into
a club dance floor.

LAQWANDA

Look at yall...just too crazy.

MALEKA(20'S)

Girl we got our baby daddies to
watch the kids and it's time to
turn all the way up!

SHONDRA

And then some...hey yall.Laqwanda I
heard what happen.You need to come
up there Monday.

PEARL

She sho'nuff do...,it was nice
seeing you Shonda, daughters,
Montrail.Im going to the store.

LAQWANDA

I'll take my bunny bump off your
hands.

Pearl hands the toddler off to her father and Montrail hugs
her then giving her to Laqwanda.

PERAL

Yeah I'm off to the
store... somebody ate all my all
natural chocolate chip cookies.

KASHARA

Ah Laqwanda that's messed up,I
would have brought you a bag of
m-n-m's.

(CONTINUED)

PEARL

Yup want nobody but Laqwanda.

LAQWANDA

Mother I will go to the store, you just sit and rest your feet.

MONTRAIL

Laqwanda I can take you...you know so you can save gas.

MALEKA

Ahhhh ain't he tweet.

KASHARA

So very very nice.

Laqwanda gives her sisters a mind your business look.

CUT TO.

EXT.STORE PARKING LOT-NIGHT

Montrail searches and finds a nice parking space for his company van. Laqwanda looking around with a touch of apprehension. She grabs her child from the loosened car seat.

The young family exits the van and are on their way in the store.

Suddenly a lady(40's)black, cougar, driving a sedan glides up with intentions of parking in the empty space beside Montrail's van. But Montrail is parked crooked. Making it a hard park.

LADY

(to Montrail)

Could you...oh never mind.

MONTRAIL

Yes mam, I can move the van over....

LAQWANDA

(cutting Montrail off)

Come on man, there are other parks out...

LADY

I'd appreciate that young Sir, good to see a decent young man today. Even if others don't.

Laqwanda nonchalantly passes her toddler to Montrail

(CONTINUED)

LAQWANDA

Lady you need to take yo wig and gone,before I split yo dentures.

While holding his baby a smirking Montrial grabs at Laqwanda's elbow.

MONTRAIL

Hold on now..no need to go there.

LADY

You better call her no manners,WIC check loving,ebt card wishing,old sew in having.....

The lady continues down the parking lot finishing off her comments while rolling her neck.Laqwanda stares at the back of the lady's car as she coasts off.

LAQWANDA

Better leave! Make me call my sisters and jump yo ass!

Laqwanda reaches for her child from her baby father.Montrail softly kisses the forehead of the child and hands her back to Laqwanda.

MONTRAIL

From a fighter to a mother,just like that.Most niggas dont know how to handle you.

LAQWANDA

Whatever nigga.

MONTRAIL

Girl I know you inside and out.Did you check out that video?I saw something on these glasses.

LAQWANDA

Yea,I saw the little video.I don't do glasses....hold on I may look fly wit some on..

MONTRAIL

You gorgeous girl,you'll look good anyway.

Laqwanda holds her head up slyly smiling and then blushing. looking away from, then at Montrail.

(CONTINUED)

LAQWANDA

Montrail you think you slick...but
we too different. But you my baby
daddy, as long as you do right by
her....

MONTRAIL

Forever and always, even if I'm not
here. At least that's what I aim
for.

LAQWANDA

Come on man, lets go in this store
and get my mama cookies.

CUT TO.

EXT/INT. PLASMA DONATION CENTER-DAY

At an upward angle the huge orange and blue letters of the
plasma office sign look bright as it reflects the sun rays
on this bright day.

The whole front glass of the office is covered with poster
size ads for the donation center.

Inside the office Laqwanda is sitting at a curved modern
style receptionist desk. She is looking surprisingly
comfortable for her first day on the job.

Her desk phone rings and lights up. Laqwanda anticipates the
second ring, presses a button and lifts the dark gray phone
receiver.

LAQWANDA

(courteous)

City Plasma Center, how can I help
you?

CUT TO.

INT. LAQWANDA MOTHERS HOME-DAY

Pearl is relaxing on her couch watching t.v. with her cell
phone to her ear.

PEARL

Yes girl...there it is baby girl! I
liked that. Answer it like that
every time.

Intercut between plasma center and laqwanda's mother home

(CONTINUED)

LAQWANDA

Thanks you Mah.Ima call around
lunch,ok.

PEARL

Alright Qwanda,have a great
day...love ya.

LAQWANDA

Love you too.

LAQWANDA HANGS UP HER DESK PHONE.

A business outfitted sonda props up on Laqwanda's desk
checking on her friend.

SHONDRA

Who you love too?

LAQWANDA

Oh girl that was my mama,she wanted
to hear how I answered the phone.

SHONDRA

That was nice.But I'm sure you will
do good.Look I just wanted to give
you a heads up on Angelina.

LAQWANDA

Who is Angelina?

SHONDRA

She has a high position in
accounting.Watch her Qwanda she's a
snake.

LAQWANDA

I just want to work,do a good job
and go home...no drama.

SHONDRA

That's it,she loves drama.Always
trying to get people fired.New
folks get it the worst.

LAQWANDA

Not going to worry....

Laqwanda spins from her chair to stand.in a moment of time
that deserves slow motion.Laqwanda looks to her left and
recognizes the same lady from the parking lot.But she has
yet to see Laqwanda.

(CONTINUED)

SHONDRA
There she go,walking this way.

LAQWANDA
(whispers)
Oh shit...I was about to fight her.

SHONDRA
(whispers)
You say what?

A smiling Angelina(40's)holds her head high scanning the room.Then notices and recognizes Laqwanda on the front desk.She prances toward Laqwanda and Shondra interrupting their conversation about her.

ANGELINA
Morning ladies.(to Laqwanda)You must be the new front help.

LAQWANDA
(modest)
Yes my name is Laqwanda,about...

ANGELINA
Hello, Im Angelina.I remember you from the other night.No need to live in the past.

LAQWANDA
I was going through some things.Glad we can move on from it.

ANGELINA
Oh yes,besides I hear you have a solid work history and just finished some school.

LAQWANDA
That's right mam,like I was telling Shondra.All I want to do is work and go home,no extra mess.

ANGELINA
Very good to hear.Did Shondra tell you this is smile week.

SHONDRA
That's right Qwanda,everybody in the office has to wear a smiley badge today and all week.

Angelina shows off her smiley face sticker.

(CONTINUED)

ANGELINA

Its just a little something to show donors we appreciate them.

SHONDRA

Don't mean to cut you off Angelina but,Laqwanda is that your baby's father coming in here?

LAQWANDA

Sure is,I don't know why he is here.

ANGELINA

(smitten)

Oh yeah I remember him from the other night.Oh God,look who seems to be with him,Alonzo.

SHONDRA

Alonzo...he think he the office player.

ANGELINA

Anyway I'm off.Laqwanda make sure you get a smiley badge and smile smile,smile.

LAQWANDA

I sure will.

Angelina delays her exit for a second.looking around Laqwanda's work area.She spots a candy bar and some water.

ANGELINA

Also,maybe you have not looked at the office hand book.But there are no snacks or bottled water in the work area.

LAQWANDA

No problem,I'll get rid of it.

Angelina nods and walks off.She greets Montrail and Alonzo(30's)black.Smooth.As the gentlemen stop by Laqwanda's desk.

LAQWANDA(CONT)

(to Montrail)

Man what are you doing here?

(CONTINUED)

MONTRAIL

Qwanda you think I'm following you?
Naw I had to drop Mr.Alonzo off.

ALONZO

Hey I'm Alonzo, this is my first
time seeing you here.

LAQWANDA

Today is my first day.

ALONZO

Hope Shondra telling you some good
things.

SHONDRA

If anything I'll tell her you ain't
nothing.

ALONZO

Whatever..anyway.How do you two
know each other?

LAQWANDA

He is my baby's father.

ALONZO

A child together, oh ok.

MONTRAIL

Yeah, but to me she could never be
just my baby's mother. *In my eyes*
Laqwanda is a special young lady.

SHONDRA

Ok Montrail, tell it. Stand up for
your woman.

LAQWANDA

(to Montrail)

Don't you have to get back to your
job?

MONTRAIL

You are right. I just came in to
speak. See yall later.

ALONZO

Montrail my car should be ready
around three right?

(CONTINUED)

MONTRAIL

That is what the boss said sir, see
you in a couple of hours.

Montrail greets everyone a fare well one last time before
leaving the building.

ALONZO

Laqwanda...no harm intended, but you
looking right. Did I mention I drive
a Benz.

SHONDRA

Man don't nobody care about your
Benz. Watch him Qwanda.

ALONZO

I was not talking to you Shondra.
Laqwanda where you going for lunch?

SHONDRA

Naw Alonzo, we eating together for
lunch.

LAQWANDA

It's ok Shondra...

ALONZO

Good, I know this wing spot around
the corner. Hugh selection...you
gotta try the herbs and honey
wings.

LAQWANDA

That do sound good.

ALONZO

Well I'll see you soon. By the
way, if your computer acts up call
me. I'm the IT guy here.

LAQWANDA

I sure will, thanks.

Alonzo smiles at Laqwanda and gives Shondra a why you
blocking look then scrolls down the hallway.

SHONDRA

Laqwanda I'm here to tell you, that
nigga there ain't shit. Can't say I
didn't warn you.

(CONTINUED)

LAQWANDA

He seems ok.Maybe you gotta get to know him.

CUT TO.

EXT.CHICKEN WING RESTAURANT-DAY

Laqwanda and Alonzo sit outside at a table with umbrella in the middle.They are finishing off their sauce laced wings.

Alonzo spots some of the wing grease on the corner of Laqwanda's mouth.He attempts to clean it off but Laqwanda leans back,letting him know she can wipe her own face.

ALONZO

So what up with you?

LAQWANDA

What do you mean?I told you everything about me.

ALONZO

I know you dropped out of high school,survived the hood,went back got you GED,had a baby,almost got married,don't smoke but drank...

LAQWANDA

That is the basics...yeah.

ALONZO

(kidding)

So you going to get free lunches on me,and I can't find out what turns you on and off?

LAQWANDA

On some sex shit?

ALONZO

Well..no,not just that,for example I hate okra.Can't stand shopping carts near my car,love a good back rub...I wanta know what makes you tick.

LAQWANDA

What makes me tick...I have to say my child.My love for her keeps me going.Don't you feel that way about your kids.

(CONTINUED)

ALONZO

I was young when I met my babies
mama. After two kids I still wanted
to run around, but I've matured and
now try to make time for them.

LAQWANDA

What do yall do?

ALONZO

You know, go to the park, fun
zones, buy them stuff. Take them to
see my mama.

LAQWANDA

That's good, keep it up. It's 10
minutes to one, we should get back.

ALONZO

It's about that time. Don't stress
too much. You know I'ma be a manager
in a few days.

LAQWANDA

Oh really, so you going to be my
boss huh?

ALONZO

Something like that, but you good. We
both grown, my advancement shouldn't
get in the way of our relationship.

LAQWANDA

Relationship? Hold now, lets be
friends first.

ALONZO

That's what I meant. Look Laqwanda I
can bet Shondra probably told you
about some of the women I talked to
in the office. But you different.

LAQWANDA

How many have you said that to.

ALONZO

No it's true. You are a lady but I
can tell you can get hood when
needed. Let me take you out, show you
some stuff.

(CONTINUED)

LAQWANDA

I don't know,I gotta find a
babysitter and all that.

ALONZO

You like 90's music?

LAQWANDA

Hell yeah...I grew up on it.

ALONZO

I know this club that plays all the
jams from back in the day.Trust me
it will be super fun.

LAQWANDA

I'll think about it,now lets go
before you get me fired.

CUT TO.

INT.PLASMA DONATION CENTER-DAY

A Wednesday.Laqwanda is busy answering the front desk
phone.She places people on hold and takes notes.Directly
behind her about 15 feet away Alonzo casually fills and
drinks a small cup of water from a water cooler.

He sips and watches Laqwanda while she works.Shondra holding
a stack of files,slides in front of Laqwanda blocking
Alonzo's view.Shondra rolls her eyes at him then turns her
attention toward Laqwanda.

SHONDRA

Qwanda,how you girl?

LAQWANDA

(hangs up phone)

I'm ok...hella busy today huh.

SHONDRA

That's how it is at times.I wanted
to show you what to do with these
files real quick.

As Shondra places the stack of files on the front desk and
sit beside Laqwanda.Angelina interrupts the training
session.

ANGELINA

Good I see Shondra is showing you
what to do with the clients files.

(CONTINUED)

SHONDRA

Yes,I was showing her how we scan and upload the files in the system.

ANGELINA

Since you are training her,tell somebody to come up here to cover the phones and you two go to the copy room.

SHONDRA

Alright I will do just that.

ANGELINA

Laqwanda you are doing good,but when you take massages,write down not only their name and number,but also the reason.

LAQWANDA

I sure will,from now on.

ANGELINA

Good.Shondra carry on with the training.Laqwanda make sure you keep smiling and throw that drink away.No food or drink remember.

LAQWANDA

Yes mam,I will take it out the office right now.

CUT TO.

INT.PLASMA DONATION CENTER-DAY(CONT)

Laqwanda and Shondra are sitting in the copy room.Laqwanda is looking overwhelmed by all the instructions Shondra is giving her.

Shondra points at the stack of files,the computer,the copier and back to the files.

Laqwanda squints her eyes and rubs the temples of her head.Her effort to focus is taking a toll on her.

SHONDRA

You got it girl?I know it's a lot.

LAQWANDA

(unsure)

Well....kind of.

(CONTINUED)

SHONDRA

I know you will be fine, call me if
you need me. Gotta get back to my
work load, it doubles yours.

LAQWANDA

Oh..Oh ok. It's nothing, I got it.

Shondra leaves Laqwanda to herself. As soon as Shondra is gone so is Laqwanda's false confidence.

Laqwanda closes and opens her eyes. She then lowers her head and rubs her eyes with the heels of her hand.

The symptoms are all too familiar. She looks at her first file, but all she is seeing is letters literally JUMPING all over the file page.

Back to the computer. Some of the words seem to be missing on there. She looks back at the files and the letters have stopped jumping, but now words are DANCING on the computer under no one's control.

CUT TO.

INT. LAQWANDA MOTHERS HOME-DAY

Barely over the kitchen table, little tiny hands is all that can be seen as they try to grasp a hold of a bright red sippy cup.

The small fingers tip over the sippy cup. Spilling juice on the kitchen floor. Pearl turns from the kitchen sink and is disappointed with the mess she now has to clean up.

PEARL

Baby girl I told you to wait. Now I
got to get that up before the floor
gets sticky.

Pearl grabs and places her grandchild at the kitchen table. As soon as pearl leaves, the small child jumps from the chair and runs around. Pearl steps back into scene armed with a mop and begins to clean the spill.

CUT TO.

INT. PLASMA OFFICE/LAQWANDA MOM HOME-SPLIT SCREEN- DAY

Laqwanda continues to gather herself in the copyroom. She picks up a stack of files and flips through them. After regrouping herself she sets the stack down and starts with the very top file again.

(CONTINUED)

Laqwanda opens up the folder and tries to read. Once again letters fly to and fro, all around the page.

Now frustrated laqwanda gets up from her chair and turns off one set of the florescent lights, making the room slightly dimmer.

Keeping herself together laqwanda sits back down. She starts to type on her computer, but it seems not to be performing. Laqwanda moves her mouse and types random letters but nothing is happening.

A happy alonzo walks past and goes back and stops at the copy room doorway. He notices laqwanda's trouble with the computer.

SIMULTANEOUS.

PLASMA OFFICE/LAQWANDA MOM HOME-SPLIT SCREEN-DAY

Pearl is bent over her mop bucket squeezing water out of her mop. She stands up and slaps the semi wet mop head to the kitchen floor, mopping side to side.

With no warning the toddler wraps her short arms around one of Pearl's working legs, then hits her as if playing tag and runs off.

A no nonsense Pearl eyeballs her grandchild. Pearl points at the couch insinuating to the small child to sit and watch cartoons. The child does what she is told but as soon as pearl turns her back, shes back up running again.

SIMULTANEOUS.

PLASMA OFFICE/LAQWANDA MOM HOME-SPLIT SCREEN-DAY

Alonzo watches Laqwanda as she tries to remedy her computer problem. Confidently he walks towards her.

ALONZO

Whats up with these lights? Do we need to call maintenance?

LAQWANDA

No no, too much light messes with my eyes.

ALONZO

You know, my mama is the same way. You remind me of her.

(CONTINUED)

LAQWANDA

Oh really...yo mama?

ALONZO

I meant the light thing.

LAQWANDA

Oh.Hey,help me with this
computer,it's stuck.

ALONZO

That's my thing.Computer
troubleshooting is what I do.

Alonzo shuts down and reboots Laqwanda's computer.He punches
keys showing off his skills.

SIMULTANEOUS.

PLASMA OFFICE/LAQWANDA MOM HOME-SPLIT SCREEN-DAY

Pearl puts the finishing touches on her wet kitchen
floor.She stops for a second and notices a spot she knows
she already went over close to the wall.

Pearl dips her mop once again in the murky mop bucket.She
bends over and twists water out of it,then goes after the
stubborn spot.

As Pearl applies firm steady strokes to her kitchen
floor,her small grandchild slides across the floor tackling
her leg.

The FORCE of the child along with the slippery surface
causes Pearl to lose her balance and crash hard to the
floor.

In obvious pain,Pearl gathers herself while still on the
floor.She army crawls to the dinning table were her cell
phone is lying and calls for help.

PEARL

(on phone)

Yes 911 I need you to come,I'm hurt
and it's only me and my grandchild.

SIMULTANEOUS.

PLASMA OFFICE/LAQWANDA MOM HOME-SPLIT SCREEN-DAY

ALONZO

Well there you go.Looks like your
computer is good.

(CONTINUED)

LAQWANDA
Thanks Zo,you the man.

ALONZO
You know that.

Laqwanda takes a deep relieving breath and rubs out her eyes.

ALONZO(CONT)
Do you get headaches when you read sometimes?

LAQWANDA
Sometimes.But it depends on the lighting.

ALONZO
You know that's not normal right?

SIMULTANEOUS.

PLASMA OFFICE/LAQWANDA MOM HOME-SPLIT SCREEN-DAY

Pearl has finish her call to 911.She redials her cell phone and waits.

SIMULTANEOUS.

PLASMA OFFICE/LAQWANDA MOM HOME-SPLIT SCREEN-DAY

LAQWANDA
Hold that thought,my phone is ringing...it's my mama.Hello Ma.

SIMULTANEOUS.

PLASMA OFFICE/LAQWANDA MOM HOME-SPLIT SCREEN-DAY

PEARL
Qwanda girl I done fell and I think I broke my hip.

LAQWANDA
Oh mama! No!What happen....

PEARL
(in pain)
I was mopping.The ambulance is coming,just tell yo job there is an emergency and you gotta leave.

(CONTINUED)

LAQWANDA
Ok mama,I'm on my way.

SPLIT SCREEN ENDS/FULL SCREEN.

INT.PLASMA DONATION CENTER-DAY(CONT)

ALONZO
Whats up,you gotta go?

LAQWANDA
(upset)
Yeah I'm out of here my mama
hurt...shit!My sister got my car
today.

ALONZO
Need a ride to the hospital or
something?I will take you.

LAQWANDA
But don't they need you here?

ALONZO
This is an emergency,they can call
in a sub.

LAQWANDA
Thanks so much Alonzo.

ALONZO
Let's go.

CUT TO.

EXT./INT. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT-NIGHT

Alonzo plays the gentleman's role and unlocks the passenger
side door for Laqwanda.She slumps her body inside the car
and he follows suit.

Laqwanda is at ease as Alonzo takes her hand and places it
in his.

LAQWANDA
Lucky it was just a hip
pointer.Doctor say she will be ok
in a couple of weeks.

ALONZO
I got one of those playing
football.

(CONTINUED)

LAQWANDA

Thanks again Zo.I should of let Montrail's mama keep my baby more.

ALONZO

Can't beat yourself up,things happen.

LAQWANDA

Guess you're right.Earlier you said I reminded you of your mom,how so?

ALONZO

Well beside the light thing.You're pretty,strong willed.See I been studing you Qwanda and I can tell you have problem with your eyes.

LAQWANDA

I...I don't like to talk about it,but I do have sight problems.

ALONZO

How so?

LAQWANDA

It was worst as a child.I'll be reading and letters would be jumping like gnats.Teachers try to say I had A.D.D. or dyslexia.

ALONZO

A.D.D.?

LAQWANDA

Attention deficit disorder.Guess I talked a little too much in class.

ALONZO

Everybody got a little detention from talking in class,right?

LAQWANDA

I was the worst.With a name like Laqwanda and from the projects at the time,people assumed I would never amount to anything.

ALONZO

All cause of your bad sight.

(CONTINUED)

LAQWANDA

Hate to say it, but for the most part, I think I embraced the negative talk about me. You know.

ALONZO

That's bullshit Qwanda, you can be whatever you want. My mama went through the same thing.

LAQWANDA

Really?

ALONZO

Yes. She a retired nurse. She always had the lights dim. Complained about head aches. Don't think it's as bad now.

LAQWANDA

Sounds right.

ALONZO

As a boy, she would talk about letters jumping around on pages. I wondered if each letter was part of some code.

LAQWANDA

Like the bible code?

ALONZO

I guess, maybe I just wanted to feel like my mama was extra special.

LAQWANDA

I haven't felt this comfortable talking about this in a long time. Besides fam, my crazy baby daddy is the only one who understands me.

ALONZO

I get you Qwanda, and I want to be there for you. Now I've made plans to take you out and I'm not taking no for an answer.

LAQWANDA

Well... I guess so.

CUT TO.

Montage-Variou Locations

(CONTINUED)

- 1.Laqwanda and Alonzo roller skate in a park.
- 2.Laqwanda and Alonzo are together picking berries and Laqwanda tries to feed Alonzo.
- 3.Alonzo is in an apron over a stove making a dish.He scoops up a portion and feeds Laqwanda.
- 4.Alonzo and Laqwanda are at a candle lit table.They reach for and embraces each others hand.

CUT TO.

INT.PLASMA CENTER-DAY

Two weeks later.A friday.An exuberant Laqwanda is in her comfort zone answering calls.

LAQWANDA
(on phone)
Hello.Plasma Center how can I help
you.I can...whats your name and
number?Thanks.

After taking down the information,Laqwanda is startled by Shondra.

SHONDRA
Qwanda!

LAQWANDA
Oh girl...you scared me.Whats
good?You look mad.

SHONDRA
Told you dat nigga Alonzo ain't
shit.Should have seen him all in
the new girl's face.

LAQWANDA
You know how he is,probley just
talking.

SHONDRA
Nah girl,he smiling and pulling his
phone out.There he,go check him.

A strolling Alonzo looks up and notices the cold stares from the ladies.He speeds his pace trying to avoid conflict.

LAQWANDA
Alonzo!Alonzo!

(CONTINUED)

Alonzo is shocked hearing his name called so loudly. He walks toward Laqwanda, calming her.

ALONZO
(low voice)
What up, Qwanda why you yelling?

LAQWANDA
Man you gon walk pass without speakin. You saw me.

ALONZO
Look. I'm was going to a management meeting. Im management now.

LAQWANDA
Ok...we still going to the movies later?

ALONZO
Laqwanda...it's over. Whatever we had is done.

LAQWANDA
What? You said you....

ALONZO
We can talk later. Gotta go.

A dumbfounded Laqwanda shuttles herself back to her work area. Shondra waits on her news.

SHANDRA
What he said girl?

LAQWANDA
Fuck'em. Punkass got brandnew.

SHONDRA
Don't worry, we going out tonight. Right now just focus on these phones.

Angelina pops up from behide the ladies and calls back alonzo.

ANGELINA
Ladies this is no place for drama talk. We are here to work.

ALONZO
Yeah Angelina, I was on my way to the meeting.

ANGELINA

You got a few.I was talking to the ladies about work issues.

ALONZO

Yes mam.

Angelina looks over the front desk.In her casual Friday jeans she squats and picks up a yellow m-n-m candy from the carpet.She holds it between two fingers.

ANGELINA

Shondra can you please leave.

Shondra does what she is told.

ANGELINA(CONT)

Laqwanda I don't think this is working out.Besides eating at your desk..

LAQWANDA

They must have fell out of my pocketbook,it's the last time.

ANGELINA

Laqwanda you too slow,you don't take massages right,you're just incompetent.

ALONZO

Hold on,she's trying Angelina.

ANGELINA

Alonzo this is your chance to make a managerial decision,and right before a management meeting.I know what I would do.

A sorrowful Alonzo looks at Laqwanda then Angelica and back at Laqwanda.

ALONZO

Laqwanda we going to have to let you go.

LAQWANDA

(upset)

Man...thats messed up.I opened...that's ok.

(CONTINUED)

ANGELINA
We'll mail your check.

LAQWANDA
I should have snatched you out of
your car that night, but I'll see
you later. Had this up your sleeve
the whole time.

ANGELINA
Clean out your stuff.

CUT TO.

EXT. PLASMA CENTER PARKING LOT- EVENING

In his car with the windows half down, Alonzo is in mack mode on his cell phone. Laqwanda pours a alcoholic drink in his lap. She leaves and is followed by her two sisters as she walks down Angelina getting into her sedan.

ANGELINA
What you want? Get out of here
before I call the police.

LAQWANDA
(squared up)
Nah bitch, you wanta run your
mouth. Lets do it.

MALEKA
Steal that bitch!

KASHARA
Smack the shit out of her Qwanda!

The mildly drunk laqwanda circles Angelina like a prize fighter. Angelina pulls out her cell phone.

ANGELINA
Go on now. I'm dailing 911.

Laqwanda reaches back and smacks Angelina in the face.

They exchange several blows before locking up.

Hair pieces start flying. Blouses are ripped.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

EXT. COUNTY JAIL-MORNING

(CONTINUED)

An anxious Montrail stands facing the jail's razor wired gate. Finally he is pleased at the sight of a emotionally worn Laqwanda, who unexpectedly hugs Montrail tightly.

LAQWANDA

You always here for me, no matter how I treat you. My mama right, you a good man.

MONTRAIL

I will always be here for you and my child. No matter what, my Nubian goddess. The lady willing to drop the charges.

LAQWANDA

Really? Oh wow...

MONTRAIL

She remembered me from your job. I just talked to her.

LAQWANDA

Thanks Montrail. Maybe we can make this family thing work.

CUT TO.

INT. MAKESHIFT TEMPLE-NIGHT

All around the temple candles are lit. mystical fog also fills the room. Eerie chants come from people in dark robes and Middle Eastern Afrocentric head wraps.

GROUP

(chanting)

Is that rain from the sky or angels crying in the ocean!

Is that rain from the sky or angels crying in the ocean!

Is that rain from the sky or angel crying in the ocean!

Montrail in his full religious garb, stand up from the front row. He approaches the speakers podium.

MONTRAIL

They say we are a cult, a sect, or even a gang.

(CONTINUED)

GROUP

Speak brother! Speak on it!

MONTRAIL

Just because we follow the real
Goddess being mighty Isis, means we
crazy.

GROUP

God is a woman! She is so great!
Preach! Preach brother!

MONTRAIL

Because of Isis or Iset blessings
and help from her loyal
devotees... please stand.

Alonzo and Angelina stand from the crowd. They each give a
respective nod toward Montrail and the audience.

MONTRAIL (CONT)

I now can have my dream of a
family. See mighty Isis had to trick
Ra, God of the sun, for the greater
good of the people.

GROUP

Worship Isis Sothis!

MONTRAIL

Well they say trick, but I say it
was her divine nature which allowed
me and my fellows to execute a plan
of solid family structure!

GROUP

(chanting)

Is that rain from the sky or angels
crying in the ocean!

Is that rain from the sky or angels
crying in the ocean!

Montrail is at podium arms out worshipping his god. Chanting
with the group.

MONTRAIL

(tearing)

Thank you Iset! Mighty Isis
Sothis! Thank you!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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THE END

Written By: Boris Hawkins

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