

JOHNNEISHA / GABBY Sc. 1

41.

1/5

42

EXT. ACE BAHAMAS - DAY (MORNING)

42

The trio is standing outside along the wall. A line is forming behind them as they wait at the door. Vardo and his cronies are behind them, waiting as well.

START

~~GABBY~~ JOHNNEISHA

My mummy was saying that we should pick out a gift for Ms. Pratt at the end of the summer.

WOODSIDE

What y'all would get her?

VARDO

(effeminately; mocking)

What y'all would get her?

Gabby puts up a talk-to-the hand. Johnneisha shoots dagger eyes, but Woodside doesn't look. He just keeps his eyes trained on Gabby, cautious not to say anything.

Meanwhile, the boys keep staring.

VARDO (CONT'D)

You could keep talkin' Woodside.

Woodside doesn't want to answer.

VARDO (CONT'D)

Muddafuck. His whole voice gone.

Gabby turns back this time, though Johnneisha tries to stop her.

JOHNNEISHA

Why y'all can't just mind y'all business? You stay bothering him. You like him aye? You want doggy?

WOODSIDE

(quietly)

Johnneisha, stop.

VARDO

(whining; imitating)

Why y'all can't just nya ya? If you wasn't a gyal--

JOHNNEISHA

Vardo, come. See what happen. I could be a nigga just for you. But you might like me. Sissy ass.

(MORE)

JOHNNIEISHA/GABBY Sc. 1

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JOHNNIEISHA (CONT'D)
(to WOODSIDE)
Just ignore them, hya.

END

Woodside still hasn't said a thing. The door opens. Donovan pokes a cautionary head out.

He looks around, questioning, but no one speaks. He lets it go and lets them in. Woodside doesn't make eye contact.

43

INT. ACE BAHAMAS - CLASSROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

43

The trio enter the lab-style classroom, which sports large, square tables instead of individual desks. Counters and cabinets filled with apparatus line the walls. Donovan and a counselor are standing along the wall.

The three make it their business to take a seat all the way at the back in the corner. There are little tubs of water with small pieces of coral in them. There are also mangrove propagules on the tables.

Ms. Pratt is at the board, writing: MANGROVE AND CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS. She turns around, pretending to be shocked.

MS. PRATT

Oh wow. Did not see you here.

The room CHATTERS with laughter.

MS. PRATT (CONT'D)

I think I see some familiar faces around the room. A couple in the back.

Ms. Pratt looks to the three in the back, smiling. They wave, excited. Vardo and his boys look over, shaking their heads and sucking their teeth.

MS. PRATT (CONT'D)

So we're talking about fish nurseries today. Can anyone tell me why they think the juvenile fish like the mangroves?

Gabby's hand shoots up, along with a few other slowpokes. Ms. Pratt points to Gabby, and she shoots up, beaming.

GABBY

Because they can zoom and hide in the roots away from the bigger fish.

DR. ALBURY

Ms. Pratt said she's running a little late. And I also notice that some of you have gifts for her-

A camper brings her a small, blue John Bull bag.

DR. ALBURY (CONT'D)

Oh, and some for me? Thank you so much. I really appreciate. I'll take any of the ones for Ms. Pratt and we can hide them in her office.

Woodside pulls out a foil-wrapped present from his drawstring bag. He hands it to Dr. Albury, who takes it, eyeing him.

DR. ALBURY (CONT'D)

Hi, Woodside. Thank you.

WOODSIDE

(mumbling)

Hi, Dr. Albury.

Walking back, Gabby and Johnneisha fall in line with him. Gabby turns to him, her voice as calm as possible.

GABBY

Woodside, what happened to you?

No answer. Gabby regroups, trying another approach. She leans a little closer.

GABBY (CONT'D)

Hey, you alright?

There's no answer. Gabby sighs, frustrated. She looks to Johnneisha, who just shrugs, shaking her head.

100

~~EXT. ACE BARRIERS~~ DAY

100

~~Woodside is eating lunch like zombie, just staring down into the empty picnic table. Gabby and Johnneisha are the only ones sitting with him, just quietly eating, looking up every few seconds to check on him.~~

Every few seconds, another student walks by, intentionally looking at him. Johnneisha gives one a nasty eye.

GABBY

You know I care about you, right?

This makes a tear fall down Woodside's eyes. He tries to keep it together, but it's so hard.

START
READ
GABBY

GABBY (CONT'D)

This the last day. We supposed to be having fun.

Gabby reaches out a hand, and he takes it without saying a word. Gabby rubs her finger across his hand.

~~JOHNEISHA~~

~~So you not gin tell us what happen?
You know both our daddies is
police, right?~~

~~Woodside doesn't answer.~~

101 INT. ACE BAHAMAS - CLASSROOM - DAY

101

Woodside walks into the class along with the other students. He takes his seat in the corner. Gabby is already up at Dr. Albury's desk, quietly speaking to her about Woodside.

~~DR. ALBURY~~

~~Your work is on the board,
students.~~

Dr. Albury looks sad and concerned.

DR. ALBURY (CONT'D)

I'll talk to him after class, okay?
Thank you, Gabby. You're a good friend.

Gabby nods and moves toward her seat.

VARDO

Muddasick, what happen to him?

Vardo and his friends laugh.

DR. ALBURY

(sternly)
Vardo, not today.

JOHNEISHA

(to ALL)
And I dare one of y'all to laugh again.

Vardo scoffs.

CLASS

Oooooo.

JOHNEISHA GABBY SC. 2 104. S/S

Johnneisha gets up and begins to walk over to Vardo's desk. The kids turn in excitement, eyes wide.

DR. ALBURY
Johnneisha, please sit down.

Johnneisha stops, staring at Vardo. Once her point is proven, she takes her seat once again. Gabby leans in to Woodside.

GABBY
Don't worry about it, okay? I know you'll tell me later, but... yeah...

Woodside doesn't look up from his work. Gabby's still worried.

GABBY (CONT'D)
Every time I'm upset, I just try to-

WOODSIDE
(loudly)
What the fuck you want from me?

END

The class is SILENT as Woodside gets up from his seat.

WOODSIDE (CONT'D)
Just leave me alone.

Gabby's eyes are in tears instantly.

DR. ALBURY
Woods--

WOODSIDE
(screaming)
Leave me alone!

He shoves the desk, making it fall to the ground loudly, then storms out of the class. Vardo snickers as he leaves.

102 INT. ACE BAHAMAS - OFFICE - DAY (A FEW MINUTES LATER) 102

Woodside is sitting in a chair, one of his legs moving furiously. He's anxious and upset.

Dr. Albury walks in, then takes a chair across from him, bringing it right up in front of him.

For a moment, they're quiet.

Then, he looks up at her, boldly, with wide eyes. He's had enough. Dr. Albury just stares back, trying to read his face.