

SCRIPT TITLE

Written by

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INT. TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT CENTER - DAY

MUSIC CUE: JAMIE FOX FT. LUDACRIS - UNPREDICTABLE

Tennessee State University. Founded 1912. Nashville's crown jewel of Black excellence - where Oprah got her start and legends are still being made. The student center runs the heartbeat of it all. Wild Out Wednesdays. DJs in the courtyard. Long lines at the Cafe - the E is silent. TV rooms packed. ATM stocked with ones.

This is TSU. This is home.

And this is where our story begins.

CHYRON: WEDNESDAY, FALL 2007

INSERT: DATING WOES RADIO SHOW POSTER

IMANI JOHNSON, 21 - Raven-Symoné energy, sharper edges - sits in the campus radio studio WTST 1600AM with her girls. Headphones on. Computer running. In her element.

Her radio show. Dating Woes is on the air.

Across the mic - CAROLINE, 21, the realest in the room, and ASHLEY, 21, hopeless romantic, Vince Youngs' self-proclaimed future wife.

IMANI

Welcome back to Dating Woes - I'm Imani, your hopeless romantic.

CAROLINE

Caroline. The Realest.

ASHLEY

And Ashley - future Mrs. Vince Young. QB, 2,199 passing yards last year, future hall of famer. Just saying.

CAROLINE

Girl, is the D that good?

ASHLEY

Wow. Really Carol Anne?

IMANI

Ok, ladies, today's topic - unrealistic meet-cutes. Why they don't work.

ASHLEY

I think they do. Right person, right moment-

CAROLINE  
That's some white people stuff.

They crack up.

IMANI  
I'm serious though. Even the Best Man, Morris Chestnut got cheated on and still married Mia. Where they do that at?

ASHLEY  
Love doesn't have a timeline.

CAROLINE  
What it does have is a shortage of Morris Chestnuts. Men out here got on more eyeliner than me.

IMANI  
We still have Djimon Amistad Hounsou though.

ASHLEY  
We do.

CAROLINE  
We do.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)  
Damn. I will become a slave to that.

ASHLEY  
Really, a slave?

Caroline gets stuck in a dream sequence.

DREAM SEQUENCE: A fake Djimon Hounsou shows his six pack and is holding a bowl of grapes and is feeding Caroline.

IMANI  
Wake up!!!

ASHLEY (CONT'D)  
Wake up!!!

MOMENTS LATER

Session wraps. Imani saves her files, pulls off her headphones—

The studio door opens.

CURRY WESTLAND walks in, 21. 6'3". sexy like Morris Chestnut in The Best Man. He doesn't scan the room. Doesn't notice Imani. He goes straight for the vending machine. Imani watches. Lip caught between her teeth. Curry studies the machine. Deliberates. Selects. Honey bun. The coils turn — and stop. Rrrrrr... clunk.

CURRY  
 (under his breath)  
 Damn.

He shakes the machine. Once. Twice. Imani stands up. She knows this machine. She walks over and taps his shoulder. He spins – startles – catches himself. They look at each other.

Everything goes black, a light shines on them. Is this a meet-cute?

MUSIC CUE- KEYSHIA COLE - LOVE

IMANI  
 Hi...

CURRY  
 Hi...

They stand there what seems like forever until...

INSERT: RECORD SCREECHES

CAROLINE  
 Bring your goofy ass were going to  
 miss our spot for Wild N Out  
 Wednesday's.

They all laugh.

CURRY  
 What's your name?

ASHLEY  
 Her name is Imani, what's yours?

IMANI  
 I can answer for myself. Y'all head  
 out, I'll meet you there.

Caroline doesn't hesitate.

ASHLEY  
 Uh huh. Don't get caught up.

IMANI  
 I would never.

Curry smiles like Taye Diggs watching Sanaa Lathan in Brown Sugar.

CURRY  
 Imani, right.

IMANI  
 Yes, its Swahili, means Faith.

POV: Curry checks her out. We follow his eyes, lips, hands, breast, and butt. Imani is "thick"

CURRY

Damn. Why haven't I seen you on campus?

POV: Imani focuses on eyes, lips, then his crotch area.

IMANI

Damn. I was thinking the same thing.

CURRY

Can I get your BBM?

IMANI

Sure.

They exchange BBM PINS and Curry leans into a hug. They hold onto each other like they have for a long time. Think LOVE AND BASKETBALL OMAR EPPS AND SANAA LATHAN, a deep friendship.

EXT. STUDENT CENTER COURTYARD - DAY

MUSIC CUE- T.I. - BIG THINGS POPPIN

DJ BIG BOY AJ is spinning tracks. Greek organizations are line stepping. SGA is in their polo's. The vibe is chill. IMANI catches up with her girls and they jam to the music. Everyone is having a good time. This is college at an HBCU. IMANI stops for a second and see's CURRY watching and laughing with his FRAT BROTHERS. He looks over directly in IMANI'S eye line.

IMANI

(to herself)

Damn...

CURRY

(to himself)

Damn...

INT. IMANI'S OFF CAMPUS APARTMENT - NIGHT

BLACK ART hang on the walls, not your typical college apartment. This is more sophisticated. A record player sits in the corner with MICHAEL JACKSON THRILLER, BAD, & OFF THE WALL records on the side. Imani pours a glass of WINE and sits on her couch with a bowl of popcorn. She opens a BOOK and picks up a HIGHLIGHTER and starts reading.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. CURRY WESTLANDS OFF CAMPUS APARTMENT - NIGHT

A typical college apartment. FRAT PARAPHERNALIA Curry is on the couch playing XBOX CALL OF DUTY with his roommate MICHAEL, 24 TERRANCE HOWARD type energy.

CURRY  
Reload!, Reload

INSERT CALL OF DUTY GAME PLAY

MICHAEL  
I'm getting lit up over here, where  
you at frat?

CURRY  
On your six. Got em.

MOMENTS LATER...

The CALL OF DUTY game is over. Screen reads Winners. Curry and Michael tap RED CUPS.

MICHAEL  
Good game frat.

CURRY  
Yep.

Curry drifts off for a second. Michael notices. They are best friends and frat brothers.

MICHAEL  
Frat, you ok?

Curry snaps out of it.

CURRY  
Yo, I think I found the one.

MICHAEL  
Damn. All these chicks are ho's.  
Where did you find love?

INSERT BBM NOTIFICATION

CURRY WESTLAND PIN: 2A4F9C55 HUGGING U 2 NITE FELT LIKE  
CHRISTMAS MORNING FRFR. LIKE I AIN'T WANT TO LET GO.

Imani smiles, holds the phone close to her heart and closes her eyes.

MUSIC CUE: RAHEEM DEVAUGHN - WOMAN

MONTAGE - INT/EXT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY/NIGHT

Fast cuts of Imani and Curry over one month:

WILD OUT WEDNESDAY - He finds her in the crowd. They don't have to look for each other anymore.

HER RECORD PLAYER - He picks up the Off The Wall vinyl. She watches him handle it carefully. She notices.

HER COUCH - His head in her lap. She's highlighting her book. He's watching her study instead of the TV.

CAMPUS AT NIGHT - Walking back from somewhere. Fingers almost touching. Then they are.

CHYRON: ONE MONTH LATER

INT. CURRY'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING - FALL

Gray morning light filters through the curtains. The kind of quiet that only exists before the world wakes up. Leaves press against the window. A hoodie - Curry's TSU hoodie - is draped over the chair by the door. Imani's eyes open slow. She looks around. Takes it all in for just a second - his room, his smell, the way the light hits - like some part of her already knows to memorize it.

She checks her BLACKBERRY.

7:22 A.M.

INT. CURRY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Curry is cooking pancakes in the skillet, eggs are boiling in the water and Curry is pressing oranges for fresh squeezed. Imani enters in his hoodie with only panties on, he pulls her close and gives her a deep embraced kiss.

The front door opens Michael walks in with his UPS uniform on. Curry stops kissing Imani and acknowledges Michael.

CURRY  
What up frat.

They dap each other up. Imani turns around and pauses...

FLASHBACK

CHYRON 2004 FALL

MUSIC CUE: USHER - SEDUCTION

INT. IMANI'S CAMPUS APARTMENT - NIGHT

Imani is under the covers with Michael kissing her neck. They are engaged in deep passionate sex and they both seem to be enjoying it.

END FLASHBACK

MICHAEL

Hey Imani. Damn... its been a minute.

Curry looks shocked.

IMANI

Hey Mike. Yea, its been some years. I didn't know you were still in Nashville?

Curry just stands there. The pancakes begin to burn and the smoke alarm is going off.

MICHAEL

Damn Curry, don't burn my pancake.

CURRY

Your'e definitely getting the burnt one.

MICHAEL

To answer your question, yes. I am still here. Just working, in Grad school.

Imani pulls her hoodie down to cover her panties. Talk about embarrassment.

IMANI

Nice.

Imani pours herself some orange juice and sits down at the kitchen table. Michael grabs some bacon and begins to chew.

MICHAEL

Let me hop in the shower I'll join y'all.

CURRY

Bet.

Micheal leaves out the kitchen and Curry continues to cook. Its unusually quiet.

IMANI

Hey, I forgot I have an assignment due and I left my computer at home so I'll go.

CURRY

Oh, ok.

Imani stands there he doesn't stop cooking. Imani leaves out to grab her things from his room.

INT. CURRYS BEDROOM - DAY

Imani is grabbing her things. She is frantic.

IMANI

(to herself)

How are they roommates? Its been over a month. Why didn't I know.

MOMENTS LATER

Michael enters Currys room. He closes the door. Imani is putting on her pants and is startled.

IMANI (CONT'D)

Mike I am dressing. Damn.

MICHAEL

Damn, you look good. Are y'all serious?

Micheal tries to hug her she pushes him away.

IMANI

I am good.

Imani grabs her things and pushes pass him to get out the door. She stops to hug Curry. He gives her a one arm church hug and not kiss. Imani is disappointed.

INT. IMANI'S OFF CAMPUS APARTMENT - NIGHT

Candles. Beyoncé – Irreplaceable on the CD player. Imani at the stove, still in Curry's hoodie, wine already half gone. Caroline and Ashley at the table. Waiting.

ASHLEY

So. Talk.

IMANI

The whole month felt like a movie.

ASHLEY

And last night?

IMANI

Perfect.

CAROLINE  
 You're wearing his hoodie cooking  
 our dinner.

They cackle. Beat.

IMANI  
 (turning off the stove)  
 Something happened this morning  
 though.

Laughter dies.

IMANI (CONT'D)  
 His roommate came home. It's  
 Michael.

Silence.

CAROLINE  
 Michael from 2004 Michael?

IMANI  
 I didn't know. He came into the  
 bedroom while I was getting  
 dressed. Closed the door. Tried to  
 hug me.

ASHLEY  
 Does Curry know?

IMANI  
 (quiet)  
 No.

CAROLINE  
 You have to tell him.

IMANI  
 He won't say anything.

CAROLINE  
 How do you know that?

She doesn't. She just hopes. A Blackberry buzzes. Imani reads  
 the screen. Her face doesn't crumble all at once. Eyes first.  
 Jaw. Shoulders.

CURRY (V.O.)  
 My roommate told me everything. You  
 sat across from me this morning and  
 said nothing. Loyalty is everything  
 to me – I told you that. I'm sorry.  
 Maybe in another lifetime. Peace.

The phone lowers. Beyoncé keeps playing. Nobody moves. Imani looks at the candle. Then past Caroline. Past Ashley. Past the camera. Directly at us.

IMANI

(quiet. steady.)

My mama always told me... the  
choices you make today...

She looks at the phone. Back at us.

IMANI (CONT'D)

...will show up at your door  
tomorrow morning making your man's  
pancakes.

A tear falls. She almost laughs.

IMANI (CONT'D)

(whisper)

Choose wisely.

She sets the phone face down. Takes a slow sip of wine. Looks away from us. Caroline and Ashley move in and hold her.

The candle flickers.

FADE TO BLACK.