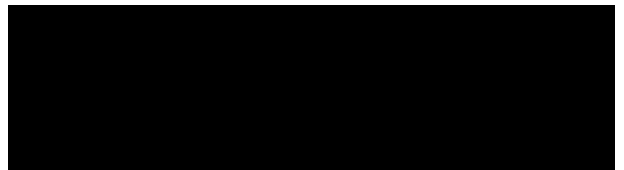


ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

A Play in One Act



Cast of Characters

<u>SUNNY</u> :	Lead
<u>SADE</u> :	Lead
<u>DORIAN</u> :	Supporting
<u>MISS DONNA</u> :	Supporting
<u>LESTER</u> :	Supporting

ACT IScene 1

AT RISE: 'Here Comes Chronixx' starts playing as lights go up and slowly go to full bright.

Note: music fades as characters start to speak.

We're in a modern living room decorated with an assortment of black art. By the front door is a coat rack and a small table. Center stage is a couch with a coffee table in front of it. House plants are aplenty, a hammock hangs in a corner.

SUNNY [30S] black, carefully inspects and lovingly sprays water on the leaves of a houseplant. She kisses the plant as she jams out to the music.

SADE [30S] black, lies on her back on a yoga mat on the floor. Both feet up, she lights up a joint, takes a long drag; exhales.

SADE

Oh, I stretched. Now I get... relaxed.

She blows a plume of smoke in Sunny's direction.

SUNNY

Good idea!

She walks over, steals the joint, takes a hit then gives it back.

SADE

I haven't worked out in a minute and I'm afraid Dorian bout to kill me with this dance exercise.

SUNNY

You and me both, but it's a little too late to start stretching.

SADE

Last-minute stretching is better than no stretching. we'll see who's in the most pain later!

A doorbell RINGS.

SUNNY

(yells)
Its open! Come on in here with the torture!

DORIAN [late 20s], black, Mr. Congeniality, saunters in carrying work-out equipment.

DORIAN

Heyyyy! What's up, what's up, what's up!

SUNNY/SADE

Heyyy!

Sade gets up, puts out the joint and hugs him.

SADE

How you doing, darling?

DORIAN

I'm doing better now that I'm here and can do my show in peace! Thanks, you guys for letting me film in here, my mom is on one this morning and I am so not here for it.

SUNNY

What's Auntie Donna doing this time? It's always something with her.

DORIAN

She's just in a mood, I guess. Yelling at my dad over stupid shit like him spilling water in the kitchen. She started getting on me about finding a real job instead of- what I'm doing now.

SADE

I take it you haven't told her that you don't plan to go back to work for the man then.

SUNNY

Auntie Donna will not be ok when she hears you don't plan to go back to work.

Dorian begins to lay down weights and a yoga mat. He sets up a tripod and sets his phone up to record.

DORIAN

Chile, by the time she finds out, I'll be ready to

move out. She and my dad were pretty cool about me moving back in with them after the pandemic hit and I lost my job. Its just that this internet gig has been paying off and I don't see why I should stop and go back to working for someone else.

SADE

I agree. If its working for you then I say keep going. I mean you got IG verified just from doing these damn dance exercise videos.

DORIAN

Speaking of which, do y'all mind if I start setting up? I'm gonna need to move this couch-

He starts to push the couch backwards.

SUNNY

You didn't tell me you needed to rearrange our whole damn living room!

DORIAN

My bad. I need to rearrange your whole damn living room. I'm just playing, but I do need to push the

(finsihes stretching)

Don't pay her no mind, Dori. Here, lemme help you.

Together, they push the couch a little downstage.

DORIAN

Ok guys, I hope you already stretched and hydrated. I'm making this session shorter than normal just for y'all. You excited to do this with me or what?

SADE

Just so you know, I agreed to do this but I ain't worked out all pandemic! I am out of shape.

SUNNY

Same! Just thinking about doing this makes my body hurt.

DORIAN

Damn, such enthusiasm. I'm finna start recording in ten seconds so get in formation. We bout to do this!

Sade and Sunny take their places behind Dorian,

the lights dim so it looks like an actual performance is about to begin.

SADE

Alright, let's get it. Ready babe?

SUNNY

(snorts)

As ready as you are.

Dorian faces the camera [phone] he has set up, he is speaking to his online audience here.

DORIAN

Hey, hey, how's everybody doing? Welcome to another episode of Saturday Soca Sessions with me Dorian, your host who stay doing the most. Today I have two amazing guests working out with me. Say wassup to the lovely lady Sade who y'all probably already know; alongside queen Sunny who's my cousin so she kinda had to agree to this. I appreciate you, ladies. Now, without further ado, for those of you watching at home, we about to go off. Here we go!

vigorous work-out exercise routine. Note: they move in sync. The routine lasts till the first verse and chorus of the song.

Next is another soca hit, 'It's Carnival' by Alison Hinds.

Note: This is extreme high tempo music which requires much practice beforehand.

Sade and Sunny are breathing hard, doing their best to keep up with Dorian who has a spring in his step. As the music dies down, they all end the routine. Dorian stays bouncing on his toes, Sade dramatically collapses to the floor and lays there; Sunny is bent over catching her breath.

DORIAN

Alright, y'all that's it. Getting that heart rate up is key, burn them calories! I'm saving this live just for y'all who still in bed 'sleep, for those of y'all who picked up weight during lockdown and still trying to put it *back down*! Please do me a favor and like,

share and tag a friend. Remember to tag me using the hashtag SaturdaySocaSessions and keep supporting black businesses. I'll catch y'all next Saturday but don't let me stop you, keep this going if you feeling the soca vibes!

Dorian goes and stops his phone recording. Sade is still panting on the floor, Sunny hands her a water bottle and pulls her to a sitting position.

SUNNY

You ok? Told you he was intense.

SADE

Understatement. I am finished, my legs are jelly right now.

DORIAN

Don't worry, y'all will be fine. Just make sure you warm down properly.

SUNNY

Warm down as in more exercise? Alright, I'm going do

the floor. Sade's phone ALERTS, she grabs and checks it before putting it down.

SADE

After this, I need a huge meal! I'm starving already.

Sade's phone alerts a few more times, then it rings. She gets up to go answer it.

SADE

I gotta go take this.

She limps away before answering the phone.

SUNNY

Somebody has been blowing up her damn phone non-stop from the other day. Anyway, how's Uncle Lester doing?

DORIAN

He's good, you should come through one day. I'm sure dad would love to see you, mom too.

SUNNY

(scoffs)

Yeah right. Look, I'm just not in the mental space to hear my aunt go on about how much of a disappointment I am. I already feel like that all on my own.

DORIAN

Come on, Sunny. You know that's not true, mom is old school traditional Jamaican. She sees the arts as a hobby, something you do for fun. She doesn't get it- but maybe you can help her get it.

SUNNY

Last time I tried to explain what I've been 'doing with my life out there in LA,' it didn't go over well. I said 'Auntie Donna, I just gotta wait until it's my season.' She's going look at me, her niece and ask 'yuh sure yuh season don't already pass?'

DORIAN

That's my momma. One thing about her, she going say what's on her mind- at everybody else' expense. I told her that's why I don't be taking her nowhere. But you should still come through though.

distance is the only way to love them.

DORIAN

I hear that, but they'd love to see you all the same. I see Sade been filming non-stop, that's awesome! What's been going on with you?

SUNNY

You know.

DORIAN

I know what? Uh-oh, what's going on and don't say 'nothing.'

Beat.

Sunny gets up, she's wringing her hands, clearly anxious.

SUNNY

I don't know, It's- I don't know. Maybe it's just me being paranoid.

DORIAN

You are intuitive as hell, this we know! Not sure about paranoid.

SUNNY

It's like me and Sade are moving in opposite directions and I feel like It's gonna change us.

DORIAN

You mean because she's a mainstream actor now?

SUNNY

Yeah but it's not just that. I have been auditioning, it's not like I'm not trying. But I'm not booking anything. Meanwhile Sade is so booked up she's turning down roles I'd kill for!

DORIAN

And you feel some kinda way.

SUNNY

Sade has been spending a lot of time on the road, she has this whole new group of friends you know. Her phone keeps blowing up as you can see. I just feel

DORIAN

Are we talking about the same Sade, here? Because this Sade I know is way too hopelessly in love with your ass. I've seen her with you, I know this.

SUNNY

It's just a feeling I get, ok? Like, since when is she leaving the room to take calls?

DORIAN

Maybe she just didn't wanna seem rude being on the phone while we playing catch up.

SUNNY

Nah, she leaves the bedroom in the middle of the night, Dori. To go be on the phone for a whole hour!

DORIAN

If it bothers you that much, why not talk to her about it?

SUNNY

Because we're doing great. We're happy, she's happy-

I don't wanna go messing up the happy.

DORIAN

Sometimes messing things up a little bit is the only way to preserve them for the long term.

SUNNY

Stop saying wise things, that ain't what I need right now.

Sunny sits back down on the couch, pensive.

SUNNY

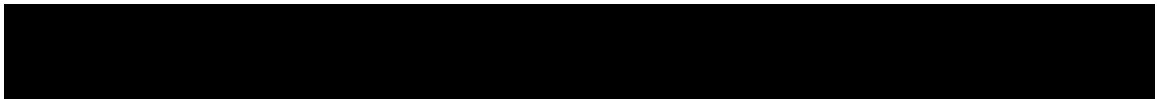
Tomorrow is the anniversary of my parents' death.

DORIAN

Oh my gosh cuz, I didn't know. I know it's been a while-

SUNNY

Twenty-two years. It's been over two decades, still feels like just the other day. At least this time every year it does.



SUNNY

I was twelve. I remember it clearly, the month before I'd gotten my first period and I was so upset. I didn't want to go to school, I cried. Told my mom I wanted to be a boy instead.

DORIAN

What she say?

SUNNY

She called the school, said I was sick. Took me to the library, rented books about the female body because I was too embarrassed to do it myself. Took the day off work, we went for ice-cream and just hung out.

DORIAN

That's sweet.

SUNNY

I begged her not to tell my dad because I was too embarrassed, guess she did but he never said anything. Mom must've warned him not to treat me any

different. A month later they were gone. For good.

DORIAN

I think I was in the second grade when it happened, I just knew my mom was crying a lot. For a long time. My dad told me that her brother, your dad and his wife were in a bad car accident and that you were coming to live with us.

SUNNY

I've been having nightmares, happens every year. Few days before the date, but they usually go away after-

DORIAN

Makes sense that you'd still remember details-

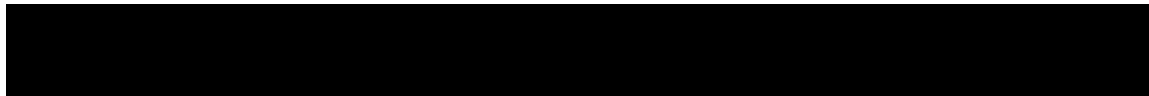
SUNNY

I was there. I was in the minivan.

DORIAN

Wait, what? You were also in the accident? I did not know this.

SUNNY



Dorian goes over and hugs Sunny.

DORIAN

Sunny, I had no idea. My parents didn't really talk about it, my mom would just get upset. When you came to live with us, she warned me and my brother and sister not to ask you about it. So we didn't. I'm so sorry.

SUNNY

That helped at first but then I just started getting angry because nobody mentioned it; nobody mentioned them. It's like my parents disappeared and nobody ever talked about them after that.

DORIAN

I don't know what to say except I'm sorry and I'm here for you and your dad was my uncle too. Whenever you feel up to it, I'd like to hear what happened and how you've been coping with something so awful. Wait, does Sade know all of this?

SUNNY

She knows I lost my folks when I was twelve and that I came to America to live with my aunt and uncle.

DORIAN

I think you should tell her. About all of it. Especially since you having nighmares, she can't be there for you if she don't know.

SUNNY

She's enjoying so much success right now as an actor, I don't wanna mess with that.

DORIAN

Come on, cuz. Sade deserves to know.

Sade re-enters from stage left, having wrapped her phone conversation.

SADE

I deserve to know what? What's going on?

DORIAN

Sunny's folks died in a car accident that she was in

were actually in the accident too. I thought-

SUNNY

You thought I was somewhere else when it happened. Look, I just didn't want to re-live it and I still don't want to. I don't wanna put this on you now when you have so much going on.

Sade sits down beside her and folds her in a hug.

SADE

No, no, no. We not doing that, I'm never too booked or too busy for you. I get that this is hard but please let me be here for you. I won't push but I do want to hear what happened. The whole story.

DORIAN

Ok look, I gotta go. I have a few errands to run today, but Sunny she deserves to know this.

(he gets up, turns to Sade)

She gets nighmares and shit.

SUNNY

Thanks alot, Dori because I obviously can't speak for myself anymore.

DORIAN

You know what? Now it makes sense, my mom being in a mood for what seem like no reason. Tomorrow is the anniversary, both of you are reacting.

SADE

I feel like such an asshole girlfriend, how could I not know this?

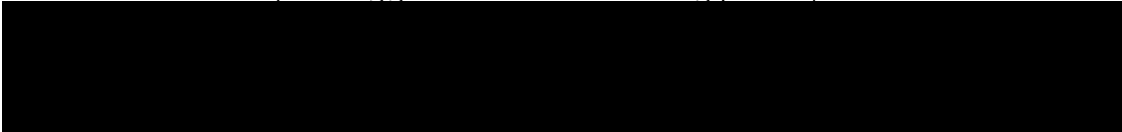
SUNNY

Because I didn't tell you. I wasn't trying to keep stuff from you, I just didn't want you to think I'm this broken bitch.

SADE

You're not. And even if you were, you're my broken bitch. I love you, please tell me what you need from me as of now.

Sunny snuggles into the hug, wraps arms round



SADE

DoorDash?

SUNNY

Mnhmm.

SADE

Ok, I'll get you some DoorDash.

Sade's phone starts alerting again multiple times, Sunny lets her go, gets up and heads to stage left.

SUNNY

Are you gonna get that? Must be important if they keep blowing up your phone this early.

SADE

Come on, it's work.

SUNNY

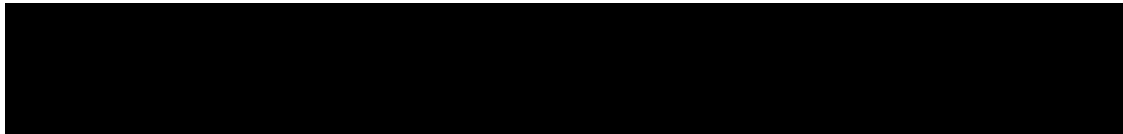
Like I said, it must be important. I'm gonna shower.

Sunny exits the stage, Sade looks to make sure she's gone. Picks up her phone.

SADE

(on phone)

Hey. So look, I'm not sure I can do brunch later. Stuff with Sunny, I'll make it up to you...She just needs some cheering up, that's all...I doubt that she will wanna come hang out with you. I also doubt that's a good idea so stop playing with me...oh, you like playing with me, I see. I gotta go, I'll let you know about later, ok. And quit blowing up my damn phone. Bye.



ACT IScene 2

'Push Come to Shove' by Freddy McGregor is playing as we enter-

A living room with much Caribbean representation in the decor, it's obvious that Jamaicans dwell there. MISS DONNA [60s, black, generally disagreeable] vacuums as her husband, LESTER [60s, black, good natured] pushes and shoves and tilts a couch so his wife can reach beneath it.

Miss Donna shuts off the vacuum cleaner, fixes her hair scarf.

MISS DONNA

Lester, be careful how you pull this couch. Don't scratch up the floor with it, watch where you going!

LESTER

I nah scratch up no floor, I know what I'm doing. Look how many times I already lift this settee up,

I told him to come move all these things he have in the corner, I don't want no junk and clutter in my living room. Where is that boy anyway?

LESTER

Well, his car not here so I guessing he went out.

MISS DONNA

He need to be looking for a new job, instead of spending all day on the internet with that dancing nonsense-

LESTER

Come now, Donna. That's Dorian side hustle and it look like he happy doing it, the boy was so depressed during lockdown. I'm sure he will find something else soon.

MISS DONNA

He not going live rent-free forever and especially since he won't even help to clean up. And I know I smell ganja coming from his room, I told him I don't want him smoking that mess in here.

Miss Donna resumes vacuuming vigorously, Lester watches her before unplugging the vacuum cleaner.

MISS DONNA

What you doing, why you unplug the thing and you see me working-

Lester goes over, takes the vacuum cleaner from her, ushers her to the couch.

LESTER

Ok Donna, come. Sit down a little bit, rest yuh self. What is the matter? I know something bothering you, you upset with me and Dori for no reason. Is like you even upset with yuh self so tell me what it is.

MISS DONNA

You mean to tell me you really don't remember? Tomorrow marks the date when my brother and him wife crashed in Jamaica. Tomorrow will make it twenty-two years now.

LESTER

My belly bottom still feel like it falling out, just like the day I get the news. I will never know how he looked, laying there in that casket.

LESTER

It hurt mi heart that you still feel bad about not going to the funeral. You had no choice, Donna. It was either you go back to Jamaica and get banned from ever coming back here; or you stay here send the money to help with the burial.

MISS DONNA

It don't mek me feel any better, Lester. Sacrificing so much just to stay and make it in this damn country. And for what?

LESTER

What you mean for what? Look at us, we not rich but we not doing too bad. Our children got the best opportunities here in America, look at Sunny.

MISS DONNA

Don't even start with that one, my blood pressure

already high as it is.

LESTER

(chuckles)

I thought it was our two boys that would give us headache but Sunny prove us wrong, eh?

MISS DONNA

Have me running down to that school day in, day out because she keep beating up people children.

LESTER

Serve them right, American schools full of bullies and they thought they could bully Sunny because she speak patois. Heh! Remember that little freckle face boy, the one she beat so bad he was red like boiled lobster!

They share a hearty laugh, both sighing and reminiscing.

LESTER

I say she turn out alright for a child who had to go through so much, and so young. Thank God for running

slings the bag down on the floor.

DORIAN

Hey Ma, hey dad! What y'all got to eat, I'm hungry? Why y'all just sitting there?

LESTER

Just talking about Sunny and how she used to fight off those bullies everyday when she first came from Jamaica.

MISS DONNA

I just finish straightening up this place, take up the bag and go wash those sweaty clothes. Don't stink up mi house.

DORIAN

Ok I will. Hey, did y'all know Sunny was in that accident back when her parents-?

LESTER

Of course I know! Why you think we got her here so fast? Poor child couldn't continue living there after

everybody she know get killed like that.

DORIAN

Tomorrow is the anniversary of the accident, how you feeling ma?

MISS DONNA

I'm alright. It's just hard this time of year.

LESTER

Know what I think? I think we should all go down to Jamaica next year and visit them, your brother and his wife. Visit they resting place, give the graves a facelift or something.

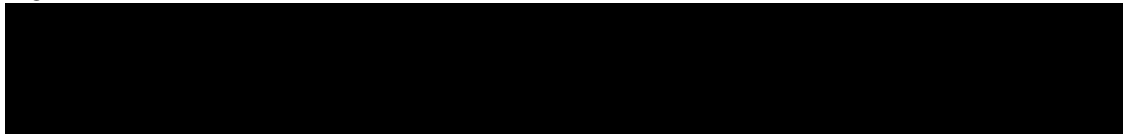
DORIAN

That's actually a dope idea! Sunny would probably benefit from this because she ain't handling it well-

MISS DONNA

You talk to Sunny? Where she is, what she doing? We ain't hear from that child in donkey years!

DORIAN



eh? Busy chasing Hollywood or Hollywood busy chasing her.

DORIAN

I think she due for a visit, I saw her this morning. She and her- she doing ok. I just want y'all to get along again.

There's uncomfortable silence as Dorian stares them down.

MISS DONNA

Sometimes I wonder if she vex with me because I couldn't make it to the funeral back then.

LESTER

She was a child, how could she be upset with you? Poor thing was in her own world of sorrow.

DORIAN

You guys brought here and gave her a good life, I don't think she holding that against you, ma. Y'all just need to accept her as she is now.

MISS DONNA

What you mean accept her as she is?

DORIAN

Well, Hollywood changes people. Sunny is an actress in that world, she gotta grind twice as hard as a black Caribbean woman out there! If ya'll don't support her then she won't come around.

MISS DONNA

I don't see why she give up her Finance degree to go take up acting or what she call it.

DORIAN

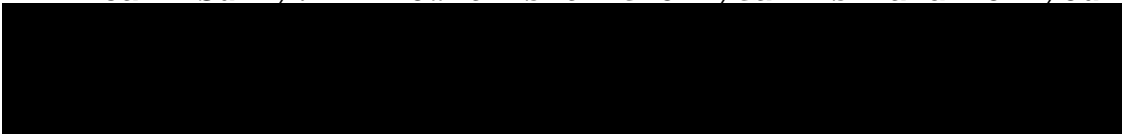
There it is. That's why she ain't rocking with y'all, y'all ain't support her dream.

LESTER

I support Sunny, as long as she earning enough out there to support herself.

DORIAN

If you say so, dad. I'm gonna shower, y'all should call Sunny. I know this time of year is hard for you



Dorian picks up his gym bag, exits stage left.

ACT IScene 3

'L.O.V.E' by I-Octane plays as-

Sunny is lying on the couch, a blanket halfway draped over her. A bag of chips is beside her, she holds up the remote, flipping through channels.

SUNNY

Baby! Hey, babe you wanna binge the new season of Big Mouth with me?

Sade enters from stage right wearing a towel with her hair wrapped up, indicating she was showering.

SADE

(plops down almost atop Sunny)
For some reason I'm not feeling this new season, It's just gross to me. But I have an even better idea.

SADE

(she's touching Sunny's face, kissing her lightly)
I know what tomorrow means for you and I know I said I'd cook you dinner.

SUNNY

You did, and you not about to try and wiggle out of it either.

SADE

I'm not wiggling out. But I do also think you could use some other type of cheering up. A couple of my cast mates are having brunch slash day party at the rooftop lounge-

SUNNY

(rolls her eyes)
Ok, have fun. I know you wanna go, so go.

SADE

I told them I'd take a rain check because I wanna be here for you. Come with me. It'll be fun, a little

distraction never hurts. I promise we won't stay long.

SUNNY

Baby, I don't wanna go out. I don't wanna go rub shoulders with a bunch of your cast mates. I wanna stay here and watch Netflix.

SADE

Please? You never wanna go out with me anymore.

SUNNY

And you never wanna stay in with me anymore. You don't need my permission, you can go. Have fun, really. I'm good right here.

SADE

You sure? It would really make my day if you come with me, I can't wait to introduce you to all the guys.

SUNNY

And you will, soon. Today I'm staying in, now go have fun. If you plan to get turned up then lemme call you

still intend to come back in time to make my honey dinner.

She kisses Sunny who pulls her down and holds her in place with her legs.

SADE

See now you just trying to keep me here.

SUNNY

Is it working?

SADE

It's about to, so lemme go get ready.

SUNNY

I'm expecting dinner.

SADE

And I expect dessert.

*Sade gets up from the couch, exits stage left.
Sunny picks up remote, resumes channel surfing.*

ACT IScene 4

Continuation of previous song-

Door to Sunny and Sade's place opens, Dorian arrives with a pizza box. It's darker in the living room, Sunny is erratically cleaning, pulling the couch apart.

DORIAN

Hey, cuzzo. I come bearing Hawaiian pizza, your favorite!

SUNNY

What? You know you really didn't have to come back over here, I was just being dramatic.

DORIAN

Uh-uh, don't feel bad asking for what you want. You in your feelings and need some emotional support while your lady is off partying, I got you.



shaking them off and then replacing them.

DORIAN

Why you cleaning? I thought y'all had a cleaning lady or something.

SUNNY

We do. But I don't mind, there's bit of weed between these cushions anyway. Sade is a messy roller.

DORIAN

Speaking of, did you see her IG stories? Girl! I don't know but if I was you, I'd be at that party right now. Not with all these females buzzing around her, look at what Reign just posted.

He shows her his phone, she stares for a few moments. She toss the cushions back on the couch and sit down in a huff.

SUNNY

Who is she and why would she post that? People will look at those pictures and think Sade is dating her!

DORIAN

I mean I think they just good friends but Reign has a reputation. Look, I didn't come over here to make you feel even worse. I'm sorry.

SUNNY

Nah, it's ok. It's like almost ten o'clock and Sade promised she'd be back to make me dinner and whatnot. That was around four this afternoon! But no, she's too busy drinking and taking pictures with some... woman who is all over her!

*Dorian plops down beside her, then pops back up.
He starts walking off stage left.*

DORIAN

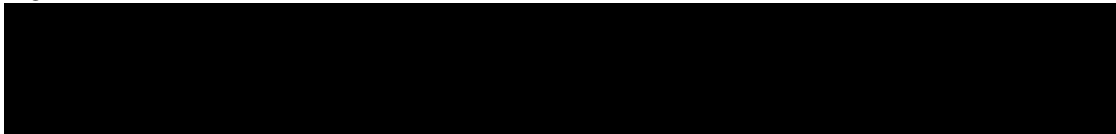
I don't know about you, but I could use a drink. You got any plastic cups? It's still Covid out here.

SUNNY

(yells after him)

I don't want a damn drink!

DORIAN



her phone and scrolls. She tosses down the phone, folds her arms.

Dorian returns with cups and a large bottle of rum. He starts to make two drinks as Sunny watches. He pours a lot of rum in the cups.

DORIAN

Ok, just a drop of this and a tups of that-

SUNNY

Dori that's too much rum!

DORIAN

(gasps dramatically, clutches chest)

Blasphemy. You is from da Caribbean, ain't no such ting as too much rum, gyal!

He finishes up, sets the drinks down and sits beside Sunny, hands her a cup.

SUNNY

(sips, grimaces)
It felt real this time, you know.

DORIAN

What we talking about?

SUNNY

The accident. The nightmares felt real this time and I didn't wake up like I always do before I see-

DORIAN

Before you see what?

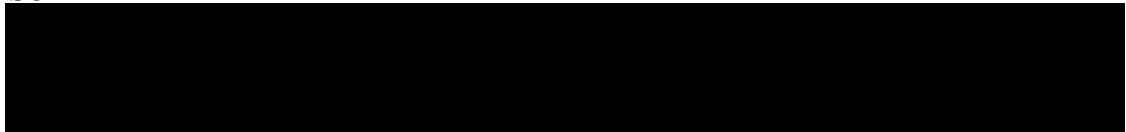
SUNNY

Them. My dad and my mom, and all that blood everywhere. Am I ever gonna stop dreaming about this?

DORIAN

I really think therapy would help, they got different types of shrinks for this stuff. You even talked to Sade about how it's making you feel?

SUNNY



It's not about that, but If you don't deal with it, it might show up in weird ways and mess with what you and Sade got going on.

SUNNY

I hear you. But right now I'm not trying to tell Sade nothing, until she tells me why some woman thinks it's ok to post all those suggestive ass pictures.

DORIAN

You out here closeted while folk think your girlfriend is single. Sade is a catch and you know this. If these vulture bitches think she's single, they'll be on her like white on rice.

SUNNY

I know, ok? And I've been thinking about that. Coming out and not caring about the comments, judgements and the disappointment your mom and dad will feel.

DORIAN

So what if they're disappointed? I'm their son and I don't even care about their opinions. Look, coming

out is a very personal thing and you should do it when you're ready.

SUNNY

Thank you. Try telling that to Sade-

The front door opens, Sade stumbles in all giggly. She kicks her shoes off, looks up.

SADE

Hey, baby! Oh hey Dori, what you doing over here so late?

DORIAN

Hey, sis. I was just keeping Sunny company. I would offer you some of this rum punch but I don't think you need it judging by- Tell me you didn't drive here.

Sunny is silently staring daggers at Sade.

SADE

Boy, you know I don't drink and drive. Reign's driver brought me.

What else is Reign doing? Tell me because I feel like I'm in the dark here.

SADE

What are you talking about? It was her party, she made sure everyone got home safe. Relax, babes-

SUNNY

Don't tell me to relax, dammit!
 (she yells then gets herself under control)
 Don't tell me to relax, what the hell are all those pictures on IG about?

SADE

Oh, here we go. Could you not do this tonight? I promise tomorrow you can scream at me all you want-

DORIAN

Okaayy guys, I think this my cue to take my rum, take a couple slices of this pizza and bounce.

SADE

Oh no, stay. Stay for the show, because your cousin

is about to tear me up for going to a party she did not wanna attend.

SUNNY

I don't wanna attend because I don't think you really want me hanging with your friends!

Meanwhile Dorian has made himself a to-go foil container and is heading for the door.

DORIAN

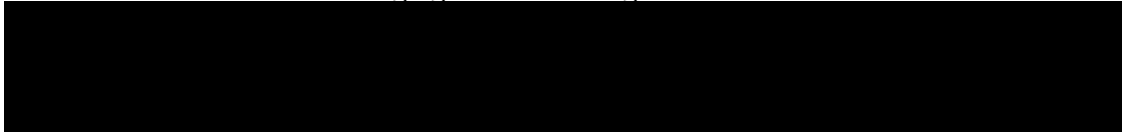
I love y'all but this ain't it for me. I don't wanna watch you fight. I'm heading out but please work out your stuff, don't go to bed angry. Love y'all!

They both watch Dorian leave, the door closes and they immediately resume arguing.

Sunny strides up to Sade, her finger pointed at her face menacingly.

SUNNY

Don't you ever tell me to relax when you've been out all damn evening galivanting with these so-called



SADE

We were tipsy. And high. She was just messing around, that's what Reign does. She's a flirt but she's my friend, she knows how important you are to me.

SUNNY

Does she? Because I know she's the one blowing up your phone every hour on the hour! Don't you dare lie to me, Sade!

SADE

You know what? I had a great time, I came home expecting to continue having a great time with you but here we are. I asked you to come with me!

SUNNY

And I said I did not want to go! Sade, it's the anniversary of my parents' death, I can't help feeling sad. You promised to come home, make dinner, chill with me-

SADE

And the time got away from me, I'm sorry. I'm home

now so please let me be there for you and quit worrying about Reign.

SUNNY

Uh-uh. In order for me to stop worrying about her, I gotta know what y'all talk about everyday.

She snatches Sade's phone from her hand, walks away as she scrolls through it.

SADE

Sunny, don't play with me. Gimme my phone!

She goes to get it, Sunny pushes her off.

SUNNY

(reading)

'Remember back in the day when our friendship came with benefits? I do remember but I'm in a relationship now, she's the one. But I am the original one...'

Sade stops struggling to get the phone.

SADE

I didn't cheat on you if that's what you waiting to hear-

Sunny suddenly flings the phone across the room, it lands on the wall and breaks. Sade screams, her head in her hands.

SADE

What in the actual fuck is wrong with you? You broke my phone!

SUNNY

I don't know what's worse, you not requiring your 'friends' to respect our relationship or you not respecting it yourself.

SADE

(paces in a circle)

This is not happening, this is so not happening-

SUNNY

You smell like her, you know.

Sunny starts to put on her shoes.

SADE

I don't smell like- If I do it's because she hugged me goodnight. That's all. I swear.

SUNNY

If I don't get out of this house, I'm gonna lose it.

She gets up, downs the drink Dorian left on the table.

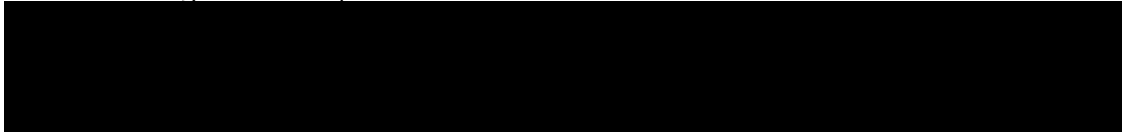
She starts to leave, Sade grabs her arm. She struggles to pull away, they wrestle with each other.

SADE

Where are you going, It's almost midnight!

SUNNY

Let go of me, I'm serious.



Sunny heads for the door, Sade on her heels.

SADE

Ok, I'm sorry. I'm sorry I went out and didn't stay home to help you cope with your parents' death. I'm sorry for screwing up by going to this party, for letting Reign feel so comfortable posting those pictures-

SUNNY

I need some air. When you tell that bitch what happened, make sure you tell her the next time, your phone isn't all I'm gonna break.

SADE

Are you threatening me?

SUNNY

I'm threatening your friend. You can tell her that too.

SADE

Ok, this is not like you, Sunny. You really need to calm down. You're not going anywhere in this state-

SUNNY

Stop me then.

Sunny starts to move towards the door, Sade shoves her hard, she stumbles and falls against the wall.

SADE

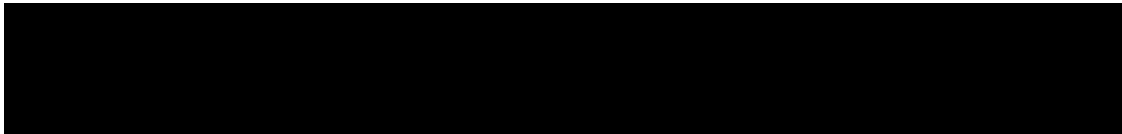
Fine! Go!

They both freeze. Sunny on the ground, Sade with her hands over her mouth.

SADE

Oh God, I'm sorry. Baby, I never meant to do that- I'm sorry, I didn't mean that, I promise!

Sunny gets up, rushes out the door, slamming it behind her.



ACT IScene 5

'Mama Love' by Jah Vinci plays while-

Miss Donna is cozied up halfway under a blanket, a photo album on her lap. Her hair is tied up, she's about ready for bed. Lester appears carrying a large mug and a plate of crackers. He sets the crackers down on the coffee table, hands Miss Donna the tea.

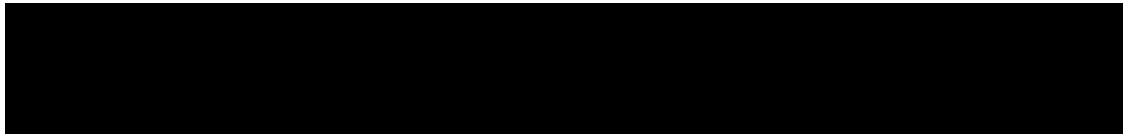
MISS DONNA

Thanks, dear. Make sure you put a lot of honey in there just the way I like it.

LESTER

I put just the right amount in there, taste it. Little rum in there too.

Miss Donna is busy taking sips, Lester takes the album off her lap and starts perusing the pages.



LESTER

My gran-gran used to make it same way. Look at this picture, remember when the kids force us to take dem to Six Flags?

MISS DONNA

An' force us to go on the roller coaster with them! Lawd have mercy, I never go on dem tings all mi life! After that one time, I say never again.

LESTER

I remember, I got whiplash from it too, you forget? Both of us was no use to ourselves days after!

MISS DONNA

All because Sunny told Dori they didn't have roller coasters in Jamaica and he decided we all had to get on one with her.

Miss Donna sips her tea seemingly deep in thought as Lester flips through the pictures and chuckles.

LESTER

You remember how shy Sunny was when she got here? Lock up in her bedroom and would only talk and play with Dori. Then she start that new school and start beating up the children.

LESTER

To be fair, those kids tried to bully her. Plus she did still angry about her parents.

MISS DONNA

I remember the last child she beat up, punch that little boy in his belly so hard he threw up. I had to beg them not to expel her and use the death as excuse. Now she all grown up and we don't hear from her no more.

LESTER

That's life, Donna gyal. But I don't worry, Suny will find her way back home one day.

MISS DONNA

Today makes twenty-two years, I can only pray and hope she's ok wherever she is.

MISS DONNA

You right, I'm going to go do my bible study. Make sure you turn off the living room lights after you finish out here.

Miss Donna trudges off stage, fixing her hair scarf as she goes. Lester takes the teacup and heads in the opposite direction. He doubles back and turns off the living room lights.

Dorian walks in the living room carrying a game console and a bag of chips. He dramatically tiptoes around and turns on just one light. He turns on the tv and gets ready to start gaming. He phone rings loudly, he startles and grabs it, knocking chips on the couch in the process. He listens for a bit, expecting the house to wake up. He answers in a loud whisper, brushing the chips from the couch back in the bag and eating a few at the same time.

DORIAN

Sade? Girl, my phone just rang louder than a damn gunshot. You almost woke my momma up, you know she sleep with one eye open like somebody who did time! What's going on?

We hear Sade's side of the conversation as though she's on speaker.

SADE

Is Sunny over there?

DORIAN

Sunny? Why would she be over here of all places?

SADE

She ran out of here and I thought she was with you, she's not answering my calls.

DORIAN

It got that bad after I left?

SADE

It got bad-bad. We got into a fight, like an actual

actual fights, are you saying-

SADE

No! Maybe I should call it a tussle then, she tried me first! She grabbed my phone and started going through it-

DORIAN

That does not sound like Sunny.

SADE

She read a couple messages from Reign and then she smashed my phone.

DORIAN

Ooohhh shit!

SADE

Good thing I have two phones, 'cause she legit flung one into the wall.

DORIAN

I ain't taking no sides or assuming anything but did

you do something to piss her off that bad? I mean aside from staying out later than you said you would.

SADE

Reign and I met well over ten years ago, we actually worked on a short film together. At the time, we were both single and closeted baby dykes running around Hollywood.

DORIAN

Why do I feel like you about to tell me some shit?

SADE

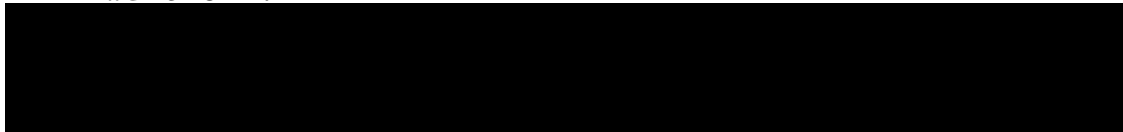
She and I have been friends since. For a time, with benefits.

DORIAN

Yeah, sis. I see why Sunny killed your phone.

SADE

She don't even know we used to get down like that! Reign is just a flirt, that's the nature of our friendship now. She sent me a few messages and Sunny went off.



quick.

SADE

I probably deserve to hear whatever you gonna say but I gotta go find Sunny-

DORIAN

She probably don't wanna be found by you right now, so you going listen.

SADE

But if I don't go after her then it looks like I-

DORIAN

Like you respect that she needs space and time to cool down.

SADE

But it's like midnight!

DORIAN

LA is the city that never sleeps.

SADE

Isn't that New York?

DORIAN

Whoever said that shit ain't never lived out here!

SADE

That part!

DORIAN

Look, when you're in a relationship especially one that gets invalidated by people everyday, It's your job to protect it like you would your child. Despite gay marriage becoming legal in 2015, many people still see our relationships as less important or meaningful.

Straight people can have a two month online, never-met-in-person relationship, act like it's two decades old and nobody bats an eye. A gay couple can be together ten years, raise kids et cetera. Something happens to one, now here come some family member making decisions and completely disregarding what they had this whole time.

DORIAN

You said that's how things used to be, aside from the legal aspects, things are still like that! Queer relationships get invalidated enough by straight people, why are you letting a gay bitch do that to what you got with Sunny?

SADE

Dori, she was just playing. That's how Reign is, she flirts with everyone but dates no-one.

DORIAN

I can't believe you not getting this. This isn't about her flirting with everyone, this is about you letting her think it was ok to post those suggestive ass pictures of you on social media.

SADE

Damn, you're right. I'll ask her take them down.

DORIAN

You're an actress in Hollywood that people know.

Lot's of people. You have almost a million followers, you don't think those pictures are already saved and shared by millions of people? How do you think that makes Sunny feel?

SADE

Mad enough to break my phone.

DORIAN

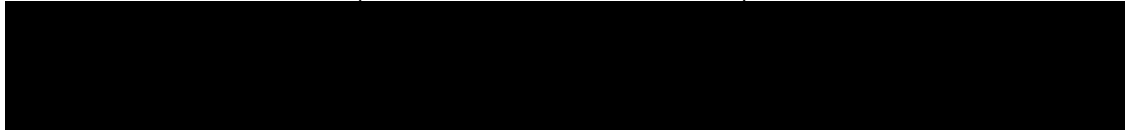
Both you and Reign are out and proud, living a life in the public eye. Sunny is closeted, nobody knows you're in a serious committed relationship with her! She probably feels isolated and disrespected.

SADE

We've been together two years, that's how long I've been waiting for her to come out. She refuses! Something about not wanting to further disappoint your parents, backlash from her family back home in Jamaica.

DORIAN

Sunny and my parents are Jamaican, I was born here. So I can't say for sure what Sunny is scared of but



But she doesn't even live there! This is frustrating for me too, Dori. I wanna tell the world who I'm with, I wanna take her everywhere. My entire family completely adores her, but they know it's taking a lot out of me to be with a closeted person. Why can't Sunny see that?

DORIAN

I think you should be having this conversation with Sunny.

SADE

I don't want Reign like that, there's a reason we never had an actual relationship. Reign wants everybody. I like hanging with her because-

DORIAN

Because she's the kinda freedom you can't have with Sunny. Least not while she stay in that closet.

SADE

So, you saying I shouldn't go after her tonight.

DORIAN

Nope. Give her space and trust her to take care of herself. Use this time to get your apology together, sis.

SADE

Got it. Thanks, Dori.

DORIAN

Oh, and sometimes we gotta break up with friends the way we do lovers.

SADE

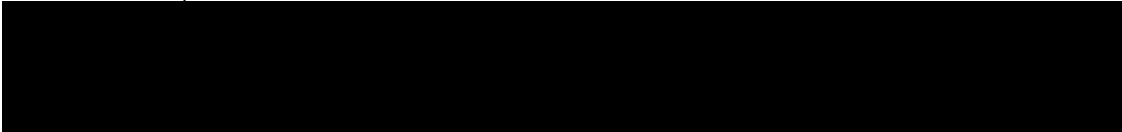
So I gotta quit being friends with Reign.

DORIAN

You gotta figure out if the friendship is worth saving and I feel like she's important to you. Y'all got history.

SADE

Not just this kinda history. We been through some things together, as two black women in Hollywood over the years.



friendship. Talk to her about those pictures she posted, don't let her call you all hours of the night. Don't give her so much access to you.

SADE

I just don't want her thinking I'm choosing Sunny over-

DORIAN

Sunny is your partner so yes, Reign needs to know that's who you've chosen. Over everybody. Over her.

SADE

Sunny is calling! I gotta go, thanks again Dori.

ACT IScene 6

Dorian has 'Summertime' by Vybz Kartel playing as he works out via dance routine in the living room. He's incorporating dancing with different exercises including burpees and push-ups.

Lester walks in wearing too-close fitting workout gear, including a head band. He looks like he just arrived from the 80s. Music screeches to a stop as though a DJ were operating.

DORIAN

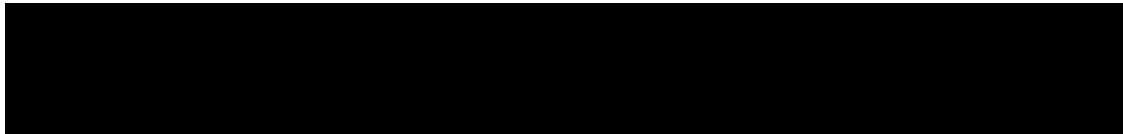
Umm, dad? What you doing?

LESTER

Everyday you in here dancing an' exercising an' keeping fit. I figure is about time I do the same.

DORIAN

Yeah, but what are you wearing though?



DORIAN

Umm, right. Dad, I remember those clothes from when I was in grade school. When they actually fit.

Lester starts stretching, he's not great at it.

LESTER

You going to stand there an' run you mouth or you going to start back the music?

DORIAN

My routine is very high tempo, you sure you don't wanna talk to your doctor before-

LESTER

Just start it off, I will follow. You think you is a big time dancer, who you think you get it from?

DORIAN

Yeah right, you used to dance?

LESTER

Used to? Bwoy, start the music and let we see who bad!

DORIAN

Alexa, play 2018 socadancehall mix.

A high tempo mix of Caribbean dancehall songs begin and Dorian starts his dance. Lester jumps in, at first he's flailing. For the benefit of the audience's entertainment he's actually good. There's a father/son dance off.

Miss Donna comes in, the music lowers but can still be heard.

MISS DONNA

What's this now? The two of you don't have anything to do?

DORIAN

(shouts to her)

Hey, mom. Did you know dad had moves like this?

LESTER

This exercise business not bad at all, Donna you should come join we!

Both Lester and Dorian continue to vigorously dance around the living room, purposely trying to goad Miss Donna.

MISS DONNA

Watch those plants in the corner, I just buy them last week! Careful, Lester, watch out for the-

Lester crashes into said plant, knocks it over, breaks the pot. They all freeze.

DORIAN

Uh-oh. Dad is in trouble now.

MISS DONNA

I warned you and now look what happen! I nah clean it up, Jesus take the case an' gimme di pillow!

Throwing her hands up, she storms off stage then

returns with a broom and dustpan. Dorian quickly takes it and starts the clean-up. Lester holds and rubs one knee.

LESTER

Something just made a sound in my knee, is that normal? I don't think that normal at all, lemme go sit down.

MISS DONNA

Now you mash up my nice little plant an' you mash up you knee. Next time both of you wanna act like you don't have no sense, go do it outside.

DORIAN

But it's so much fun, though! You know I was thinking we should have a party.

MISS DONNA

Party in whose house? You crazy, I don't want anybody come run through my house like dem live here. When you move back in a place of your own, then you can have all the party you want.

LESTER

That's not such a bad idea but your brother and sister not gonna just drop everything and come to California.

MISS DONNA

Your brother on his second wife and second child so I'm sure he not gonna leave Atlanta and come here for dinner. Unless one of us dead.

DORIAN

Talk about doom and gloom. How about I invite Sunny for diner? That would be good, right?

Miss Donna and Lester exchange looks.

LESTER

I'm sure Sunny busy down there in LA, she probably won't have time-

MISS DONNA

Since I brought Sunny to America, this address don't

change. If she want to see us, she know where to find us.

Miss Donna starts to walk off stage.

DORIAN

If she says yes, is that ok?

LESTER

Why would you even have to ask? Sunny is welcome anytime, she and your mother just need to learn to see eye to eye.

MISS DONNA


An' we will see eye to eye when she stop throwing away her life. She in her thirties, no husband and no children.

DORIAN

Which is great! So many women have both and are now secretly wishing they were dead.

MISS DONNA

You are a man, what do you know?



DORIAN

Ok. But if I invite my cousin and she accepts the invitation, is she welcome?

MISS DONNA/LESTER

Yes!

DORIAN

Ok, aggression. I'm gonna call her up right now.

MISS DONNA

Don't leave you sweaty things in my living room, or I'm going to throw them in the rubbish bin.

LESTER

Dori, you might have to run to the store and get me some of dat Icy-Hot. My knee giving me a warm time.

DORIAN

Next time, warm up. And wear clothing that does not restrict blood flow.

ACT IScene 7

'Nobody Has to Know' by Kranium is playing-

There's a small table center stage with two chairs. There's breakfast food on the table, Sunny is busy putting it all together. She's wearing tank top and PJs, she's just getting up.

Sade enters in similar attire. She yawns, stretches and enters cautiously.

SADE
What's all this?

SUNNY
Breakfast.

SADE
It looks delicious.

SUNNY



SUNNY
(sits on one of the chairs)
I made it for you.

SADE
You made me breakfast. Okaayy, thanks?

Sade sits down to eat, she picks up a knife and fork then pauses.

SADE
Aren't you gonna eat?

SUNNY
I already ate.

Sade eats, Sunny watches her. She sets her cutlery down, pulls her chair close to Sunny's side of the table.

SADE
So we should talk. About what happened, I'm sorry.

That was all my doing and I'm sorry I made you feel disrespected. This relationship means a lot to me, you are everything to me. I realize this now and I plan to make some changes.

SUNNY

Like what kinda changes?

SADE

I won't allow anyone to disrespect our relationship by becoming too familiar or comfortable.

SUNNY

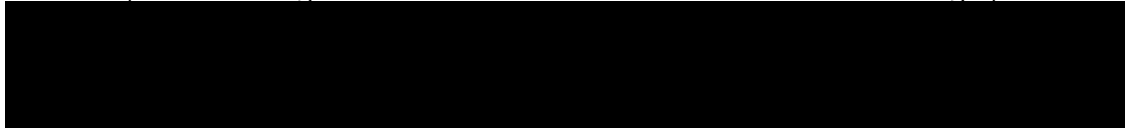
Ok.

SADE

I spoke to Reign about those pictures, about us, the kind of friendship we have. She knows now that I won't tolerate flirting of any kind, no suggestive pictures or posts on social media.

SUNNY

I'm sorry, for losing my cool. I'm so sorry I allowed myself to get so affected instead of trusting you.



I put you in that position and I'm sorry for that. I made you feel like I couldn't be trusted, that I was all into these Hollywood types more than I am into us.

SUNNY

I thought about you leaving me for someone like Reign-

SADE

What? Not in a million years-

SUNNY

Let me finish. I figured you were tired of having to hide me, of having to exist in the closet with me. Reign is out, she doesn't care what people think. She's fun, she's exciting, life of the party. I acted like an ass because I somehow thought now that your acting career has taken off, you won't want me anymore. Someone still struggling to book even the smallest gigs, an introvert.

SADE

I love you for all the reasons you listed. I love that you're not the loudest in the room, that you're not so fake you forget what being real is like. Baby, I meet these types everyday and I don't pay them any mind because I already have my reason not to.

SUNNY

(pulls out a small gift box)
I got you a new phone.

SADE

You didn't have to do that.

SUNNY

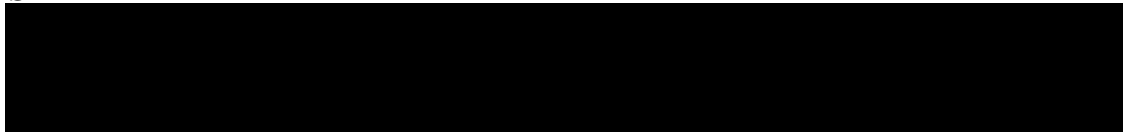
I wanted to, it's the principle behind it.

She gets up and start pacing.

SUNNY

So I have two things to tell you and I'm just gonna get to it.

SADE



you know, with my parents' death. It still affects me, I still get nightmares.

SADE

I know you get nightmares but I had no idea what about. I'm sorry, babes.

SUNNY

I love you and this relationship enough to make sure nothing pops up and ruin us. I can't expect you to act as both my partner and my therapist. So I've made an appointment with someone. Not saying she's gonna be my therapist for sure-

SADE

That's great! I'm so proud of you for doing this.

SUNNY

This person is black and female, doesn't mean she'll be the one but at least I'm not going in worried that she'll have no idea what it's like to be me.

SADE

That part.

SUNNY

What do you think?

SADE

I support it, I will take you to your first session and wait in the car until you're done. I want to be there for you while you do this.

SUNNY

Thanks, that means a lot.

SADE

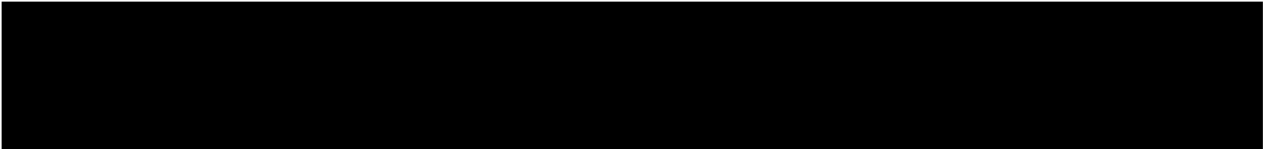
So, what's the second thing?

SUNNY

Dori invited me to family dinner with my aunt and uncle.

SADE

Whoa! Are you going?



So go, it will be good for you to see your family. I know you don't talk about them often but-

SUNNY

Only if you come with me. I'm only going with you. I want them to meet you, It's about time.

SADE

Wow. I don't know what to say-

SUNNY

Say you'll come.

SADE

I want to come with you. But baby, I just don't have it in me to be introduced to another person as your 'friend.'

SUNNY

That's why I'm introducing you as my girlfriend, my partner. My bae. They probably won't know that that is but you get the point.

SADE

I just wanna get this correct, you're coming out to them. As queer.

SUNNY

A wave of terror just sliced through me but yes, I am. If they reject me then I just won't ever talk to them again.

SADE

Look, I know we've been through it and I have made you feel pressured. But coming out is an incredibly personal thing, something you have to do when you feel ready. Not when someone else say you should.

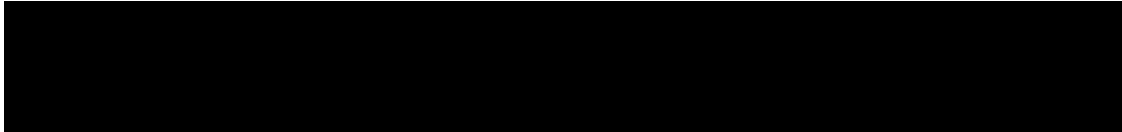
SUNNY

I know all this. I've thought about it, I've been thinking about it. I see the way you live your life, I want to live like that with you.

SADE

Which is?

SUNNY



SADE

Sounds like me. Coming out for me was never an issue, my folks suspected all along. They threw me a party when I finally did come out, I know it won't be like that for you. I just want to make sure you're prepared in case-

SUNNY

I am ready to not talk to my aunt and uncle again if me being queer is too much of an issue for them. I need to properly thank them anyway.

SADE

For what?

SUNNY

For bringing me here after my parents died. They gave me a great life filled with great opportunities, something I wouldn't have gotten had I stayed in Jamaica as an orphan.

SADE

As long as you don't think you have to spend your

entire life being in debt to them. You were a child, what happened was not your fault.

SUNNY

I know. Still, I feel I should say thank you. Especially to Uncle Lester, I'm not his biological family and he still treated me like his own child.

SADE

And I want to thank them for bringing you here. When is this dinner?

SUNNY

Dori says this afternoon.

SADE

Sunny! Why are you just saying this?

SUNNY

He sprung it on me too, If you already got plans then that's fine.

SADE

No, I don't have plans. But now I need to pick out an

are simple island folk. They'll probably insist on feeding you.

SADE

This is an important day for you and I need to look good for it.

ACT IScene 8

'Psalm 23' by Morgan Heritage and Buju Banton plays-

A dining table is filled with different types of food, Miss Donna is busy polishing silverware. Lester is wearing a chef's hat and apron, seeing to the food. Dorian tries to sneak something, his mom smacks his hand. There's soft Caribbean music playing in the background.

DORIAN

Them two better not show up late, I am starving!

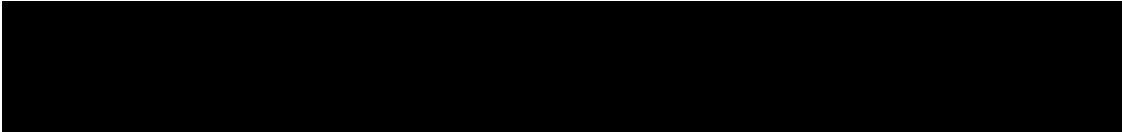
MISS DONNA

Patient man ride donkey, sit down and wait.

DORIAN

Patient man ride donkey, what does that even mean?

MISS DONNA



I'm so happy, my Sunny-bunny coming to visit! I can't wait to lay eyes on my niece.

MISS DONNA

So Dori, who this person she bringing with her?

DORIAN

Umm her friend, I think. Roommate.

LESTER

Well, any friend of Sunny's is a friend of mine.

MISS DONNA

Not when it come to them Hollywood types. As long as she ok, whoever this is.

DORIAN

Sade is more than ok, she's my sis. You'll like her.

LESTER

I'm sure we will.

MISS DONNA

If you say so. Well the food almost ready, only thing they need to do is show up and eat it.

A doorbell RINGS, Dorian quickly jumps up and heads towards the front door.

DORIAN

That's them, I'll go get it. Y'all please behave today, please.

LESTER

I always behave, don't look at me.

DORIAN

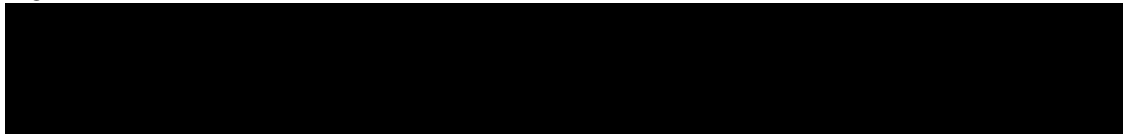
Mom?

MISS DONNA

Boy, go open the door and leave me alone.

Dorian goes to open the front door, Sunny and Sade stand there looking all glammed up.

DORIAN



few poses, holds up her phone and snaps a picture while kissing Sunny's cheek.

SADE

What, are we overdressed or something?

SUNNY

You think?

DORIAN

What y'all waiting on? Get inside 'fore folk see y'all standing outside my momma house an' think we rich.

He ushers them inside, at this point the audience cheers and they give a twirl...or whatever it's called.

SADE

It smells devine in here!

SUNNY

I smell some of my favorites already, did uncle

Lester do the cooking?

DORIAN

He sure did, insisted on it.

(stops them walking further in the house)

So what we going with, roommate or just friend?

SUNNY

What you mean?

DORIAN

Are we gonna tell my parents you two are roommates or friends? I need to know so we can be on the same page and shit.

SADE

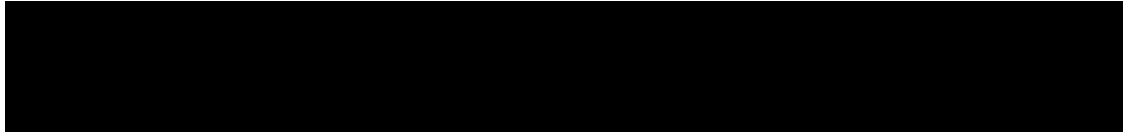
(gasps at Sunny)

You didn't tell him?

DORIAN

Tell me what? Now ain't the time for bullshit, y'all. I need to know what we doing before go in there.

SUNNY



fakes clutching his pearls and stares wide-eyed at audience.

DORIAN

Ok!

(to audience)

It is about to go down!

Sunny enters, sees his aunt and uncle and goes to hug them.

SUNNY

Hey, Uncle Lester!

(they hug)

Long time no see!

LESTER

Sunny-bunny! Look at you, you look good! Like ten million dollars!

SUNNY

Thank you, uncle. I feel good too. Hey auntie Donna.
(she offers a quick tentative hug)

How are you doing?

MISS DONNA

I'm doing good with the help of God, how you and the pandemic?

SUNNY

It was rough but we got through it.

Sade stands there awkwardly smiling, Dorian comes in and sorts of waits for it.

SUNNY

Auntie, Uncle this is Sade.

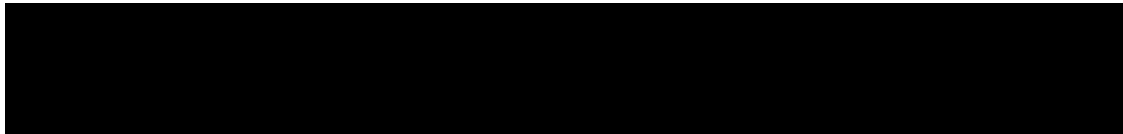
Sade shakes both their hands and smiles wide.

SADE

So nice to finally meet you guys, Sunny has told me so much about you.

LESTER

Hope it is all good.



(glances at Sunny for help)

Ummm...yes. I am- we're...friends.

LESTER

We are glad to have any friend of Sunny's, make yourself at home. The food is ready and it is delicious, hope you hungry.

SADE

I am.

They all move to take seats at the table, Sade glances at Sunny who seem to be having a panic attack. They sit at the table, Dorian shooting them questioning looks.

MISS DONNA

Miss Sade, I hope you don't mind but we say grace before we eat.

SADE

I don't mind at all.

MISS DONNA

Dori, you want to bless the food?

DORIAN

Why I gotta -

LESTER

(takes over)

Lord, we thank you for today. We thank you for your mercy and for bringing us together again as a family. Bless this food and allow it to nourish our bodies, in your holy name I ask.

LESTER/MISS DONNA/DORIAN/SUNNY/SADE

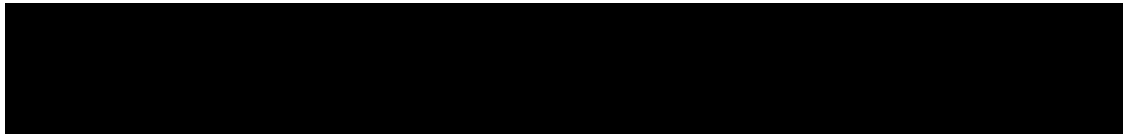
Amen.

DORIAN

Alright, let's get it! Dad, pass me the rice and peas.

SUNNY

I haven't had rice and peas in so long, haven't had time to make it.



SADE

Goat? As in the actual animal?

SUNNY

(laughs out)

Yep. It's great and you gonna try it.

SADE

Umm, we didn't discuss any goats-

LESTER

Try it man, after all, you with a Jamaican.

SADE

How did you-

SUNNY

Sade is my girlfriend.

A hush descends over the dinner table. Dorian starts fake coughing, until he stops.

DORIAN

Sorry. That scotch bonnet pepper, swallowed a piece.

MISS DONNA

What you saying, Sunny?

SUNNY

I'm saying Sade is my girlfriend, my partner. She's not my roommate or my friend although we do live together and we are best friends. We are partners.

MISS DONNA

So you is a lesbian.

SADE

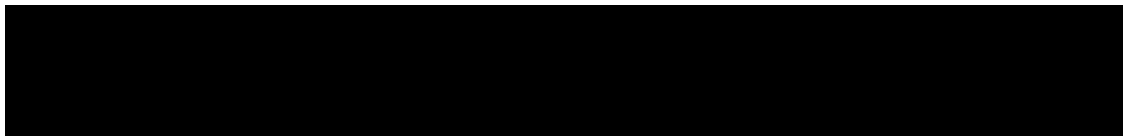
We prefer the term queer.

LESTER

Well, that don't matter. We still love you whether you are a queer or not.

SUNNY

Aw, thanks Uncle. That means a lot.



SADE

Queer people can in fact have children through a variety of ways, Miss Donna.

MISS DONNA

Don't mean no disrespect but you don't have the equipment for that.

SUNNY

Don't need it, we also are not planning on having kids anytime soon.

MISS DONNA

I can't say I agree with the lifestyle but if that's what makes you happy-

SUNNY

It's not a lifestyle, It's just who I am. I didn't wake up one morning and choose to be like this, It just happened.

MISS DONNA

And your parents ok with this, Miss Sade?

SADE

Yep, they're my biggest supporters. They love Sunny too.

LESTER

You know, I read somewhere that love is love and that's what I'm going with.

MISS DONNA

I don't know. Like I said, I'm not against you but I'm not happy with the- whole idea. I worry about you, back home in Jamaica people get killed for this. I don't want nobody to do anything to you because-

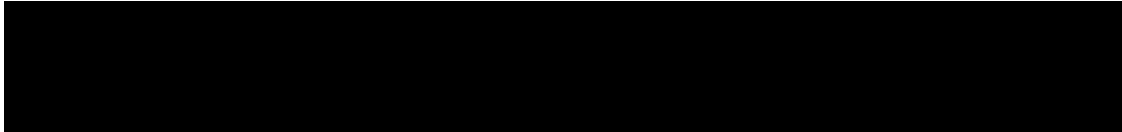
SADE

We live in Los Angeles, the gayest place in America! Sunny already warned me that we can't hug or kiss or anything when we do go to Jamaica.

LESTER

You planning to go home? Because we planning to go as well.

SUNNY



MISS DONNA

Sunny, I hope you know that me not coming to the funeral wasn't my choice. I had no green card and if I'd returned for the funeral, I would not be allowed to ever come back to this country.

SUNNY

I know. I was never upset about that, never thought about it even.

MISS DONNA

That's good to know. I know we don't always see eye to eye but I care about you and what you do with your life. Ever since you were twelve, I've felt like it was my responsibility to make sure you were happy.

SUNNY

I am. I am happy, with my life and my career even though I haven't hit the bigtime yet. And Sade makes me happy, she's so good to me.

SADE

I'm thankful to you both for bringing her to this

country and raising her to be the wonderful, talented human she is today.

LESTER

(raises a toast)
Here's to having our second queer in the family.

DORIAN

Second? Am I missing something?

MISS DONNA

Dori, we saw the magazines under your bed long time. I was paying your phone bill, you think I didn't know what you looking up online?

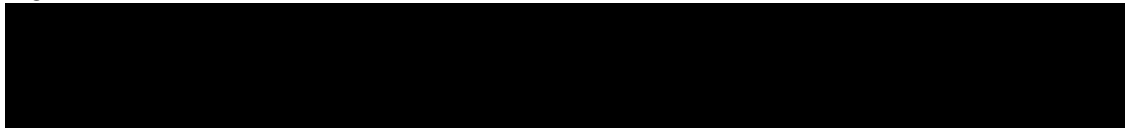
SUNNY

So you saying-

LESTER

We knew Dori was a queer too, we just didn't saying nothing. We think maybe you would outgrow it, but you didn't.

DORIAN



have to do that. So we just left you alone and pray you'd be safe in this crazy world.

DORIAN

And you don't hate me? You still- love me?

MISS DONNA

What you want us to do? Just disown you? You are my son whether or not you will ever have a girlfriend.

DORIAN

Gee, thanks.

LESTER

Give us some credit.
(to Sade)
Where we come from, the culture is different. Some people we know would stop talking to us if they know we didn't disown Dori or Sunny.

SADE

I'm glad you're not giving in to that part of your culture, Dorian is like a brother to me.

DORIAN

I need to smoke, y'all.

He gets up and starts to exit, Sunny reaches over and hugs Sade.

MISS DONNA

Just don't smoke you weed inside my house!

LESTER

Sunny, lemme go fix up a to-go plate for you and Miss Sade. Donna already pack up some things for you.

SUNNY

Oh yeah? What do I get? Any sugar cane in there?

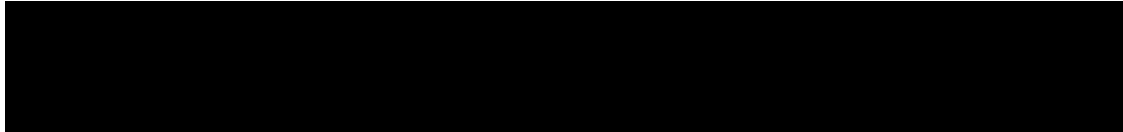
MISS DONNA

Yes, child. I know how much you like sugarcane. Some fever grass bush in there too and some cerase.

SADE

What's that?

LESTER



Damn, that's true.

MISS DONNA

The fever grass is good for nerves and stress. Makes you sleep good at night.

SADE

I definitely need some of that, my jobs leave me so tired sometimes I can't even fall asleep!

MISS DONNA

That not good at all. I will put some extra in the bag just for you. This cerase is also good for many things.

SUNNY

Jamaicans swear by this stuff, babe.

MISS DONNA

Because they work. You know Dori peed his bed up until he was almost thirteen! I didn't think it would ever stop. I got sick and tired of it and all the doctors I carry him they can't help.

SADE

Oh no, poor Dori.

MISS DONNA

I went to Jamaica and bring back some of this bush here and boiled it. Gave it to him every night and before you know it, he stop pissing in the bed every night!

Dorian returns in time to hear this.

DORIAN

Oh my God, mom! Nobody wants to hear that!

Sade starts giggling.


SADE

Till you were thirteen though, dude?

Nobody noticed Lester leaving until returns with a tray holding glasses of what looks like juice.

LESTER

Miss Sade, I hope you ready to try my famous rum


to LA.

SADE

What is in the punch besides rum?

LESTER

Now that's a secret. But if you come back and visit us, maybe I show you how to make it.

SADE

You have a deal!

DORIAN

Now that all skeletons and Sunny are out the closet, I can breathe. All things considered, I am happy we can start acting like family again.

MISS DONNA

We always gonna be family, no matter what. Now Miss Sade, you are officially part of a Jamaican family if you can handle it.

Sunny hugs Miss Donna, Dorian joins in, Lester

looks on with pride. He turns to Sade who's hanging back.

LESTER

You look relieved. I hope this makes it easier to work it out, whatever you and my niece are dealing with.

Lester walks off-stage, exiting stage left as lights start to dim. They trio ends the hug, Miss Donna exits behind Lester. Sunny walks up to Sade, Dorian stands watching. They give him the look, he scuttles off-stage with a dramatic twirl. Sunny and Sade embrace each other, they may have kissed but by this, stage is dark enough that audience can't be sure.

CURTAIN.

