



JUST ACT NORMAL

BY JANICE OKOH

EPISODE ONE

BLUE SCRIPT

(24th May 2024)

THIS SCRIPT IS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND MAY NOT BE DISCLOSED TO ANY PERSON OTHER THAN THE ADDRESSEE WITHOUT THE PRIOR CONSENT OF THE FORGE ENTERTAINMENT LIMITED.

BY READING THIS SCRIPT YOU AGREE TO BE BOUND BY A DUTY OF CONFIDENCE TO THE FORGE ENTERTAINMENT LIMITED AND ITS SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES. THE SCRIPT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE FORGE ENTERTAINMENT LIMITED, DISCLOSURE OF ANY INFORMATION OF WHATEVER NATURE IN WHATEVER FORM RELATING TO THE CHARACTERS, STORY AND SCRIPT ITSELF OBTAINED BY ANY SOURCE INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION THIS SCRIPT TO UNAUTHORISED PERSONS, OR THE SALE, COPYING OR REPRODUCTION OF THIS SCRIPT IN ANY FORM IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

RECEIPT OF THIS SCRIPT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER OF ANY SORT.

The Forge
The Zeppelin Building
59-61 Farringdon Road
London
EC1M 3JB
Tel: 020 8104 2200

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:

Silence. TIANA and SHANICE sit together among a few disparities 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)

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.

TIANA
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.

TIANA
(deflecting)
So you got it?

TIANA
Yeah.

TIANA
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?

TIANA
Yes.

TIANA
You done your neck?

TANICA

Yes.

TIANA

Armpits?

TANICA

Yes.

TIANA

Poonana?

TANICA

(lying)

Yes-uh!

TIANA

You ain't.

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

TANICA

(under her breath)

Joker.

TIANA goes back to the living room, TANICA 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 TANICA to join her. TIONNE has to shunt over. TANICA 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-

TANICA

Jackie Chan?

TIANA

Yeah, Jackie Chan in Rush Hour.

TANICA 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? Laters.

DR FEELGOOD leaves. TIANA shuts the door behind him.

TIONNE

(to Tanika)

You okay?

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

TIANA

You sure?

TANIA

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.

TIANA and TANIA head out of the estate.

TANIA

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

TIANA

(gentle)

Don't start, T.

TIANA tries to take hold of TANIA's hand but TANIA snatches
hers away and runs off to Shanice's car.TIANA and TANIA climb in. TIANA at the front, TANIA 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
TANICA'S downcast expression.

SHANICE (CONT'D)

You come up with some crazy shit.

(to Tanika)

So, how are we today?

TANICA

Okay.

TANICA's clearly not. She looks out of the window. SHANICE
raises inquisitive eyebrows at TIANA. TIANA looks at TANICA'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 TANICA
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?

MS JENKINS (32, white liberal know-it-all 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.

TIONNE
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?

TIANA
Not yet.

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.

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 YOUPORN 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."

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.

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"*