Executive Producer: JUSTIN HILLIAN Executive Producer: LENA WAITHE Executive Producer: JET WILKINSON

Co-Executive Producers: TJ BRADY & RASHEED NEWSON

Co-Executive Producer: MARCUS GARDLEY

Producer: KELLY A. MANNERS
Director: JET WILKINSON

THE CHI

"Frunchroom"

EPISODE 308 3BEO08

Written by

Justin Hillian

Production Draft 10-23-19
Blue Pages: 1, 40, 49, 49A 10-24-19
Pink Pages: 3, 4B, 5, 7, 8, 15, 16 10-30-19
Yellow Pages: 1, 4, 4A, 4B, 15, 16, 23, 35A, 42, 45A, 49A 11-1-19
Green Pages: 28, 28A, 28B, 31, 31A, 31B, 45, 46, 46A 11-5-19

TVM Productions, Inc. 10351 Santa Monica Blvd. Suite 300 Los Angeles, CA 90025

Copyright © 2019 Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation

NO PORTION OF THIS SCRIPT MAY BE PERFORMED, PUBLISHED, REPRODUCED, SOLD, OR DISTRIBUTED BY ANY MEANS OR QUOTED OR PUBLISHED IN ANY MEDIUM, INCLUDING ANY WEB SITE, WITHOUT PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT OF TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORTATION. DISPOSAL OF THIS SCRIPT COPY DOES NOT ALTER ANY OF THE RESTRICTIONS SET FORTH ABOVE.

THE CHI

"Frunchroom"/#308
White Production Draft
10/23/19

CAST LIST

| KEVIN WILLIAMS | ALEX HIBBERT |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| RONNIE DAVIS | NTARE GUMA MBAHO MWINE |
| EMMETT WASHINGTON | JACOB LATIMORE |
| JADA WASHINGTON | YOLONDA ROSS |
| KIESHA WILLIAMS | BIRGUNDI BAKER |
| PAPA | |
| JAKE | MICHAEL EPPS |
| | |
| NINA | |

DRE TAMMY

SET LIST

INTERIORS

KEVIN'S HOUSE

KIESHA'S BEDROOM
LIVING ROOM
HALLWAY
BATHROOM
KITCHEN
NINA AND DRE'S BEDROOM
KEVIN'S BEDROOM

EXTERIORS

KEVIN'S HOUSE

DAY/NIGHT BREAKDOWN

| Pages | D/N# |
|-------|---------|
| 1-2 | Night 1 |
| 2-3 | Day 2 |
| 3-7 | Day 3 |
| 7-17 | Night 3 |
| 17-45 | Day 4 |
| 45-49 | Day 5 |
| 49-50 | Day 6 |

TEASER

1 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KIESHA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 1

The door opens slowly. We tilt up to reveal KIESHA wearing a headscarf, as she sets foot inside her bedroom for the first time since she was abducted in Ep. 301. She exhales. Relieved to be home. Kiesha smiles wide. She never thought she'd feel this safe again.

NINA and DRE enter. Secretly, they're hoping she doesn't notice anything is out of place. They did their best to put her room back together after they packed everything up, but they know it's not exactly the way Kiesha left it. Nina tries to cover...

NINA

Just how you left it.

Something catches Kiesha's eye. She stops and rearranges several trophies on a shelf.

Nina looks at Dre, she feels seen and not in a good way. They fucked up. Dre intervenes.

DRE

If things are out of order it's cause we cleaned before you came home. Sorry if everything isn't exactly how you left it.

Kiesha stands in the center of the room taking it all in.

Nina looks at her daughter lovingly. Words couldn't possibly describe how happy she is to have her daughter home again.

Nina tries to pull Kiesha in close for a hug and Kiesha doesn't mean to, but she recoils.

KIESHA

No.

It was a reflex. Kiesha's still learning things about herself post trauma and apparently she doesn't want to be touched.

Now Kiesha feels bad and Nina feels rejected, but neither of them say anything.

Nina and Kiesha both fold their arms self-consciously. It's one of those weird moments when genetics take over.

Dre rubs Nina's back and turns to Kiesha...

THE CHI #308 "Frunchroom" White 10-23-19 2.

1 CONTINUED:

DRE

If you need anything. Just let us know.

No response.

NINA

Try and get some sleep.

Kiesha looks up at her mother and nods slightly.

NINA (CONT'D)

I'll be right outside...all night.

Again, Kiesha just nods.

Nina and Dre exit, shutting the door behind them.

Finally alone in her room, Kiesha looks around. Her eyes land on her BEDROOM WINDOWS. Immediately she rushes over to check the LOCKS.

Satisfied with that, she sits on the bed.

Then her eyes focus on the DOOR...

She then wedges the chair under the door. Barricading herself in.

Somewhat satisfied with the current level of security, she looks to her DESK and grabs a pair of SCISSORS and sits on the floor (like Omari used to tell her to).

She puts the scissors behind her back and waits for an imaginary intruder.

MAIN TITLES

2 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KIESHA'S BEDROOM - DAY 2

2

1

Kiesha's still sitting on the floor with her back to the bed, clutching the scissors.

Hasn't slept. Hasn't moved. She's paralyzed by her trauma.

3 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 2

3

Nina is asleep on the couch. Dre nudges her awake.

DRE

Hey, I think we should talk about what happened?

NINA

What?

DRE

I just wanna make sure we good.

NINA

I really don't wanna get into that right now.

Dre nods. She's frustrated but she understands. She sits on the couch next to her wife and tries to be supportive.

DRE

How's she doing?

Nina shrugs.

NINA

Hasn't come out of the room yet.

As the camera holds on Kiesha's bedroom door...

CHYRON: Three days later.

4 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 3

The camera is still on the bedroom door. We about-face to see Nina and Dre. They're preparing breakfast and in the middle of a heated ass argument, but they don't want Kiesha to hear so they're whispering.

DRE

I think she needs to see someone.

NINA

I don't think she wants to.

DRE

This ain't about what she wants.

NINA

She said nothing happened.

DRE

You heard the doctor...

(then)

She's lying.

(CONTINUED)

3

NINA

What you want me to do? Call her a liar? Try to shake the truth out of her? Hasn't she been traumatized enough?

Just then, Kiesha exits the bedroom in her robe and a shower cap. Immediately, the concern on Nina and Dre's faces is replaced with plastered-on smiles.

Their eyebrows raise and so do their voices.

DRE

Hey, Kiesha.

NINA

You want something to eat?

Kiesha walks right by them without a word. She turns the knob for the bathroom. It's locked.

She bangs on the door.

KIESHA

Kevin, come on. I need to use the bathroom.

KEVIN (O.S.)

I just got in here, damn.

Nina bangs on the door. Kevin yanks the door open. He sees Nina and Kiesha and acquiesces.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

You got it.

Kevin exits the bathroom. Kiesha enters and shuts the door behind her.

Kevin looks to Nina and Dre.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Is it just me or is she acting weird?

NINA

Lower your voice.

KEVIN

I don't care if she hear me.

4 CONTINUED: (2)

DRE

She's just been through a traumatic experience. She can act weird if she want.

KEVIN

Is she ever gonna get better?

NINA

DRE

Of course.

We don't know.

KEVIN

What can we do to help?

NINA

Let's just give her some time.

Kevin grabs his jacket and heads for the door.

KEVIN

I'm bout to link up with Jake and Papa.

NINA

Since when you start telling me what you gon do?

KEVIN

I ain't think it was that big a deal.

DRE

Kiesha's finally home, don't you want to spend some time with your sister?

KEVIN

She locked in the bathroom.

NINA

I think it would be nice if we all stayed close to home for a little while.

Kevin starts to talk back but realizes that he's already overplayed his hand. He turns and walks back towards his room.

5 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY 3

5

4

CLOSE on a shower head. We hear the squeal of a knob turning. Water whooshes out but Kiesha isn't in the shower.

She makes sure the door is locked and just sits on the toilet with her head in her hands.

After a beat, she looks in the mirror. She really studies her face. She turns to the right. Then to the left. It's almost like she's seeing herself for the first time and she doesn't like what she sees.

Her eyes scan her body. She rubs her hands over some of the various bruises. Harsh reminders of the torture she endured at the hands of Omari.

6 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 3

Nina is at the kitchen table with Dre when Kiesha exits the bathroom in her robe and shower cap. She avoids eye contact with her mothers and beelines into her room.

Within seconds, they hear the HUMMING of a vacuum cleaner coming from Kiesha's room. The fuck? They look at each other confused.

DRE

Is she vacuuming?

NINA

I guess.

DRE

I ain't never known her to vacuum shit.

Dre marches towards the door. Nina tries to stop her but she can't.

7 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KIESHA'S BEDROOM - DAY 3

Nina and Dre enter to find Kiesha vacuuming with military like precision. This room is fucking spotless. Nothing is out of place.

Kiesha is living an almost Spartan like existence. Physically she's free, but mentally, she's still in that BASEMENT.

Dre speaks up over the vacuum...

DRE

You haven't eaten all day. I really think you should try to eat something.

Kiesha eyes Dre intently.

DRE (CONT'D)

You want some pizza?

KIESHA

No.

That's damn near all Omari fed her.

DRE

I can cook something.

KIESHA

No, I'm okay.

Kiesha goes back to vacuuming.

Dre can't take it anymore. She cuts the vacuum off...

DRE

You sure?

After a beat...

KIESHA

(a little attitude)

I'm not hungry!

DRE

Do you at least wanna come sit with us? You don't have to eat anything.

Before Kiesha can respond, Nina intervenes...

NINA

You don't have to if you're not feeling up to it.

Dre cuts her eyes at Nina.

Dre is tired of beating around the bush. She blurts out...

DRE

Kiesha, I really think you should see somebody.

KIESHA

For what?

DRE

So you can talk about what you've been through.

7 CONTINUED: (2)

KIESHA

I'm fine.

NINA

(to Kiesha)

You don't have to talk to anyone until you're good and ready.

Kiesha nods, then turns the vacuum on and gets back to it. It's her not-so-subtle way of letting them know that this conversation is over.

Nina stands to leave. Dre realizes that she isn't going to get anywhere right now, so she follows Nina out.

The door shuts. Leaving Kiesha alone again. She unplugs the vacuum. Wraps up the cord very neatly and tucks it away in the corner.

Then, she sits down at her DESK.

Opens her LAPTOP and we see that she has several TABS open. All of them are about OMARI, her kidnapper. She presses print. And as we pan to the printer, we see that several articles about Omari have already been printed out.

He's dead and he's still haunting her. Kiesha taps away at her keyboard.

Off the humming of the printer, we...

CUT TO:

8

8 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT 3

Dre and Nina are back in the kitchen talking.

DRE

We can't just sweep shit under the rug.

NINA

That's not what I'm doing.

DRE

I just wanna help.

NINA

I didn't ask for it.

Nina instantly regrets saying that.

(CONTINUED)

NINA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I didn't mean that.

DRE

It's okay.

A beat, then...

DRE (CONT'D)

Why are you afraid of her going to therapy?

NINA

I guess I'm just scared of what might come out.

DRE

She can't keep that shit inside. It's not healthy.

KNOCK KNOCK at the front door.

Nina gets up and looks through the peephole.

NINA

Why is Kiesha's friend here?

DRE

I invited her.

NINA

What? Why?

DRE

I thought it would be nice for her to have someone other than family around.

Nina opens the door to TAMMY (18, African American, slim and stylish).

NINA

Hey, Tammy.

TAMMY

Hey.

Tammy doesn't really know what to say to them.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

How's Kiesha?

THE CHI #308 "Frunchroom" White 10-23-19 9.

8 CONTINUED: (2)

Dre takes a deep breath. Then, to Nina...

NINA

She's been better.

DRE

But I'm sure she'll be happy to see you.

As Nina stares daggers at Dre, we...

CUT TO:

8

9

9 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KIESHA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 3

Tammy and a

Kiesha opens the door. She's surprised to see Tammy and a little trepidatious but she goes with it.

KIESHA

Hey...

TAMMY

Hey girl! How you doing?! I'm so glad you ain't dead.

Awkward beat.

KIESHA

Yeah, me too.

NINA

Kiesha, are you okay to have company? We don't want to overwhelm you.

A beat, then...

KIESHA

Yeah, it's fine.

Kiesha steps aside so Tammy can enter. Then, Kiesha shuts the door behind Tammy. Again leaving her mothers on the outside looking in.

Dre exhales a sigh of relief. Partly because her plan worked and partly because she knows that Kiesha is finally going to have a normal interaction and that's healthy.

Nina is beyond annoyed.

NINA

You could've asked me.

DRE

Now I gotta ask your permission before I do anything?

NINA

When it has to do with my kids, yes.

DRE

How long we gotta be married before they become "our" kids?

Nina is frustrated.

NINA

I just want us to talk about things first. That's it.

DRE

If I talked to you about it, you was just gon say no.

Dre can sense that Nina is really upset. Dre moves closer and puts her arm around Nina to comfort her.

DRE (CONT'D)

Everything's gonna be fine.

Off Nina, skeptical...

10 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KIESHA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 3

10

9

Kiesha and Tammy stand at an awkward distance from each other. Neither of them are sure what to say.

Tammy forces some small talk...

TAMMY

You okay?

Kiesha shrugs. She's still not sure how to answer that question.

Tammy clocks Kiesha's scarf.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

You want me to hook you up?

Kiesha shakes her head "no."

TAMMY (CONT'D)

I'll be gentle. I know you tender headed.

KIESHA

No, I'm okay.

TAMMY

No, you not.

Tammy gets up and motions for Kiesha to sit between her legs.

Tammy takes off Kiesha's scarf and starts combing through her hair.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

What you want?

Kiesha shrugs.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

I'll just do cornrows.

KIESHA

Okay.

The two girls settle in. They look at each other through the mirror, Kiesha forces a smile and tries to be "normal."

KIESHA (CONT'D)

It feels like I've been gone forever. What's been going on?

TAMMY

Well, I broke up with Derrick's ass.

KIESHA

What happened?

TAMMY

He wanted to have threesomes and shit.

Kiesha cracks a smile.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

I was down, but I was like I want another nigga. He fell out.

KIESHA

I'm sure he did.

10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

TAMMY

He's like "I ain't gay" - and I'm like, "Nigga, neither am I, but yet you want me to go down on a bitch for your visual pleasure."

Kiesha shakes her head.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

Mrs. Moseley kicked me out her class the other day.

KIESHA

Why?

TAMMY

Cause I was taking too long on my standardized test.

KIESHA

It's timed for a reason.

TAMMY

Fuck that. White bitches be paying for they kids to pass these tests all the time. I wish my mama used her tax returns on that cause this ADHD is holding a bitch back.

Tammy continues talking but then we hear her voice drone out...it's just white noise. Tammy realizes...

TAMMY (CONT'D)

Yo, you good? Am I talking too much?

KIESHA

No, you're fine.

Tammy takes this in. After a beat.

KIESHA (CONT'D)

What are people saying?

TAMMY

About what?

KIESHA

About me.

Tammy thinks about it.

10 CONTINUED: (3)

10

TAMMY

You know how niggas be.

KIESHA

No, I don't. What they saying?

TAMMY

Some people saying Omari was your side piece and when you tried to stop fucking him, he got mad and kidnapped yo ass.

KIESHA

That's not true.

TAMMY

I figured you wasn't crazy enough to cheat on Nuck.

KIESHA

What else?

TAMMY

One dude said he was your real daddy.

KIESHA

What?!

TAMMY

You asked.

KIESHA

What else?

TAMMY

My cousin think it was a publicity stunt.

KIESHA

Are you serious?

TAMMY

Yeah.

KIESHA

Why would I do that?

TAMMY

I don't know. I'm just the messenger.

10 CONTINUED: (4)

10

KIESHA

People are crazy.

TAMMY

People just like to talk.

KIESHA

Especially you.

TAMMY

Here we go.

KIESHA

Why'd you talk to the press?

TAMMY

I only stated facts.

Kiesha grabs a freshly printed article out of a stack of papers.

KIESHA

(reading in a mock Tammy
 voice)

"It's just really crazy. That's my girl but you hear all of these rumors and you don't know what to think."

Tammy is embarrassed.

TAMMY

I got my period that day and I was in a mood, okay.

KIESHA

So what?

TAMMY

You know how secretive you are. I didn't wanna act like you was all innocent and wind up looking dumb.

Kiesha is thrown all the way off. We can see that she's hurt.

KIESHA

I don't keep shit from you.

TAMMY

You took forever to tell me you was fucking the track coach.

10 CONTINUED: (5)

10

KIESHA

I was tryna protect you.

TAMMY

Bitch, please.

Off Kiesha and Tammy staring each other down.

11 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT 3

11

Dre is making steak. Nina is ear hustling. Her head's against Kiesha's door straining to hear what's being said.

Then, it gets really loud really quick.

KIESHA (O.S.)

Get the fuck out!

Concern flashes on Nina's face as she moves away from the door just in time to see Tammy come barreling out of the room.

Kiesha is right behind Tammy, cursing her the fuck out.

TAMMY

Whatever, Kiesha.

Tammy fidgets with the lock and exits.

Kiesha slams the door behind her.

A long awkward beat. Nina could kill Dre. She told her this was a bad idea.

NINA

What happened?

Kiesha doesn't want to talk about it.

KIESHA

Nothing.

(then)

I can't wait to get to college.

Nina and Dre look at each other. Fuck. No one told Kiesha about them giving up her scholarship.

Kiesha can tell something is up.

KIESHA (CONT'D)

What?

THE CHI #308 "Frunchroom" Yellow 11-1-19 16.

11 CONTINUED: 11

Nina clears her throat, then...

NINA

The school gave away your scholarship.

KIESHA

What? Why?

A long beat.

Kiesha shows no emotion. She just turns and walks off. Nina knows she's fucked up.

Just then KEVIN pops into frame...

KEVIN

Ma, can I --

NINA

No.

We hear Kiesha's door slam shut. Nina is pissed.

KEVIN

What I do?

Nina stops in her tracks and projects her anger on Kevin.

NINA

Stop talking back!

He starts to respond, but he thinks better of it. Then, he walks off too.

Only one place left for Nina's anger to go. She looks at Dre.

NINA (CONT'D)

Next time you get a bright idea, run it by me first.

Nina storms off to the bathroom, leaving Dre in the kitchen alone.

12 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KIESHA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 3

Kiesha shuts herself back in her room. She sits on the edge of her bed for a beat. Then she looks at her wall.

It's decorated with MEDALS and TROPHIES. All mementos of her achievements in track.

She stares at the medals, then all of a sudden, she hops up and one by one, she rips them off of her wall.

It's frantic, almost primal.

The wall is now bare.

Kiesha sits on the bed. Breathing hard. As we...

DISSOLVE TO:

- INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE KIESHA'S BEDROOM MORNING DAY 4 13
 We find Kiesha in the same spot sitting on her bed. Again, she hasn't slept.
- INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE KEVIN'S BEDROOM MORNING DAY 4 14

 Kevin sits on his bed and stares at the ceiling. He grabs his phone and starts texting.
- 15 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE NINA AND DRE'S BEDROOM MORNING DAY 4 15

 Dre is in bed. She tosses and turns. She can't get comfortable with Nina's side of the bed empty.
- 16 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE HALLWAY MORNING DAY 4 16

 Kiesha exits in her bathrobe and shower cap. She walks past a sleeping Nina on the couch.

 The closing of the bathroom door wakes Nina up.
- 17 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE BATHROOM MORNING DAY 4 17

 CLOSE on a shower head. We hear the squeal of a knob turning. Water whooshes.

 Again, we find Kiesha sitting on the toilet with her head in her hands.

18 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - MORNING - DAY 4

18

As Kiesha exits the bathroom, she overhears Kevin pleading with Nina...

KEVIN

Since I can't leave - can Jake and Papa come over?

Kevin looks to Dre.

DRE

Don't look at me.

Kevin turns back to Nina.

NINA

I don't think that's a good idea.

KIESHA

Just cause I'm home don't mean he should be on lockdown.

Kiesha glides past them and into her room.

Kevin looks at Nina expectantly. Since Kiesha has just stolen all of Nina'a argument, Nina has no choice but to relent.

NINA

Fine. But just Jake and Papa.

Kevin is relieved. Finally a win.

Then, Kevin goes to the front door and opens it. JAKE and PAPA are already there.

PAPA

God is good all the time. So happy this beautiful family has been reunited.

Nina and Dre can't help but smile.

19 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KEVIN'S BEDROOM - MORNING - DAY 4

19

Kevin is antsy. He turns to Jake...

KEVIN

Did you bring it?

Jake produces a G-Pen. Kevin snatches it.

PAPA

I really hope that vape pen don't kill you.

JAKE

It's fine.

PAPA

I don't trust it. You know the government loves coming up with creative ways for us to kill ourselves.

KEVIN

Relax.

JAKE

This one FDA approved.

PAPA

You probably don't even know what FDA stands for.

He doesn't.

JAKE

So!

As Kevin puts the pen to his lips and pushes the button, Paparushes to the window.

PAPA

Blow that shit away from me.

Then, as Kevin gets the video game ready, Papa sits down next to Jake and nudges him.

JAKE

I'm happy she back, bro. It was looking bad for a minute.

KEVIN

I know. I'm grateful.

PAPA

We gotta give God all the praise.

KEVIN

You right, Papa. I was praying every night.

PAPA

I'm glad He answered your prayers.

THE CHI #308 "Frunchroom" White 10-23-19 20.

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

KEVIN

Yeah.

Off Kevin and his guilt as he inhales the G-Pen...

20 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 4

20

Nina sits on the couch staring off in the distance. Dre sits next to her and puts her hand on her thigh as a sign of solidarity.

DRE

How long you go sleep on this couch?

NINA

I don't know. I just need some space.

Dre nods.

DRE

You know I hate sleeping without you.

Nina doesn't respond.

DRE (CONT'D)

I miss you.

KNOCK. KNOCK.

Nina's eyes dart towards the door. She looks at Dre...

NINA

Who you invited over here now?

DRE

Nobody.

Nina opens the door to EMMETT & JADA holding plates of food. Nina looks back at Dre. She knows she had something to do with this.

Jada senses the unease and jumps in with a lie.

JADA

We were in the neighborhood, so we decided to stop by.

Nina is still reserved.

JADA (CONT'D)

We not gon stay long, we just wanted to drop off some food.

Dre takes it and smiles with gratitude.

EMMETT

How's she doing?

NINA

She's been a little quiet, but we're just happy to have her home.

EMMETT

I'm just happy she's okay.

DRE

So are we.

EMMETT

Can I holla at Kevin?

Nina is actually grateful that someone asked about Kevin. Right now she just doesn't have the bandwidth.

NINA

Yeah, he's in his room...

As Emmett marches to the back towards Kevin's room...

JADA

So, how y'all doing?

NINA

DRE

Great.

It's been hard.

So much for a united front. Off the awkwardness of this...

21 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KEVIN'S BEDROOM - DAY 4

21

Close on Kevin as he French inhales. Then there's a super loud knock at the door.

Kevin coughs. Shit. He hides the G-Pen and sprays some Be-Breezy in the air.

KEVIN

Come in.

Emmett opens the door very slowly. Before he peeks his head around the corner...

EMMETT

Hey, if you doing anything in here that you might need some privacy for, speak now or forever hold your peace.

(then)

What happened last time was a bad look for the both of us.

Emmett enters to see Kevin playing video games with Jake and Papa.

Emmett shoots them all an up-nod. Then, he sniffs the air.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

I told you to use cologne. That air freshener don't be covering shit.

Damn, they're caught. Reluctantly, Kevin produces the G-Pen.

KEVIN

You want some?

EMMETT

Nah, I like to know what the fuck I'm smoking.

Kevin and the boys keep hitting the pen.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Kiesha good?

KEVIN

I don't know.

EMMETT

What you mean you don't know?

KEVIN

She been acting weird and shit.

JAKE

You'd be acting weird too if you got kidnapped and a dude molested you.

KEVIN

How you know she was molested?

 \mathtt{PAPA}

That's what I heard.

21 CONTINUED: (2)

KEVIN

Y'all don't know shit.

EMMETT

All y'all need to shut up. She's alive. That's all that matters.

KEVIN

Yeah.

EMMETT

I was gon holla at her but your mom made it sound like she sleep.

KEVIN

She ain't sleep.

EMMETT

What she doing?

KEVIN

She probably in her room staring at the wall and shit. Every time I walk in there that's what she doing.

Off that, Emmett gives Kevin a hug and bids the boys farewell.

22 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 4

22

21

Dom's BBQ is making Jada's mouth water as she unwraps some of the food and offers some to Nina & Dre.

DRE

I'm worried.

NINA

Dre, can we not?

DRE

I'm not gon lie to my girl.

JADA

You all have nothing to be ashamed of. Her behavior is not a reflection on you.

NINA

That's what it feels like.

Nina folds her arms. Defenses up.

NINA (CONT'D)

Jada, have you ever treated a girl in Kiesha's condition?

JADA

I haven't but I've read about it.

Nina looks disappointed.

JADA (CONT'D)

But I have had experience dealing with girls that have been sexually assaulted by their partners.

NINA

And what's their behavior like?

JADA

It varies. Sometimes they can be withdrawn. Other times they can lash out. One girl thought her boyfriend's abusive behavior was good for her. She thought it meant he loved her. It just depends on the girl.

Just then, down the hall, they see Emmett knock on Kiesha's door.

It's like time freezes. Nina, Dre, and Jada's heads turn to Kiesha's door.

As Emmett waits, we hear the removal of the chair from in front of the door, then...

Kiesha opens to Emmett and his big ole smile. He greets her like nothing ever happened.

EMMETT

What's up, Kiesha?

He hugs her tight. Their embrace lingers. Kiesha feels safe in his arms.

22 CONTINUED: (2)

Jada exhales a sigh of relief. Dre and Nina exchange a look.

DRE

This nigga.

NINA

Relax.

Nina walks off to her own bedroom and shuts the door.

Dre turns to Jada...

23 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KIESHA'S BEDROOM - DAY 4

Emmett sits at Kiesha's desk where her computer is and she's cross-legged on her bed. She clutches her pillow like it's a shield. It serves as her armor.

EMMETT

How you doing?

KIESHA

I'm fine.

EMMETT

You ain't fine.

KIESHA

How you gon tell me what I am?

EMMETT

You just been through some shit. That's all I'm saying.

KIESHA

I'm tired of talking about it.

EMMETT

I get that.

After a beat, Emmett heads for the door.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

I just wanted to lay eyes on you. But now that I see you good, I'll leave you alone.

Before he can leave --

KIESHA

Wait.

22

He turns to look at her.

KIESHA (CONT'D)

You can stay.

23 CONTINUED: (2)

He walks over and sits next to her.

KIESHA (CONT'D)

Talk to me.

EMMETT

About what?

KIESHA

Whatever.

EMMETT

Uh, me and Tiff doing good.

Kiesha can tell something's off.

KIESHA

What's going on?

EMMETT

What? Nothing.

KIESHA

You lying.

EMMETT

No, I'm not.

KIESHA

Nigga, I used to date yo ass. I can tell when you lying.

Emmett's face says it all.

EMMETT

Fuck.

KIESHA

Uh huh.

EMMETT

I ain't tryna talk about it.

KIESHA

Well, I ain't tryna talk about my shit either. So we can either sit here in silence or you can tell me what you did.

After a long awkward beat, Emmett spills his tea.

EMMETT

I fucked Dom.

23 CONTINUED: (3)

23

KIESHA

Who the fuck is Dom?

EMMETT

This girl that cooks for me.

KIESHA

You love her?

EMMETT

I don't think so, but we def got a weird connection.

KIESHA

Y'all ain't got no connection.

EMMETT

Yes, we do.

KIESHA

That don't make it okay for you to fuck her.

EMMETT

You right.

KIESHA

So what you gon do?

EMMETT

I don't know. What you think I should do?

KIESHA

That's tough.

EMMETT

No shit.

KIESHA

If you tell her the truth, there's a chance you could lose her forever.

EMMETT

I know.

KIESHA

But if you don't it'll always be hanging over you. Like a dark cloud you can't escape.

THE CHI #308 "Frunchroom" Green 11-5-19 28. 23 CONTINUED: (4) 23 EMMETT So I'm fucked either way. KIESHA Basically, yeah. As this sits with Emmett... A24 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KEVIN'S BEDROOM - DAY 4 A24* * Papa watches as Kevin and Jake play video games. JAKE Emmett still tryna fuck yo sister? KEVIN Nah, man. It ain't like that. PAPA They probably got a soul tie. KEVIN Shut up, Papa. Then --JAKE You fuck Jemma yet? KEVIN Why you wanna know? JAKE I heard rich girls is freaks. I just wanna know if it's true. KEVIN Don't worry bout what we doing. JAKE You ain't fucked her. Kevin looks annoyed and embarrassed. PAPA Kev, ain't nothing wrong with taking it slow. Kevin wins the game.

JAKE

Fuck!

THE CHI #308 "Frunchroom" Green 11-5-19 28A.

A24 CONTINUED: A24

KEVIN

Jake hands the controller to Papa. *

Ain't nobody taking shit slow.

JAKE *

Yes y'all is. *

KEVIN
How you know?

JAKE *

Cause she make all the decisions in y'all's relationship. *

PAPA *

There's nothing wrong with letting your lady lead.

JAKE *

Both y'all pussy whipped.

PAPA *

Ain't nothing wrong with a lil whip appeal. Ain't that right, Kev?

Papa tries to give Kev a high-five, but Kevin just shakes his head and leaves him hanging.

As Kevin and Papa start a new game, we --

CUT TO: *

24 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - DAY 4

Jada has her head in the fridge. She can't find any space to put the food they brought over.

Dre grabs a fork and eats some mac and cheese out of the pan. Jada notices Dre stuffing her face.

JADA

How you and Nina doing?

DRE

We good.

JADA

That's interesting cause last time we talked you was asking if you could sleep on my couch.

DRE

I know, but we working through it now.

JADA

You sure?

DRE

Kiesha being gone was getting to us.

JADA

I get that.

DRE

This is supposed to be the happiest time of our lives - and it's been one big nightmare.

JADA

Look, if y'all can survive thisyour marriage will survive anything.

24 CONTINUED: (2)

DRE

That's a positive way of looking at it.

JADA

But at some point y'all are gonna have to start the healing process.

DRE

That's what I've been saying but Nina ain't ready to dive into that just yet.

JADA

Don't let it go too long.

DRE

I know, but I feel like I'm walking a tight rope over here.

JADA

I know it doesn't feel like it, but it'll pass.

DRE

All my life I dreamed about getting married. And now that I'm here, I just wish all my straight friends had told me how hard this shit was.

Dre stabs her mac and cheese and stuffs her face.

25 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KIESHA'S BEDROOM - DAY 4

Emmett and Kiesha continue to talk.

KIESHA

I heard you were really worried about me.

EMMETT

Hell yeah.

KIESHA

Thank you.

Emmett shrugs it off.

EMMETT

Least I could do.

(CONTINUED)

24

KIESHA

I never thought coming home would be this hard.

EMMETT

What you mean?

KIESHA

I just been seeing all this shit people been saying about me online.

EMMETT

Don't look at that shit.

KIESHA

How can I not?

EMMETT

People just like to talk.

KIESHA

That shit hurts.

Emmett feels bad for her.

EMMETT

They don't know what they talking about.

KIESHA

I feel like I'm never gon be the same.

EMMETT

You not.

KIESHA

But I wanna be.

EMMETT

Whatever happened, it's over. And now you gotta find a way to move on.

KIESHA

It ain't that easy.

EMMETT

I know, but ain't nothing easy for us.

They sit quietly for a beat.

THE CHI #308 "Frunchroom" Green 11-5-19 31.

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

EMMETT (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

KIESHA

What you sorry for?

EMMETT

If I wasn't so trifling maybe we would've stayed together and none of this would've ever happened.

KIESHA

This ain't about you.

EMMETT

I'm not tryna make it about me. I'm tryna say I'm sorry.

KIESHA

I don't need no apologies from you.

I just appreciate you being here.

He looks at her with pure love. Nothing sexual in this moment.

A long beat, then...

KIESHA (CONT'D)

And thank God we ain't together cause you'd be out there cheating on me with the bitch you working wit.

They laugh.

Off Emmett and Kiesha back in their old rhythm.

A26 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KEVIN'S BEDROOM - DAY 4 A26*

Kevin and Jake are high. Papa judges them silently from *
across the room. *

JAKE *

Who invented planes?

KEVIN *

Some brothers. *

JAKE *

Niggas invented planes?! *

| A26 | CONTINUED | | 308 "F | runchroom" | Green 1 | 11-5-19 | 31A. | A26 |
|------|------------------------------|--|------------|------------|-----------|---------|------|-----|
| AZ 0 | CONTINUEL | 7 | | | | | | AZO |
| | | | KEVIN | | | | | * |
| | | No, I thin | | | | 3 | | * |
| | | that were | actual. | ry procher | ·S• | | | * |
| | | | JAKE | | | | | * |
| | | Oh. | | | | | | * |
| | | | PAPA | | | | | * |
| | | Every time y'all smoke y'all start | | | | | * | |
| | asking random ass questions. | | | | | | | * |
| | | | JAKE | | | | | * |
| | | No we don' | t. | | | | | * |
| | mb on | | | | | | | * |
| | Then | | | | | | | * |
| | | | KEVIN | | | | | * |
| | | Is Chinese | | just calle | ed regula | ar | | * |
| | | food in Ch | nina? | | | | | * |
| | | | JAKE | | | | | * |
| | | I don't kr | OW. | | | | | * |
| | | | PAPA | | | | | * |
| | | See what I | | ing! | | | | * |
| | | | <u>7</u> - | | | | | |
| | | 7.1 | JAKE | | . , | | | * |
| | | Kev would wasn't high | | at even 11 | ne ne | | | * |
| | | wash c hig | 111 • | | | | | |
| | Jake lose | s again. | | | | | | * |
| | | | JAKE (| CONT'D) | | | | * |
| | | Fuck! | | | | | | * |
| | | | KEVIN | | | | | * |
| | | It's okay. | | ust not as | good as | 3 | | * |
| | | me. | 3 | | J | | | * |
| | | | JAKE | | | | | * |
| | | Shut yo co | | s up. You | only goo | od | | * |
| | | cause all | | | | | | * |
| | | play all d better tha | | at don't m | nean you | | | * |
| | | DCCCET CHG | 411 IIIC • | | | | | ., |
| | | | KEVIN | _ | | | | * |
| | | Practice m | nakes pe | erfect. | | | | * |
| | | | JAKE | | | | | * |
| | | Now you so | ound lil | ke them wh | nite kids | 3 | | * |
| | | at school. | • | | | | | * |
| | | | | | | | | |

| A26 | THE CHI #308 "Frunchroom" Green 11-5-19 CONTINUED: (2) | 31B. A26 |
|-----|--|-----------------|
| | PAPA You know what y'all. | * |
| | JAKE What? | * |
| | PAPA I don't have a lot of white people in my life. | * * |
| | JAKE So. | * |
| | PAPA Is that bad? | * |
| | JAKE You ain't missing much. All they do is eat oatmeal and go hiking. | * * |
| | KEVIN Not all of em. | * |
| | JAKE And they let they dogs stay in the house. | * * |
| | PAPA Now that's crazy. | * |

26 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - NINA & DRE'S BEDROOM - DAY 4

Dre is behind Nina massaging her shoulders trying to get her to relax.

DRE

I know you think she's okay, but she's suffering in silence.

NINA

I don't want to force her to do something she's not ready to do.

There's some backstory that we aren't privy to in this moment.

DRE

Sometimes people need to be pushed.

NINA

Has someone ever violated you?

DRE

No.

NINA

Then you don't know what it's like.

Nina tears up. She is clearly remembering a specific experience of her own. But she isn't willing to go there right now.

DRE

Just cause you still broken doesn't mean she has to be.

Off Nina contemplating...

27 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KIESHA'S BEDROOM - DAY 4

Emmett's in mid-conversation telling Kiesha how good the food he brought over is.

EMMETT

I brought you some food.

KIESHA

I hope it ain't that nasty shit you served at the wedding.

EMMETT

Dom made it.

(CONTINUED)

27

KIESHA

The one you fucking? I ain't tryna eat her mistress-y food.

EMMETT

Stop talking shit. And just try it.

KIESHA

Why you care what I think?

EMMETT

Cause we bout to open a restaurant.

KIESHA

What restaurant?

THE CHI #308 "Frunchroom" White 10-23-19 33.

27 CONTINUED: (2) 27

EMMETT

I'm taking over Sonny's.

Kiesha takes this in...

KIESHA

Why?

EMMETT

He was struggling to make the rent - so I bought him out.

Kiesha eyes Emmett suspiciously.

KIESHA

With what money?

EMMETT

The money we made slinging this late night barbecue.

KIESHA

Damn, how much barbecue you been slinging?

EMMETT

(chuckling)

A lot.

KIESHA

Her food must be good.

EMMETT

She know her way around a kitchen.

KIESHA

I bet she do.

Off Emmett's smile...

28 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KEVIN'S BEDROOM - DAY 4

28

Kevin and Jake play video games. Papa paces back and forth. He's pissed.

PAPA

Is somebody calling me?

Kevin and Jake laugh.

JAKE

Nigga, ain't nobody calling you!

KEVIN

Yeah, I think you just high.

PAPA

Y'all don't hear that?

KEVIN

(laughing)

No.

PAPA

This shit ain't funny.

KEVIN

Relax, bro.

JAKE

Yeah, you just paranoid.

PAPA

Is it cold in here?

KEVIN

No, man. Just sit yo ass down.

JAKE

Yeah, you stressing me out.

Jake and Kevin laugh.

PAPA

Maybe this is the devil coming to get me.

JAKE

For what?

PAPA

The dude that kidnapped Kiesha used to come into the shop all the time. He would always give me big tips and shit. I gotta get rid of the money he gave me. It probably got Kiesha's blood all on it. It's my 30 pieces of silver.

KEVIN

What?

PAPA

Y'all ain't never read the Gospel of Matthew?

JAKE

No.

PAPA

That's all it took for Judas to betray Jesus. Thirty pieces of silver.

JAKE

You gotta let that shit go, bro.

PAPA

You just saying that cause you got some of his tips too.

JAKE

We didn't know he was kidnapping girls and shit.

KEVIN

I'm glad he never tipped me.

JAKE

Maybe he avoided you on purpose.

KEVIN

(realizing)

Maybe.

JAKE

Don't let Papa get in yo head.

PAPA

It's not my fault I have a conscience.

JAKE

She alive ain't she?

A beat as our three boys contemplate their differing levels of guilt. Then...

KEVIN

I wish I could kill that muthafucka.

JAKE

You can if you want to.

They share a glance. Kevin realizes Jake will help make that happen so he quickly takes it back.

28 CONTINUED: (3)

28

KEVIN

I meant that shit hypothetically. Don't come up in here with a AK-47, talking bout "You ready to put a hole in a muthafucka?"

Jake chuckles at the "Menace II Society" reference.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Don't matter anyway. He already dead.

PAPA

Hey, y'all smell that?

As Papa sniffs the air, we...

CUT TO:

29 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 4

Ding. The microwave goes off. Emmett watches Jada pacing in the hallway as he pulls out a plate of delicious food and puts it in front of Kiesha.

She takes a small bite, closes her eyes, and enjoys what she's tasting for the first time in a long time.

KIESHA

I'm not mad at it.

EMMETT

Told yo ass.

KIESHA

(in a whisper)

Proud of you.

Emmett beams. Kiesha continues to eat. She realizes that she is hungrier than she's ever been. She shovels fork-full after fork-full in her mouth, then...

EMMETT

I knew yo ass was hungry.

30 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - NINA & DRE'S BEDROOM - DAY 4

30

29

Nina hears Kiesha laugh. She turns to Dre...

NINA

Is that Kiesha?

Nina gets up and we follow her out of the room into the HALLWAY.

31 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 4

31

Nina rounds the corner to see Emmett and Kiesha laughing and joking.

Kiesha is cleaning her plate.

Nina looks at Dre and Jada...

NINA

Wow. I never thought I'd hear her laugh again.

Jada and Dre are skeptical.

Just then, Papa rounds the corner. He knew he smelled BBQ.

PAPA

That smell good!

EMMETT

You want a plate?

PAPA

Don't mind if I do!

All three of the boys make themselves plates.

Kiesha fixes herself another plate and continues to tear it up.

After a beat, she notices everyone staring at her.

She feels like an animal at the zoo.

Kiesha gets self-conscious and puts her fork down.

Papa senses that this is his moment. He walks up to Kiesha, pulls a bunch of crumpled bills out of his pocket, and dumps them in front of her.

She looks up...

KIESHA

What's this?

Papa almost can't speak.

PAPA

I'm sorry Kiesha.

KIESHA

For what?

PAPA

These are tips I got from your abductor.

Kiesha is repulsed at the sight of the money.

KIESHA

I don't want it.

PAPA

Neither do I. I just want you to know I'm not gon keep it.

31 CONTINUED: (2)

All of a sudden, it hits Kiesha. She starts to wonder...

KIESHA

Why did it take y'all so long to find me if I was right up the street?

DRE

How was we supposed to know he was crazy?

KIESHA

Maybe cause y'all was too busy being newlyweds and shit.

Nina wants to defend herself but her guilt won't let her.

DRE

We was worried sick about you!

KIESHA

You spoke at one candle light vigil - so what?

KEVIN

This ain't our fault.

KIESHA

Whose fault is it?

KEVIN

I almost got killed tryna find you.

PAPA

Yeah, we went to a trap house and everything.

KIESHA

Why would I be at a trap house?

KEVIN

Your boyfriend lived there.

NINA

Lord help me.

31 CONTINUED: (3)

31

KEVIN

Maybe if you wasn't out here running the streets we could've called the cops sooner.

NINA

Kevin! That's enough.

KEVIN

Nah, fuck that. You always got me lying for you and shit. I was lying to protect you. If you wasn't tryna be grown maybe this shit would've never happened.

KIESHA

So this is my fault?

KEVIN

I ain't say that.

KIESHA

Yes, you did.

JAKE

That is kinda what you saying, bro.

KEVIN

Shut up, Jake.

Kiesha is in shock. Nina snaps.

NINA

Kevin, go to your room.

KEVIN

Why?

NINA

Because I said so. That's why.

KEVIN

When y'all gon tell her you packed up her room?

The proverbial record skips.

A long beat, then...

KIESHA

Wow.

Kiesha walks off. Kevin walks off in the other direction.

THE CHI #308 "Frunchroom" Blue 10-24-19 40.

31 CONTINUED: (4)

KEVIN

Fuck this.

Nina is at a crossroads. She doesn't know which child to chase. She decides to follow her anger and chase after Kevin.

Kevin tries to slam the door but, Nina catches it.

Nina and Dre storm in --

CUT TO:

32 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KEVIN'S BEDROOM - DAY 4

32

31

Kevin plops on his bed. Nina reprimands Kevin...

NINA

Have you lost your mind?

He ignores her and puts his AirPods in. Super disrespectful.

Nina snatches them from his ears.

NINA (CONT'D)

Get your ass up and go apologize to your sister right now.

Kevin looks at his mother...face full of resolve.

KEVIN

No.

NINA

Boy, I am not playing with you.

KEVIN

I'm tired of everybody acting like shit is cool and it ain't.

(a beat)

Y'all made me go to therapy - make her go.

Dre has a look of agreement in her eyes.

NINA

Let me do the parenting around here.

KEVIN

I hate this shit.

NINA

Curse in my presence again and I'm gon smack the taste out your mouth.

Nina takes a deep breath.

KEVIN

Sorry.

Nina sits next to her son.

NTNA

Your sister has been through a lot.

KEVIN

So have we.

That sinks in for all three of them.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Is it gon be like this forever?

Kevin looks at his mom. He's vulnerable in this moment.

NINA

I don't know.

KEVIN

I just want us to go back to normal.

DRE

That might take a while. Emotional wounds don't heal overnight.

NINA

We have to be patient with each other.

KEVIN

My patience is wearing thin.

In that moment Nina sees red. Without thinking she cocks back to slap Kevin.

As her arm careens towards his face, he reacts instinctively too and he catches her fucking hand.

They stand there and face off for a bit.

Nina is shook. This is not the same little boy.

32 CONTINUED: (2)

32

He is turning into a man and there won't be no more slaps around here...

33 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 4

33

Jada, Emmett, Papa, and Jake sit in a stunned silence. It's super awkward.

Papa slowly starts to eat his food. Jake taps his arm like "show some respect."

JAKE

I think we should bounce.

PAPA

Would it be weird if I took some food to go?

JAKE

Yes.

As they get up...Papa grabs his plate and puts another plate on top to keep the food warm.

Emmett notices the boys leaving and nudges Jada...

EMMETT

Come on, Ma - we should leave too.

JADA

You go ahead. I need to talk to Kiesha.

EMMETT

I don't think this is a good time, Ma.

Jada ignores Emmett, gets up, and heads towards Kiesha's room.

34 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KIESHA'S BEDROOM - DAY 4

34

Kiesha is in her room going through her closet. It looks like she is throwing random shit away but upon closer inspection, she is getting rid of ALL OF HER REVEALING CLOTHING. Her argument with Kevin is sticking with her for the moment.

Jada enters...

JADA

Kiesha?

Kiesha ignores her. She's focused on her closet.

Jada just sits and watches for a beat. Then, Kiesha turns...

KIESHA

What?

JADA

I don't wanna bother you.

KIESHA

Then don't.

Jada takes a breath.

JADA

This doesn't have to define you.

KIESHA

It already has.

JADA

Don't let the world tell your story.

KIESHA

What am I supposed to do?

JADA

I can't tell you what to do.

KIESHA

Then what are you doing here?

JADA

I just want you to know healing is a personal journey. You have to figure out what works best for you.

KIESHA

Sometimes I just stare at myself in the mirror and I don't recognize the girl staring back at me.

JADA

That's normal.

KIESHA

When does it stop?

JADA

I don't know.

34 CONTINUED: (2)

A beat.

JADA (CONT'D)

You're not the same girl anymore.

KIESHA

I know that.

JADA

But it's up to you to reclaim that light inside of you.

Kiesha's eyes fill with tears.

KIESHA

I just want to be left alone.

JADA

You can't be alone forever.

Kiesha can't hear that just yet...

KIESHA

Maybe Kevin was right. Maybe this is my fault.

JADA

I wasted too many years thinking what happened to me was my fault.

Kiesha looks at her stunned.

Jada struggles to speak.

JADA (CONT'D)

And when you're assaulted by a family member, you don't have space to heal.

Jada continues.

JADA (CONT'D)

And that trauma pops up every Thanksgiving, at family barbecues, Easter Sunday and sometimes birthdays. Moments that were supposed to be joyous occasions always brought me sadness and anxiety.

KIESHA

I'm sorry. I didn't know.

34

34 CONTINUED: (3)

JADA

Why you think I got into social work?

Kiesha is listening intently.

JADA (CONT'D)

I hated the fact I didn't have anybody to turn to. So I decided I'd be somebody young girls could come to if somebody violated them.

Kiesha looks up and asks softly...

KIESHA

How long did it take before you felt normal again?

Jada's heart breaks for this young woman...she wants to tell her that everything is going to be okay, but she can't.

JADA

If you waiting to be normal again, you gon be waiting forever.

Kiesha deflates.

35

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY 5

Kiesha soaks in the tub with a washcloth over her eyes. She exhales deeply.

36 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY 5 36

Kiesha walks past Nina who tosses and turns on the couch.

37 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 5

Another knock at the door. A weary Dre exits the bathroom. She looks longingly at Nina on the couch who is finally stirring awake.

Dre opens the door to...of all people, RONNIE.

RONNIE

Kiesha asked me to come over.

With all that he's done, Dre is in no position to deny Ronnie entry. She steps aside and lets him in.

38 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 5

38

Kiesha and Ronnie sit and talk. Nina and Dre try to listen in from the kitchen.

KIESHA

I feel like I owe you my life.

RONNIE

You don't owe me. I'm just glad I could be of service.

A beat.

KIESHA

Is he really dead?

Ronnie nods his head. Yes. Kiesha exhales. The weight of that realization weighs heavy on her. Then...

KIESHA (CONT'D)

I had to kill him, right?

RONNIE

You did what you had to do.

KIESHA

Then why can't I sleep? When I close my eyes...all I see is him.

(then)

Why is he still haunting me?

Ronnie knows the feeling.

RONNIE

That's how it works. I killed someone and... I see his face everyday.

KIESHA

I hate this.

Then --

KIESHA (CONT'D)

I was finally ready to leave Chicago, and now I feel like I'm stuck here. Forever.

Ronnie can't help but think about his own desires to leave Chicago.

RONNIE

That's the thing about this city. It gets a hold of you, and never lets you go.

38 CONTINUED: (2)

38

Kiesha wonders...

KIESHA

Does it get better?

RONNIE

I can't answer that for you.

KIESHA

How's it for you?

RONNIE

It's been a long road.

Kiesha nods. She understands.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

But you were the light at the end of it.

They lock eyes for a long beat.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

You'll get through this.

Ronnie can see that Kiesha is emotional. He offers this...

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Just don't drown your sorrows in brown liquor.

KIESHA

I won't.

RONNIE

Promise?

KIESHA

(smiling)

I promise.

(a beat, then)

Thank you.

Ronnie's heard the words before, but they've never hit him quite like this. Finally, he feels good about himself.

RONNIE

I should be thanking you.

KIESHA

Why?

38

RONNIE

You gave my life meaning.

And with that, he stands to leave.

Ronnie is feeling about two inches taller as he walks past Nina, Dre, and Kevin.

It's a silent scene. There's nothing left to be said.

He nods and exits.

| 39 | INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - KIESHA'S BEDROOM - DAY 5 | 39 | | | |
|----|---|----|--|--|--|
| | Kiesha stuffs all of her track trophies and her revealing clothing in a bag. She exits her room. | | | | |
| | We follow her into the | | | | |
| 40 | INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY 5 | 40 | | | |
| | Medals. Trophies. Miniskirts. Halter tops. All dumped into a tub. | | | | |
| | Kiesha reaches under the cabinet and pulls out a bottle of rubbing alcohol. She douses all of her things with it. | | | | |
| | Then she reaches for a book of matches next to a candle. | | | | |
| | She strikes the match and tosses it into the tub. | | | | |
| | Whoosh. | | | | |
| | All of Kiesha's shit goes up in flames. | | | | |
| | Kiesha sits on the toilet and watches the symbols of the old her burn. | | | | |
| 41 | INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - DAY 5 | 41 | | | |
| | The smoke alarm blares. Nina looks to the bathroom. A little bit of smoke is coming from under the bathroom door. | | | | |

NINA

Shit.

Nina hustles to the bathroom.

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY 5

Nina barges in. Kiesha's things are on fire.

Kiesha's not reacting. What the fuck?

Off instinct, Nina turns on the shower to extinguish the flames.

Kiesha gets up and stops her.

Nina is really worried about the fire, but at the same time she realizes that it's really important to Kiesha, so instead of extinguishing the flames, Nina stands beside her daughter and watches the fire. THE CHI #308 "Frunchroom" Blue 10-24-19 49.

42 CONTINUED: (2)

Kiesha just stares ahead, deadpan.

In this moment Nina isn't sure what to say, but she knows that her daughter needs her more than ever.

NINA

You think burning up your clothes is gon make you feel better?

KIESHA

If I wasn't wearing that shit maybe I wouldn't've gotten kidnapped.

NINA

That's some bullshit and you know it.

KIESHA

Do I?

NINA

I don't care if you was walking down the street butt naked, ain't nobody got a right to put they hands on you.

Tears well up in Kiesha's eyes. She knows her mother is right, but it's hard for her not to blame herself.

NINA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I wasn't there to save you.

Kiesha doesn't let the tears fall.

KIESHA

It's okay, Ma. (then)

I learned how to save myself.

As the smoke rises from the ashes of Kiesha's fire we...

43 INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 6

Kevin is eating a bowl of cereal when Nina and Dre emerge from the back. Nina looks to Kevin...

NINA

We're headed to the therapist. Call if you need anything. (then)

And you know the rules.

(CONTINUED)

43

KEVIN

Don't leave the house.

NINA

That's right.

Kiesha emerges from the back. For the first time, we see that Kiesha is dressed. But it's not the Kiesha we are used to seeing. She wears a baggy sweatsuit and a baseball cap.

44 EXT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - DAY 6

44

Kiesha, Nina, & Dre leave for therapy together.

Kiesha pauses for a beat when they get to the front stoop.

She feels the breeze on her face.

NINA

You alright?

Kiesha doesn't respond.

As we stay tight on Kiesha's face, unsure of what the future holds, we...

END OF EPISODE