



# JUST ACT NORMAL

BY JANICE OKOH

EPISODE ONE

BLUE SCRIPT

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1      EXT. ERDINGTON COMMUNITY FARM, CHICKEN COOP - DAY 1 (DAWN)      1

5AM. Chicken coop. We pull back to see two young black girls.

TIANA (17, black, gangly has a "can do" air about her). She's the leader of the two, the one with the brains, but is happy to let SHANICE (17, black, confident), think *she is*.

They are in tight clothes, with full-contoured faces, lace wigs and fake lashes. They've been out on the lash and are holding up well. SHANICE holds a half-empty bottle of rum. They wobble on their heels outside the coop entrance.

SHANICE

I like killing things. Think I'm good at it. Remember how I killed that mouse with the boiling water?

TIANA

We ain't gonna kill it. We want to catch it.

SHANICE

Oh. Thought you said kill.

TIANA

Why would I want to kill a Chicken?

SHANICE

You been off lately. So I thought you wanted to kill this Chicken to express your anger.

TIANA

That's a bit extreme.

SHANICE

That's what I thought.

They hear the creaking of metal somewhere on the other side of the farm.

SHANICE (CONT'D)

Shit.

TIANA

Come on!

SHANICE takes a quick swig of the rum, hands TIANA the bottle, bares her two-inch false nails, crouches down and pushes half her body into the coop. She screams as panicked CHICKENS run out of the coop, clucking everywhere.

SHANICE

One of them bit me!

TIANA laughs. SHANICE laughs too.

SHANICE (CONT'D)  
(laughing)  
It ain't funny, Tiana!

They look at the CHICKENS. The thundering baseline of *Bad Bunny's "Where She Goes"* kicks in as TIANA and SHANICE chase the CHICKENS across the mush, their false nails flashing.

The music slows tempo to the chorus. Breathless, TIANA and SHANICE both slow down, trying to corner a RED-SPECKLED HEN.

SHANICE (CONT'D)  
Do you think the different kind of  
feathers is like a different kind  
of race?

They turn and are shocked to see a SECURITY GUARD approaching

SHANICE (CONT'D)  
Fuck!

SECURITY GUARD  
Hey!

The pulsating beat of *"Where She Goes"* kicks in again as TIANA manages to grab a WHITE CHICKEN and legs it with SHANICE. The SECURITY GUARD hot on their tail. TIANA passes the CHICKEN to SHANICE as she hops over the fence. SHANICE then passes the CHICKEN back and starts to climb, struggles.

TIANA holds out her hand, still straddling the fence.

TIANA  
Shanice, come on!

SHANICE  
Don't you fucking leave without me!

**SUDDEN CUT INTO:**

2      **INT. NIGHT BUS - DAY 1 (DAWN)**

2

Silence. TIANA and SHANICE sit together among a few disparate of the night. There is a MAN asleep, his head keeps lolling forward, waking him up, a lone MIDDLE-AGED BLACK WOMAN, and a MIDDLE-AGED MALE DRUNK is muttering to himself.

The girls stare ahead, the CHICKEN on TIANA'S lap, trying to be invisible. The MIDDLE-AGED BLACK WOMAN occasionally glances at them. Finally, the girls burst out laughing.

**TITLES: WE GO AGAIN (W/T)**

3      **INT. JACKIE'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM - DAY 1**

3

A three bedroom flat, with an open plan living room/kitchen and well-worn furnishings.

TANIKA (9) is dressed in her school uniform - skirt and shirt. She is sat on the kitchen sink having a wee. She eyes the CHICKEN pecking about in the corner. It eyes her back.

She finishes up, jumps down. Saunters into the living room.

TIONNE (15) is asleep on the sofa. He is in pyjamas. There are opened parcel boxes scattered about. TANIKA picks up a mobile phone and searches through it. Music comes from a small speaker on the table. She begins dancing.

Her moves are similar to those in a Nicki Minaj dance video.

TIONNE wakes up. Grabs the phone. Turns the music off. Keeps hold of the phone.

TANIKA  
What d'you do that for?

TIONNE ignores her. Lies back down, closes his eyes.

TANIKA (CONT'D)  
Tionne?

TIONNE puts the pillow over his head. TANIKA studies him for a bit. Then:

TANIKA (CONT'D)  
They're gonna split us up, you know. Do you want them to split us up? They'll split us up and I'll get adopted because I'm young and pretty but you'll stay in the home because you look like you got problems. Is that what you want? T?

No answer.

TANIKA (CONT'D)  
She left us, T. She's gone.

We stay with TIONNE, still with the pillow over his head, just staring into space.

4

**INT. JACKIE'S FLAT, TIANA AND TANIKA'S BEDROOM - DAY 1**

4

Two single beds, one on either side. One for TIANA. One for TANIKA. Their respective areas are decorated with their personalities. TIANA finishes getting ready for college and pulls on her uniform smock. She's trying to balance her phone to her ear.

TIANA  
Hi. It's Jackie Sutton here,  
Tionne's mum. Tionne ain't coming  
into school again. Yeah. He's still  
the same.

She goes to make TANIKA's bed. Notices that TANIKA's wet it.  
She strips the bed down, bundles up the sheets.

TIANA (CONT'D)  
...Yeah. He'll need a homework  
pack. Thanks. I'll get his sister,  
Tiana, to pick it up. Thanks.

TIANA hangs up. For a few seconds we see vulnerability and something else... is it sadness? Whatever it is it's gone as she puts a face on. We follow her out of the room with TANIKA's bedsheets and down the corridor.

5      **INT. JACKIE'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM - DAY 1**      5

TIANA enters from the corridor and passes TIONNE who is on the sofa, sees that he's awake but vacant, sees TANIKA petting the CHICKEN. TANIKA picks up the CHICKEN.

6      **INT. JACKIE'S FLAT, KITCHEN - DAY 1**      6

TANIKA holding the CHICKEN, follows TIANA into the kitchen.

TANIKA  
Tiana! Tionne ain't getting up and  
you said we had to carry on as  
normal or-

She recognises her bedsheets - a myriad of conflicting emotions - shame, sadness, anger...

TIANA  
(gentle)  
It's okay.

TANIKA  
(deflecting)  
So you got it?

TIANA  
Yeah.

TANIKA  
It's so cute!

TIANA puts the bedsheets in the washing machine and sets it. As she talks, she rinses the kitchen sink out, pours bleach down it and opens the window.

TIANA  
You had your wash-down?

TANIKA  
Yes.

TIANA  
You done your neck?

TANIKA  
Yes.

TIANA  
Armpits?

TANIKA  
Yes.

TIANA  
Poonana?

TANIKA  
(lying)  
Yes-uh!

TIANA  
You ain't.

TANIKA looks confused. She's not sure how TIANA knows...

TANIKA  
(under her breath)  
Joker.

TIANA goes back to the living room, TANIKA follows, still carrying the CHICKEN.

TIANA  
(to Tionne)  
Well, I got it, T. Like you wanted.  
So? What do you think?... T? It's  
as fresh as a fresh as a fresh.

He doesn't answer. She sits on the sofa and signals for TANIKA to join her. TIONNE has to shunt over. TANIKA sits on the floor between her legs. TIANA starts to comb and neaten her hair.

TIANA (CONT'D)  
You should've seen me. Climbing  
over the fence at City Farm like,  
like-

TANIKA  
Jackie Chan?

TIANA  
Yeah, Jackie Chan in Rush Hour.

TANIKA laughs.

TIANA starts singing *Edwin Starr's "War"* - as you do - semi-imitating Jackie Chan's moves with her head.

TIANA (CONT'D)  
War, huh, yeah. What is it good  
for? Absolutely nothing, uhh. War,  
huh, yeah -

Her SIBLINGS cringe.

TANIKA  
You're annihilating it.

TIANA  
Anyway, it was banging. Right.  
Let's get you ready.

TANIKA  
You got to see my dance first.

TANIKA drops the CHICKEN, puts the music on. TIANA notices  
the time.

TIANA  
Later.

TANIKA  
It's quick!

TANIKA starts to tie up her school shirt to expose her  
stomach. TIANA switches the music off.

TIANA  
Stop that. You look cheap.

TANIKA  
I'm meant to.

TIANA rolls her eyes with impatience but underneath, there is  
mild amusement at her sister's sassiness as she dances.

TIANA  
Remember to shimmy before you drop  
down, yeah?

TANIKA nods and shimmies.

TIANA (CONT'D)  
No. Like this.

TIANA jumps up and shows her. TANIKA copies.

TIANA (CONT'D)  
Yeah. That's it.

TIANA watches her for a bit then picks up the comb again.

TIANA (CONT'D)  
Right. Come on affirmations.

7      **EXT. THE ESTATE - DAY 1**

7

A figure is crossing the deserted estate. This is DR FEELGOOD (32, tall, boyish) and wearing headphones. His real name's Gavin but only his mum calls him that. DR FEELGOOD'S a local boy and is proud of it.

He reaches the tower block and starts up the concrete stairs.

8      **INT. JACKIE'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM - DAY 1**

8

On TIANA and TANIKA'S faces reflected in TIANA'S hand mirror, as TIANA neatens TANIKA's hair.

TIANA/TANIKA

I am good enough. I am good enough.  
Black is good. Black is beautiful.  
I can be anything I want. I am a  
queen.

TANIKA sees DR FEELGOOD at the front door window and screams. TIANA ducks. TIONNE runs for the corridor. Remains half-hidden.

DR FEELGOOD

It's alright. It's just me.

TIANA signals to TANIKA to hide. But TANIKA feeling caught, doesn't know what to do.

TANIKA

(to Dr Feelgood)  
Who's me?

TANIKA goes over to the kitchen window so he can see her.

TANIKA (CONT'D)

Oh, it's you. My heart's like boom,  
boom, boom. Why you at the window?

DR FEELGOOD

Cos I'm the window cleaner.

He mimes cleaning the window. TANIKA laughs.

TANIKA

Joker.

DR FEELGOOD

You gonna let me in?

TANIKA thinks about it.

We go to TIONNE who is eyeing TIANA to do something. TIANA glares back - she doesn't know what to do.

TANIKA  
I got three gold stars for my  
spelling, you know.

DR FEELGOOD  
The commotion promotion one?

TANIKA  
Uh-huh.

DR FEELGOOD  
So where's my token of  
appreciation?

TANIKA  
Could've got four.

DR FEELGOOD  
So where's Jackie at?

TANIKA  
Work. She's got a new job.

DR FEELGOOD  
Where? Cos I've been calling and  
calling and there's been no answer  
when she's normally all over my  
phone like brown on coco-pops. Let  
me in. I'll wait for her.

TANIKA  
Okay.

TANIKA goes to the living room.

TIONNE  
(to Tiana)  
Do something.

TIANA  
(urgent)  
T!

TANIKA  
I'm handling it!

TANIKA opens the front door a crack. Keeps the chain on. DR  
FEELGOOD appears in the gap.

DR FEELGOOD  
What's this, playing coy?

TANIKA shrugs.

DR FEELGOOD (CONT'D)  
(backing off)  
Okay, fine. Crystal. Just tell  
Jackie I'm looking for her, okay?

TANIKA glances back at her siblings, satisfied. Suddenly, DR FEELGOOD grabs her by the scruff of her collar and brings her up against the door.

TIANA

Tanika!

TIANA and TIONNE race to the door and try to free her as TANIKA claws at DR FEELGOOD'S hands, eyes watering.

DR FEELGOOD

Tell me the truth. Will you tell me the truth, Tanika?

TIANA

Let go of her! Let go!

TIANA and TIONNE push back at the door hard and slacken the chain. TIANA unlocks it. DR FEELGOOD strides in, shoves TIONNE out of the way.

DR FEELGOOD

(to Tiana)

She in there?

He indicates the bedroom, which is down the corridor. TIANA nods.

DR FEELGOOD (CONT'D)

She incapable?

TIANA nods quickly. DR FEELGOOD registers TANIKA's distress. Looks guilty.

DR FEELGOOD (CONT'D)

(backing off)

So why didn't you just say instead of messing me about? Cos there ain't no point if she's incapable, is there? Is there?

The SIBLINGS silently nod again. TANIKA stifles a sob. It's all too much for DR FEELGOOD...

DR FEELGOOD (CONT'D)

Tell her, tell her if she ain't picking up her phone and talking to me like I'm a civilized human being and telling me she's got what she owes... Just tell her.

He produces a chocolate bar. Offers it to TANIKA.

DR FEELGOOD (CONT'D)

Go on. Take it. Take it to school or something.

TANIKA meekly accepts it.

DR FEELGOOD (CONT'D)  
Well done with your spelling.  
    (to Tiana)  
She's got till six this evening.  
Give her time to pick her up from  
school. Give you lot tea. Cos I'm  
considerate, see? Later.

DR FEELGOOD leaves. TIANA shuts the door behind him.

TIONNE  
    (to Tanika)  
You okay?

TANIKA barely nods - she's still shell-shocked.

TIANA  
You sure?

TANIKA  
Yes-uh!

She's clearly not but TIANA decides to leave it.

TIANA  
    (to Tionne)  
Tionne, how much does she owe?

TIONNE  
Two hundred.

TIANA hides her shock at it being so much.

TIANA  
Okay. I'll fix it.

9      **EXT. THE ESTATE - DAY 1**

9

TIANA and TANIKA head out of the estate.

TANIKA  
How come Tionne don't have to go to  
school?

TIANA  
    (gentle)  
Don't start, T.

TIANA tries to take hold of TANIKA's hand but TANIKA snatches hers away and runs off to Shanice's car.

10      **EXT./INT. THE ESTATE/SHANICE'S CAR - DAY 1**

10

TIANA and TANIKA climb in. TIANA at the front, TANIKA in the back. SHANICE'S radio is blaring the end of *Mnelia's "Say Yeah"*. SHANICE turns it down as she continues to touch up her make-up.

TIANA/SHANICE

Hey.

SHANICE

Did Jackie go crazy about the  
Chicken?

TIANA

Yeah.

SHANICE

What she say?

TIANA

(uncomfortable, lying)

You know, like it ain't messing up  
the place. Take it back. Reh, teh  
teh. God, my head. You know, I'm  
still buzzing, right? You still  
buzzing?

SHANICE

I'm so buzzing.

SHANICE checks her eyes in the rear-view mirror and clocks  
TANIKA'S downcast expression.

SHANICE (CONT'D)

You come up with some crazy shit.  
(to Tanika)  
So, how are we today?

TANIKA

Okay.

TANIKA's clearly not. She looks out of the window. SHANICE  
raises inquisitive eyebrows at TIANA. TIANA looks at TANIKA's  
small sad form. She thinks fast.

TIANA

Oh my God!  
(to Shanice)  
Turn it up.  
(to Tanika)  
You love this song!

SHANICE turns it up. It's TLC's "**NO SCRUBS**". TIANA and  
SHANICE sing along to TLC and sit-gyrate to it, looking at  
each other as they do and also, looking pointedly at TANIKA  
in a bid to entice her to join them.

TIANA/SHANICE

A scrub is a guy that thinks he's  
fly and is also known as a busta.  
Always talkin' about what he wants  
and just sits on his broke ass. So  
no, I don't want your number.

(MORE)

TIANA/SHANICE (CONT'D)  
No, I don't want to give you mine  
and no, I don't want to meet you  
nowhere, no, I don't want none of  
your time and -

It works. As the song progresses, we see TANIKA melting and joining in until she's dancing better than them.

TIANA/SHANICE/TANIKA  
No, I don't want no scrub, a scrub  
is a guy that can't get no love  
from me. Hangin' out the passenger  
side of his best friend's ride  
trying to holla at me. I don't want  
no scrub, a scrub is a guy that  
can't get no love from me. Hangin'  
out the passenger side of his best  
friend's ride. Trying to holla at  
me.

TIANA turns around and looks at TANIKA. They smile. SHANICE starts the car and drives off to the rest of the song.

11

**INT. BEAUTY COLLEGE, PRACTISE SALON - DAY 1**

11

FEMALE STUDENTS, LISA (17) and ALIYAH (17, SA) are all in their smocks practicing on each other or on human-sized dolls' heads. MISS MEG'HAN (30s, acerbic, takes up space, funny) sashays around the beauty stations. She has the FEMALE STUDENTS transfixed.

MISS MEG'HAN  
What you're going to learn is the  
foundation of all facial work.  
Skin. The skin is a living organ-

She strokes her flawless jawline. TIANA and SHANICE, who is now in a silk bonnet and overalls, arrive, trying to discreetly edge in.

MISS MEG'HAN (CONT'D)  
It needs to be pampered, treated  
like a lover in order to provide  
the perfect base for a flawless  
application of make-up.

MISS MEG'HAN looks at them expectantly.

TIANA  
Sorry I'm late, Miss Meg'han.

MISS MEG'HAN  
Dummy.  
(to Shanice)  
I suppose, artiste.

TIANA and SHANICE hurriedly find spaces to sit. TIANA acts as a model (dummy) for SHANICE who first checks what the other FEMALE STUDENTS are doing and then begins to cleanse TIANA'S skin.

TIANA  
Hey, you get my text about the money?

SHANICE  
Yeah, I need to know what it's for?

MISS MEG'HAN nears their station.

MISS MEG'HAN  
Tiana.

TIANA goes over. SHANICE follows. The other FEMALE STUDENTS look over, curious.

MISS MEG'HAN (CONT'D)  
(to Shanice)  
Has she got a shadow?

SHANICE  
Yes she does, Miss Meg'han.

MISS MEG'HAN gives her a look as if to say "you're sucking up my oxygen".

MISS MEG'HAN  
(to Tiana)  
Louise Hill Cosmetics takes on five interns a year on a three-month paid contract. Because of my unparalleled reputation, I've secured you an interview. I don't feel regret. Don't make me start now.

TIANA  
(not knowing what to say)  
Thank you. Miss Meg'han, I'm sorry I was[late]-

MISS MEG'HAN holds up her hand. TIANA shuts up.

MISS MEG'HAN  
You had me at thank you.

MISS MEG'HAN walks off. TIANA and SHANICE stare at each other. SHANICE is bursting with excitement. TIANA looks conflicted but quickly fakes excitement for SHANICE.

SWABS, SYRINGES, NEEDLES, ROSEWATER, ALCOHOL, and a gallon of GLYCERINE are laid out on the kitchen table. There is an unpacked GARDEN WATER SPRAYER nearby.

TIONNE sets the CHICKEN and sprayer down, mixes the alcohol, glycerine and rosewater together, taking care with the precise measurements. He pours some of it into a syringe, attaches a needle on the end. He sets that down.

Next, he finds an internet video on his phone. It starts playing... It's a SCIENTIST in a lab coat. Standing in front of a dead rat.

SCIENTIST

For the first stage, it is quite likely that you will have to shave your animal of choice.

The SCIENTIST in video shaves some hair off the dead rat.

SCIENTIST (CONT'D)

The carotid artery or equivalent is located in the neck area. The fresher the animal, the easier it is to find.

TIONNE goes to throttle the CHICKEN... The CHICKEN stills and locks eyes with him. It's like there's a connection.

The door buzzer goes, breaking the eye lock. TIONNE continues to stare at the CHICKEN, rattled. The buzzer goes again, TIONNE drags his attention to the present. He freezes, heart in his mouth until he hears footsteps receding. He goes to the door, opens it, peeks outside to check who it was - sees the package on the doorstep. He breathes a sigh of relief.

13

**INT. BEAUTY COLLEGE, CORRIDOR - DAY 1**

13

A diverse mix of STUDENTS milling about. Going to class. Outside the practise salon SHANICE does a little celebratory victory dance to TIANA.

SHANICE

(excited)

We is going places... We is going places... OMG. I told you we're gonna be big, T. This is the start. In six months we could be doing the face of Stefflon fucking Don.

TIANA'S smiling but she's got things on her mind.

TIANA

So what you saying about that cash?

SHANICE brings out her authentic designer purse.

SHANICE

How much? Ten? Twenty?

TIANA

I was thinking more a hundred a fifty? Or you could just round it up to two.

SHANICE

Two hundred? What's it for?

TIANA

It don't matter what it's for. Your dad's rich. You said he gives you how much money you want. It ain't like I won't pay you back.

SHANICE

Listen, I want to lend you the money, I really do, but my dad says I have to stop being Beyoncé and stop carrying you.

Deadly silence.

TIANA

Your dad said you're Beyoncé?

SHANICE

Yeah.

TIANA

Yeah well you can tell him I ain't Michelle or the other one.

SHANICE

Who bought all the essential oils for the business? All the shellac?

TIANA

What happened to 'We is going places... We is going places...'?

SHANICE's silence speaks volumes.

TIANA (CONT'D)

I ain't Michelle.

TIANA walks off, disheartened. What's she going to do now?

14

**INT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, MS JENKINS'S CLASSROOM - DAY 1**

14

MS JENKINS (32, white liberal know-it-all) is doing a maths fraction on the board.

She turns around to look at all the KIDS, noses in their exercise books. She clocks TANIKA who is upright, head lolling on her neck, asleep. MS JENKINS looks concerned.

The bell goes. TANIKA wakes up and gathers her stuff as the KIDS get up and pack up, chatting and giggling.

MS JENKINS

Slowly.

MS JENKINS watches TANIKA as she leaves the classroom and goes out into the playground concerned.

15

**EXT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, PLAYGROUND - DAY 1**

15

TANIKA in dancing a routine alongside two girls, DISNEY and KIMONE. They're mediocre.

DISNEY (9) and KIMONE (9) stop dancing. TANIKA stops. They start. TANIKA starts.

DISNEY and KIMONE stop.

KIMONE

Please? You're not in the group no more.

TANIKA

Then give me back my routine.

KIMONE

It ain't your routine.

TANIKA

I made it up.

KIMONE

Rihanna did actually.

DISNEY

I'm sorry but the balance ain't right with you in the middle.

TANIKA

I'm the best dancer.

KIMONE

Everyone knows that the dark one is never in the middle.

DISNEY and KIMONE strut off, flicking their hair (*their* hair moves).

TANIKA (O.S.)

(shouting after them)

Oi! Oi!

The two girls turn just in time for DISNEY to feel the full force of TANIKA's rugby tackle, felling her to the ground.

KIMONE

Oh no she never!

KIMONE wades in, trying to restrain her. TANIKA kicks her in the shins. KIMONE falls. DISNEY is up now, flicks her hair and goes for her-

KIDS begin to cluster around...

KIDS  
(chanting)  
Fight! Fight! Fight! Fight!

TANIKA pulls DISNEY by her hair.

DISNEY  
My extensions!

DISNEY steps back. The crowd of KIDS laugh. Embarrassed, DISNEY wades back in.

MS JENKINS and MRS KITLEY (60s, floral pants) descend on the trio, MRS KITLEY fiercely blowing her whistle.

MS JENKINS  
Girls! Stop this now!

MRS KITLEY  
Tanika, the Deputy Head's office!  
Disney, Kimone, here.

DISNEY and KIMONE go over to MRS KITLEY.

TANIKA  
But they started it.

DISNEY  
Tanika did, Miss.  
(holding extension)  
Look at my hair, miss.

TANIKA  
It ain't real!

MRS KITLEY  
(to Tanika)  
I'm not going to repeat myself.

MS JENKINS  
Hang on, Mrs Kitley. We didn't actually see what happened.

MRS KITLEY  
I did, Ms Jenkins. Tanika. Go.

MRS KITLEY glares at TANIKA. TANIKA looks at MS JENKINS, who sort of looks helpless. TANIKA kisses her teeth.

MRS KITLEY (CONT'D)  
That's another red card right there.

TANIKA finally stomps off. Concerned, MS JENKINS watches TANIKA's tiny figure disappearing into the building.

16      INT. JACKIE'S FLAT, KITCHEN - DAY 1

16

TIONNE finishes stitching a little black hood and places it on the CHICKEN'S head.

TIONNE musters up courage by shadowboxing for a bit. He does a couple of burpees. Now he's sweating, doing neck rolls and taking deep breaths. He's ready...

He goes to throttle it.

CHICKEN

Please?

TIONNE rips off the hood and stares at it in shock.

TIONNE

What did you say?

The CHICKEN stares dumbly back at him.

TIANA enters, races into her bedroom. She emerges with her beauty kit, and hurriedly sorts out her hair. She notices TIONNE, who's still reacting.

TIANA

What's wrong?

TIONNE still can't reply. TIANA takes in all the laid-out equipment, and the small black hood for the CHICKEN.

TIANA (CONT'D)

What's that for?

TIONNE

I was making it feel comfortable.

TIANA hides a weary look. She takes his hand.

TIANA

It's okay if you can't kill it. It don't matter.

TIONNE's silent.

TIANA (CONT'D)

I know it hurts-

She breaks off to stop herself from cracking, pulls herself together.

TIANA (CONT'D)

But all this-

She gestures to the equipment and boxes lying about-

TIANA (CONT'D)  
Ain't gonna help. She ain't coming  
back, T.

TIONNE moves away.

TIANA (CONT'D)  
Maybe you should stop. Focus on  
something else.

Something else?

TIANA  
We need to be really together, T.  
Like we said. Keep our heads down  
till I turn eighteen then I can  
look after you both officially.

TIONNE's silent.

TIANA (CONT'D)  
T? Tionne? I ain't sure I can hold  
everything together on my own.

TIONNE  
You got the money?

Not yet. TIANA

TIONNE  
Maybe *you* should just focus on  
that.

She gives him another long look, hoping to connect. TIONNE plays the video again.

SCIENTIST  
The fresher the animal the easier  
it is to find the carotid artery.  
This is because as soon as an  
animal dies...

On TIANA'S look of defeat.

17

**EXT. THE ESTATE - DAY 1**

17

TIANA steps out with her beauty kit. Looks up at the tower blocks looming above her. Sporadic windows display the St George Flag. We follow her along. Reggae is blaring from a speaker, a mixed bunch of BLACK MEN are sat relaxing playing street chess on a small table. She passes a couple of WHITE KIDS pushing a THIRD KID in a shopping trolley.

18      EXT. THE ESTATE, BLOCK 2 - DAY 1

18

TIANA knocks on a door. She waits. No answer. She knocks on the next. Waits. She's about to leave. A MIDDLE-AGED MOTHER answers.

TIANA

Hi. I'm studying health and beauty at Hockley College. We're offering eyelash extensions or massages at a discount.

MOTHER

Is it free?

TIANA

No, it's at a discount.

MOTHER

How much?

TIANA

Twenty for nails.

MOTHER

Okay. But it's free for me, right?

TIANA

No.

MOTHER

Oh. Right. You'd better come in.

TIANA

(hesitating)

You do know it ain't free.

MOTHER

Yeah, course.

TIANA thinks about it. Then goes to move on.

The MIDDLE-AGED MOTHER grabs a bunch of nail polishes, retreats into the house and shuts the door.

TIANA

What the-?

TIANA bangs on the door.

MOTHER (O.S.)

Go away or I'll call the police.

TIANA

You stole from me.

MOTHER (O.S.)

Prove it.

TIANA can't believe what's happening. But she doesn't have time for this especially as she can see the MIDDLE-AGED MOTHER watching her from the window. TIANA opens the letter box.

TIANA  
This ain't over, bitch!

She moves on. Rings the next doorbell. No answer. She moves onto the next. No answer. Then the next. Then the next. Finally, she is outside a flat with an ALL LIVES MATTER sign in the window. She doesn't bother to knock. On TIANA'S weariness. This so ain't gonna be easy...

19      **INT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, CORRIDOR - DAY 1**      19

MS JENKINS peers into the classroom. She sees TANIKA alone, sat at a table, head resting on folded arms.

20      **INT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, MS JENKINS'S CLASSROOM - DAY 1**      20

MS JENKINS enters, draws closer.

MS JENKINS  
Tanika?

TANIKA  
(waking up)  
Is it home time?

MS JENKINS  
Not yet. I've brought you some work.

TANIKA  
Why?

MS JENKINS  
(sober)  
Because you're in school and that's what you do. What's going on with you three? You all used to be such good friends.

TANIKA  
Yeah, used to.

TANIKA sighs. It's too hard to explain.

TANIKA (CONT'D)  
Nothing.

MS JENKINS  
Sounds like it.

TANIKA  
Does this face look like it's lying?

MS JENKINS laughs.

MS JENKINS

If you carry on fighting you'll be sent away.

TANIKA

Yeah?

MS JENKINS

You're a clever girl, Tanika. I mean, that story you wrote about Neanderthals was really good.

TANIKA

How come you always ride into school on an old bike?

MS JENKINS

It's not an old bike, it's new. It just looks old.

TANIKA

Seems a bit mad, miss.

MS JENKINS

(loving the compliment)

I am a bit out there, I suppose.

TANIKA

So do you, like, go out riding every day with your children after school, miss?

MS JENKINS

I don't have any children.

TANIKA

Oh. Ain't you sad?

MS JENKINS

(trying too hard)

No! Besides, I've got nieces.

TANIKA

Why did you stick up for me, miss?

MS JENKINS

Because sometimes people treat other people in this world unfairly. And that's not right. You are treated unfairly.

TANIKA regards MS JENKINS for a bit.

TANIKA

You're really pretty, Miss.

MS JENKINS  
I am so not!

TANIKA  
You are.

MS JENKINS  
I just think, you know, my chin.

TANIKA  
There's nothing wrong with your chin.

MS JENKINS  
Really? It's not too pointed?

TANIKA  
It's really pretty. You're like the prettiest person I've ever seen.

MS JENKINS basks in the compliment for a bit. Then as if remembering herself:

MS JENKINS  
Okay enough. Now read.

TANIKA bows her head dutifully and pretends to read as she watches MS JENKINS leave.

21      **INT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, CORRIDOR - DAY 1**      21

Outside, MS JENKINS closes the door. She touches her chin and smiles, despite herself.

22      **INT. JACKIE'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM - DAY 1**      22

TIONNE on the sofa, the CHICKEN on top of him. They are looking each other in the eye.

TIONNE  
Hello? Hello? Are you in there?

The CHICKEN blinks back at him.

TIONNE (CONT'D)  
Say something... Please?

The CHICKEN poops. He laughs. He lifts the CHICKEN off him. Takes off his pyjama top. He's wearing a vest underneath.

We follow him as he puts it in the pile of dirty washing and comes back to the couch. The CHICKEN is not there. TIONNE goes to look for it. We follow him to...

23      **INT. JACKIE'S FLAT, JACKIE'S BEDROOM - DAY 1**      23

TIONNE finds it on JACKIE'S bed. TIONNE hesitantly enters and then settles on the bed next to it.

He looks at it one more time before snuggling into it. He gets out his phone and pulls up a video of TIONNE is doing a science experiment, JACKIE and TANIKA are his audience, they are clapping and feeling it. Then he clicks on one of JACKIE and TANIKA dancing together. He smiles. Then he finds one of himself planting a fake spider on JACKIE's bed. TIANA and TIONNE hide excitedly, JACKIE enters the bedroom and freaks out.

TIONNE laughs out loud.

24

**EXT. JAMIE'S AUNT'S HOUSE, STREET - DAY 1**

24

TIANA walks tentatively down a wide, tree-lined avenue, unfamiliar with the terrain. The houses here are big. She tries the doors. No one ever answers.

An ELDERLY WHITE LADY is pruning her hedge. She watches TIANA suspiciously, as she passes. TIANA looks confidently back at her.

TIANA rings the bell of a neighbouring house. JAMIE (20, white, trendy-hot) answers. He looks at her beauty kit.

TIANA  
(turning away)  
Sorry.

JAMIE  
I might actually want what you're  
selling. You never know.

TIANA  
False eyelashes.

JAMIE  
Just up my street. How much?

A tired smile escapes from her. JAMIE smiles, too. They so fancy each other...

25

**INT. JAMIE'S AUNT'S HOUSE, CORRIDOR/KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - DAY 1**

TIANA follows JAMIE down the wide corridor into the kitchen, taking in the middle-class opulence, the wood flooring, pictures of a MIDDLE-AGED COUPLE doing triathlon events, hiking photos up Scafell Pike etc.

TIANA  
Nice place.

JAMIE  
Wish I could take the credit. It's  
my aunt's. Just crashing here for a  
bit till I move into my new place.

They turn the corner and look at the sofa.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

Normally you'd come with your own  
massage table.

TIANA

That's why it's discounted.

JAMIE considers her answer and then takes off his shirt.  
TIANA can't help ogling. He clocks her looking so she sits  
down on the sofa and busies herself with getting out the  
oils. JAMIE takes off his gold chain and puts it on top of  
his folded t-shirt with the thirty quid. He sits between her  
legs. She begins to massage his neck and shoulders and upper  
back.

JAMIE

So this your regular gig?

TIANA

No. Well, yeah, I'm doing beauty at  
Hockley College but I'm working  
towards having my own salon. Have  
three or four girls working under  
me. My speciality would be make-up,  
naturally.

TIANA rubs oils into JAMIE's back.

JAMIE

So you like to dream big.

TIANA

Ain't no other way to dream, is  
there?

He smiles. He likes her chat. She clocks a stack of vinyl  
records in the corner. They're old-school hip-hop, garage,  
jungle albums.

TIANA (CONT'D)

Those yours or your aunt's?

JAMIE laughs.

JAMIE

Mine. What's your scene?  
Drum'n'bass? Afrobeats?

TIANA

Has to be Afrobeats.

JAMIE

Yeah. I like it old school.  
Drum'n'bass, garage, jungle. I like  
to mix it up a bit.

She also clocks the time: 2.45pm, and is a little distracted.

TIANA  
Yeah, I know.

JAMIE looks up at her. TIANA comes clean.

TIANA (CONT'D)  
Seen you down Moonlight.

JAMIE  
Yeah, I noticed you too.

TIANA rolls her eyes as if she knows he's feeding her a line.

JAMIE (CONT'D)  
You're usually with that leery  
girl. Can't hold her drink.

TIANA  
Watch your step, fam. That's my  
best mate you're chatting about.

JAMIE  
My bad.

They smile. The chemistry between them jumps up a notch.  
They're both aware that she's still got her hands on him. She  
resumes the massage, trying to be professional. JAMIE tries  
to bring it down a notch.

JAMIE (CONT'D)  
I'm playing a set Saturday night.  
Could guest list you and your best  
mate.

TIANA  
Thanks but being a groupie ain't my  
style.

JAMIE  
I don't date groupies.

TIANA  
Oh so we're talking about a date?

They're both smiling - she's looking down at him and him at  
her. Their eyes lock for a few beats. Reality hits her.

TIANA (CONT'D)  
Another time.

A beat.

TIANA (CONT'D)  
Sorry, can I have a glass of water,  
please?

JAMIE looks disappointed but he's a big boy.

JAMIE

Course.

As he leaves for the kitchen, a shadow of something sad flits across TIANA's features. Then she nabs Jamie's gold chain and slips it into her bag. She packs up like the clappers.

26      **INT. JAMIE'S AUNT'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY 1**      26

On JAMIE pouring out some water from a glass, eco-friendly bottle. He hears the front door slam. We follow him back.

27      **INT. JAMIE'S AUNT'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY 1**      27

JAMIE looks in and sees that TIANA's gone. He goes to pick up his sweatshirt. There's a note. "I'll pay you back. I promise."

28      **INT. PAWN SHOP - DAY 1**      28

ECU of TIANA's hands placing the necklace on the counter.

29      **EXT. PAWN SHOP - DAY 1**      29

On TIANA, leaving the pawn shop with the chit, counting the money she's got in exchange for JAMIE'S chain. She puts it away, face full of regret at what she's just done.

30      **INT. FEELGOOD'S MUM'S HOUSE, BEDROOM/LANDING - DAY 1**      30

DR FEELGOOD'S bedroom is dated from when he was a teen. Football posters on the wall, that sort of thing. Super hero duvet cover.

DR FEELGOOD is on the floor on his knees, preparing for a wank. He gets his iPad out from under his mattress. Finds YOUTUBE on it. Searches 'TOP TEN HOT SCISSORING VIDS.' It's got a 98% score.

He is just about to begin when there's a knock and the door opens:

IRENE (O.S.)

Gavin, I'm doing an Asda order. Do you want me to get them potato bites again?

DR FEELGOOD

(panicking)

Wait. Don't come in!

IRENE HEWSON (FEELGOOD'S MUM, 40'S) remains outside but the door's open. We see bits of her as he pulls up his trousers.

IRENE

You wanking again?

DR FEELGOOD

No.

IRENE

You are. I can tell. It's in the timbre of your voice.

DR FEELGOOD

Mum, please?

IRENE

It's not like I ain't seen it all before.

She pushes further inside.

DR FEELGOOD

Can you just get the fuck out!

IRENE

(backing out)

Alright. Alright. Although I don't know why you can't get a proper girlfriend. It's abnormal.

DR FEELGOOD

I can get a proper girlfriend.

Her silence speaks passive aggressive volumes.

IRENE

Shall I get the potato bites?

DR FEELGOOD

They're croquettes.

IRENE closes the door. DR FEELGOOD looks dejected. A PING. He's got a text. He checks his phone. It's from Jackie.

"Meet Tiana outside the nail bar at 6. She's got your money. Jackie."

31

**EXT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, SCHOOL GATES - DAY 1**

31

KIDS stream out, climb into parked cars. TIANA's waiting with her beauty kit and a fancy paper food bag. TANIKA comes through the gates, walks over.

TIANA

How'd it go?

TANIKA

Okay.

TIANA

I got us sandwiches for dinner. Batons.

TIANA gets out a wrapped baton and teasingly pokes TANIKA with it who tries to bat her off but can't help smiling.

32

**INT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, ENTRANCE VIEWPOINT - DAY 1**

32

MS JENKINS is observing TIANA and TANIKA's horseplay through an upstairs window. MRS KITLEY walks past and joins her.

MRS KITLEY  
With a child like Tanika Sutton,  
it's all about containment.

They watch TIANA and TANIKA muck about. TANIKA's shoe comes off. TIANA laughs. TANIKA pretends not to find it funny.

MS JENKINS  
She doesn't normally fight.

MRS KITLEY  
She's mouthy. Just like her sister.  
I can't imagine *she's* progressed  
very far in life.

MS JENKINS  
I think there might be something  
off.

MRS KITLEY gives her a patronizing smile and then moves off with a passive-aggressive:

MRS KITLEY  
Everyone wants to save the world.  
Until they fuck off on maternity  
leave.

MS JENKINS looks affronted but then returns her attention to TIANA and TANIKA. Her jaw sets with determination.

33

**EXT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, SCHOOL GATES - DAY 1**

33

On TIANA waiting for TANIKA to do up her shoe. They go to move off.

MS JENKINS (O.S.)  
Hello!

TIANA and TANIKA see an out-of-breath MS JENKINS bearing down on them.

MS JENKINS (CONT'D)  
Hi, I'm Tanika's teacher, Ms  
Jenkins. I've taken over year five.

TIANA nods.

MS JENKINS (CONT'D)  
And you are-?

TIANA  
I'm her sister. Tiana.

MS JENKINS  
Nice to meet you, Tiana.

She holds out her hand. TIANA takes it with reluctance.

MS JENKINS (CONT'D)  
Just to let you know, Tanika was  
involved in a small altercation  
with her friends Disney and Kimone  
and was held in detention.

TIANA glares at TANIKA.

TANIKA  
It weren't my fault.

MS JENKINS  
Yes, I know, Tanika.  
(to Tiana)  
It really wasn't but another  
teacher dealt with it. I was  
wondering if I could speak to your  
mother.

TIANA  
Why?

MS JENKINS looks taken aback by her defensiveness. TIANA  
backtracks.

TIANA (CONT'D)  
I mean, if you've sorted out the  
fight.

MS JENKINS  
It's more of a 'get to know you'  
chat. I haven't made my  
acquaintance with her yet and it's  
been over a term. I do it with all  
the parents at some point.

TIANA  
She's busy. She works a lot.

MS JENKINS  
A quick phone call would do.  
(smiling)  
If you could let her know I'll be  
calling her. It'll be from the  
school's number. What time's best?

TIANA  
Mornings.

MS JENKINS  
Great! Well, it was nice meeting  
you Tamena. Tamana! Tanika!

TIANA  
It's Tiana.

MS JENKINS  
I am so sorry. Tiana! Yes! It's  
just the names sound so... Tiana.  
Tanika...

MS JENKINS is aware she's digging herself into a much larger  
hole.

MS JENKINS (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry.

TIANA looks MS JENKINS up and down like she knows her sorry-  
ass racist story.

TIANA  
(to Tanika)  
Let's go.

On MS JENKINS kicking herself as TIANA and TANIKA walk off.

34      **INT. JACKIE'S FLAT, JACKIE'S BEDROOM - DAY 1**      34

TIONNE wakes up. We pull back to see him still lying on  
JACKIE'S bed. He sits up. He looks around. Silence.

He gets up off the bed and heads into the living room.

35      **INT. JACKIE'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM - DAY 1**      35

TIONNE enters and looks about. Silence.

TIONNE  
Hey? Hey? Where you gone?

He looks in boxes. He keeps looking. His eyes finally fall on  
the opened upper window. He panics. Goes to the window and  
looks out.

36      **EXT. THE ESTATE - DAY 1**      36

TIONNE'S POV: Four dishevelled-looking DRUNKS. The HEAD DRUNK  
has a firm hold on the CHICKEN and brandishing a broken  
bottle. The other DRUNKS are laying cash bets on the ground.  
A CROWD is gathering.

TIONNE  
(shouting, panicked)  
What you doing? She's mine! Give  
her back!

The DRUNKS and some of the crowd look up. The DRUNKS ignore him. TIONNE sticks his head back in.

37      **INT. JACKIE'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY 1**      37

TIONNE looks about frantically, not sure what to do. His eyes light on the water sprayer. He hurriedly fills it with the embalming solution he made earlier.

He goes to the kitchen, grabs a LIGHTER from the kitchen cupboard. He slips into his sliders and rushes out, leaving the door open behind him.

38      **EXT. THE ESTATE - DAY 1**      38

TIANA and TANIKA approach the estate. They see the swelling CROWD. They can't see anything else.

A WHITE MIDDLE CLASS MOTHER, with a six-year-old WHITE CHILD, is on the phone. The WHITE CHILD is crying hysterically. It's pandemonium.

TIANA  
What's going on?

WHITE MOTHER  
Some drunks are about to behead a  
Chicken to see how far it can run.  
It's sick, right?  
(into phone)  
Police? Yes of course I need the  
police.  
(to Child)  
Don't worry Casper, mummy's got  
you.

TIANA and TANIKA look at each other suspecting it's their CHICKEN and start to push through the CROWD.

39      **EXT. THE ESTATE - DAY 1**      39

On TIONNE walking to the edge of the crowd in his pyjama bottoms, vest and sliders. In one hand he holds the garden sprayer as he walks towards the CROWD of chattering people. He looks like Clint Eastwood.

TIONNE  
Oi! Oi!

The CROWD settle into a hush and looks at him. TIONNE starts to move. The CROWD parts like the Dead Sea, allowing TIONNE to proceed. He does so, stopping short of the DRUNKS.

He sprays what looks like water around the DRUNKS making a trail back to safety as he distances himself from them.

HEAD DRUNK

What is this? Some feckin' voodoo,  
hocus pocus, Chinese, Japanese  
bollocks?

TIONNE is momentarily confused by the insult. And so is the  
CROWD. He and the CROWD look at each other.

HEAD DRUNK (CONT'D)

(mock fear)  
Ooooh!

The other DRUNKS laugh as they continue laying bets.

TIONNE holds a cigarette lighter to the head of the water  
sprayer. He clocks the CROWD exchanging excited looks like  
this has just got incredibly interesting. Some PEOPLE in the  
CROWD start filming with their phones. TIONNE pulls himself  
up to his full height, clears his throat.

TIONNE

(false bravado)  
This sprayer is filled with an  
alcoholic solution. Coupled with  
the fact your clothes stink like  
they're saturated with month old  
cider, you'll go up in seconds.

The DRUNKS look at him. He's mad... The HEAD DRUNK stands up.  
He still holds the CHICKEN.

HEAD DRUNK

You ain't got the feckin' bollocks.

TIONNE

Try me. Go on. Make my day.

There's a deadly silence. It's a standoff. Like a Western. An  
urban Western.

TIANA and TANIKA push through to the front and stop short at  
the sight of TIONNE.

TIANA

Tionne! What you doing?

TIONNE and the CROWD turn to look at her.

TIONNE

(desperate)  
They're gonna kill her!

TIANA

Just leave it. It's not worth it.

HEAD DRUNK

The Chicken's mine.

TIONNE  
That's a fucking lie.

HEAD DRUNK  
Bertha and me go way back.

A mean smile begins to spread across HEAD DRUNK's face. He knows TIONNE can't do it. He tucks the CHICKEN firmly under his arm, getting ready to sever its head. TIONNE blanches.

HEAD DRUNK (CONT'D)  
(to Chicken)  
Let's see how far you run, eh?

TIONNE looks around desperately, he can't believe this is happening... Then, out of nowhere:

WHITE CHILD (O.S.)  
Do it.

The CROWD turns to look at the WHITE CHILD. The WHITE CHILD wipes his tears away, his expression surprisingly malevolent for such a small CHILD.

WHITE CHILD (CONT'D)  
Do it!

WHITE MOTHER  
Do it.

FEW VOICES IN THE CROWD  
(chanting)  
Do it! Do it! Do it!

HEAD DRUNK  
What the feck?

MORE VOICES IN THE CROWD  
(chanting)  
Do it! Do it! Do it!

TIONNE stares at the CROWD. He can't quite believe what is happening... He looks at TIANA.

TIANA can't quite believe what is happening either... and finds herself joining in the chant... TIONNE and TIANA look at TANIKA who is already chanting. The chanting rings louder and louder in TIONNE's ears.

ENTIRE CROWD  
"Do it! Do it! Do it!"

OLD LADY  
(to tramps)  
What did that poor Chicken do to you? It's got rights. We're standing up for it. For all the animals out there.

TIONNE pumps the sprayer.

The HEAD DRUNK begins to panic as the other DRUNKS shuffle away, deserting him and the danger. The chanting gets louder.

HEAD DRUNK  
It's just a Chicken. Fellas come  
on. I'm a feckin' human being!

TIONNE  
That's debatable.

As the chanting gets even louder:

HEAD DRUNK  
Feck off all of yous!

The HEAD DRUNK drops the CHICKEN. TIONNE grabs hold of it and nestles his face into its body.

TIONNE  
(relieved)  
You're safe now. You're safe.

The HEAD DRUNK and the other DRUNKS run off. The CROWD laugh and cheer. They are united, white and black, gentrifiers and locals, in this weirdest of weirdest situations...

As the CROWD begins to disperse, chatting happily TIANA and TANIKA approach TIONNE, bemused.

TANIKA  
What just happened?

TIONNE's still a bit dazed.

TIONNE  
I don't know.

They walk.

TANIKA  
Why'd you suddenly care about the  
Chicken so much? Thought you wanted  
to kill it?

TIONNE looks away, like there's something he's not telling them.

TIONNE  
I just do.

A couple of beats as they recover. TIANA normalises first.

TIANA  
(to Tionne)  
I got the money for Feelgood and  
got us those ham and cheese batons  
you like.

TANIKA  
You love batons, T!

They head away from the estate. TIONNE's still pensive,  
CHICKEN under one arm, water sprayer under the other.

TANIKA looks at him then does an imitation of him with the  
drunks.

TANIKA (CONT'D)  
Go on. Make my day.

TIONNE bursts out laughing, TANIKA and TIANA join in. TANIKA  
sobers.

TANIKA (CONT'D)  
(to Tiana)  
It's gonna be alright, ain't it, T?

TIANA  
Yeah. It is.

TIANA looks sad but hopeful at her two SIBLINGS as they head  
away from the estate.

40      **EXT. REAL HOUSE, STREET - DAY 1**

40

TIANA, TIONNE, TANIKA and the CHICKEN are sitting on bench on  
a green. They look up at an empty lavish house on the other  
side of the road, sat in a row of other lavish houses. The  
SIBLINGS have their batons and drinks. The water sprayer is  
nearby with TIANA's beauty kit.

TANIKA  
How we gonna live?

TIANA  
We got mum's universal credit. And  
I can get a job.

TANIKA  
But what about college?

TIANA  
I can still go to college. It'll be  
fine. We'll be fine.

But we see that TIANA's not too sure.

TANIKA  
I'm scared.

TIANA puts a reassuring arm around TANIKA.

TIANA  
(leading)  
In the real house... In the real house...

TANIKA  
Feels weird doing it without her.

TIANA  
She would want us to. Wouldn't she T?

TIONNE shrugs.

TIANA (CONT'D)  
In the real house, were gonna have a swimming pool.

She waits.

TIANA (CONT'D)  
And housekeeper and a cordon bleu chef.

TANIKA  
I don't want a chef, I want McDonald's home delivery every day and strawberry millions and cheese strings.

TIANA  
I'll get you a fridge full of them.

TANIKA  
Like, how big?

TIANA  
Like this big. And when you open it Stormzy comes on.

TIONNE  
WizKid. Mum always said Wizkid.

TIANA smiles at him as they connect over this. TIONNE returns his attention to the house.

TIANA  
WizKid. And we're gonna have a garden and a swimming pool -

TIONNE  
You already said swimming pool.

TANIKA  
And a big dance studio with like mirrors all looking down at me.

TIANA  
(ignoring him)  
And a toilet each with a shower you  
can walk into and all your friends  
will come round.

TANIKA  
All that's my room there, yeah?

She points at one of the top windows.

TIANA  
Both our rooms. Cos we got the best  
clothes and tings!

Happy, TANIKA starts dancing.

TANIKA  
Ugg boots.

TIANA  
Yeah.

TANIKA  
Like real ones not ones that go all  
mash-up after one day.

TIANA  
You ain't getting no side Uggs.

TANIKA  
Cos my feet ain't getting wet in  
the rain.

They laugh.

TIANA  
In the real house, we're gonna be  
together and happy.

TANIKA  
In the real house, there's gonna be  
a room with mum still here.

A moment as this lands with them. Then TANIKA stands up and purposely pulls a funny move. TIANA laughs, TIONNE smiles. TANIKA throws some grass at TIANA and runs. TANIKA squeals as TIANA gives chase. TIANA catches TANIKA, picks her up and swings her around.

41      **EXT. THE ESTATE, BALCONY - DAY 1**

41

We follow TANIKA, TIONNE AND TIANA as they walk along the balcony on the top floor of their two-story block of flats. TIONNE carries the water sprayer and CHICKEN, TIANA her beauty kit and TANIKA is practicing her dance moves.

They stop in their tracks. See that the front door's ajar.

TIONNE  
It's alright. I left it open.

42

**INT. JACKIE'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM - DAY 1**

42

They enter to see DR FEELGOOD coming into the living room from the corridor. They're so shocked they don't move.

DR FEELGOOD  
Where is she? And don't give me any incapable shit cos she ain't in her room. Looks like she ain't been in there for a bit. What's the Chicken for?

TIANA  
You said you were gonna meet me at the nail shop.

DR FEELGOOD  
My dad had Chickens. They never laid an oval egg in their lives. They were like square.

They look at him, like he's nuts.

DR FEELGOOD (CONT'D)  
Listen, I'm only playing nice cos you're her kids but I'm sick of her shit-

TIANA  
Well as you already said, she ain't here. She's gone. For good this time. She left us.

DR FEELGOOD  
What do you mean for good?

TIANA  
She left us for a man. A rich man with nice hands and snakeskin shoes.

DR FEELGOOD  
A rich man? You mean a pimp?

TIONNE flinches.

TIANA  
No, a businessman. With a car. A Beemer. A four by four Beemer. She ain't coming back. It's love this time.

DR FEELGOOD  
Jackie's abandoned you lot for a man with a second-hand Beemer?

TIANA  
It weren't second-hand. It was  
brand new.

DR FEELGOOD  
Oh well that's different then.

TIANA gets out the money.

TIANA  
It's one eighty. I can get the rest  
tomorrow.

DR FEELGOOD  
She owes three fifty.

TIONNE  
Lie! She said two hundred to me.

DR FEELGOOD  
Hark. It speaks.

DR FEELGOOD picks up the water sprayer.

DR FEELGOOD (CONT'D)  
(to Tionne)  
So what's all this for, T? What you  
doing?

TIONNE  
Leave it alone!

DR FEELGOOD  
Where does your todger go? In this?

TIANA  
You're sick.

He pretends to give it a go. Then laughs.

DR FEELGOOD  
Only joking!

TIONNE  
Give it back.

DR FEELGOOD  
It's a joke. Can't you take a  
fucking joke? Jesus!

TIONNE calms himself down.

But DR FEELGOOD's really fixated with the contraption. He  
examines it more.

DR FEELGOOD (CONT'D)  
Seriously. What's it for?

TIANA

It's for school. An experiment.

DR FEELGOOD

Yeah? Well, I'll take it. I'll give you twenty quid for it. Knock it off what Jackie owes me.

TIANA

She said I'd meet you at the nail shop.

DR FEELGOOD

She said! She said! Sending you out to do her dirty work. If I was looking after you, Tiana, I'd-

He stops himself before he's said too much but TIANA sees it - it's in the tone of his voice. He likes her. She recoils. DR FEELGOOD sees her disgust and covers.

DR FEELGOOD (CONT'D)

Anyway, she's irresponsible.

TIONNE

She ain't irresponsible.

DR FEELGOOD

A waste of space. Leave you lot like this.

TIONNE

She ain't a waste of space!

TIONNE picks up the bottle of rosewater and throws it at him. It hits DR FEELGOOD in the head.

DR FEELGOOD

What the fuck?

The room falls deadly silent.

A beat.

Then it's complete pandemonium. DR FEELGOOD drops the water sprayer.

TIANA/TANIKA

Run!

TIONNE races into the bathroom and shuts the door just before DR FEELGOOD gets to him. He rattles the door.

TIANA/TANIKA (CONT'D)

Stop it! Leave him! Leave him.

TIANA and TANIKA are pulling at him. Even the CHICKEN is pecking at DR FEELGOOD's feet. DR FEELGOOD moves back, makes a run for the door. TANIKA screams. The door budges a bit.

TANIKA  
He's gonna see, Tiana! He's gonna see!

DR FEELGOOD goes at it again. Again, TIANA pulls at him.

TIANA  
Just leave it! Please!

DR FEELGOOD  
Get the fuck off me!

TANIKA  
(frightened, excited)  
He's gonna bust it down, T. Bust it down! Bust it down!

Just as Dr FEELGOOD goes to run for it, TIONNE comes out.

TIONNE  
She ain't there no more.

DR FEELGOOD  
What? Jackie? She in there?

As he heads for the bathroom, the SIBLINGS bicker.

TIANA  
What do you mean she ain't there?

TIONNE  
She's in the chicken. That's why I can't embalm it.

TIANA and TANIKA look at each other, this is too out there for them.

DR FEELGOOD glances over at TIONNE, also confused. He has heard what TIONNE has said. He slows his approach into the bathroom, sensing something's not right.

DR FEELGOOD  
Jackie?

He sees her. Or glimpses part of her... lying in the bath...

DR FEELGOOD (CONT'D)  
What the fuck?

TIANA shoves him in grabs the key from the inside of the door and pulls the door shut.

DR FEELGOOD (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Oi! Let me out!

TIANA

Help me!

TIONNE holds onto the door as TIANA locks it.

DR FEELGOOD (O.S.)

What the fuck have you done?

They hear him retching.

TIANA, TANIKA and TIONNE look at each other, gripped by fear.  
They have no idea what they should do next.

**END OF EPISODE**

Music: *Bad Bunny's "Where She Goes"*