

THE FRESH PRINCE OF BEL-AIR

"Knowledge Is Power"

#6813

Written By:

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Directed By:

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FINAL DRAFT
November 14, 1990

THE FRESH PRINCE OF BEL-AIR
 SHORT RUNDOWN
 "Knowledge Is Power"

FINAL DRAFT
 PROD# 6813
 VTR: 11/16/90

****ACTORS PLEASE DO NOT WEAR WHITE ON CAMERA DAYS****

<u>COLD OPEN</u>				
<u>INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY -</u> (1) (D-1) (Will, Philip, Hilary, Geoffrey)				
TITLE SEQUENCE (1:45)				
COMMERCIAL #1 (1:33)				
<u>ACT ONE, SCENE A</u> (7) <u>INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS</u> <u>LATER - (D-1)</u> (Will, Vivian, Hilary, Geoffrey, Toni)				
<u>ACT ONE, SCENE B</u> (10) <u>INT. UCLA DORM -</u> <u>HALLWAY - DAY - (D-1)</u> (Will, Kimmy, Cindy)				
<u>ACT ONE, SCENE C</u> (14) <u>INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING</u> <u>- (D-1)</u> (Will, Philip, Vivian, Hilary, Carlton, Ashley, Geoffrey)				
TITLE BUMPER (:03)				
COMMERCIAL #2 (1:33)				
NBC PROMO (:30)				
<u>ACT TWO, SCENE D</u> (21) <u>INT. WILL'S BEDROOM -</u> <u>EVENING - (D-1)</u> (Will, Hilary)				
<u>ACT TWO, SCENE E</u> (28) <u>INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS</u> <u>LATER - (D-1)</u> (Hilary, Carlton, Ashley)				

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<u>ACT TWO, SCENE G</u> (33) <u>INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING</u> - (D-2) (Will, Philip, Vivian, Hilary, Carlton, Ashley, Geoffrey)				
<u>ACT TWO, SCENE H</u> (37) <u>INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT</u> <u>DINNER - (D-2)</u> (Will, Philip, Vivian, Hilary, Carlton, Ashley)				
<u>ACT TWO, SCENE J</u> (43) <u>INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER</u> <u>THAT NIGHT - (D-2)</u> (Will, Hilary, Carlton, Ashley)				
COMMERCIAL #3 (1:03)				
CLOSING CREDITS (:30)				

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COLD OPEN (1)
INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY
- (D-1)
(Will, Philip, Hilary,
Geoffrey)

ACT ONE, SCENE A (7)
INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS
LATER - (D-1)
(Will, Vivian, Hilary,
Geoffrey, Toni)

ACT ONE, SCENE B (10)
INT. UCLA DORM - HALLWAY
- DAY - (D-1)
(Will, Kimmy, Cindy)

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ACT ONE, SCENE C (14)
INT. LIVING ROOM -
EVENING - (D-1)
(Will, Philip, Vivian, Hilary,
Carlton, Ashley, Geoffrey)

ACT TWO, SCENE D (21)
INT. WILL'S BEDROOM -
EVENING - (D-1)
(Will, Hilary)

ACT TWO, SCENE E (28)
INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS
LATER - (D-1)
(Hilary, Carlton, Ashley)

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ACT TWO, SCENE G (33)
INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING
- (D-2)
(Will, Philip, Vivian,
Hilary, Carlton, Ashley,
Geoffrey)

ACT TWO, SCENE H (37)
INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT
DINNER - (D-2)
(Will, Philip, Vivian,
Hilary, Carlton, Ashley)

ACT TWO, SCENE J (43)
INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER
THAT NIGHT - (D-2)
(Will, Hilary, Carlton,
Ashley)

THE FRESH PRINCE OF BEL-AIR

"Knowledge Is Power"

ACT ONE

COLD OPEN

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY (D-1)
(Will, Philip, Hilary, Geoffrey)

(GEOFFREY IS DUSTING WITH A FEATHER
DUSTER. HE TURNS ON THE RADIO. IT
IS A CLASSICAL MUSIC STATION)

MUSIC CUE: "THE THIEVING MAGPIE"

(GEOFFREY STARTS DANCING GRACEFULLY
TO THE MUSIC, DUSTING AS HE GOES.
HE'S REALLY INTO IT. WILL ENTERS,
UNSEEN BY GEOFFREY. WILL STANDS
THERE, DOING EVERYTHING IN HIS
POWER NOT TO LAUGH. BUT GEOFFREY
DOES AN ELABORATE TWIRL AND WILL
LOSES IT)

WILL

(SCREAMING WITH LAUGHTER)

Aaaaaaaa!

(GEOFFREY TURNS AND SEES HIM, TURNS
OFF THE STEREO)

WILL (CONT'D)

Yo, G, that was hilarious. Put a
Barney Rubble head on you, and I'd
swear I was watching "Flintstones on
Ice."

GEOFFREY

*

I am pleased that I have amused you, Master William. It is the least I can do, given the hours of merriment I have derived from looking at the remarkable way your ears protrude from your head.

WILL

Man, that's the last time I laugh at you. Where'd you learn to be so cold?

GEOFFREY

One summer in Las Vegas, I was personal valet to Mr. Don Rickles. And now, if you don't mind, I shall continue with my morning duties, you hockey puck.

(GEOFFREY EXITS)

WILL

He got an attitude.

(PHILIP ENTERS, ON HIS WAY TO WORK.
HILARY ENTERS WITH HIM, CARRYING
COLLEGE BOOKS)

HILARY

So, anyway, Toni's coming over. We're going to study for our history mid-term together. She really needs some help.

PHILIP

She's not doing well?

HILARY

Daddy, Toni is a dear, dear friend of mine, but she lacks concentration. I mean, she totally gave up on "Twin Peaks."

WILL

Yo, Uncle Phil. Have you lost a few pounds? You are looking chiseled.

PHILIP

(NOT FOOLED)

So what do you need the car for?

WILL

Public Enemy concert. Jazz got two tickets.

PHILIP

Will, every time Jazz sets foot in that car, he leaves a small collection of chicken bones behind.

WILL

Don't worry. We'll have ribs tonight.

*

HILARY

*

Daddy, I wanted to use the car tonight. I'm going downtown to a world peace benefit hosted by Steven Seagal.

WILL

Hilary. I asked first.

HILARY

I guess you're right. Besides, I'd feel better knowing you had the car. Especially if you're going to be out again until three in the morning.

PHILIP

Three in the morning?

HILARY

Well, that's when he got in last night. Whoops, did I say that?

PHILIP

(TO WILL)

Three o'clock, on a school night?

WILL

*

It was for school, Uncle Phil. I'm doing a term paper on... owls. Hoo, hoo.

PHILIP

Will, you've broken the curfew too many times. You're grounded for a week.

WILL

A whole week?

HILARY

Will, being grounded won't be all bad. Maybe you'll have enough time to do your own dishes, instead of paying Ashley. Whoops, again!

PHILIP

Two weeks.

WILL

I'm grounded for two weeks?

PHILIP

That's right. You are to stay home, and you're not going near that car.

HILARY

Can he still rent it to Jazz?

Whoops, whoops, whoops.

PHILIP

Let's make it an even month.

(PHILIP GIVES HILARY THE KEYS. AND EXITS)

HILARY

*

Wow. I don't know my own strength.

(HILARY EXITS)

WILL

Revenge!

(AND WE:)

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

A

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER (D-1)
(Will, Vivian, Hilary, Geoffrey,
Toni)

(HILARY IS GETTING HER BOOKS
TOGETHER. GEOFFREY ENTERS WITH
TONI)

GEOFFREY

Miss Toni.

(GEOFFREY EXITS)

HILARY

Hi, Toni.

TONI

Hi. Sorry I'm late. I saw a lady
wearing a sweater so ugly that I was
forced to pull over and yell at her.

(VIVIAN ENTERS)

VIVIAN

Hi, Toni. Where are you two off to?

HILARY

The library. Big history exam.

VIVIAN

How did your English mid-term go?

HILARY

I think I did great, Mom.

TONI

I think I failed it.

HILARY

Oh, will you cut it out? You always say you failed, and then you get the test back, and you always get a "D."

TONI

You're right. I probably did fine.

VIVIAN

O...kay. Well, have a good time at the library.

HILARY

Bye.

(VIVIAN LEAVES)

TONI

Library? I thought we were going shopping.

HILARY

We are. I was just saying that to her. C'mon.

(THEY EXIT. WILL'S HEAD POPS UP FROM BEHIND THE COUCH)

WILL

(TO CAMERA)

What's that I hear, Hilary? Lying to
Mommy? I feel that revenge is within
my reach. This is a job for...

Sherlock Homeboy.

*

*

(WILL GOES BACK DOWN BEHIND THE
COUCH, AND WE:)

CUT TO:

B

INT. UCLA DORM - HALLWAY - DAY (D-1)
(Will, Kimmy, Cindy)

(WILL PASSES THROUGH THE HALL WAY.
HE TAKES OUT A SMALL TAPE RECORDER)

WILL

(DICTATING)

Oh-ten-hundred hours. Bike not fast
enough to keep up with Volvo. Here
at Toni's dorm room to try to
determine where suspects have gone
shopping. Let's see what happens.

(HE KNOCKS ON THE DOOR. TWO
BOUNCY, BUBBLY COEDS ANSWER THE
DOOR)

KIMMY

Hi.

CINDY

Hi.

WILL

*

Is this Toni Gower's room?

CINDY

*

Yeah. We're her roommates.

KIMMY

*

I'm Kimmy.

CINDY

I'm Cindy.

WILL

I'm Will.

KIMMY/CINDY

*

Hi, Willie.

WILL

*

No. Just Will.

KIMMY/CINDY

*

Oh.

KIMMY

Well, can we get you something Will-
l-1?

WILL

No. Actually, I'm just trying to
find Hilary Banks. There's been a
family emergency.

KIMMY/CINDY

*

Oooooo..

(THEN, IMMEDIATELY:)

CINDY

We have Pepsi.

WILL

No thank you. I just need to find
Hilary Banks.

KIMMY

Sorry, we don't know her.

CINDY

Yes, we do. You know, Toni's friend.

KIMMY

Oh yeah. Duh. I just haven't seen
her around much since she dropped out
of school.

(WILL'S EYES LIGHT UP. HE TURNS TO
CAMERA, GRINNING)

SFX: SLOT MACHINE HITTING THE JACKPOT

WILL

*

(LEADING THEM)

Oh, that's right, I forgot. Hilary
dropped out right around...

KIMMY

Last week.

WILL

*

That's right, last week.

CINDY

*

No, Kimmy, Hilary dropped out after
the first week of school.

KIMMY

That's right. Duh. Earth to Kimmy.

CINDY

So, this family emergency. Is it
like a big one?

WILL

It's even bigger than I thought.

KIMMY/CINDY

*

Ooooo.

(HE'S OUT OF THERE. WE:)

CUT TO:

C

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING (D-1)
(Will, Philip, Vivian, Hilary,
Carlton, Ashley, Geoffrey)

(IT IS COCKTAIL HOUR. EVERYONE BUT
HILARY IS THERE)

CARLTON

Looks like I'm going to be pulling
another all-nighter. I have to get
my index cards together for the big
debate match next week.

PHILIP

What's the subject?

CARLTON

"When President Bush said he would
never raise taxes, was he lying or
just kidding?"

VIVIAN

Well, that's kind of a brain-teaser.
Which position are you taking?

CARLTON

I say he was kidding. The President
has an excellent sense of humor.

ASHLEY

He does?

WILL

Sure. Look who he picked to be Vice-
President.

(HILARY ENTERS. WILL SMILES A BIG
SMILE AT HER)

HILARY

Sorry I'm late. Time flies when
you're studying.

WILL

*

Ain't it the truth, Ruth.

PHILIP

(TO HILARY)

How was your day, sweetie?

HILARY

It was great. I got a lot of work
done on my Physics research paper.

(WILL STARTS TO LAUGH)

HILARY (CONT'D)

What?

WILL

*

I was just thinking of that funny
thing that happened to you today.

HILARY

*

What are you talking about?

WILL

Oh, how soon they forget. Okay, I'll explain.

(TO THE OTHERS)

Today, after school was out, I went to UCLA and sat in the back of Hilary's Physics class.

HILARY

(CONTAINING HER PANIC)

You did?

WILL

*

You remember. After all, you were there in class.

HILARY

*

(COVERING)

That's right, you did, you did, you did.

WILL

Yeah, and you remember when that funny thing happened?

HILARY

(FAKING IT)

Oh, yeah. That funny thing.

(WILL STARTS LAUGHING. HILARY, GOING ALONG WITH IT, LAUGHS ALONG. WILL STOPS LAUGHING)

WILL

Tell them about it.

HILARY

Well... Will sat in the back of my Intro Physics class and... while he was there... Will, you tell it so much better.

WILL

Well, I snuck up behind Hilary and, well, her head must have been full of all that hard work. Because, when she saw me, she said my head looked like the basic element in Physics.

What was that technical term again?

(HILARY STARES AT HIM BLANKLY)

WILL (CONT'D)

A "quark," right?

HILARY

Right! Exactly, I said his head looked like a quark.

WILL

Or was it a "neutron?"

HILARY

Right!

WILL

No. It was definitely a quark.

HILARY

Oh, of course, I don't know what I was thinking of.

PHILIP

(DRYLY)

Well, that was a real scream, Will.

(GEOFFREY ENTERS)

GEOFFREY

Dinner is served.

(EXIT ALL BUT HILARY AND WILL. ALL IS POLITE UNTIL THE REST OF THE FAMILY IS OUT OF SIGHT. SUDDENLY, HILARY GRABS WILL BY THE COLLAR)

HILARY

What do you know?

WILL

First of all I know that the basic element of physics is "matter." And I guess if you were going to write a research paper you'd probably have to know something they taught on, I don't know, the first day.

HILARY

How did you find out?

WILL

I have methods. And it helps that Toni's roommates have the combined I.Q. of a raisin.

HILARY

*

Well, this is a secret. You can't
tell Mom and Dad.

WILL

*I don't think you're in any position
to tell me what I can and cannot do,
Miss Thing.*

HILARY

*

I'll do anything you want. Just name
it.

WILL

Well, thanks to you, I've been
grounded for the next month. And all
I want is for you to make that month
as pleasant as possible. It's that
simple.

(GEOFFREY RE-ENTERS)

GEOFFREY

*

At the risk of being redundant,
dinner is served.

HILARY

*

We'll be right there, Geoffrey.

(HILARY STARTS TO FOLLOW GEOFFREY)

WILL

Uh, Hilary?

HILARY

What?

WILL

Carry me.

(ON HILARY'S REACTION, WE:)

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

D

INT. WILL'S BEDROOM - EVENING (D-1)
(Will, Hilary)

(WILL IS IN BED READING A SPIDER-MAN COMIC BOOK. HE PICKS UP A BELL AND RINGS IT. ON THIS HILARY DASHES INTO THE ROOM. SHE IS DRESSED LIKE A WASHER WOMAN. SHE CARRIES A BASKET OF LAUNDRY)

HILARY

Yes?

WILL

"Yes" what?

HILARY

*

Do I really, really have to say that?

WILL

*

Yes. You really, really do.

HILARY

(RELUCTANTLY)

Yes, Your Highness.

WILL

Did you do His Highness' laundry?

HILARY

Yes.

(MORE)

(WILL PUTS HIS HAND TO HIS EAR)

HILARY (CONT'D)

Yes, Your Highness.

WILL

Well, you forgot His Highness'
sweatshirt and His sweater and, of
course, His pair of lucky drawers.

(HE HOLDS UP A PAIR OF SHORTS)

WILL (CONT'D)

You're going to want to hand-wash
these.

HILARY

(ANGRILY GRABBING THE SHORTS)

Fine.

(SHE STARTS TO TURN)

WILL

And another thing. His Highness
would like to discuss with you the
condition of the Royal Air Jordans.

(HE PICKS UP THE SNEAKS)

HILARY

But I already cleaned them.

WILL

Yes, but with a toothbrush?

HILARY

A toothbrush?

WILL

For the detail work. We want you to get into every nook and cranny. Not side-to-side, not up-and-down. But in a smooth, circular motion.

HILARY

Do you want me to floss them too?

WILL

Oh, we are not amused. And for that His Highness would like you to read him a bed-time story.

HILARY

This is beginning to get annoying, Will.

WILL

Okey-dokey. Have it your way.

(CALLING)

Uncle Phil, Aunt Viv!

HILARY

Okay. Okay. I'll do it.

(WILL HANDS HER A COMIC BOOK)

WILL

His Highness wants you to read Spiderman comics to him.

HILARY

(TAKING COMIC BOOK)

All right. The yellow box says,
"High above Manhattan" and Spiderman
goes, "My Spider-sense is buzzing
like a beehive--"

WILL

Hilary. His Highness wants you to
describe everything in the picture.

HILARY

Can't you just look at it?

WILL

Uncle--!

HILARY

I was just asking. Okay, he's
sitting on the edge of a building and
there are wavy lines coming out of
his head, so, what he's hot or his
head smells or something. Anyway...

WILL

That's his Spidey-sense.

HILARY

*

Okay. And there's also something coming out of his wrist -- ugh! Is this like the guy you don't want to be standing next to at a party or what? Anyway, Spiderman goes, "You never know who you'll run into in this town." And, this fat guy in a really bad suit grabs him and goes, "Spiderman, at last we meet again."

WILL

*

That's Doctor Octopus. And his voice is deeper than that. Give it a try.

HILARY

(DEEPER)

"At last we meet again."

WILL

And raspier.

HILARY

(RASPIER)

"At last we meet again."

WILL

You're dogging it.

HILARY

(EVEN RASPIER)

"At last we meet again." Happy?
Well, anyway, the red guy shoots that
gross stuff out of his hand.

WILL

And what sound does it make?

HILARY

It says here T-H-W-P-P, but there's
no such word, so I'll move on.

WILL

Uncle Phil!

HILARY

*

Thwpp! Okay, thwpp! Thwpp!

WILL

(LAUGHS)

You have amused us. His Highness is
tired now, and would like to go to
sleep.

*

HILARY

Thank God.

WILL

But first. His Highness would like
to be tucked in.

HILARY

You're kidding.

WILL

Of course I am. Uncle Phil!

HILARY

Okay.

(SHE TUCKS HIM IN)

WILL

Nice and tight.

HILARY

(VIGOROUSLY TUCKING HIM IN)

Not too tight. Wouldn't want you to
suffocate.

WILL

*

(HANDING HER A PIECE OF PAPER)

Hilary, before you go, we want you to
have this. It's a list of things you
have to do tomorrow at dinner.

HILARY

Like what?

WILL

*

Please, we do not wish it read in our
presence. Be gone.

(HILARY EXITS. WILL WAITS A FEW
BEATS AND HE HEARS HILARY SCREAM
O.S. WILL SMILES AND WE:)

CUT TO:

E

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER (D-1)
(Hilary, Carlton, Ashley)

(CARLTON IS AT THE DESK WITH A TALL
STACK OF BOOKS. HE LOOKS UP
SOMETHING IN THE ENCYCLOPEDIA.
HILARY CROSSES WITH WILL'S LUCKY
SWEATER IN A BASKET)

HILARY

Carlton, I'm living a nightmare.

CARLTON

Hilary, I'd love to talk to you, but
I'm staring down the barrel of an
all-night-er.

HILARY

Please, Carlton, I need help. I'm
coming to you because I know how much
you don't like Will.

CARLTON

Will Smith is a fine young man.

HILARY

Oh, come off it, Carlton. You're talking to me now. We've let Will wreak havoc in our lives for too long, and now I think it's time to band against him as brother and sister.

CARLTON

What have you got in mind?

HILARY

Well, that's what I need you for. I don't have any plans. I just want to punish him. I'm very vindictive, I'm just not imaginative.

CARLTON

Hilary, whether or not I want to punish Will -- and for the record I haven't come out pro or con -- why are you so mad at him?

HILARY

All right. It's kind of a long story. But you have to promise not to tell anybody.

CARLTON

Sure.

HILARY

Well, first of all, I dropped out of college.

CARLTON

Hilary.

HILARY

I know. I know.

CARLTON

Mom and Dad are going to kill you.

HILARY

I know. But the worst thing is, Will found out, and now he's using it to make me do all kinds of humiliating things.

CARLTON

Like what?

HILARY

He's making me clean his Air Jordans.

CARLTON

Really.

HILARY

It gets worse. I have to hand wash his lucky drawers.

CARLTON

Disgusting.

HILARY

And this is his latest. He gave me a list of embarrassing things I have to do at dinner tomorrow night.

CARLTON

That's awful. Is he making you clean his room?

HILARY

No.

CARLTON

(FURTIVELY)

Will you clean mine?

HILARY

Carlton.

CARLTON

I'm sorry, Hilary. But this is too good to be true. Why should Will have all the fun?

HILARY

Why, you little--

CARLTON

Dad!

HILARY

I hate you.

CARLTON

Be that as it may...

(HANDING HER HIS INDEX CARDS)

I want these debate cards typed by
tomorrow morning. Double-spaced.

(CARLTON EXITS. ASHLEY ENTERS)

ASHLEY

Hi, Hilary. Will you read me a
bedtime story?

HILARY

That's right. Jump on the bandwagon,
you bloodsucking little snitch.

(HILARY EXITS. ON ASHLEY'S
CONFUSED LOOK, WE:)

CUT TO:

G

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING - (D-2)
(Will, Philip, Vivian, Hilary,
Carlton, Ashley, Geoffrey)

(THE FAMILY IS SITTING, HAVING
COCKTAIL HOUR BEFORE DINNER)

ASHLEY

Today was Career Day and Theresa's
dad came in to speak to us.

PHILIP

What does he do?

ASHLEY

Cher's nose.

(OFF THEIR LOOK)

He's a plastic surgeon.

VIVIAN

Well, that's very nice, Ashley.

Hilary, how was school today?

HILARY

(QUICKLY)

Fine. Fine.

PHILIP

Hilary, your mother's just
interested.

VIVIAN

It's all right. She's in the middle
of midterms. She's a little nervous.

WILL

Oh, she's nervous all right.

(HILARY SHOOTS WILL A LOOK.
GEOFFREY ENTERS)

GEOFFREY

Dinner is served.

(THEY START TO EXIT. WILL CALLS TO
HILARY BEFORE SHE LEAVES)

WILL

(SING-SONGY)

Oh, Hilary...

(SHE STOPS. WILL AND HILARY ARE
ALONE)

HILARY

What?

WILL

Have you memorized that little list I
gave you of things to do at dinner
tonight?

HILARY

Yes.

WILL

Well, just to be on the safe side,
let's have a little pop quiz.
Whenever Uncle Phil wipes his mouth
with his napkin, what do you do?

HILARY

I compliment you.

WILL

Did you memorize the list of
compliments?

HILARY

Yes.

WILL

Very good. Now, part two. Whenever
anybody says "Hilary," what do you
do?

HILARY

I bark like a dog.

WILL

Excellent. See you at dinner.

HILARY

*Will, if you have an ounce of
compassion, you'll let me off the
hook.*

WILL

That's a good point.

(BEAT)

Let's do it anyway.

(WILL EXITS. CARLTON ENTERS)

CARLTON

Oh, Hilary?

HILARY

Yes?

CARLTON

It's dinner-time. Did you memorize
our list?

HILARY

Yes.

CARLTON

Well, let's just review. What do you
do when I hit my glass with my spoon?

HILARY

I insult Will.

CARLTON

Good. And what do you do when I
clear my throat?

HILARY

I smack Will upside the head.

CARLTON

Damn it, you're prepared. Let's go.

(THEY EXIT AND WE:)

CUT TO:

H

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT - DINNER (D-2)
(Will, Philip, Vivian, Hilary,
Carlton, Ashley)

(EVERYONE IS SEATED. WILL AND
HILARY EXCHANGE LOOKS. CARLTON AND
HILARY EXCHANGE LOOKS. PHILIP
BLESSES THE FOOD)

PHILIP

Lord, bless these thy gifts which we
are about to receive, and make us
truly thankful. Amen.

EVERYONE

Amen.

PHILIP

So, Vivian, how were your classes
today?

VIVIAN

Fine. I just wish that my students
would concentrate more on their work.
You wouldn't believe how easily
distracted some of those kids are...

WILL

I see it everyday. Don't you,
Hilary?

(HILARY STIFLES A BARK)

VIVIAN

Did you say something, sweetie?

HILARY

No.

(PHILIP WIPES MOUTH WITH A NAPKIN)

HILARY (CONT'D)

Will Smith is perfect.

WILL

Why, thank you. It's so nice to be
appreciated.

PHILIP

Yes. But perhaps some other time.
Your Aunt Vivian was trying to say
something. And I'm sure she would
appreciate it if she weren't
interrupted again.

HILARY

Sorry.

VIVIAN

Anyway, as I was saying...

(PHILIP WIPES HIS MOUTH WITH HIS
NAPKIN)

HILARY

Will Smith is the king of the
universe.

WILL

Why, thank you.

VIVIAN

I'd like to finish my story if that's
okay with you, Hilary.

(HILARY BARKS)

PHILIP

Hilary!

(SHE BARKS AGAIN)

VIVIAN

Look, I know everyone gets a little
silly around midterms, but maybe you
could save that for your friends, and
not when we're at the dinner table.

HILARY

Sorry, Mom.

(CARLTON TAPS HIS WATER GLASS WITH
HIS SPOON)

HILARY (CONT'D)

Will Smith is the scum of the earth.

VIVIAN

Hilary!

(HILARY BARKS. PHILIP PUTS HIS
NAPKIN UP TO HIS MOUTH)

HILARY

However, Will Smith is the pinnacle
of manliness.

(CARLTON CLEARS HIS THROAT. HILARY
SMACKS WILL UPSIDE THE HEAD)

WILL

Hilary!

(HILARY BARKS)

VIVIAN

(ANGRILY)

All right. What on earth is going on
here?

HILARY

All right. All right. I can't take
it anymore. I dropped out of school.
There.

PHILIP

You what?

VIVIAN

When did this happen?

HILARY

Three months ago.

PHILIP

You've been lying to us for three
months?

HILARY

Let me explain...

VIVIAN

There's no explanation. How could you do this? You know how important education is...

HILARY

I know, I know, I've been hearing that my whole life. Do you know what that's like? I was sitting there in class knowing I could never match up to you. I mean you're this college professor, and Dad was the top of his class at Princeton... You guys put too much pressure on me.

PHILIP

Don't put it on us. If you weren't ready to go to college, you could've told us. There's no excuse for lying to us.

HILARY

I can re-enroll next semester. I just needed some time off.

VIVIAN

Well, you're going to get some time off. Tomorrow you're going to go out and get a job and pay us back every dime we gave you for tuition and books.

HILARY

(HORRIFIED)

A job?

PHILIP

Young lady, a lot of people would die to have the kinds of opportunities that you've had. And we're not about to pay for a college education until you can appreciate it. Is that clear?

HILARY

Yes.

(HILARY GETS UP FROM THE TABLE)

HILARY (CONT'D)

Thanks a lot, Will.

(HILARY EXITS, AND WE:)

CUT TO:

J

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT (D-2)
(Will, Hilary, Carlton, Ashley)

(ASHLEY AND HILARY ARE CIRCLING HELP
WANTED ADS)

HILARY

"Secretarial position... typing?" With
these nails? I don't think so.

(CROSSING ONE OUT)

ASHLEY

Here's one.

(READING)

"Girls Girls Girls. Cash Cash Cash."

Hilary, do you know how to dance?

HILARY

Why don't I take it from here, Ashley.

(ASHLEY MOVES ON AS WILL AND CARLTON
ENTER)

WILL

Uh, hi, Hilary.

HILARY

I'm not talking to you.

CARLTON

If it's any consolation, we've both been grounded for blackmailing you.

WILL

That pretty much does it for this calendar year.

HILARY

You deserve it.

WILL

Look, straight up, I didn't know you were going to break like that. I mean, you're always walking around like nothing bothers you. I guess I went a little too far. I just wanted to say I'm sorry.

HILARY

Yeah, now. An hour ago you were ready to tell on me.

WILL

Hilary, I was never gonna tell on you.

HILARY

Really?

WILL

Yeah.

HILARY

You too, Carlton?

CARLTON

We're dealing in hypotheticals. I was going to play it by ear.

(THEN, OFF THEIR GLOWERING)

Fine. I wasn't going to tell either. Does that little placebo make either of you feel any better?

(CARLTON EXITS)

WILL

I'm just curious about something, Hilary. Let's say Aunt Viv and Uncle Phil never found out. What were you going to do around, say, graduation?

HILARY

I don't know. That would not have been a good week.

WILL

You're gonna hate me forever, right?

HILARY

Well, that was one option. But then I thought about it, and... well, I guess I brought this whole thing on myself. I mean, if I hadn't gotten you grounded, you wouldn't have blackmailed me. So I learned my lesson, and we're even.

WILL

(IMPRESSED)

All right. That's decent, Hilary.

(WILL GETS UP TO GO)

HILARY

Oh, before you go. As my last official
act of servitude, I did finish your
laundry.

(SHE POINTS AT THE LAUNDRY BASKET, OFF
TO THE SIDE)

WILL

I can't believe I made you do that. I'm
sorry.

HILARY

It's okay. What's done is done.

(WILL LOOKS INTO THE BASKET. HIS FACE
CONTORTS IN HORROR)

WILL

Hilary! My lucky drawers!

(HE HOLDS UP HIS SHORTS. THERE IS A
HUGE IRON BURN ACROSS THEM. HILARY
CRACKS UP, RUNS OUT OF THE ROOM. WILL
CHASES HER OUT AND WE:)

FADE OUT

THE END