

**BIASED**

"PILOT"

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based on true events

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**INT. SLURRED SPEECH BAR - NIGHT**

JAMAL, AFRICAN AMERICAN, 32, slumps at the bar glued to his cell. RAUL the RIDONKULOUSLY HOT bartender approaches.

RAUL  
What can I get you?

JAMAL  
Two years of my fucking life back.

RAUL  
(chuckling)  
Fresh out. How bout some rum?

JAMAL  
Fine. But I'm complaining on Yelp.

As Raul does his thing, Jamal shows him a pic on his cell.

JAMAL (CONT'D)  
(re: pic)  
Didn't we look happy?

RAUL  
She's pretty hot. What happened?

JAMAL  
I don't know. One minute we're  
arguing over milk. Next minute I'm  
telling her I don't see us having  
kids together.

RAUL  
Could've been worse.

JAMAL  
Plus she cheated on me with a "Last  
Man Standing" boom operator.

RAUL  
I stand corrected. Sorry to hear  
that man.

Raul hands Jamal his drink.

JAMAL  
(genuinely hurt)  
Yeah, me too.

Raul heads off but can't leave Jamal looking sad sacked.

RAUL  
There's gotta be something positive  
you learned from the relationship.

JAMAL  
Yep, never trust a boom operator  
with a big butt and a smile.

RAUL  
Maybe something a little deeper?

JAMAL  
I don't know man. Probably that  
I'll end up dying alone.

Jamal chugs his drink, Raul grabs his hand.

RAUL  
Trust me. I've never met a frown a  
smile couldn't fix.

JAMAL  
Deepak Chopra?

RAUL  
Jeffrey Dahmer.

Jamal smiles.

RAUL (CONT'D)  
(smiling)  
There you go.  
(sticks out hand)  
Raul.

JAMAL  
(shaking Raul's hand)  
Jamal.

Raul moves off. Jamal goes back to his phone. After a beat,  
Raul returns.

RAUL  
Hey. Maybe this'll help.

Raul points to TWO HOT CHICKS winking and smiling at Jamal.  
Jamal smiles back.

SMASH CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT**

The room's pitch black but the sound of hot, sweaty, tongue clashing, body thrashing sex is prominent. REVEAL: Jamal and Raul going straight to pound town.

**INT. BEDROOM - LATER**

Jamal and Raul drenched in post-sex sweat.

JAMAL  
So umm-- that happened.

RAUL  
Don't act surprised. You knew I was hitting on you.

JAMAL  
I didn't even think you were gay.

RAUL  
I could tell you were.

JAMAL  
No you couldn't.

RAUL  
Dude, you sucked my thumb like a throat lozenge.

JAMAL  
I gotta stop drunk thumb sucking.

RAUL  
You aren't out, are you?

JAMAL  
If by out you mean have I told my family or publicly used the word yaass in a sentence, then no.

RAUL  
Why not? What's your biggest fear?

JAMAL  
That one day instead of laughing I'll literally yell out L.O.L.

RAUL  
No, idiot. Why're you scared of having people really see you?

JAMAL

Not everybody wants to be seen.

RAUL

Okay, let's just say you meet this incredible bartender guy--

JAMAL

Doubt it. Bartenders suuuck.

RAUL

Shut up. And way, way down the line, you guys end up falling in love. How'd you think that'll make him feel?

JAMAL

Honestly, I can't see myself ending up with a guy.

RAUL

Really?

JAMAL

I've only been in love with females. With guys it's just rebellious sex.

RAUL

Got it.

Raul gets up, starts dressing.

JAMAL

I offend you or something?

RAUL

Nope.

JAMAL

Then why're you leaving?

RAUL

Because the rebellion's over.

JAMAL

I'm sorry man. I didn't mean--

RAUL

Just giving you shit. Got class in the morning.

JAMAL

So you down to hang again?

RAUL  
Don't know. I feel sorry for you.

JAMAL  
Sorry for me? Why?

RAUL  
Cause you're ashamed of yourself  
and you don't even know it.

Raul kisses Jamal on the cheek then leaves.

JAMAL  
(calling after)  
Jokes on you. I've always been  
ashamed of myself.

Jamal's interrupted by SHANNA, coming out of his bathroom.

SHANNA  
I thought he'd never leave.

JAMAL  
(startled)  
How long were you in there?

SHANNA  
Long enough to learn that mole on  
your sack isn't cancerous. I  
googled it.

JAMAL  
Why were you in my bathroom?

SHANNA  
Your bathmat has better grip for  
shaving my down there hair.

JAMAL  
You're disgusting.

SHANNA  
Said my roommate who just banged a  
dude with a man bun.

JAMAL  
Yeah I didn't see it til it got  
caught in my zipper.

SHANNA  
He's right you know.

JAMAL  
About what?

SHANNA

Coming out to your fam. You're flying home tomorrow, why not?

JAMAL

I don't think they're ready.

SHANNA

Jamal, you're thirty-two years old. The only straight guys your age that haven't taken a girl home are pedophiles and white boys with baby dick.

JAMAL

I don't know man. I'm so fucking nervous.

SHANNA

Why? You're a successful TV writer--

JAMAL

Semi-successful. I'm only a staff writer, we didn't get a back nine and the highest rating we got was a point six.

SHANNA

I don't know what the fuck any of that means. But you're successful-ish, you're a good guy and I love seeing you happy. Like that time I caught you "accidentally" airplaying gay porn on my Apple TV.

JAMAL

I swear to God I thought it was "Game of Thrones".

SHANNA

Your palms were greasier than a priest at conversion camp.

JAMAL

Have you not seen Jon Snow's man mounds?

SHANNA

Point is, this is your life, not theirs. Plus they probably already know. Didn't you tell me you twerked at your gold fishes funeral?

JAMAL

Don't judge me. I was six and didn't know how to grieve.

SHANNA

Well regardless if they disown your wannabe Cardi B ass, I'm not going anywhere. And no matter what nobody tells you, it does not get better.

JAMAL

You're so dumb.

SHANNA

Alright, get some sleep. You're gonna go to South Carolina tomorrow, tell your country ass family you're bi and bring your ass back to L.A. Okay?

JAMAL

Okay. I hate you.

SHANNA

Aww, I hate you too, boo.

Shanna starts to exit but turns back.

SHANNA (CONT'D)

And Jamal--

Shanna pulls up her cell, revealing Jon Snow's buns of glory.

SHANNA (CONT'D)

I got that booty as my background.

JAMAL

Yaasss queen!!

**EXT./INT. AIRPORT TERMINAL - DAY**

To establish. Jamal's plane lands. Jamal wades through a herd of travelers in a small southern airport.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Jamal enters his typical black southern childhood home. Old family photos alongside Martin Luther King, Jr. relics smother the walls, dusty trophies crowd the bookshelf, and a rickety coffee table bench presses a gigantic Holy Bible. Jamal takes it all in. This is home. Jamal plops his things down and heads to his favorite part of the house.

INT. KITCHEN. - CONTINUOUS

Jamal dives head first into the fridge. He pulls back holding a pie, preying on the pastry. CALEB, 20'S, enters.

CALEB  
Shoulda known I'd find your greedy  
ass in the fridge.

Jamal puts the pie down and gives Caleb a huge hug.

JAMAL  
(mouthful of food)  
What up man!

CALEB  
What up Jay.

JAMAL  
Where mama at, bible study?

CALEB  
Naw, doctor appointment. She wasn't  
feeling good. But I guaran-damn-tee  
she going to church right after.

JAMAL  
At this point, I think Jesus be  
praying to her.

CALEB  
Exactly. Yo, check this out.

Caleb digs in his pocket, pulls out a ring box.

JAMAL  
Holy shit, that better be a house  
key or a cockroach coffin.

CALEB  
Nope.

Caleb opens the box showing off an engagement ring.

JAMAL  
You sure you ready for that?

CALEB  
Hell naw I ain't ready. But might  
as well. Been laying this pipe long  
enough.

JAMAL  
Shut up fool. When you asking?

CALEB

I don't know man. Might do it on her birthday next week or at the movies or some spur of the moment type shit. I don't know.

JAMAL

Don't stress. You'll know when it's right.

Jamal's cell rings on the counter, Caleb hands it to him.

CALEB

Who's Raul?

Jamal immediately sends it to voicemail.

JAMAL

(caught off guard)  
Just a buddy of mine.  
(quickly moving on)  
Hey, I'm bout to go get my hair cut. Feel like rolling?

CALEB

Naw, gotta pick Krystal up from work. Her car's in the shop.

JAMAL

Cool.

Jamal heads toward the door.

CALEB

Oh and save your appetite. Ma's cooking tonight.

JAMAL

Good. I'm gonna need more pie.

Jamal snake swallows the pie carcass and leaves. Caleb watches Jamal, detecting his hurry.

**INT. BARBERSHOP - DAY**

Barbers RANDY, WILLIE and JEFF are cutting hair with a throng of customers waiting.

WILLIE

So tell me this, if Donald Trump offered a million dollars, would yall meet with him?

RANDY  
Hell naw. You think Medgar Evers  
woulda met him?

JEFF  
Fuck that, for a million dollars  
I'd be in that Oval Office in  
nothin but some make America great  
again draws, dawg!

The entire shop laughs. Jamal enters.

RANDY  
Yall hoes ain't loyal.  
(sees Jamal)  
Jamal! Good to see you man.

JAMAL  
Hey, Mr. Randy. What up, Will.  
Jeff.

WILLIE  
What's going on brotha.

JEFF  
How long you in town?

JAMAL  
A week.

RANDY  
Saw the article your mom put in the  
paper. Congrats Mr. TV writer.

JAMAL  
Preciate it. Took me long enough.

JEFF  
How long you been over there?

JAMAL  
(thinking)  
Bout ten years.

JEFF  
How many celebs you know?

JAMAL  
Not a damn one.

WILLIE  
Well if you ever meet Kim  
Kardashian, imma need you to send  
me a pic of that ass.

JEFF

Imma need one of each bun.

The entire shop agrees.

JAMAL

(chuckling)

I got y'all.

RANDY

Why Kim Kardashian always gotta be the end all, be all of beauty? What about Serena or India Arie?

WILLIE

India Arie? What the hell you been smokin?

JEFF

No what the hell you been snortin?

RANDY

I'm just saying, not everybody has the same definition of beauty.

WILLIE

Alright Randy, who's on your list?

RANDY

Diahann Carroll, Gladys Knight, Cicely Tyson--

JEFF

Anybody under a hundred?

RANDY

Gabrielle Union, Erykah Badu, Laverne Cox--

The shop responds with "What the fucks?", "hell naws" etc.

WILLIE

Did this nigga just say Laverne Cox?

JEFF

You a lil too old to be coming out the closet, aint ya?

RANDY

Ain't my fault yall ain't secure enough in ya manhood to admit Laverne's a beautiful woman.

WILLIE

Fuck outta here man.

(to Jamal)

I bet you gotta deal with that gay  
shit all the time in LA?

JAMAL

I mean, it ain't bad.

JEFF

Hell nah, I couldn't deal.

RANDY

If they ain't bothering you, why  
you worrying?

WILLIE

So you telling me if your son came  
in here right now and said he's  
gay, you'd be cool with it?

RANDY

Ain't nothing wrong with lettin  
people be themselves.

The shop erupts in disagreement. Jamal's uncomfortable but  
covers with ease having years of practice.

JEFF

Man fuck all that.

WILLIE

They better to learn to be somebody  
else when they around me.

RANDY

For all we know, there could be  
somebody gay in here right now  
listening to this dumb shit.

JEFF

(to entire barbershop)

Hold up, who here is a mud-mixin,  
ass ticklin, dick suckin homo?

The entire shop chimes in with "not me's", "fuck that" etc.

WILLIE

Ain't no faggots in here man.

The shop "amens". Jamal barely keeps his poker face.

**INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT**

Dinner prep's in full swing. GLORIA, 60's, is finishing final touches. Jamal's oldest brother, MALCOLM, 40'S, and his wife, LISA with their TWO SONS, Caleb and his girlfriend, KRYSTAL all sit salivating. Jamal enters.

GLORIA  
(beaming)  
There's my baby!

JAMAL  
What up, ma! Why you ain't tell me  
you were sick?

GLORIA  
Cause I don't answer to you, you  
answer to me. Now give me my hug.

Jamal hugs and kiss Gloria on the cheek. Malcolm moves in.

MALCOLM  
Jay! What up knuckle head?

They hug.

JAMAL  
I see you ain't been skipping no  
meals.

MALCOLM  
Not everybody can get these abs.

Malcolm pulls up his shirt, modeling his Buddha belly.  
Everyone's disgusted.

LISA  
Don't nobody wanna see your stretch  
marks.

MALCOLM  
You ain't said that last night.

Gloria comes to the table, sets down the final dishes.

GLORIA  
Y'all leave my fat baby alone.

MALCOLM  
Thank you, mama.

GLORIA  
Alright, food's ready.

The brothers wrestle each other to the table, grabbing food and piling their plates. Gloria slaps their hands.

GLORIA (CONT'D)  
 (death stare)  
 I know y'all know better.

The boys settle down. The whole family join hands, bow their heads for prayer.

GLORIA (CONT'D)  
 Father God, thank you for allowing us all to come together to enjoy this nourishment that You've provided. And Father God, thank you for allowing me to have all three of my boys here with me cause as hard as their heads are and all the drama they put me through, especially Malcolm, I could not be more blessed to be standing in the midst of all this love. Also Father God--

MALCOLM  
 C'mon, ma. God know we thankful.

GLORIA  
 Alright, alright. In the mighty name of Jesus, amen.

EVERYONE  
 Amen!

The food is savagely passed around.

GLORIA  
 (to Jamal)  
 You look skinny.

JAMAL  
 I look good, don't I ma?

GLORIA  
 You look homeless.  
 Eat up. Looks like your clothes swallowed you whole.

Gloria pushes a mound of mashed potatoes toward Jamal.

MALCOLM  
 Y'all remember Jay used to wear that South Pole pleather outfit?

Everybody laughs.

JAMAL  
(embarrassed chuckle)  
Oh boy, here we go.

CALEB  
(laughing)  
Hell yeah. Couldn't tell him he  
wasn't Aaron Hall.

JAMAL  
(to Malcolm)  
I know you ain't talking. Don't  
make me bring up that Bobby Brown  
"Every Little Step" gumby.

MALCOLM  
Don't hate. I can't help that  
looking fly was "My Prerogative."

Playful boos hiss at Malcolm.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)  
No, hold up. Y'all remember when  
Jamal used to wear mama's dress?

They all burst out laughing. Jamal tenses.

GLORIA  
Oh I definitely remember. I always  
knew when he had it on cause my  
collars smelled like a Kit Kat.

MALCOLM  
(to Jamal)  
Yo, I thought you'd never grow  
outta being a sissy.

Jamal laughs nervously, Caleb senses his uneasiness.

CALEB  
Since we're all here. There's  
something I been meaning to do.

Caleb pulls out the engagement box, kneels to Krystal. The  
entire family watches in shock.

KRYSTAL  
Oh my God! What're you doing?

CALEB

Krystal, ever since the day I laid eyes on you, I knew I never wanted to live one day without you. And after we dated for a while, I realized a week off wouldn't hurt.

(Krystal hits him)

But for real, no matter what we go through, I know I can count on you to love me despite all my flaws--

KRYSTAL

Sooooo many flaws.

CALEB

Okay, don't think all those O's are necessary but anyway. I love you so much and I'm hoping you'd share the rest of your life with me?

KRYSTAL

(tearing up)

Of course baby. I love you so much.

They kiss. The family celebrates.

GLORIA

Oh my baby boy! I'm so happy!

MALCOLM

Worst. Decision. Ever.

Lisa nudges Malcolm. They all hug.

GLORIA

Alright, Jamal. You're the last one. When you gonna ask Dawn?

JAMAL

Never. We broke up.

GLORIA

Well dang. You keep breaking up before I get a chance to meet em.

JAMAL

It's for the best. I gotta focus on my career.

MALCOLM

(squeezing Lisa)

I'd like to see you hold your career tight at night.

CALEB  
 Leave Jay alone. I just got  
 engaged. We gotta turn up!

GLORIA  
 Only place y'all better "turn up"  
 is bed. We got church tomorrow.

The brothers grumble.

GLORIA (CONT'D)  
 Don't wanna hear it.

CALEB  
 (to brothers, whispering)  
 We still going out, right?

MALCOLM/JAMAL  
 Hell yeah.

SMASH CUT TO:

**INT. SOUTHERN BLACK CHURCH - DAY**

Malcolm, Jamal and Caleb look like zombies, clearly suffering from hangovers as the choir sings. Gloria gives zero fucks.

GLORIA  
 (to her sons)  
 Get up.

The boys remain seated, tortured.

GLORIA (CONT'D)  
 (hushed rage)  
 Now!

The boys struggle to their feet. Jamal looks forward, locking eyes with the choir's lead singer, ERIC. They share a lingering smile.

SMASH CUT TO:

**INT. SOUTHERN BLACK CHURCH - LATER**

The service has ended. TWO ELDERLY LADIES corner Jamal, sanctifyingly seducing him.

ELDERLY LADY 1  
 Look at you all grown up.

ELDERLY LADY 2  
Mm hmm, you look so good.

JAMAL  
(bashful)  
Thank you, ma'am.

ELDERLY LADY 1  
God's truly been blessing you.

ELDERLY 2  
Mm hmm, yes He has.

JAMAL  
Thank you.

Jamal sees Eric nearby watching the shit show.

ELDERLY LADY 1  
If I was just sixty years younger--

JAMAL  
Excuse me ladies. I have to go say  
hey to a friend.

Jamal walks over to Eric.

ERIC  
You know Sister Jones is still  
fertile, right?

JAMAL  
(laughing)  
Stop. How you been man?

They hug, lasts longer than it should.

ERIC  
I'm good. How're you?

JAMAL  
Can't complain. I see you still  
sounding like Luther Vandross.

ERIC  
(laughing)  
Just tryna keep up with you Spike  
Lee. You look good man.

JAMAL  
So do you.

ERIC  
I'm surprised to see you up here in church.

JAMAL  
Why?

ERIC  
Prob cause your last Instagram post involved belly shots.

Jamal playfully hangs his head in shame.

JAMAL  
See wha had happened was--

ERIC  
Yeah tell me, wha had happened?

JAMAL  
I was volunteering at a homeless shelter and then-- don't judge me.

ERIC  
You done been sentenced and read your last rites.

Caleb watches as Jamal and Eric rekindle. Gloria intrudes.

GLORIA  
Eric, you sounded amazing.

ERIC  
Thank you, Mrs. Bennett.

GLORIA  
Jamal, you remember pastor's daughter, Regina, right?

Gloria points to REGINA, VERY ATTRACTIVE, coming over.

JAMAL  
(whispering)  
Good lawd. Not looking like that.

GLORIA  
Boy hush.

Regina walks up, hugs Jamal.

REGINA  
Jamal! So good to see you.

JAMAL

You too.

You can taste their attraction.

ERIC

(to Jamal)

Hey yo, I gotta get to work. Was good seeing you man.

JAMAL

You too. I'll be home for a week. Let's hang.

ERIC

I should be free later this week. Depends on what time I get off.

JAMAL

Cool, hit me up.

ERIC

Will do. See ya Mrs. Bennett, Regina.

GLORIA

Take care sweetie.

REGINA

See ya, Eric.

Eric leaves.

GLORIA

Regina was telling me she's moving back home.

JAMAL

My condolences.

REGINA

(chuckling)

It's not that bad. Guess who's about to be Plantersville Elementary's new principal?

JAMAL

Oh wow. Congrats!

REGINA

Thank ya kindly.

GLORIA

Look at yall young folks making us so proud. I think yall should get together and celebrate.

JAMAL  
 Mama calm down.  
 (to Regina)  
 I'm sorry.

REGINA  
 (chuckling)  
 My mama ain't no better. But I'm  
 actually free this week.

GLORIA  
 You hear that, Jamal. She's free.  
 (looking in distance)  
 Oh, lawd I gotta go. I don't trust  
 leaving sister Clark alone with  
 that communion wine.

Gloria leaves.

JAMAL  
 Again I'm sorry bout that. My  
 mama's a church thug.

REGINA  
 It's totally fine. I'd be happy to  
 go out. If I have to proofread one  
 more of my dad's sermons I'm gonna  
 gouge out my eyes with a teaspoon.

JAMAL  
 Well that got dark. In that case if  
 you down, I'm down.

REGINA  
 I'm down.

JAMAL  
 Ok cool, I'll hit you later.

REGINA  
 Looking forward to it.

They smile.

**INT. JAMAL'S CHILDHOOD ROOM - AFTERNOON**

Jamal carries his laundry, dumps everything on the bed and  
 starts folding. Gloria stands in the doorway.

GLORIA  
 Never thought I'd see the day you'd  
 fold your own clothes.

JAMAL

I know right. Crazy how people change.

GLORIA

Tell me about it. When I was your age, I was in the back of a Chrysler LeBaron gettin pregnant.

JAMAL

You do realize you said that out loud, right?

GLORIA

I'm just saying sometimes change can be a good thing. I think Regina would be good for you.

JAMAL

Calm down. I'm meeting up with her tonight. You her pimp or something?

GLORIA

Boy be quiet. I'm yo pimp.

Gloria walks off. Jamal shakes his head, laughing. **SFX: Text Message Received.** Jamal checks his phone. Screen caption reads: **FROM ERIC - "Gonna get off early. Free for drinks?"** Jamal thinks for a second, responds. **Screen caption reads: TO ERIC - "Fasho man, see ya soon!"**

Jamal puts his phone down but immediately picks it back up, remembering something. **Screen Caption Reads: TO REGINA - "Sorry, something came up. Can't make it tonight."** Jamal thinks for a beat, then-- **SFX: Text Message Received.** Screen caption reads: **FROM REGINA - "oh no :( Ok, hope to see you before you leave"** Jamal tosses the phone on his bed, gets back to his laundry.

**INT. BAR - NIGHT**

Jamal and Eric sit in a booth drinking.

JAMAL

(laughing)

Yo, how bout that time we all skipped Mrs. McCullan's class and got high as fuck by the river.

ERIC

Yoooo, I completely forgot about that.

(MORE)

ERIC (CONT'D)

I remember Dwayne tried to smash  
your thirsty ass cousin Sandy.

JAMAL

(proud)

Hell yeah. I was the Beyoncé  
cockblock that day.

ERIC

You so dumb.

JAMAL

You ever thought about moving?

ERIC

Other than every damn day of my  
life, no not really.

JAMAL

Why don't you?

ERIC

I don't know man, think I messed  
around and got too comfortable.  
Plus if I can't move Bronson  
Crossroads barbecue with me I ain't  
going no where.

JAMAL

(chuckling)

Can't argue with that man.

ERIC

Enough about me. How's LA treating  
you?

JAMAL

I love it man. Finally feels like  
I'm starting to live my dreams. But  
shit can get brutal.

ERIC

Really? I thought you'd be too busy  
over there day drinking and poppin  
Molly's with Tia and Tamera.

JAMAL

Only on Sunday's.

ERIC

(chuckling, lifts glass)

To living your dreams.

JAMAL

To dreams.

They toast.

ERIC

Man I always knew you'd make something out of yourself.

JAMAL

What makes you say that?

ERIC

You always had a good head on your shoulder and marched to your own drumbeat. Never could dance for shit though.

JAMAL

Still can't.

ERIC

I've always looked up to you man. Mad proud of you, Jamal.

JAMAL

Thank you man. I think these drinks making you mushy.

ERIC

I have my moments. But I'm serious. You really mean a lot to me.

JAMAL

You mean a lot to me too.

Feeling an undeniable connection, Jamal cradles Eric's hands in his lap. Eric sees their WAITRESS watching from a distance and immediately knocks Jamal's hand away.

ERIC

Yo, what the fuck?!

Jamal's caught off guard.

JAMAL

Oh my bad, I thought--

ERIC

I don't care what you thought. I ain't with that gay shit man.

Embarrassed, Jamal bolts out of the booth. As soon as he's out of Eric's eyesight, Jamal finally breathes, his mind in a whirlwind. The waitress walks toward Jamal. Jamal tries to hand her his credit card to pay but she stops him.

WAITRESS

Oh no, sweetie.  
(re: Eric)  
Drinks on that fool.

The waitress pats Jamal on the shoulder as she walks off, leaving him smiling. After a beat, Jamal takes out his cell, texting. Screen caption reads: **"Sorry last minute. You free?"**

**INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - NIGHT**

Jamal and Regina take their seats.

REGINA

I've always wanted to come here.

JAMAL

Me too. I heard they got floss in the restroom.

REGINA

Stop playing? Guess I'm gettin ribs tonight.

They share a playful smile.

SMASH CUT TO:

**INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - LATER**

Empty plates and wine glasses litter the table.

JAMAL

So you're saying you'd never get a tattoo?

REGINA

Oh God no. My dad would literally kill me. Like for real, I'd have my own "Forensic Files" episode.

JAMAL

Don't you ever just wanna rebel? Live life on your own terms?

REGINA

I mean-- I guess. Sometimes.

JAMAL  
(leans in)  
I say we live a little.

REGINA  
What're you talking about?

JAMAL  
You, me, just being alive.

REGINA  
Okay, I think you've had enough wine.

JAMAL  
I'm serious. I think everybody on this earth deserves to live their life to the fullest. And probably this Cabernet is kicking my ass.

REGINA  
So tell me Mr. live life, what's the craziest thing you've done?

JAMAL  
(thinking)  
Freshman year, college. First time I ever got drunk. Me and my boys got a bottle of gin extra dry, filled our cups up to about  
(points to top of glass)  
this much and drunk it straight up, no chasers.

REGINA  
Oh my God.

JAMAL  
Next thing I know we were outside of the girls freshman dorms yelling who wants dick tonight. Which was pointless because my dick was about as hard as a cashmere scarf.

REGINA  
(cringing)  
Oh no.

JAMAL  
Then I spent the rest of the night hurling like a boss.

REGINA  
Sounds so classy.

They laugh.

JAMAL

So what about you Ms. pastors  
daughter? What's the craziest thing  
you've done?

REGINA

I'm so boring. I don't have  
anything to tell.

JAMAL

Aww c'mon. There's gotta be  
something.

Regina takes a big swig of wine.

REGINA

Well truthfully, the craziest thing  
I've ever done is--

Regina leans across the table, slams Jamal with a kiss.

REGINA (CONT'D)

Ask you to get us a room and have  
sex for the rest of the night.

Regina's hands make their way down Jamal's pants, he stops  
her.

JAMAL

Hold up, wait. I gotta be honest--

REGINA

Please don't over think this. I  
just broke up with my boyfriend,  
you're the first guy in a long time  
that was actually worth burning my  
eyes with mascara for and honestly  
I couldn't think of a sadder way to  
end this night than leaving alone.

Jamal lets this sink in a moment, then--

JAMAL

I'm really flattered but we're  
friends. I don't think we should--

SMASH CUT TO:

**INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT**

Biz Markie "Just A Friend" plays. Jamal and Regina fucking  
each other's brains out.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jamal's staring out of his living room window, bags already packed. His family bids him farewell.

MALCOLM

Stay longer next time. You need to baby sit your bad ass nephews.

JAMAL

Hard pass.

Malcolm and Jamal hug. Malcolm exits. Caleb steps up.

CALEB

Til next time my man.

JAMAL

Yessir.

They hug. Caleb leans in to Jamal's ear.

CALEB

(whispering)  
Be happy brother.

JAMAL

I am happy.

CALEB

No, be completely happy.

JAMAL

What does that even mean?

CALEB

Whatever you want it to mean. Also I'm high as a motherfucker.

JAMAL

Makes so much more sense.

CALEB

I love you, Jamal. No matter what.

JAMAL

I love you too, Caleb.

They release from the hug. Caleb exits.

GLORIA

When is your flight?

JAMAL  
 (looks at watch)  
 In three hours.

GLORIA  
 Perfect. I got time to whip you up  
 something real quick.

JAMAL  
 You don't have to do that.

GLORIA  
 Course I do. Says so in the mama  
 handbook.

As Gloria heads to kitchen, we hear **SFX: Text Message Received**. Jamal checks his phone. Screen caption reads: **FROM ERIC - "Yo, really didn't mean to pop off like that the other night. Hope you can understand."**

Jamal puts his phone away, absorbing the message, then--

JAMAL  
 Hey, ma.

GLORIA (O.S.)  
 Yeah?

JAMAL  
 You remember at my pre-school  
 graduation when I kissed Adam?

GLORIA (O.S.)  
 Aww, you two were so cute. I still  
 got that picture somewhere.

JAMAL  
 I think that's when I realized I  
 was different.

GLORIA (O.S.)  
 Boy what you talking about?  
 Different in what way?

JAMAL  
 Sexually.

Gloria goes silent. She slowly enters the living room.

GLORIA  
 What you tryna say, Jamal?

Jamal spars to find the words like it's a prize fight.

JAMAL  
I'm-- saying-- I'm-- bisexual.

Gloria stares blankly.

JAMAL (CONT'D)  
Did you hear me?

Gloria says nothing.

JAMAL (CONT'D)  
(choking up)  
Ma, please. Say something.

Gloria remains silent. Something's wrong. She clasps her chests and collapses to the floor.

JAMAL (CONT'D)  
MA?!

Jamal rushes to her side.

**INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - DAY**

The family's all there, waiting impatiently. They immediately swarm DR. SKINNER as he comes over with an update.

MALCOLM  
How she doing?

DR. SKINNER  
She suffered a slight aortic dissection but thankfully we got to it quick enough. She's actually doing remarkably well. She even regained consciousness.

They all breathe a sigh of relief.

DR. SKINNER (CONT'D)  
Your mom is incredibly strong.

CALEB  
When can we see her?

DR. SKINNER  
Actually, who's Jamal?

JAMAL  
That's me.

DR. SKINNER  
She specifically asked to see you.

JAMAL

Okay.

Jamal looks at his siblings confused as Dr. Skinner leads.

**INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Dr. Skinner walks Jamal into the room.

DR. SKINNER

(to Jamal)

Keep it brief.

Jamal nods in agreement as his heart sinks seeing Gloria hooked up to monitors and morphine. Dr. Skinner exits as Jamal slowly makes his way to Gloria's side.

JAMAL

(choked up)

Ma?

The soft hum of the machines suffocate the silence.

JAMAL (CONT'D)

Ma. Please don't go.

GLORIA

(eyes closed, groggy)

Boy I ain't going nowhere.

Jamal rushes over and kisses Gloria on the forehead.

JAMAL

Oh God, ma. I love you so much.

GLORIA

I love you too. But don't think I forgot your-- situation.

JAMAL

We don't have to talk about it--

GLORIA

Yeah we do. The devil tried to kill me but God spared me. You know why?

JAMAL

Why?

GLORIA

Prob so I could bare witness to His morphine ministry.

JAMAL  
 (laughing)  
 You high as hell ain't ya?

GLORIA  
 Boy watch yo mouth.  
 (delirious chuckle)  
 But yeah, lil bit.

The morphine's clearly kicking in.

JAMAL  
 Atta girl.

GLORIA  
 (slurred)  
 I'm so sorry I made you miss your  
 flight.

JAMAL  
 Didn't think I'd let you keep all  
 the good drugs to yourself, did ya?

GLORIA  
 Don't play with me boy. I'm being  
 serious. I don't ever want you to  
 put your life on hold for me.

JAMAL  
 (grabbing Gloria's hand)  
 Well I'm staying home til you get  
 better. So you stuck with me.

GLORIA  
 (hazy smile)  
 Well you stuck with me too.

Jamal smiles. Gloria starts fading from the morphine.

GLORIA (CONT'D)  
 (pleading)  
 Promise me you won't be gay.

JAMAL  
 What?

GLORIA  
 I'd hate to get to heaven-- and  
 never see you there.

Jamal's smile fades, not having a clue of what to say. **SFX:**  
**Text Message Received.** Jamal checks his phone. Screen caption  
 reads: **FROM RAUL - "Hey handsome, when are you heading back?"**  
 Jamal ignores it.

GLORIA (CONT'D)  
You promise?

Jamal stares at the texts then shuts off his phone.

JAMAL  
I promise.

Gloria smiles and falls fast asleep.

BJ the Chicago Kid's "Church" plays over the final shot -  
Jamal holds Gloria tight, planning to never let go.

**END OF SHOW**