



# JUST ACT NORMAL

BY JANICE OKOH

EPISODE SIX

GREEN SCRIPT

(7th June 2024)

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1

EXT. JAMIE'S PAD - DAY 6

1

On TIANA looking out at the sunrise, pensive. She's fully dressed.

She goes back inside.

2

INT. JAMIE'S PAD - DAY 6

2

TIANA enters and sees JAMIE is still asleep on the bed. She studies him, a sad and regretful look on her face. She picks up her things, including her phone which is still switched off and creeps out.

3

EXT. JAMIE'S PAD - DAY 6

3

TIANA steps out of the flat and walks away.

JAMIE (O.S.)

Tiana!

She turns to see a bewildered JAMIE struggling to put on his clothes.

TIANA

I can't...

JAMIE

What can't you do? What is it?

Silence.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

Don't do this.

TIANA

This ain't real, Jamie. It's like a fairytale, like a dream and I just got to wake up.

JAMIE

This is real. It's magical and I know you feel it.

TIANA

It don't matter if I feel it cos my real is emptying rubbish bins and missed opportunities. All this... It don't matter how long it's for. It don't matter how good it is - cos it's so fucking good, Jamie, but I've got to give it back.

JAMIE

Who says?

(off Tiana's look)

Just let go. Whatever it is  
that's holding you back from us.  
Just let it. Is it an ex or...?

TIANA

I wish!

JAMIE

Tell me!

She really thinks about it, wants to go back to him. But then decides against it.

TIANA

I can't. Cos you can't solve this  
with beautiful words and music,  
Jamie, no matter how much I want  
you to.

She walks away from a devastated JAMIE, utterly devastated herself.

4

EXT. THE ESTATE - DAY 6

4

A dead, bloody CHICKEN carcass in a hole in the ground, with earth being shoveled over it.

We pull back to see DR FEELGOOD with a shovel. He coughs as works. Sweats. He's still in pain. Perhaps his eyes are purpling from the blows.

DR FEELGOOD marks the grave with a little cross he's made out of lollipop sticks.

He turns and hobbles towards JACKIE'S Flat, passing a GUY who sits on a discarded sofa. In front of the GUY is a discarded fridge and a table with a doll's tea set in front of him. He pours out real tea for himself and drinks.

5

OMITTED

5

6

OMITTED

6

7

INT. JACKIE'S FLAT, CORRIDOR/TIANA AND TANICA'S BEDROOM - 7  
DAY 6

DR FEELGOOD enters and sees TIONNE lying on the sofa just like he was in Episode One. We follow DR FEELGOOD down the corridor. He knocks on TIANA and TANICA'S bedroom door.

DR FEELGOOD

Tanika? You'd better get up or you'll be late. Tanika?

He opens the door. Sees her bed which hasn't been slept in. TANICA'S DANCE COSTUME hanging up on the wardrobe door.

On DR FEELGOOD'S confusion. Then worry.

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

8

INT. MS JENKINS'S HOUSE, SPARE ROOM - DAY 6

8

TANICA wakes with a start. She snuggles down the feather pillows and duvet with a smile on her face. She looks around at the middle-class opulence. This ain't the real house but it's close enough.

She gets up and looks at herself in the mirror.

TANICA

My name? Oh, right. My name is, Tanika Ofunim Jenkins. I'm adopted. I know... It sounds sad but it ain't. My new mum is like a thousand times better than my old mum except for that she's white but that ain't her fault.

9

OMITTED

9

10

INT. MS JENKINS'S HOUSE, HALLWAY - DAY 6

10

We follow TANICA down the stairs, as she admires the spacious flat. She hears voices. As the conversation progresses we see her face change from joy to one of utter devastation.

11

INT. MS JENKINS'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY 6

11

MS JENKINS and TOM are setting the table for three. It is tense between them.

TOM

I just can't believe her family won't be worried. That they won't have called the police.

MS JENKINS

That's the whole point, Tom. They won't. They won't call the police because they don't want anyone to know their mother is dead. Anyway, she said they know.

TOM

That's if she's telling the truth.

MS JENKINS

That is the truth. What kid would cycle in the dark at night, knocking on doors to find out where I live? A kid who is telling the truth.

Silence.

TOM

So, you taking her into school with you? Riding in side by side?

MS JENKINS

I said I would speak with her family first, remember? I just don't know how or what am I going to say.

A beat.

MS JENKINS (CONT'D)

I'll have to tell school first. Shit. The police will want to know time frames. They'll say we picked up on it too late. I mean, I tried to get it investigated. Mrs Kitley kept putting me off.

TOM sits down.

TOM

How did it get to this?

MS JENKINS looks at him.

TOM (CONT'D)

If that girl's mother is dead, Elodie, then she came here wanting you to be her mother. How did things get to that?

MS JENKINS

I don't know.

He looks at her.

MS JENKINS (CONT'D)  
I don't know, Tom!

TOM  
I think there's something you're  
not telling me.

MS JENKINS  
There's nothing.

TOM  
Somewhere between suspecting  
something was wrong with Tanika's  
home life and where we are now, I  
think you got distracted.

Silence.

MS JENKINS  
So what does that mean? You think  
they'll believe that I didn't  
know her mother's dead?

TOM is surprised she's still thinking about the  
repercussions on herself.

TOM  
What that means, Elodie, is  
upstairs sleeping there's a  
little black girl who thinks  
you're going to be her mother and  
you have to tell her she's got it  
all wrong.

12

INT. MS JENKINS'S HOUSE, HALLWAY - DAY 6

12

A tearful TANIKA carefully lets herself out.

13

OMITTED

13

14

EXT. THE ESTATE, STREET - DAY 6

14

DR FEELGOOD and PAUL climb into PAUL'S van.

PAUL  
When did you last see her? Did  
you see her last night?

DR FEELGOOD  
No. I don't think so. Shit. I  
don't know.

PAUL

Those kids are a mess and you  
ain't her dad.

DR FEELGOOD

I'm the only dad she's got.

PAUL

Maybe she's at school?  
(off Dr Feelgood's  
withering look)

Although it would be weird if we  
showed up asking for her and she  
weren't there.

DR FEELGOOD

She wouldn't go to school without  
her costume. Not today. It's her  
dance competition today. She  
wouldn't miss it.

PAUL watches DR FEELGOOD struggle in pain. PAUL looks guilty.

PAUL

You okay?

DR FEELGOOD

I'm fine.

PAUL

Those two really did a number on  
you.

DR FEELGOOD

Yeah, well...

PAUL

I don't get it. You were giving it  
all up. Why did you fight back?

DR FEELGOOD

That kid was in the car, Paul. What  
example would I have set her? No  
one takes advantage.

DR FEELGOOD is finally in the van. He stops. The penny  
dropping.

DR FEELGOOD (CONT'D)

It was you.

PAUL

What?

DR FEELGOOD

I never told you how many men  
jumped me.

PAUL  
(covering, badly)  
Yeah, you did.

DR FEELGOOD digests this.

DR FEELGOOD  
(betrayed, hurt)  
Why? You're my best mate.

PAUL  
I'm sorry. But you said you were  
giving it up.

DR FEELGOOD  
So you stabbed me in the back?

A beat. The following conversation takes place as DR FEELGOOD tries to go for PAUL as PAUL sort of moves out of the way. DR FEELGOOD is ineffective because of the pain.

DR FEELGOOD (CONT'D)  
You should've said something. We  
could've talked.

PAUL  
You never listen! And I just  
wanted a bit of respect. DR FEELGOOD (CONT'D)  
Not smash me in like I'm a  
fucking mortal enemy.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
You treat me like shit, bruv! We're  
meant to be a partnership.

This lands a bit with DR FEELGOOD.

DR FEELGOOD  
Just get the fuck out.

PAUL  
It's my fucking van! You get out!

A beat. DR FEELGOOD begins to climb out.

DR FEELGOOD  
Fucking Judas.

Once out. PAUL zooms off. DR FEELGOOD rings TIANA, gets a phone's switched-off message.

DR FEELGOOD (CONT'D)  
(into phone)  
Call me. I think Tanika's gone.

He hangs up.

DR FEELGOOD (CONT'D)  
FUCK!!!!!!

He turns around. Sees a DOG digging up the grave.

DR FEELGOOD (CONT'D)  
What the fuck?!

He tries to move quickly but pain sears through his body. The DOG runs away with the CHICKEN carcass. On DR FEELGOOD'S misery.

15

EXT. STREET - DAY 6

15

TIANA walking along, passing PEOPLE, tableaus of families seem more poignant to her. Showing her what she's lost, she looks tearful.

She gets out her phone. Switches it on. Then her phone starts to PING its head off, she looks down at it, concerned.

16

INT. JACKIE'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM - DAY 6

16

DR FEELGOOD and a catatonic TIONNE in the living room. DR FEELGOOD jumps up as they hear the key in the front door. TIANA enters.

DR FEELGOOD  
Where you been? Why aren't you  
picking up your calls?

TIANA takes in the situation, rushes to TIONNE.

TIANA  
Tionne? Tionne?

DR FEELGOOD  
He's been like that since last  
night.

TIANA  
You killed his Chicken!

DR FEELGOOD  
I didn't kill it!

TIANA  
Where have you looked?

DR FEELGOOD  
Everywhere.

TIANA  
Where did she stay last night?

DR FEELGOOD  
This ain't my fault.

TIANA

Why didn't you look out for her?

DR FEELGOOD

Why didn't you?

On TIANA'S guilt. She knows this is her fault. TIANA dials a number in her phone.

TIANA

Where the fuck is she?

18

INT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, RECEPTION - DAY 6

18

MS JENKINS and MRS LLOYD-JONES are talking in hushed tones.

MRS LLOYD-JONES

What I don't understand is why you  
had her stay overnight.

MS JENKINS

I thought she might be at risk.

MRS LLOYD-JONES

So you call the police, Ms Jenkins.  
She told you her mother was dead.

MS JENKINS

I couldn't. She... It would have  
destroyed her. She wanted me to  
take her on. As her mother. If I'd  
called the police...

MRS LLOYD-JONES

This can be construed as  
misconduct. Negligence. You  
should've called the police.

MS JENKINS

I wanted to-. I wasn't sure. I  
wasn't sure what this would look  
like.

MRS LLOYD-JONES

What it looks like for us, is that  
we're royally fucked.

MRS LLOYD-JONES gets out her phone and dials 999. On MS JENKINS terror.

19

INT. JACKIE'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM - DAY 6

19

SHANICE and DR FEELGOOD crowd TIANA. TIONNE is on the sofa still catatonic.

SHANICE

What we need to do is search the streets.

DR FEELGOOD

We've combed the streets. All the places she'd go.

TIANA

We have to comb them again. Did you check the park?

DR FEELGOOD

Yes.

SHANICE

What about your dad?

DR FEELGOOD

She wouldn't go there. She doesn't know him. We have to try the school.

TIANA

If we try the school and she's not there, we're fucked.

DR FEELGOOD

Maybe there's a way we can do it without them finding out.

TIANA

How?

DR FEELGOOD

I don't know. Maybe we use Fake Jackie in some way.

We see SHANICE'S confusion at who this is but she doesn't say anything.

TIANA

Hasn't she got us in enough shit?

TIONNE

She's at the real house.

Everyone turns to TIONNE.

TIONNE (CONT'D)

If she went last night, I don't know where she could've slept but there's nowhere else she'd go.

They set into action. TIONNE, too. Everyone looks at him.

TIONNE (CONT'D)

I'm coming. This is my fault. I should've been looking out for her.

20

EXT. REAL HOUSE, STREET - DAY 6

20

TIANA, TIONNE and SHANICE pull up on the side of the grass.

TIANA

She's not gonna be here.

TIONNE

She is.

TIONNE gets out of the car. TIANA goes to follow then stops and holds SHANICE back.

TIANA

Just give us a few minutes on our own?

SHANICE nods. TIANA climbs out.

21

EXT. REAL HOUSE, GREEN - DAY 6

21

TIANA and TIONNE race across the grass. They spot TANIKA'S small form on a bench, her bike on the ground.

TIANA/TIONNE

Tanika!

TANIKA doesn't turn around as they approach her and join her on the wall.

TIANA

You okay? What happened?

TANIKA

I made a mistake. They're gonna split us up and it's all my fault.

She looks at them, eyes hollow.

TANIKA (CONT'D)

I told Ms Jenkins. I thought she loved me. I thought she wanted to be my mum but she didn't. She didn't love me. No one loves me.

TIANA

That's not true.

TANIKA

It is true! It is! Mum never talked to me like she did you and T. She didn't. I was just there. Just like I am with dad. Invisible. Ms Jenkins, she noticed me.

TIANA

Mum noticed you but she was ill. She couldn't help what she did, sometimes.

TIONNE

Sometimes I think she took those drugs because she didn't love us enough. Didn't love me enough.

TIANA

She didn't love me enough either.

TIONNE cries. TANIKA cries too. All three embrace. They have a long moment like this.

TANIKA

Ms Jenkins is gonna call the police.

TIANA

Maybe it's for the best.

TANIKA looks shocked.

TIANA (CONT'D)

I can't do this no more. I can't be both mum and be me. It's killing me. And this situation with Feelgood ain't working. We're not his problem.

TANIKA

I don't want us to be split up.

TIANA

Maybe it won't happen. I mean, we don't really know what's gonna happen. We never looked into it properly, did we? We just reacted.

TANIKA

So do we go to the police?

TIANA

No. You're gonna win your competition then we go to the police.

TANIKA and TIONNE look at her.

TIANA

I don't want to do the stupid competition.

TIANA

I might've messed up my interview but I ain't gonna let you do it. You worked too hard for it.

(off Tanika's hesitation)

Don't let that idiot Ms Jenkins break you, T. You're worth more than that.

TIONNE

You are, T.

This lands with TANIA.

TIONNE (CONT'D)

And if this is the last time we're gonna all be together, I want to remember it as being good and nice. I want to remember you, T, dancing like you always do and making me proud that you're my sister cos I love you.

TANIA

I love you too.

TIONNE and TANIA hug. After a beat, they open the hug for TIANA who joins in.

22

EXT. REAL HOUSE, STREET - DAY 6

22

TIANA, TIONNE and TANIA walk back to SHANICE'S car. TIANA hangs back to walk with SHANICE.

SHANICE

Why did Tanika run away, T? I know Jackie's gone but this time it feels different.

TIANA

Mum's dead, Shanice. She's dead.

SHANICE

Oh my God.

SHANICE digests this. Is tearful.

SHANICE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, T.

TIANA

Yeah. Think it was an overdose.

SHANICE doesn't say anything more but takes TIANA'S hand and walks. They catch up to TANIA and TIONNE.

SHANICE

(to Tanika)

So where we going, T?

TANIA

To school. I got a dance competition to win.

TIANA and SHANICE exchange surprised looks. TIONNE suddenly comes to a standstill.

TIANA

You okay?

TIONNE

I need to do something.

TIANA

We need to be there for T.

TIONNE

What time's the competition?

TIANA

Like in two hours.

TIONNE  
I'll be there.

23

INT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, RECEPTION/CORRIDOR - DAY 6

23

TIANA, SHANICE and TANIKA enter carrying TANIKA'S dance outfit and ballet shoes. The RECEPTIONIST gets on the phone.

RECEPTIONIST  
They're here.

Both of them wait.

MS JENKINS and MRS LLOYD-JONES enter.

MS JENKINS  
Tanika! You're fine. I was really worried about you.

MS JENKINS goes to pat TANIKA'S head. TANIKA moves out of her reach.

TIANA  
(to Mrs Lloyd-Jones)  
Have you called the police?

MRS LLOYD-JONES  
They're aware of the situation.  
They're looking for you. They've got questions.

TIANA  
Okay. Think it's best that Tanika carries on with her day at school, don't you? Until they come.

MRS LLOYD-JONES  
Well-

TIANA  
She's nine years old.

MRS LLOYD-JONES backs down.

TANIKA goes through to the hall.

TIANA (CONT'D)  
(to Ms Jenkins)  
And you - you keep the fuck away from her.

MS JENKINS looks terrified.

24

INT. WINE BAR - DAY 6

24

Tasteful decorations of an engagement party. Champagne. Nothing cheap. Guests are mostly Candy's FRIENDS. They look like her. Fake tans, bone straight long hair, designer wear. Men smart and clean.

We go to CANDY who is showing off her ring to a crowd of WOMEN.

CANDY

I was completely floored. I just never saw it coming.

CANDY'S FRIEND 1

How did it happen?

CANDY

Well, he'd taken me out for a meal. You know in [the most expensive part of town...]

She hesitates, clocking TIONNE in his hoodie entering the pub, covers.

We go to TIONNE'S POV. He spots LEO chatting with some blokes over the football.

TIONNE

Dad.

LEO'S shocked at seeing him.

25

INT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, ASSEMBLY HALL, BACKSTAGE - DAY 6

25

All the kids in the show are getting ready. In the background, we hear acts going on. TANIKA sits on a chair as SHANICE does her make-up and TIANA does her hair.

TANIKA

Is Feelgood coming?

TIANA

Yeah. I told him you were safe.

TANIKA

Good. Cos I know he'd be worried.

(a beat)

I'm nervous.

TIANA looks TANIKA in the eyes and encourages her to say the following affirmations.

TIANA

I am good enough.

TIANA/TANIKA

I am good enough. Black is good.  
Black is beautiful. I am a queen.

TANIKA

(empowering herself)

I am a queen. I am a queen.

TIANA

You're gonna be great, T. You know  
you're amazing. Think about how  
proud mum would be.

TANIKA absorbs this.

26

INT. WINE BAR - DAY 6

26

TIONNE and LEO sit opposite each other in a secluded area. In the background CANDY is socialising, pretending everything's great but has a beady eye on them.

LEO  
This better be urgent.

TIONNE  
Mum's dead.

LEO  
(reeling)  
What?

TIONNE  
She died twenty four days ago and we buried the body.

LEO  
This is a joke. Is this a joke?

TIONNE  
Do I look like I'm laughing?

LEO is still reeling as he reacts to the news.

LEO  
She's dead?

TIONNE  
You didn't love her so spare with the reaction and the sorry and the fake grief. She's worth more than that and there ain't no time.

(MORE)

TIONNE (CONT'D)  
Everyone knows she's gone - not that she's dead - but that she's disappeared. Tanika's school's calling the social and they're gonna split us up.

LEO'S still reeling.

TIONNE (CONT'D)  
So we was wondering if we stay here.

LEO  
(still reeling)  
Here?

TIONNE  
There's no one else and Tanika don't deserve to go into care.

LEO  
I know but, Tionne, what you've just said about Jackie about her being...

TIONNE  
She's gone, dad. She's gone.

Silence.

TIONNE (CONT'D)  
You're the only person that can help us.

LEO  
You can't just land something like that on me and expect me to think straight.

TIONNE  
I expect you to tell me that it's all gonna work out. That you're gonna take care of things. That it's gonna be okay.

Silence from LEO as he still grapples.

TIONNE (CONT'D)  
You know, I've never asked you for anything. Ever. And neither has Tanika and neither did mum. She should've. Cos she needed help. Mum. Real help. Why didn't you do nothing? You just let her get on with it. Left it down to us to clean up her mess. Die a slow death. And that's what you're gonna do now. To us.

(MORE)

TIONNE (CONT'D)

To Tanika. Because I don't care about me. I'm fifteen I can take care of myself. I don't need you but Tanika? Who's gonna teach her how to be, how to love how to grow? Strangers who don't care? Is that what's she deserves? To be let down again and again when all she's ever done without a dad who loves her is to carry on with a fucking smile.

Silence.

LEO

I'm sorry I'm not responding in the way you want me to. I need to weigh up the situation.

TIONNE

Take the easy way out.

LEO

I was there for you. I am here for you. You think I didn't want to be your dad? You think I didn't want to visit more? But every time I tried to be who she wanted me to be I'd get that look. That look that would say "You're a failure, Leo. You failed me and you failed your kids." Who wants to wake up to that every morning and be told they're a failure. That is a slow death, trust me. So yeah, maybe I hid.

TIONNE

You're still hiding.

LEO

I am here for you. Maybe not in the way you want.

TIONNE reacts to the rejection.

TIONNE

You're not going to help?

LEO

I want to. It's just so big. I mean what are the options?

TIONNE

There are no options. None. Zero.

LEO

I can't.

TIONNE

Look me in the eyes and tell me  
that. Go on. Look me in the eyes.  
Say it.

LEO drags his eyes to his, afraid to see the criticism.  
Disappointment. That he's a shit.

LEO

(with difficulty)

I can't.

A long moment as father and son hold each other's gazes.  
TIONNE'S one, full of the pain of rejection, of being let  
down again. LEO'S one full of shame.

TIONNE surveys the party. Gets up.

TIONNE

I never said congratulations.

He holds out his hand to LEO, who doesn't take it.

He passes a curious CANDY who goes over to LEO.

CANDY

What's happened? What does he  
want? Leo?

On LEO'S shame.

27

EXT. WINE BAR - DAY 6

27

We follow TIONNE out of the wine bar, devastated.

28

INT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY 6

28

DISNEY and KIMONE are part-way through their act. It's really  
good.

DR FEELGOOD arrives with FAKE JACKIE. MRS LLOYD-JONES and MS  
JENKINS hover at the edge of the hall and eye them as they  
take their seats at the end of the row.

FAKE JACKIE waves at them. Incensed, MS JENKINS comes over.

MS JENKINS

We know... Everyone knows what you  
did and you're in serious trouble.

DR FEELGOOD

There ain't no crime in pretending  
to be someone unless it's fraud.

FAKE JACKIE

Yeah, and I ain't got no one's  
credit card.

MS JENKINS

Let's just see what the police have  
to say.

FAKE JACKIE

Yeah, let's see.

MS JENKINS heads off as DR FEELGOOD and FAKE JACKIE settle  
down in their seats. MS JENKINS immediately comes back.

MS JENKINS

Oh and by the way, I could never  
have known you weren't the real  
Jackie Sutton. I never met her so I  
can't be racist. But Mrs Kitley  
did. Mrs Kitley couldn't tell the  
difference. Not me.

MS JENKINS returns to her spot by the wall, relieved she's  
got that off her chest.

29

INT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY 6

29

We go to TIANA and SHANICE who emerge from backstage. TIANA  
sees TIONNE arriving. He joins them.

TIANA

Where did you go?

TIONNE

To see dad.  
(of Tiana's look)  
I told him. All of it. He don't  
want to know.

TIANA

I'm sorry.

TIONNE

I'm sorry. I don't know if he's  
going to tell anyone. I just don't  
know.

MRS KITLEY heads to the stage as DISNEY and KIMONE finish  
their act.

MRS KITLEY (O.S.)

Next, we have Tanika Sutton-

MRS KITLEY looks at her cue card.

WE GO AGAIN (W/T)

EPISODE SIX.

GREEN SCRIPT.

07.06.24

22A.

MRS KITLEY (CONT'D)  
--With a West Side Story, Puttin'  
on the Ritz 'mash-up'. Be prepared  
to be in for a treat.

TANIKA comes out on stage looking regal in her outfit. TIANA,  
SHANICE, TIONNE, DR FEELGOOD and FAKE JACKIE cheer loudly.

The intro to Puttin' on the Ritz plays. TANIKA starts her routine and looks over at MS JENKINS. She then looks at DISNEY and KIMONE in the front row who look like they are laughing at her.

TANIKA freezes as the music continues to play.

MRS KITLEY comes on stage and turns the music off.

MRS KITLEY (CONT'D)  
Tanika? Come off. Come off.

TANIKA looks upset as MRS KITLEY tries to usher her off.

DR FEELGOOD looks at TANIKA, clearly wanting to help. He suddenly jumps up from his seat and starts singing acapella.

DR FEELGOOD  
Left a good job in the city,  
working for the man ev'ry night and  
day.

FAKE JACKIE jumps her from her seat and joins him.

DR FEELGOOD/FAKE JACKIE  
And I never lost one minute of  
sleeping, I was worrying 'bout the  
way that things might have been.  
Big wheel keep on turning, Oooh the  
Proud Mary keep on burning.

DR FEELGOOD and FAKE JACKIE begin to make their way towards the stage singing as EVERYONE looks at them in confusion. TANIKA watches them in shock, unsure what to do.

DR FEELGOOD/FAKE JACKIE (CONT'D)  
And we're rolling, rolling, rolling  
yeah, rolling, rolling on the  
river. Rolling on the river.

As they sing, FAKE JACKIE has now joined TANIKA on stage while DR FEELGOOD tries to connect his phone to the sound system a la Strictly Ballroom.

MRS KITLEY  
(to Fake Jackie in a  
hushed voice)  
Can you please get down from the  
stage? Can you get down!

FAKE JACKIE ignores MRS KITLEY as she gets into her stride. MRS KITLEY walks off the stage exasperated, towards the other teachers.

FAKE JACKIE  
I cleaned a lot of plates in  
Memphis. And I pumped a lot of  
'tane down in New Orleans.

TIANA grabs SHANICE and they immediately move onto the stage and begin to dance around TANIKA and FAKE JACKIE as backing dancers to get TANIKA to move. DR FEELGOOD rejoins them.

FAKE JACKIE (CONT'D)

But I never saw the good side of the city until I hitched a ride on a river boat queen. Big wheel keep on turning. Oooh the Proud Mary keep on burning. And we're rolling, rolling, rolling yeah, rolling, rolling on the river. Rolling on the river. Say we're rolling, rolling, rolling, rolling, rolling on the river. Rolling on the river.

The music hots up with drums and trumpets. The song blares from the sound system.

TIANA  
(to Tanika)  
You can do it.

TANICA looks at TIONNE who she can see is willing her on.

TANICA starts to move and TIONNE starts recording her.

TANICA is inspired and starts dancing her little heart out to show MS JENKINS that she's not broken. She works the room to a mix of Tina Turner and ballet.

TIANA and SHANICE encourage the audience to clap along as they do Tina Turner style dancing with FAKE JACKIE.

FAKE JACKIE/TIANA/SHANICE/DR FEELGOOD  
Oh I left a good job in the city,  
working for the man ev'ry night and  
day. And I never lost one minute of  
sleeping, when worrying 'bout the  
way that things might have been.  
Big wheel keep on turning. Turning.  
Proud Mary keep on burning.  
Burning. Rolling, rolling, rolling  
on the river. Rolling, say we're  
rolling, rolling on the river. Do  
Do do do do do do do do do  
do. Oooh yeah! Alright. I cleaned a  
lot of plates in Memphis ya'll. And  
I pumped a lot of 'tane down in New  
Orleans. But I never saw the good  
side of the city until I hitched a  
ride on the river boat queen. Big  
wheel keep on turning. Turning.  
Proud Mary keep on burning.  
Burning. Rolling, rolling, rolling  
on the river. Say we're rolling,  
rolling, rolling on the river. Give  
me one more time. Rolling, rolling,  
rolling on the river. Rolling,  
rolling, rolling on the river.

The dance ends. The hall is rapturous. TANICA has her moment. She grins.

MRS KITLEY takes the stage again.

MRS KITLEY  
Settle down. Settle down. Although  
rabble-rousing, family members are  
not permitted to participate in the  
talent show. No exception. I'm  
afraid you're disqualified.

**WE GO AGAIN (W/T)**      EPISODE SIX.      GREEN SCRIPT.      07.06.24      24A.

TANIKA doesn't care. She is glowing. They all come down from the stage. TIONNE comes over.

TIANA

Oh my god you were amazing!

TANICA

I can't believe you joined in!

TIANA

You were like -

She does an imitation of TANICA'S stage fright.

TANICA

I was not!

SHANICE

You was. We was like we gotta  
rescue that kid!

WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD has arrived and approaches.

WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD

A word, please?

TIANA, TIONNE and TANICA look at each other, resigned.

30

INT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLASSROOM - DAY 6

30

In the background, we hear the talent contest resuming.

MS JENKINS and MRS LLOYD-JONES join TIANA, TIONNE and TANICA. DR FEELGOOD, SHANICE and FAKE JACKIE loiter in the background.

WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD

(to Tiana)

Your sister has made a concerning disclosure to her teacher. She claims that your mother is dead. We'd like to know what grounds she believes that.

(to Tanika)

Hello. I just want to ask a few questions. Is that okay?

TANICA nods.

WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD (CONT'D)

You told your teacher that your mother was dead. Is this true?

TANICA

No.

WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD

Do you know where she is?

TANIKA

No.

WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD

Why didn't you tell anyone that  
your mother is missing?

TANIKA

Because our mum's black and a  
junkie. We didn't think you'd  
look for her if we did anything  
about it. We didn't see the  
point.

The TEACHERS balk. WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD sees the truth in  
this.

WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD

What happened the morning she  
disappeared?

TIANA

We woke up and she was gone.

Silence.

WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD

She's going to be filed as a  
missing person.

(to Tiana)

You'll need to come down to the  
station to make the report.

TIANA nods.

TIANA

What's going to happen to us?

WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD

If you don't have any relatives  
who will take you in, you'll have  
to go into temporary foster care.

TANIKA

Will we be together?

WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD

Do you have any relatives?

TIANA and TANIKA look at TIONNE. He shakes his head.

WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD (CONT'D)

Or any family friends?

DR FEELGOOD steps forward.

I'm-

DR FEELGOOD

LEO (O.S.)

Yes, they do.

Everyone turns to see LEO in the doorway.

LEO (CONT'D)  
I'm their father. And this is my  
fiancé.

The SIBLINGS exchange shocked looks.

WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD  
And you're willing to act as  
their legal guardian?

LEO  
That's right.

WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD  
We'll have to check that your  
accommodation is suitable. And  
there'll be DBS checks.

LEO  
Do what you need to do.  
(loaded, to the  
siblings)  
You don't have to worry. Tionne  
told me everything. You're gonna  
be safe with me.

TIANA and TIONNE get his meaning and exchange surprised looks.

WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD  
Social services will be in touch.

LEO  
Fine.  
(to the siblings)  
Right. Let's go and get your  
things.

WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD  
(to Tiana)  
Ready?

TIANA nods.

TIANA follows WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD out.

LEO  
(to Tionne and Tanika)  
Let's get your things.

TIONNE and TANIKA walk off with LEO.

MS JENKINS  
Tanika!

TANIKA lingers.

MS JENKINS (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry, I didn't know that  
about your mother. You could've  
told me. I would have  
understood...

TANIKA places the ballet shoes at her feet and walks off.

31

INT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, RECEPTION, CORRIDOR - DAY 6

31

As TIONNE leaves, he sees WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD addressing a WOMAN who is angrily dragging her guilty-looking male PARTNER away.

WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD  
Chill, the last time I looked  
talking wasn't a crime!

She clocks TIONNE and joins him.

WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD (CONT'D)  
So I was right.

TIONNE  
Me and my sister ain't dealers.

WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD  
Like I said before, I was following  
a line of enquiry. I meant, you  
kids being under Gavin Hewson's  
influence.

TIONNE  
We ain't under the influence.

WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD  
Maybe not you but your sister,  
Tanika seemed quite concerned about  
him at the hospital. That's the  
thing about groomers, they get  
right under their victim's skin.

(slipping into patois)  
But, chile, don't stress yourself.  
(normal, re: Rome's tape)  
I'll keep my eye on him. I got your  
back. You got mine, right?

TIONNE doesn't know what to say as WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD walks off.

TIONNE squeezes past her.

32

OMITTED

32

33

INT. JACKIE'S FLAT, CORRIDOR/JACKIE'S BEDROOM - DAY 6

33

We follow TANIKA who passes JACKIE'S bedroom. TIONNE is inside, sitting on JACKIE'S bed.

TANIKA enters, puts a hand around his shoulders.

TIONNE

I'm okay. Just don't know what stuff of hers to take. Can you imagine if we took everything? Candy's face.

TANIKA giggles. They're silent.

TANIKA

Maybe we should take one thing each.

TIONNE nods. He gets up. TIONNE takes the photo album. TANIKA takes a bracelet and some jewellery.

TANIKA (CONT'D)  
I'll take this for Tiana.

It's a massive didgeridoo or something like that. They smile.

We follow TIONNE and TANIKA with suitcases and stuff.

34

INT. JACKIE'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM - DAY 6

34

TIONNE and TANIKA pass DR FEELGOOD and LEO who are trying to stare each other out. TIONNE and LEO exit. TANIKA hovers.

TANIKA  
I'm going now.

DR FEELGOOD doesn't say anything.

TANIKA (CONT'D)  
Maybe I can see you? Just cos we ain't living together, don't mean we can't be friends.

No response.

TANIKA (CONT'D)  
Well, bye.

She puts her stuff down and hugs him. He's as stiff as a board. She picks up her stuff and exits the flat.

DR FEELGOOD bursts into tears.

35

INT. MS JENKINS'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY 6

35

MS JENKINS enters. TOM is sitting at the table, working.

MS JENKINS  
Well, I was right. They were home alone.

TOM  
How's Tanika?

MS JENKINS  
She's fine. It transpires her mother's not dead. She's a junkie. Disappeared getting her next fix. I can see why she wanted a new mother. Anyway, their father came out of the woodwork. He's taking parental responsibility.

TOM  
I mean how was she with you after she discovered that you led her on? Did you apologise?

MS JENKINS  
I didn't lead her on, Tom. I was kind to her. She needed care.

TOM  
She's a vulnerable nine-year-old child. She loved you. Was in love with you and you knew it. Did you apologise?

MS JENKINS  
Stop talking to me like a child, Tom. I don't appreciate it.

A beat.

MS JENKINS (CONT'D)  
Yes, I apologised. But I didn't do anything wrong - except not pick up on them having their mother's phone.

(MORE)

MS JENKINS (CONT'D)  
And maybe I shouldn't have agreed  
to teach her to dance but that's  
because I am grieving. I am  
grieving.

He gets up. Only now does she see that he's got a bag with him.

MS JENKINS (CONT'D)  
What's that?  
(panicking)  
Are you leaving? Are you leaving  
me?

TOM  
I'm not going anywhere. You're  
the one that's going. On that  
break. I would go but I've got  
work and can't leave it right now  
but you're on holiday.

MS JENKINS  
I don't want to go on a break.

TOM  
I need a break. From you. I don't  
recognise us - Tom and Elodie -  
anymore. And maybe it's cos of  
the infertility stuff. I don't  
know. I just think we need time  
to get back to who we are. Were.

MS JENKINS  
You are leaving me. This is just  
the beginning.

TOM  
You're not hearing what I'm  
saying.

MS JENKINS  
What you're saying is that you  
don't want me cos I'm infertile  
and you're just hiding it under  
it being all me.

TOM  
What I'm saying is that you hurt  
that little girl. You were the  
adult. You didn't take  
responsibility. That's the woman  
I'm falling out of love with. I  
don't give a fuck if you can't  
have kids.

MS JENKINS is shaking, her world is spinning. She's the type of woman who's prided herself on someone being in love with her.

TOM (CONT'D)

Just go on the break. It's  
booked. Think about what you  
want. I will too.

TOM gets up and leaves the room. On MS JENKINS looking  
distraught.

36

INT. LEO'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - DAY 6

36

On the wall is the saying "fill yourself up with love and  
love will come to you".

TIONNE and TANIKA are crammed in their room. They are  
unpacking their things.

LEO watching from the doorway. A sense of satisfaction is on  
his face at doing the right thing.

TIONNE

It's illegal for a brother and  
sister to share a room.

LEO

We'll sort something out. In the  
meantime. I'll put up a curtain.

CANDY (O.S.)

No you will not. This is not the  
Calais Jungle.

TANIKA

(to Tionne)

What's the Calais Jungle?

CANDY enters. She goes to the mantle piece and turns the  
display of elephants around.

CANDY

North is bad energy. Do not touch  
them again, please.

TIONNE and TANIKA look at each other.

LEO

Let's give them some leeway, yeah?

CANDY storms out and LEO follows her. TANIKA continues to  
unpack. TIONNE'S phone begins to ping madly. He looks at it.

TANIKA

Who's that?

He moves into the corner and sees that ROME has tagged him in  
the footage of WPC LOUISE RUTHERFORD. He looks concerned.

TIONNE  
(shrugging her off)  
Nobody.

TIONNE goes to text ROME.

TIONNE (TEXT) (CONT'D)  
What the fuck have you done?

He waits for ROME to respond. And gets a voice note.

ROME (VOICE NOTE)  
(excited)  
It's my way of saying sorry, bae.  
You loved that Chicken. And that  
cop can't get away with this. We  
got to keep growing bae. It's all  
about image. And our image is  
rocketing.

Out on TIONNE'S concern.

WE GO AGAIN (W/T)

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37

OMITTED

37

38

EXT. JAMIE'S PAD - DAY 6

38

TIANA approaches JAMIE who is sat on his outside stairs having a coffee in the sun. He looks surprised to see her.

TIANA  
I'm sorry I left like that -

JAMIE  
I didn't think I was that bad.

TIANA  
You weren't. It was great. You were great. I want to take you out on a date. If you'll let me.

JAMIE  
I don't know, Tiana.

TIANA  
All this, like, up and down is not me. A lot's been going on and it's been spoiling us and I don't want it to. I was just in a place where - Well, I'm not there now. And I just wanted to say that.

JAMIE  
Okay.

TIANA  
So?

He's still a bit reticent.

TIANA (CONT'D)  
Don't leave a girl hanging...

JAMIE  
Okay.

TIANA  
That sounds like you think I won't  
take you out but I will. Just watch  
this space.

They're smiling.

39 **OMITTED**

39

40 **INT. JACKIE'S FLAT, LIVING ROOM - DAY 6**

40

On DR FEELGOOD'S phone showing his closed Cryptocurrency account. We pan down to see a pile of coke that DR FEELGOOD is cutting and putting into wraps.

DR FEELGOOD looks at a picture of himself and TANIKA which is stuck on the fridge. He looks sad for a moment but then his expression hardens and he gets back to cutting coke.

41 **INT. LEO'S HOUSE, DINING ROOM - DAY 6**

41

TANIKA, TIONNE and LEO sit at the table eating. CANDY strides in holding a tiny tube of eye cream.

CANDY  
Who did this? Which one?

LEO  
What's wrong?

CANDY  
Three hundred quid that cost. Three  
hundred quid. And one of them -

LEO  
Who did it?

TANIKA and TIONNE look like butter wouldn't melt.

CANDY  
I can't do this, Leo. I've tried.

LEO  
It's been four hours.

CANDY

This is a nice house. This is a nice area.

LEO looks confused.

CANDY (CONT'D)

They egged the car. And now this. I refuse to be a victim. We don't have the infrastructure, Leo. And when she comes back, what'll happen? A junkie hanging about, attracting her junkie friends. Heroin. It's not happening.

LEO is shocked by her response.

CANDY (CONT'D)

This is meant to be my fucking engagement week. The week I have dreamed about for fifty fucking years of my life.

CANDY stares at him. LEO doesn't know what to do. CANDY serves herself some food on a plate, salt and peppers it and leaves, LEO follows.

TIONNE and TANIKA almost burst out laughing.

CUT TO:

41A

INT. LEO'S HOUSE, CORRIDOR - DAY 6

41A

LEO follows CANDY into the corridor.

LEO

Candy listen -

CANDY

What?

LEO

Those kids have had it tough. I should've been there.

CANDY

You are there.

LEO

Am I? I barely know them! I dunno, I wanted more from my dad and I never got it. I never had anyone help me learn how to be. Do you know what that's like? Not knowing what to say, what to do. I don't want to be like him...

CANDY

They are not coming to the wedding  
and I'm putting a lock on our  
bedroom door. On all the doors.

CANDY goes to her room, leaving a frustrated LEO. The door entry phone buzzes.

42

INT. LEO'S HOUSE, HALLWAY - DAY 6

42

LEO opens the front door for TIANA.

LEO

I could've picked you up.

TIANA

I'm fine.

LEO

How did it go?

TIANA

Okay.

LEO

(too enthusiastic)

Great. Cool. Great. This is going  
to be good you kids staying here.  
Fun.

A beat. LEO then awkwardly opens up his arm to TIANA for a hug. TIANA looks at LEO, clearly not ready for that.

TIANA

We ain't there yet.

LEO backs off, respecting her boundaries. TIANA wearily walks past him and heads inside.

43

OMITTED

43

44

INT. LEO'S HOUSE, SPARE BEDROOM - DAY 6 (EVENING)

44

TIANA enters and jumps on the bed, which is a mattress on the floor. TIANA, TIONNE and TANIKA huddle together. LEO watches them from the doorway.

TANIKA

What happened?

TIANA

Nothing. They just filed a missing person's report.

TANIKA

So we're okay?

She looks at TIONNE and LEO.

LEO

No one's going to find out from me.  
Not even Candy.

A moment as this lands with the SIBLINGS.

TIANA

We can't sleep like this, you know.

LEO

I'll sort something out.

CANDY (O.S.)

Sorry to disturb.

The siblings turn to see CANDY at the doorway, she's part way through her beauty regime so is wearing one of those neck light visors to help with ageing skin at night. All her make-up is off.

CANDY (CONT'D)

I just want to apologise for earlier. I find change a little bit challenging-

LEO smiles at her.

CANDY (CONT'D)

Anyway, I won't keep you long. Just to say there's this charity I've registered your mum with. They help find missing people. Do facebook and twitter searches. Don't worry, I know it's tough for you to deal with right now so I've started it for you. And I'm gonna be all over it like a rash. Bring her back so you can all be together again. And maybe she can go into rehab.

The kids look at each other.

CANDY (CONT'D)

People are found so quickly on Social Media nowadays. Someone will have bound to have seen something. No one can disappear into thin air.

She walks off.

TANIKA

What if they find mum?

LEO

It should be fine. I mean, it isn't a crime, is it? Burying your mum?

He looks to TIONNE.

TIONNE

Don't think so.

LEO leaves. TIANA clocks the digeridoo.

TIANA

Why did you bring that?

TIONNE

To get on Candy's nerves.

They giggle.

TANIKA

She's so weird.

TIANA

We got to keep her sweet.

TIONNE

She hates us.

TANIKA

He's weird, too. Like suddenly he's all our friend.

TIONNE

He's trying to make it up to us.

TIANA

Yeah, well, we'll see... Anyway, we got to make it work. We ain't got nowhere else to go.

TIONNE

And at least you get to be a kid again.

TIANA gives him a kind look.

TIONNE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I didn't help. You know, for time.

TANIKA

Me too.

TIANA

It's okay.

She lies down. She's still sad. TANIKA and TIONNE lie down with her. They are silent for a few moments.

TANIKA

I wonder where she is now the Chicken's gone.

TIONNE

I dunno.

TANIKA

Maybe she's just floating around waiting to go into another animal. Maybe she's a shapeshifter.

TIONNE

She ain't. She ain't a shapeshifter.

TANIKA

She could be.

TIANA

Wherever she is. Whatever mum is, She is fine. She is happy and she loves us and is looking over us.

All three of them think about this.

TANIKA

Keeping us safe.