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How Ya Mom 'N Dem

Zoe Young

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FINAL THESIS
FEATURE SCREENPLAY PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Student Name: Zoe Young

Thesis Logline:

How Ya Mom 'N 'Dem

Title

A teleplay written and produced and presented to the faculty of
the Writing for the Screen MFA Program in the School of Film &
Television at Loyola Marymount University of
Los Angeles, California

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree

Master of Fine Arts

Writing for the Screen

By

Zoe Young

Student Name

Zoe Young

Student Signature

APPROVAL TO ADVANCE TO CANDIDACY


The following student has met all the criteria to advance to candidacy for an M.F.A. in Fine Arts with an emphasis in Writing for the Screen:

Zoe Young

Student Name

May 4, 2022

Date



SCWR 690 Instructor Signature


Mary Kuryla (May 4, 2022 18:40 PDT)

SCWR 691 Instructor Signature



Graduate Director Signature

How Ya Mom 'N Dem

by

Zoë Young

A thesis paper presented to the

Faculty of the Department of
School of Film and Television
Loyola Marymount University

In partial fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts in Screenwriting

May 5, 2022

FADE IN:

EXT. ST. LOUIS CATHEDRAL, NEW ORLEANS - DAY

The sun beams brightly off of the steeple of the cathedral.
BRASS BAND MUSIC fills the streets below.

EXT. DECATUR ST., NEW ORLEANS - DAY

In contrast to the TOURISTS strolling casually down the street, PIERRE BOUDREAUX (34), a Cajun man in a midnight blue Brioni suit, walks with a sense of urgency.

He turns his head around to see his lovely fiancé YVONNE DOMINGUE (31), a Louisiana Creole Woman, walking at a leisurely pace in her nude Christian Louboutin pumps he bought her for the occasion.

He stops to wait for her and checks his Rolex.

PIERRE
We're late, Yvonne.

YVONNE
You think I don't know that?

PIERRE
At the pace you're walking I think you think the wedding is tomorrow.

YVONNE
You try walking in these shoes then. Shit! Besides, we ain't missin' much.

PIERRE
A lot happens twenty-five minutes into a wedding.

YVONNE
Oh boohoo, Pierre. Why you actin' like we finna meet Obama.

PIERRE
Don't you care about missing your favorite cousins wedding?

YVONNE
Now who said dat.

PIERRE

You said she was your favorite
cousin.

YVONNE

Was, when we were younger. Then she
found God or something and all our
conversations started ending with
her telling me she was gonna pray
for me.

Yvonne fake runs and catches up to Pierre. He extends his arm
and takes her hand.

EXT. JACKSON SQUARE PARK - CONTINUOUS

They cross over to Jackson Square at a rapid pace.

YVONNE

So I stopped trying with her.

PIERRE

Well, praying for someone ain't a
bad thing.

Yvonne shoots Pierre a look of discontent.

YVONNE

She says it to be condescending.

PIERRE

How do you...

Pierre cuts himself off after catching a whiff of the fresh
beignets coming out of Café Du Monde.

PIERRE (CONT'D)

Ooo, you smell that?

YVONNE

The horse shit and stagnant water?

PIERRE

No, the beignets. It's been a
minute since I had one of those. Ya
know, we should come back out here
sometime. Do some touristy things
in the city. It'll be fun.

Pierre smiles and looks to Yvonne for approval. She scoffs.

YVONNE

I'm good on the processed, sugar coated carbs. It was hard enough tryna fit into this dress already.

She smooths out her blush pink Celine dress.

Pierre sighs.

PIERRE

Suit yourself.

YVONNE

That I will do.

Pierre puts his hand on the small of her back as they step into the cathedral.

INT. ST. LOUIS CATHEDRAL - CONTINUOUS

The bride THERESE (27), who's dark hair is styled into an elegant updo, complimenting her angelic, gamine face and the groom DIMITRI (28) buzzcut, and clean shaven with a smug look kneel before the altar as a PRIEST recites the Homily before the GUESTS.

PRIEST

... and so it is a special blessing for me today to say on behalf of this beautiful, beautiful couple...

The large doors of the Cathedral ROAR open and several heads turn as Yvonne and Pierre enter.

Therese catches sight of Yvonne and Pierre's late entrance out of the corner of her eye. She releases a low, groan of annoyance.

Dimitri quickly glances at her in confusion.

Yvonne's heels CLICK on the tile as she makes her way over to the holy water font, dipping her hands in the water but, shakes it off, repulsed. Pierre does the sign of the cross and genuflects in full in order to be respectful.

The two find a partially vacant pew near the back.

Yvonne catches eyes with her mother DIANA (50s) who usually wears a smile as warm as her heart. Instead, she stares at Yvonne in disapproval.

Yvonne responds to her mother by shrugging.

Yvonne takes a good hard look around the church then leans over to Pierre, and speaks in a hushed yet clearly audible tone.

YVONNE

Do you see what she has her
bridesmaids in?

Pierre squints at the bridesmaids near the front of the church, but is unsure of what to think.

PIERRE

What do you mean?

YVONNE

And what type of two dollar get up
does this man have his groomsmen
in?

Pierre chuckles.

PIERRE

Ok, so you don't like the attire.

YVONNE

I mean, come on. You have your
wedding in the center of New
Orleans and your decor looks like
something our fourteen year old
cousin put together with her damn
eyes closed?

A few GUESTS from the groom's side look over to see where the chatter is coming from.

PIERRE

I mean it looks fine to me.
It's...unique.

YVONNE

My ass!

PRIEST

Please stand.

The CONGREGATION does as they are told.

PRIEST (CONT'D)

I invite the wedding party to
please join us at the altar.

Yvonne leans over to Pierre's ear to continue her conversation.

YVONNE

This is why she shoulda known
better than to steal my idea.

PIERRE

Your idea?

YVONNE

Ever since we were kids I been said
I wanted to get married in this
church. Then little miss wanna be
Saint Therese goes and gets engaged
first and guess where this heffa
wants her wedding?

PIERRE

Here, obviously.

YVONNE

And where do you think she got that
idea? Not from her own blockhead I
can tell you that much!

Confused Guests turn their heads around to see what the fuss
is.

Diana glares at Yvonne with squinted eyes and raises a finger
to her lips in an attempt to quiet her daughter.

Yvonne takes notice and mouths an apology her mothers way.

The Bride and Groom face one another.

PRIEST

I promise to be true to you.

DIMITRI

I promise to be true to you.

PRIEST

In good times and in bad.

DIMITRI

In good times and in bad.

Pierre takes Yvonne's hand and kisses it.

PIERRE

Just relax.

YVONNE

I am relaxed.

Pierre kisses her forehead and cheek.

YVONNE (CONT'D)
I'm just saying if someone woulda
stepped it up with the proposal...

Yvonne pulls her hand away from Pierre.

YVONNE (CONT'D)
My idea woulda been my idea first.

Pierre thrusts his tongue in his cheek, gives a short laugh while slightly nodding.

PIERRE
Come on now, you never even wanted
to discuss marriage until you found
out Therese was engaged.

YVONNE
Now you just makin' shit up.

A CAMERAMAN photographing the wedding moves down the aisle and gives Yvonne an annoyed look. Yvonne raises her eyebrows at him.

YVONNE (CONT'D)
You gone take my picture or you
just gone stand there lookin'.

Pierre gestures for Yvonne to keep her voice down.

PIERRE
Shhhh.

The Cameraman snaps a picture and moves forward.

The Priest collects the rings and hands them to the Bride and Groom.

A BABY begins to CRY a few pews up and Yvonne looks around to see where it is coming from.

Valerie (28) in a wrinkled blue dress that matches the disheveled look of her hair, rushes to the back of the Cathedral with the baby in her arms.

Yvonne's eyes follow her. She sucks her teeth.

YVONNE
Unbelievable.

A couple of Guests turn to Yvonne and give scornful glares. She waves them off.

PIERRE
What has gotten into you?

YVONNE
You see that woman right there.

Yvonne gestures with her eyes, but Pierre looks around unsure.

PIERRE
Who?

Yvonne takes Pierre's face into her hands and puts LISETTE (60s), a skinny woman who's wild silver hair is held back with a hairband, into his view.

YVONNE
That old woman is Lisette. My grandfather's, God rest his soul, first wife's daughter. And that was her daughter, the one running with the baby.

PIERRE
Ok?

YVONNE
They don't got no business being here.

PIERRE
Why not? They're family aren't they?

YVONNE
Not in my book! Lisette's momma was batshit crazy! And she never liked my grandmama neither. But, of course Therese, tryna play peacemaker, would invite them to her wedding.

Pierre shakes his head.

YVONNE (CONT'D)
I'm surprised they even showed up. And with a damn baby at that. Who brings a loud ass baby to a wedding.

Diana clears her throat.

Yvonne look over to find her giving her the death stare.

She zips her mouth closed.

PRIEST

Now, let's congratulate this bride
and groom!

Everyone APPLAUDS.

INT. RECEPTION HALL - EVENING

Well-dressed Men, Women, and Children sit in groups at big
round tables.

Drinks in hand, Pierre leaves the open bar and makes his way
over to his designated seat. Yvonne sits at the table next to
her AUNT ALZIDA, an woman too wise for her own good, dressed
in all black with a black veil covering her face.

With rosary beads she MUMBLES prayers to herself.

Yvonne sits with her arms crossed looking at Alzida.

YVONNE

Auntie why in the hell are dressed
like that?

Alzida lowers her rosary

ALZIDA

Child, you know how I feel about
weddings.

Yvonne looks Alzida up and down and shakes her head.

YVONNE

All I know is you bess not show up
to my wedding lookin' like that or
you will be escorted out.

Alzida goes back to praying.

Pierre puts a drink down in front of Yvonne. She looks up and
smiles at him.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

They had Dorado?

PIERRE

Just Bacardi or Captain Morgan.

Yvonne grimaces and pushes the drink away from her.

YVONNE
Mmm, I don't want it then.

Pierre frowns.

PIERRE
I'll just drink it then.

Alzida takes the drink and begins to chug it herself.

Pierre looks at her a bit stunned.

PIERRE (CONT'D)
Or...not?

DIANA (O.S.)
Yvonne Marie Domingue!

Yvonne turns to see her Mother standing a few feet behind her with a hand on her hip.

Yvonne sighs.

YVONNE
Had a feeling this was coming.

Diana points at Yvonne and gestures for her to come over. Diana turns to Pierre and gives him a stern look as well.

DIANA
You too Pierre!

Yvonne reluctantly gets out of her seat.

YVONNE
(to Alzida)
Watch our seats would you?

She starts to head over to her mother, but then stops and turns back to Alzida.

YVONNE (CONT'D)
And don't go drinking his drink!

Yvonne walks over to Diana and Pierre trails behind.

Diana shakes her head at them.

Yvonne opens her arms wide to pull her mother into a hug.

YVONNE (CONT'D)
Hi, Momma!

Although clearly angry, Diana accepts the hug.

DIANA

You mind telling me how y'all two had the nerve to miss the entire procession?

PIERRE

We are so sorry, we got held up in...

DIANA

Not only were you late, but everybody with ears could hear y'all chit-chatting it up back there.

PIERRE

Again, we're so sorry.

YVONNE

Oh we weren't that bad.

Diana waves it off.

DIANA

Never mind it, you went and told Therese congratulations yet?

YVONNE

We're here aren't we? Our gift off the registry should be congrats enough.

Diana gives Yvonne a look of disapproval.

DIANA

Yvonne, stop being tryflyn and go tell ya cousin and her husband congratulations and that you wish them well. Plus, ya Parrain is over there and he ain't seen you since God knows when.

Diana guides Yvonne and Pierre over to the BRIDAL PARTY TABLE.

On the way over Yvonne notices a WOMAN sitting at another table crying. She wipes away her mascara filled tears with a handkerchief.

Yvonne nudges Pierre with her elbow and gestures with her chin at the Woman.

YVONNE

Wonder what's up with her.

They both look at the Woman concerned.

At the Bridal Party Table Yvonne's Parrain, JOEL(late 50s), a goofy man who means well, sits laughing at a story he is telling.

He catches sight of Yvonne and springs from his seat.

JOEL

Is that Miss Yvonne I see?

YVONNE

(singsongy)

It is.

Joel pulls Yvonne into a tight hug and lifts her feet off the floor.

JOEL

Girl, you got some grown. How old are you now?

YVONNE

Just made thirty-one.

JOEL

Thirty-one! God Damn!

Yvonne nervous laughs.

YVONNE

Don't be sayin' that too loud.

JOEL

I was just tellin' ya momma it feels like just yesterday you and the girls were little things. Now look at you all big.

THERESE (O.S.)

Big in all types of ways.

Yvonne freezes and her head mechanically turns to her newlywed cousin Therese seated at the table.

Therese holds a flute of champagne and slyly looks up at Yvonne.

Yvonne forces a smile.

YVONNE

What was that, Therese?

THERESE

Oh, I was just thinking
how...you're curves have really
come in. You're really filling out
that dress.

Yvonne clenches her fists at her side.

YVONNE

Thanks, it's a Celine.

THERESE

That's nice. Glad you made sure to
at least be fashionably late.

YVONNE

Well, you know me.

THERESE

(under her breath)
Unfortunately.

YVONNE

You look stunning by the way and
that dress is absolutely gorgeous!
Who's the designer?

THERESE

Anna Campbell.

YVONNE

Oh, cute! I just got fitted for my
wedding dress last week.

THERESE

Oh, good.

YVONNE

It's a Vera Wang.

THERESE

Awesome.

YVONNE

A bit expensive but so worth it.

THERESE

Was it?

YVONNE

Definitely, especially since I
don't have your talent of making
cheap things look lavish.

Therese grits her teeth.

THERESE

Ya know...

Before she can finish she is interrupted by a CLINCKING of a glass. RENATA (early 20s), Therese's little sister who's chubby cheeks and bangs make her appear younger than she is, stands up to break the tension of their conversation.

RENATA

Time for the toasts!

INT. RECEPTION HALL - LATER

Everyone sits as Renata, holding a microphone, stands in front of Therese who has a single tear rolling down her cheek.

RENATA

...when I look back on our time growing up, I recall so many giggles when we should have been sleeping, sneaking out of the house...

Pierre holds Yvonne's hand. Yvonne looks down at their intertwined fingers in slight discomfort. She pulls her hand away and wipes the clamminess off on her dress.

Pierre looks at her, confused, but she simply smiles at him.

RENATA (CONT'D)

And finally, I would like to express how happy I am to call Dimitri my brother.

Dimitri smiles, and everyone APPLAUDS. The Sisters hug and sit back down.

Another CLINCKING of glass sounds in the background.

WOMAN (O.S.)

I would like to make a toast!

All the Guests turn and watch as the unknown Woman, that Yvonne spotted earlier, stands and reveals a pregnant belly protruding from a skintight dress. She waddles towards the Bride and Groom. Dried mascara tears still stain her face.

Therese leans over to Dimitri. His smile has been wiped clean off and is replaced with fear.

THERESE
Do you know her?

Dimitri doesn't respond.

The woman snatches the microphone that is still in Renata's hands. She stands right in front of Dimitri.

WOMAN
A toast to betrayal. A toast to
heartbreak. A toast to the future I
will never have with the love of my
life. It should be me in that
pretty dress. It should have been
me reciting those vows, but I
guess, to my surprise that's not
how it turned out. She get's a
promise, a future, a honeymoon and
the happily ever after while I get
sweet nothings, lies, and maybe
some child support on the side.
Congratulations, Therese, it's time
you finally knew and
congratulations, Dimitri, the
father of my unborn child.

The woman clutches her pregnant belly.

Everyone gasps. Diana faints. Therese gets up and stands over
Dimitri.

THERESE
(screaming)
Is this true?

Dimitri just looks at her. No words leave his mouth.

Therese slaps the life out Dimitri, then runs out of the
reception hall in tears. Renata and their father, Joel, chase
after her.

Yvonne sits with her mouth agape. She starts to laugh at the
chaos.

YVONNE
This is better than reality TV!

Pierre turns to her in shock.

YVONNE (CONT'D)
What? It is.

Pierre remains shocked and his eyes search the reception hall
trying to make sense of what happened.

Alzida finishes another drink and puts it down on the table next to three other empty glasses in front of her.

She swings her head over to face Yvonne.

ALZIDA

What I tell you about weddings.

Yvonne shakes her head and weakly attempts to stifle her laughter by covering her mouth with her hand.

Alzida gets up.

ALZIDA (CONT'D)

I need a shot!

INT. FAMILY HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

A boxing match airing on TV comes from another room.

Therese, make up smeared from crying, her wedding dress still on, sits at the newspaper-covered kitchen table digging into a large bag of boiled crawfish.

Yvonne and Diana sit at the table observing Therese, unsure of what to say.

Renata leans on a wall close by doing the same.

There is a long silence filled with only SHELL CRACKING and LIP SMACKING until Yvonne finally breaks it.

YVONNE

He was kind of ugly anyways.

Diana gives her an angry look.

DIANA

Yvonne!

YVONNE

What? I'm just saying!

(to Therese)

Try to look on the bright side! You saved yourself from some goofy ass lookin' kids.

RENATA

You not helping.

YVONNE

And you are?

Therese slowly turns to Renata.

THERESE

Can you get me some of dat
Tennessee Jack Honey, straight,
please?

Renata obliges then makes a face at Yvonne.

She opens a cabinet and pulls out a bottle of Jack Daniel's
and pours a decent amount into a glass.

She hands it to Therese who takes a break from the crawfish
and knocks it back like a shot.

THERESE (CONT'D)

More.

RENATA

Yes, Ma'am.

Renata complies.

Diana sorrowfully looks over Therese and reaches a comforting
hand out to rub Therese's arm.

Therese sits back from the bag of crawfish and wipes her
hands, covered in dark red crawfish boil seasoning, off on
her white dress, then knocks back more whiskey.

Renata goes back to leaning on the wall and crosses her arms,
She starts shaking her head back and forth. Yvonne is the
first to notice this.

YVONNE

Whatchu thinking bout?

RENATA

Ya know, I can't help but to think
Lisette and 'em had something to do
with this cause this makes no
sense.

Yvonne cuts her teeth.

YVONNE

Now I hate those women more than
the next person, but how could they
have possibly had anything to do
with getting that lady pregnant.

RENATA

You know how.

YVONNE
Don't start talking 'bout...

AUNT ALZIDA (O.S.)
Da curse!

The lights flicker as the Women turn to watch Aunt Alzida, drunk, stagger in and head straight for the bottle of Jack.

Yvonne sighs.

YVONNE
Here we go.

DIANA
Zida, I don't think you should be having more liquor? That can't be good with the medication you on.

AUNT ALZIDA
Girl hush, I've been knowing how to handle myself since before you were even a thought in our daddy and momma's brain.

Glass in hand, Aunt Alzida shuffles her way over to Therese.

AUNT ALZIDA (CONT'D)
Peel me some of dem, baby, I ain't wanna get my hands messy.

Therese peels a crawfish and places it in Aunt Alzida's open mouth like communion.

AUNT ALZIDA (CONT'D)
(to Therese)
Now, I'm sorry it had to happen to ya like dis ma baby, but you shoulda done been knew better.

YVONNE
Auntie, don't start patronizing Therese over that old family fable.

Aunt Alzida SLAMS her hand down on the table.

AUNT ALZIDA
It ain't no family fable, girl!
Witcho hard-headed ass self.

Yvonne purses her lips.

AUNT ALZIDA (CONT'D)

Ask yo momma, she got a short lived marriage wit yo daddy and I got two dead husbands to prove it!

She opens her mouth for more crawfish, and Therese puts a tail in. She chews, then continues.

AUNT ALZIDA (CONT'D)

Our daddy had his secrets. Before he met our momma he had a whole 'nother wife and kid over in Opelusas.

Yvonne looks at her, annoyed.

ELLIE

Auntie we are all very familiar with Lisette's momma Giselle and their family's origin story.

Aunt Alzida SLAPS her hand down on the table again.

AUNT ALZIDA

Girl don't make me bap you in the God damn mouth fo' talkin over me again!

DIANA

Yvonne, just let her say what she gotta say.

Alzida waits for Therese to feed her more crawfish.

AUNT ALZIDA

Now, where was I? So my daddy was supposed to send for Lisette's momma and her once he got his feet on the ground after coming down here to work. But after he met momma he said forget all dat. Even changed his last name so that she wouldn't find him.

Everyone in the Kitchen is drawn into the story except for Yvonne, ego bruised from being scolded.

AUNT ALZIDA (CONT'D)

She found him, alright. Had her brothers come all the way over here and track daddy down. They found out about momma, went back, and told Giselle.

(MORE)

AUNT ALZIDA (CONT'D)

But you see, what nobody knew, was
that Giselle was into

(lower)

Voodoo!

YVONNE

And she done cursed our
Grandmother. We know, we know.

Therese shakes her head in disdain.

AUNT ALZIDA

She cursed every woman born into
this family to suffer from terrible
marriages and share the same fate
of heartbreak she felt from losing
my daddy. Which includes you, since
you think you know so much.

Aunt Alzida sips her whiskey.

RENATA

Hell hath no fury like a woman
scorned.

YVONNE

That's tragic, it all is, but that
doesn't mean what happened at the
wedding can be blamed on the
supernatural Auntie.

AUNT ALZIDA

You got one thick skull, girl.

YVONNE

Why is no one willing to be honest
with the fact that today happened
because Therese don't know how to
keep a man.

DIANA

Yvonne!

RENATA

What's wrong with you?

YVONNE

Come on!

(to Therese)

Look I'm sorry, but how you let a
man go and have a whole baby on you
is beyond me.

(MORE)

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Maybe if you weren't always trying to leave things in God's hands and blindly trusting the fool you woulda been able to shut that shit down before it even started.

Therese looks down at the table and doesn't say a word.

Yvonne looks around the table for backup but everyone just shakes their heads at her in disdain.

Therese gets up from her seat.

THERESE

I think it's time for me to leave.

She walks over to the sink to wash her hands and face.

DIANA

Aw, no, Therese.

RENATA

Therese, no!

DIANA

Stay a little, don't you want to finish up ya crawfish?

THERESE

No, it's late, my lips are feeling tingly anyways.

She turns to the women.

THERESE (CONT'D)

Thank you for this.

Therese stares straight at Yvonne.

THERESE (CONT'D)

It's nice to know what little faith my family had for me and my marriage.

They watch Therese with pity as leaves the room.

They all turn to Yvonne and give her the evil eye.

YVONNE

What?

Renata leaves the room without saying a word. Alzida drags her feet over to the bottle of Jack.

DIANA

You shouldn't have said all that.

YVONNE

Momma, someone needed to tell that girl the truth.

Diana gets up to leave.

DIANA

The truth or not you need to watch how you go and say things to people. Especially when it comes to ya family.

Diana leaves.

Yvonne sits at the table alone.

INT. YVONNE AND PIERRE'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Yvonne and Pierre simultaneously brush their teeth.

YVONNE

(toothbrush in mouth)

I mean am I wrong for telling the truth?

She leans over the sink and spits, then rinses the brush.

Pierre continues to brush his teeth and doesn't respond.

Yvonne side eyes him.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

I said am I wrong?

Pierre rinses out his mouth.

PIERRE

No but, some people just aren't ready to hear the truth. It's not always best to be so upfront with them.

Yvonne groans and throws her toothbrush on the counter.

YVONNE

I don't know why I bother with you.

Yvonne leaves the bathroom.

Pierre puts both of their toothbrushes back properly. He caps the toothpaste and wipes down the counter.

Pierre then gives himself a hard look in the mirror.

He sighs.

INT. DRAGO'S SEAFOOD REASTURANT - NIGHT

Yvonne sits at a table across from Pierre going to town on a plate of charbroiled oysters.

YVONNE

Mmm,mmm,mmm, this food is too good!

Pierre gives her a weak smile.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

I swear they don't make them
nowhere like this but here.

While eating, Yvonne notices Pierre has barley made a dent in his own food.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Why aren't you eating? You don't
like your boudin?

PIERRE

No it's fine. I was just
thinking...

YVONNE

We can send it back if you don't
want it.

PIERRE

No it's not the food I...

YVONNE

Ain't no sense in paying for
something you not gonna eat.

PIERRE

I'm going to eat it, let me just...

Yvonne waists no time before she's flagging down a waiter. She waves her arm in the air trying to get their waiter to notice.

YVONNE

(loud)
Excuse me sir, sir?

PIERRE
Yvonne, stop!

Their WAITER, a seemingly anxious older man, takes notice of Yvonne and rushes over.

WAITER
How can I help you?

PIERRE
It's ok actually I...

YVONNE
Yes, um my fiancé here is not a fan
of what he ordered.

WAITER
Oh, so sorry about that.

The waiter looks at Pierre apologetically and takes his plate.

WAITER (CONT'D)
Can I get you something else?

Pierre attempts to take his plate back.

PIERRE
No, I'm fine with the...

YVONNE
Baby, just get something else.

PIERRE
I'm trying to tell you I...

YVONNE
(to waiter)
Just get him the grilled shrimp
pasta, he'll like that.

The waiter nods and is about to head off with the plate when Pierre slams his fist on the table.

PIERRE
Yvonne, I don't think we should get
married!

Yvonne freezes, her eyes go wide from shock.

The waiter stands frozen in place, in a state of shock as well.

The restaurant is much quieter than before as people from other tables, having heard the outburst, attempt to hear more.

PIERRE (CONT'D)

I've been thinking a lot about what you said last night... about telling people the truth and...

Yvonne begins to hyperventilate.

YVONNE

Oh, my, God!

PIERRE

There's a lot that I...

She starts to fan herself with her hand.

YVONNE

I'm going to have a panic attack!

PIERRE

I've been feeling that...

Yvonne grabs the drink menu and starts fanning herself harder.

She starts gasping for air.

YVONNE

I can't breath. I can't breath.

Pierre stops talking and watches her with concern.

He turns to the waiter.

PIERRE

Can you bring us a water?

The Waiter nods and hurries off.

YVONNE

I need...I need a doctor.

PIERRE

Yvonne, just breathe.

YVONNE

I need an ambulance.

PIERRE

Just take it easy for a minute.

YVONNE
Everything is going black! I can't
see!

PIERRE
Just calm...

Yvonne shakes her head and pushes herself away from the table.

YVONNE
I can't be here right now.

PIERRE
Yvonne!

She jumps up from her seat and runs to the bathroom.

The Waiter comes back with a glass of water and looks around.

Pierre stares straight ahead, not seeming to look at anything in particular.

WAITER
Where did she...

PIERRE
Can you just bring me the bill?

The Waiter nods solemnly.

WAITER
Sure thing.

He heads off. Pierre sits alone at the table with his hands balled into fists in front of him.

EXT. FAMILY HOME - POARCH - DAY

Yvonne and her mother Diana sit side by side in rocking chairs staring out onto the street.

They watch as cars pass by.

YVONNE
I have been nothing but good to
that man!

DIANA
Mmm.

YVONNE

I mean that man could hardly boil
an egg when I met him.

LUTHER, a friendly young man from the neighborhood comes
walking down the sidewalk. He smiles and waves at the Women.

LUTHER

How you doin' Miss Diana.

DIANA

I'm doin' good Luther, how ya mom n
dem?

LUTHER

They good, they good!

DIANA

Tell em to stop by next time we do
a crawfish boil out back.

LUTHER

I'll let em know.

DIANA

Ok, take care now. I'll be seeing
ya.

Luther continues on his way.

Diana turns her head towards Yvonne and raises an eyebrow.

DIANA (CONT'D)

What he tell you the reason was for
calling off the marriage.

YVONNE

I don't know! We haven't talked
about it yet. I told him I couldn't
bare to hear another word about it
or my heart would give out, so we
agreed we would discuss it later.

Diana shakes her head.

DIANA

Now I know you don't want to hear
this, but...

YVONNE

It's the curse...I know. It must
be! It just doesn't make sense
otherwise.

DIANA

I'm telling you. If it don't make sense any other way, it's gotta be.

Yvonne throws her head back.

YVONNE

What have we done to deserve this?

DIANA

I asked myself that all the time after ya daddy left. Ain't really got no answers.

YVONNE

We can't live like this. There's gotta be something we can do.

Diana just shrugs and shakes her head

DIANA

I don't know what to tell ya. I don't know nothing bout no voodoo spell, just that we have to bear burden of it.

YVONNE

I wish we didn't have to.

Yvonne's eyes scan the floor and she chews the inside of her cheek, thinking.

DIANA

But Yvonne, please do me a favor and go visit ya cousin. She was real hurt over what you said. I know you don't like her, but that girl has been through enough.

Yvonne is struck with an idea and her head shoots up.

She turns to her mother with a sly smile.

YVONNE

I'll do her one even better. I'm going to save my marriage and potentially even fix hers.

Diana looks at her daughter questioningly.

DIANA

And how are you going to do that?

Yvonne gets up and begins to walk to her car.

YVONNE

I'm going to break the curse.

Diana watches as Yvonne gets into her car.

DIANA

Don't go doing something crazy,
now.

Yvonne waves by to her mother and drives away. Diana's eyes follow the car.

DIANA (CONT'D)

Yeah...she gone go do something
crazy.

Diana shakes her head, gets up from her rocking chair and heads inside the house.

EXT. THERESE'S HOUSE IN MID-CITY, NEW ORLEANS - DAY

Yvonne, in a fresh pair of red bottoms walks up the brick steps of Therese's light blue house and KNOCKS five times on her light yellow door.

YVONNE

Therese! It's Yvonne!

Silence. She KNOCKS again.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Therese, I know you home! Open Up!

More Silence. Nothing but birds CHIRPING can be heard.

Yvonne turns her head and looks around the neighborhood. A kind Old Man with a walker is making his way down the block. He smiles at Yvonne and waves.

Yvonne smiles and waves back.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Hey, how ya doin'.

The Old Man continues on his way.

Yvonne turns back to the door and the smile is quickly wiped from her face. She begins POUNDING on the door.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Therese, don't make me break this
door down now.

The Old Man sees this and is shocked. He picks up the pace of his stroll to get away.

Yvonne tries the doorknob and to her surprise the door opens right up.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Girl, if you don't lock this damn door! Do you know what neighborhood you...

INT. THERESE'S HOUSE IN MID-CITY, NEW ORLEANS - CONTINUOUS

Yvonne walks in to find Therese's house a complete and utter disaster.

A stack of mail sits in disarray on the living room coffee table. Old food covered dishes are piled up on random items around the house. Flies circulate through the air. Random items are strewn around on the floor and partially obstruct the walkway.

Crumpled up used tissues line the floor and create a trail that leads to Therese's bedroom in the back.

YVONNE

(mumbling)

This no good heffa.

Yvonne cautiously watches her step as she proceeds towards the back bedroom.

INT. THERESE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The lights are off and the curtains are closed leaving the room to be illuminated only by a television screen displaying the movie Say Anything.

More tissues line the floor and cover the bed where Therese lays face down, still wearing her soiled wedding dress.

Yvonne flips the light switch.

THERESE

(muffled)

Go away Yvonne, I ain't got the nerve to deal with you today.

YVONNE

After I came all this way? I don't think so!

Therese takes her face out of the pillow to be more audible.

THERESE

I know T' Diana sent you, I'll tell
her you stopped by so she'll leave
you alone now please, go.

YVONNE

Ma momma was right to send me, you
and your apartment are one hot ass
mess.

Therese buries her face back into her pillow.

Yvonne SNIFFS the air a few times and grimaces.

THERESE

Let's get some fresh air
circulating in here.

Yvonne walks over to a window and lifts up the blinds letting
sunlight come pouring in.

She starts unlocking the bottom of the window.

Therese turns her head to see what Yvonne is doing and is
immediately pained by the light of day. She squints and
covers her face with her arm.

THERESE (CONT'D)

Yvonne!

Yvonne manages to lift the window open letting a nice cool
breeze come in.

Therese GRUNTS, gets out of bed, walks over to Yvonne and the
window and closes it.

YVONNE

Uh!

Therese lowers the blinds again letting the room go dark then
plops back, face-down, again onto her bed.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Fine then, I'll leave yo miserable
self alone, shit. I try to do one
good thing and this the thanks I
get.

Therese doesn't respond.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

I did need to ask you somethin' tho. You got Valerie and Lisette's number?

THERESE

I knew you needed something.

YVONNE

I'm just asking for a phone number not a million dollars.

THERESE

What you need they number fo'?

YVONNE

I gotta talk to them bout something'.

THERESE

About what?

YVONNE

Damn, Miss Nosey. I just gotta ask them a few questions?

THERESE

You askin' me fo they number and you can't even tell me what for.

Yvonne spies Therese's cellphone on her nightstand. She walks over to it.

YVONNE

Exactly, so just text it to me.

Just as Yvonne is about to grab the phone, Therese reaches her arm out and grabs it at the same time.

They start to by tug of war with the phone.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

(angry)

Just give me the phone!

The fight for the phone grows more intense. Yvonne gets pulled onto the bed as she tries to pry the phone out of Therese's fingers.

Suddenly, Therese sits up and licks Yvonne's eye.

Yvonne SCREAMS and immediately lets go of the phone. She gets off the bed and starts aggressively wiping her with her shirt.

YVONNE (CONT'D)
 Uh, nasty ass!

Therese GIGGLES slyly and hides the phone somewhere in her mess of a wedding dress.

Yvonne SIGHS loudly.

YVONNE (CONT'D)
 I just need to ask them about the curse, ok?

THERESE
 For what?

YVONNE
 Damn, do I gotta break everything down for you?

THERESE
 You need they number, don't you?

Yvonne looks at Therese, annoyed.

YVONNE
 Look, you ain't the only one having...trouble in paradise, alright?

Therese's eyes grow wide.

THERESE
 Oh, and you think it's cause the curse?

YVONNE
 Yes, it's the only thing that seems to be the culprit is this damn curse theory.

THERESE
 You sure it ain't cause you don't know how to keep a man?

Yvonne looks up to the ceiling and shakes her head, as if she knew this was coming.

She walks over to the side of Therese's bed and takes a seat.

YVONNE
 So I've been meaning to apologize, for what I has said after the wedding.

(MORE)

YVONNE (CONT'D)

I've come to realize that what happened with you and Dimitri wasn't... entirely your fault.

Therese sits up straight in bed. She looks at Yvonne, quizzically.

THERESE

Isaiah fifty five seven, let the wicked forsake their ways and the...

Yvonne throws her hands up in annoyance.

YVONNE

Yeah, yeah, in God's name we pray, amen. Anyways, I just need Lisette and Valerie's phone number and stuff so I can talk to them about removing the curse.

THERESE

How you know they can even do that?

YVONNE

I don't, but I'm assuming if they Mama placed the curse, she musta passed down some information on how to remove things like that.

Therese pulls her phone back out. She chews her inner cheek, thinking.

Therese gets out of bed.

THERESE

Fine, I'll give Val a call.

YVONNE

You ain't gotta do all that. I'll handle it.

Therese laughs.

THERESE

Please! If I leave this all up to your rude ass self we finna have another curse placed on the family by midnight tonight! Like you said, it's ain't just your marriage you saving.

Therese starts pulling up Valerie's contact info on her phone as she walks to her bedroom door.

THERESE (CONT'D)

Val and I are close at this point.
Her and her mama will hear me out
before they even consider listening
to you.

Therese hits call on Valerie's name and heads out of the room.

THERESE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(trailing off)

Val? Hey girl, it's Therese...yes,
yes, I'm good, how about yourself,
how ya mom and dem...

Yvonne sighs, gets up and walks around the room.

She attempts to start straightening things up a bit. She picks a cup up off the floor and places it on the dresser.

She notices Therese has three framed photos on her dresser. One of Therese and her Joel, one of her and Renata, and an old photo of Therese and Yvonne.

Yvonne pics up the old photo of the both of them as kids and looks it over. Therese and her were playing dress up, wearing fake jewelry, feather boas and little plastic heels. They stand back to back and Therese is a good foot taller than Yvonne.

Yvonne hears Therese come back into the room, but doesn't take her eyes off of the photo.

YVONNE

You still got this picture?

Therese looks to see what photo Yvonne is talking about.

She laughs.

THERESE

Yeah, you got your copy?

Yvonne shakes her head no and places the photo back on the dresser.

YVONNE

Musta got washed away in Katrina.

Therese wrinkles her face.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

What Valerie say?

THERESE

They happy to have us over for dinner tonight. I told her we would bring gumbo.

Yvonne cuts her teeth.

YVONNE

Now we gotta make gumbo for these motha...

THERESE

Look, you want their help or not?

YVONNE

Personally no, but I'm out of options at this point.

Therese claps her hands together.

THERESE

Alright, let's hit up Rouses. They got the good shrimp out at this time.

YVONNE

You finna change first?

THERESE

We ain't got time for dat. You know how long it takes to make gumbo.

With that, Therese leaves the room, her wedding dress drags some crumpled tissues along with her.

Yvonne sighs and looks up at the ceiling.

YVONNE

Lord please, please give me strength. Help me not kill this girl. At least, not today.

Music Cue: "Big Chief - Complete Version" by Professor Longhair, Earl King

Yvonne heads out of the room too.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

EXT. THERESE'S HOUSE - DAY - Yvonne and Therese get into Yvonne's car. Therese fights to fit herself, with her wedding dress on, into the passenger seat. She manages to close the door, but a large piece of the dress is left hanging out.

Yvonne pulls off and that part of the dress drags on the road.

EXT. ROUSES MARKETS - DAY - Yvonne and Therese walk side by side up the center of the parking lot heading into the grocery store.

INT. ROUSES MARKETS - CONTINUOUS - Therese and Yvonne stand near an ice bin collecting pounds of raw shrimp for the gumbo. A man with glasses stares at Therese perplexed at her attire. Yvonne notices him watching them and gives him an evil look. The man quickly looks away and goes about his business.

INT. ROUSES MARKETS - CONTINUOUS - Therese pushes a cart down a grocery aisle and Yvonne walks behind her. Two women, shopping as well, stare at Therese. They almost break their necks turning their heads while staring at her.

INT. ROUSES MARKETS - CONTINUOUS - While being checked out, the cashier, a young blonde girl smacking her gum, eyes Therese up and down condescendingly. Therese pays her no mind, but Yvonne glares at her angrily.

INT. THERESE'S HOUSE - DAY - While making the roux for the gumbo Therese, still in her wedding dress, spills a handful of flour on herself. She makes an "oops" face. Yvonne sees this happen and closes her eyes, takes a few deep breaths, and attempts to shake off her frustration.

INT. THERESE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS - The women simultaneously chop vegetables. Therese speeds up her cutting. Yvonne notices this and speeds up her cutting as well. Therese notices Yvonne trying to outdo her and it becomes a competition between the two of them.

INT. THERESE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS - Yvonne puts the chopped vegetables into the gumbo pot. Therese goes to add gizzards and okra to the pot, but Yvonne, grossed out, stops her. They argue about this, but Therese pushes Yvonne out of the way and adds them to the pot regardless and walks off. Yvonne balls her hands into fists at her sides and her nostrils flare.

INT. THERESE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS - Much like the chopping of the vegetables, the peeling of the shrimp becomes yet another competition between the two.

END OF MONTAGE

END MUSIC CUE

INT. THERESE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

The women continue to peel the shrimp with intense looks on their faces.

Therese's face begins to soften into a smile as she begins to remember something.

THERESE

Hey remember that one Christmas we had spent together and you had got that easy bake oven from Santa.

Yvonne continues to peel, but it slows as she tries to recall the memory.

YVONNE

Vaguely, but yes.

THERESE

And remember we thought it would be funny if we put a bunch of random sauces and seasoning in the brownie mix and force Renata to eat it.

Yvonne CHUCKLES.

YVONNE

Yeah, then we got in trouble cause Renata went and told on us.

The women LAUGH.

Yvonne puts the shrimp she was working on down.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Oh, and then you had the nerve to try and tell yo mama it was all my idea.

They both LAUGH harder.

THERESE

Yeah, that does sound like me.

Yvonne laughs and shakes her head.

YVONNE

Always trying to be miss goodie two shoes.

THERESE

Good times, good times. Ya know you always had a smart mouth, and you annoyed me more than most.

YVONNE

Uh, rude!

THERESE

But anytime I knew I was visiting you or y'all were coming to see us I know we were going to have a crazy fun time.

The women continue to peel, but now it's more relaxed and they are smiling.

INT. THERESE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

Therese and Yvonne stir the completed pot of gumbo and look satisfied.

THERESE

Now all we gotta do is loaded into the car without spilling and be on our way.

Yvonne looks Therese over.

YVONNE

You still ain't finna change first?

Therese turns the fire on the stove off and picks up the pot.

THERESE

With what time! Come on we gotta go.

Therese walks away with the pot.

Yvonne just watches her. She closes her eyes and takes a few deep breathes in and out.

EXT. I-10 E NEW ORLEANS - EVENING

Yvonne drives her car across Lake Pontchartrain. The piece of Therese's wedding dress still hangs out of the car, dragging along the road.

EXT. LISETTE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Yvonne KNOCKS five times on the front door.

From inside the house they can hear a baby SCREAMING it's tiny lungs out.

The SCREAMING begins to get louder, coming closer to them.

YVONNE

What in God's name...

Suddenly Valerie, in wrinkled formal wear, opens the door with a large smile in her face. The crying baby rides her right hip.

Yvonne winces at the baby who is now screaming in her face.

Valerie looks Therese over, confused.

THERESE

Girl, it's a long long story, but we got the goods!

Therese lifts up the large pot and the smile returns on Valerie's face.

VALERIE

Ooo, and I just started the rice. Come in come in.

Valerie steps out of the way so the women can enter.

INT. LISETTE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The women slowly make their way inside and look around.

VALERIE

Ya know, I got some clothes you can change into Therese if you wanna get more comfortable.

THERESE

Thats ok, baby. I'm just gonna take this to the kitchen and get it heated up again.

VALERIE

Well, alright.

Therese heads to the kitchen leaving Yvonne, Valerie, and the baby alone in the living room.

They awkwardly smile at each other. Valerie tilts her head and squints her eyes at Yvonne for a second.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

I forget, you Renata? Therese's sister.

YVONNE

No, no, Diana's daughter. Yvonne.

Valerie makes a face of realization.

VALERIE

Ah, ok ok. I remember now.

Yvonne forces and exaggerates a smile.

They stand in silence. Even the baby is finally silent.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

I'm...gonna go check on my momma.
Make sure she knows we got company
and is getting ready. If you don't
mind...

Valerie hands the baby over to Yvonne.

Yvonne's eyes grow wide.

YVONNE

Oh, um, I don't...

Yvonne has no choice but to take the baby as Valerie hurries off into another room.

Yvonne stands alone in the living room holding the baby in a very awkward position. She tries to figure out how to hold him correctly.

INT. LISETTE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Yvonne sits on the couch holding the baby on her knee.

The baby stares at her. His little face is full of either fear or confusion.

Yvonne puffs up her cheeks and makes a silly face at him to try to get him to laugh. This has the opposite affect and the baby begins to scream again.

Yvonne jumps up from the couch and tries to bounce the baby up and down trying to quiet him.

YVONNE

It's ok, it's ok. Shhh, shhhhh,
shhhhh. Ummm...

Yvonne frantically tries to think of what to do. Her face lights up as an idea comes to mind.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

(singing)

My grandma and your grandma were
sittin' by the fire. My grandma
told your grandma I'm gonna set
your flag on fire. Talk-in' 'bout
hey now. Hey now. Iko, iko, un day.
Jock-a-mo fee-no ai na-ne. Jock-a-
mo fee-na-ne.

This does not calm the child, in fact the child begins to scream even louder than before.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

You're right, I never liked that
song either.

She starts twirling around, swinging the baby to see if that will stop the screams but it doesn't work.

She almost attempts to shake the baby, but Therese comes back into the living just in the nick of time and catches this, horrified.

THERESE

Oh my word!

She runs over and snatches the baby from Yvonne's hands.

THERESE (CONT'D)

Have you a single brain cell in
that head of yours?

Therese properly cradles the baby and rocks him correctly. The baby slowly begins to stop crying.

Valerie comes back to the living room with her mother Lissette, who doesn't seem particularly in the mood for company, trailing behind her.

Valerie smiles when she sees Therese with the baby.

A ray of sunlight, coming from one of the living room windows, beams down perfectly atop Therese and glistens off of her white dress. She looks almost angelic.

VALERIE
Well look at you, Miss Momma!

Yvonne just watches Therese annoyed.

THERESE
Guess all the practice I got with
Renata growing up came in handy.

Yvonne scoffs.

YVONNE
Well my daddy done left before I
had the chance to have younger
siblings, so.

VALERIE
I didn't grow up with siblings or
my daddy neither.

She takes the baby back from Therese with a smile.

VALERIE (CONT'D)
Guess it just came naturally to me.

YVONNE
Oh, well, must be nice.

VALERIE
It is, actually.

YVONNE
Good for you then.

Therese claps her hands together to bring everyone's
attention to her and to mediate the pending conflict.

THERESE
Well, the gumbo and rice is ready
to go, so let's eat!

INT. LISETTE'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The four women sit a large rectangular dining table eating
gumbo.

The baby is asleep in a rocker next to Valerie's chair.

Therese looks up from her bowl and looks around the table at
everyone eating their food.

THERESE
So, how is it?

VALERIE

It's good! It's so good. Thank
y'all for preparing it and bringing
it over.

LISETTE

Coulda done without the gizzards.

Everyone turns to Lisette who is making a disgusted face
while eating her food.

Yvonne laughs.

YVONNE

I done told Therese not to add
those things, but she don't listen,
no.

Therese turns to Yvonne annoyed.

THERESE

Well, our grandfather always put
gizzards in his gumbo and since we
were following his recipe I thought
it was only right.

LISETTE

Well, yo grandpa never made me no
gumbo. He was to busy leavin' ma
momma for yo grandma and raising
y'all's momma and daddy and
forgetting 'bout me, so I ain't
never had no gizzards in my gumbo.

The room is filled with an uncomfortable silence as everyone
resumes eating.

Yvonne finally breaks the silence.

YVONNE

Speaking of your momma, thats kind
of why we came here today. We know
she...

THERESE

We are so, so sorry about that
Lisette. That must have been so
tough on you growing up.

Yvonne side-eyes Therese, annoyed at being cut off.

YVONNE

Ya, anyways, back to what I was
trying to get at, your...

LISETTE

It was indeed. Y'all's parents seemed to have it made. My momma had to struggle as a single mother tryna raise me. She could barley make ends meet.

YVONNE

Ya, thats tragic, really, but...

LISETTE

All I ever got from him was holiday and birthday cards and that was only if I was lucky. Some years they didn't even come.

YVONNE

We're really sorry to hear that, but as I was saying...

LISETTE

And the men I dated? Turned out to be just as bad as him! Valerie's father left the minuet I told him I was pregnant.

YVONNE

Ok, you really can't blame your poor taste in men on the father you never...

LISETTE

Do you know how hard it is for a girl to grow up without her daddy around?

Yvonne slams her spoon down.

YVONNE

I do actually! And you know who's fault that is, you old bat?

Therese's jaw drops.

Valeries eyes go wide.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

While you over here tryna throw yourself a fucking pity party over some gizzards in a damn gumbo!

THERESE

Yvonne, calm down!

YVONNE

No!

Yvonne turns her whole body in her seat to face Lisette.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

(mocking)

My daddy left me, my daddy left me!

Therese covers her face with her palm.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Boohoo, bitch! Mine did too! You don't see me crying to his second family about it. Shit, I turned out just fine without him.

Valerie makes a face that says she begs to differ.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

But you know who's fault it was that my daddy went in left us?

Yvonne waits for a response but the table remains silent. Everyone is stunned by Yvonne's outburst.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Yo crazy ass mommas! Her batshit self done cursed our family, as if we did anything wrong, now we all have to suffer from broken homes and terrible marriages.

The baby begins to cry again and Valerie takes him out of the rocker to comfort him.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Look at Therese. You saw what happened at her wedding. This girl is so distraught she won't even take off her God damn wedding dress.

Yvonne stands up.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Which is why I demand that you remove this curse from our family cause we sure as hell don't deserve this shit!

Lisette's face is red with anger.

LISETTE

Never.

Yvonne takes a step forward in defense.

YVONNE

Bitch!

Lisette stands up from her seat.

LISETTE

(yelling)

I ain't removing no curse! Now, get
the hell out of my house!

VALERIE

Momma!

Therese stands up from her own seat.

THERESE

Now wait, lets just start over
and...

LISETTE

(screaming)

I said get out of my house!

Suddenly, Lisette picks up her unfinished bowl of gumbo and
throws the contents of it right at Therese's face. It gets
all over her already stained wedding dress.

Valerie and Yvonne watch this occur, flabbergasted.

Therese SCREAMS bloody murder.

INT. YVONNE'S CAR - NIGHT

The women sit in the unmoving vehicle staring out the front
window.

THERESE

Well, there goes all hope for
saving my marriage.

Yvonne looks shocked and slowly turns her head to face
Therese.

YVONNE

You mean to tell me you wanna break the curse to get back with the man who made you look like boo boo da fool in front of your entire family?

THERESE

Like you said, it was the curses doing wasn't it? And besides, John four eighteen, there is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out...

YVONNE

Oh, hush with that.

THERESE

I'll pray for you.

YVONNE

And I will see you in hell regardless.

Therese slams her head back on the head rest.

THERESE

Well, I guess it don't matter now. Clearly this curse ain't getting removed.

YVONNE

Now hol' on now. I ain't giving up that easy.

THERESE

You got another plan?

YVONNE

Shit ain't over til the fat lady sings.

Therese turns to Yvonne and furrows her brows.

EXT. LISETTE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Yvonne's car headlights come on and she speeds away from the front of Lisette's house.

EXT. THE VOODOO BONE LADY VOODOO SHOP - NIGHT

Yvonne drives up and parks her car in front of the voodoo shop.

The shop is sandwiched in between two other stores. A tiny flickering light that can be seen through it's window illuminates the shop.

INT. YVONNE'S CAR - NIGHT

Yvonne unbuckles her seatbelt.

THERESE

You sure it's legal to park here?

YVONNE

Don't start.

THERESE

I'm just saying you don't...

YVONNE

Just get out.

THERESE

Where we at?

Yvonne points to the shop and Therese squints at it trying to read the sign.

Yvonne opens her car door.

THERESE (CONT'D)

Oh uh uh, I ain't going in there.

YVONNE

Well, you gone have to.

THERESE

God won't support this
sacrilegious...

YVONNE

Girl, if you don't get the hell out
ma god damn car!

Almost out of nowhere Therese pulls out rosary beads, closes her eyes and begins to recite a Hail Mary Prayer.

THERESE

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord
is with thee...

Yvonne GROWLS and gets out of the car. She loudly slams the door, but Therese continues to pray.

THERESE (CONT'D)
Blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.

EXT. YVONNE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Yvonne marches over to the passenger door and yanks it open.

THERESE
Pray for us sinners now and...

Yvonne grabs the bottom of Therese's gown and pulls.

Therese SCREAMS.

THERESE (CONT'D)
Stop, stop, you finna rip it!

YVONNE
You look like something that just
crawled out the guttah and you
worried about a tear?

THERESE
Why can't you just go in while I
wait here?

YVONNE
You want the curse broken or not?

Therese groans.

THERESE
Fine, fine.

Therese maneuvers to get out, her dress making it take longer than usual.

Yvonne purses her lips and puts a hand on her hip.

YVONNE
You ever gonna change out that
mess? It's reakin up ma car.

Therese ignores her and heads to the door of the shop.

Yvonne follows after her shaking her head in disapproval.

INT. THE VOODOO BONE LADY VOODOO SHOP - CONTINUOUS

A bell RINGS as the two women enter the shop.

It's a spunky shop, who's shelves are stocked with candles, house made oils, soaps, incense, perfumes, gris-gris bags, palm oil and various herbs.

MADAM ORALISA, a short, plump, dark-skinned woman with beauty marks speckling her face and neck stands near a back wall organizing a shelf behind the counter.

Yvonne walks deeper into the shop, determined.

Therese follows slowly behind, hesitant.

Yvonne turns around and sees Therese's hesitation.

YVONNE

Would you stop with your scary ass!

THERESE

Where did you even find this place?

YVONNE

I have my sources.

Suddenly, Madam Oralisa whips around, throws her arms up and smiles.

MADAM ORALISA

Aha, Yvonne and Therese, you are here!

Yvonne and Therese look perplexed.

YVONNE

How did you...

MADAM ORALISA

I had a dream.

Yvonne raises an eyebrow at Madam Oralisa.

MADAM ORALISA (CONT'D)

Ok, Alzida told me you would probably come in.

Therese cuts her teeth at Yvonne.

THERESE

Sources my butt! I shoulda known.

Madam Oralisa looks over Therese in confusion.

MADAM ORALISA

And you're in...em...what is this you have on?

THERESE

That's it!

MADAM ORALISA

Amongst other things.

YVONNE

And Aunt Alzida wouldn't just get that?

MADAM ORALISA

Alzida wouldn't dare ask that family for anything! Especially not their own blood.

YVONNE

That tryflyn ass... well, lucky for us I don't give a fuck. I'll get that damn blood, easy?

Therese, once again, looks at Yvonne in shock.

THERESE

Easy?

Madam Oralisa claps her hands together and smiles.

MADAM ORALISA

Ok!

Yvonne smiles back.

YVONNE

Ok.

Madam Oralisa turns back around to the shelf to return to what she was doing before.

MADAM ORALISA

Ok, come back in six months, then we break the curse.

Yvonne and Therese's eyes grow wide.

YVONNE

Six months?

THERESE

Six months?

MADAM ORALISA

Yes, in six months I will be back from my stay in Jamaica that I leave for tomorrow. Duty calls.

THERESE

You have priestess duties in Jamaica?

MADAM ORALISA
No, Duty is my sister.

THERESE
Oh.

MADAM ORALISA
Yes, she is having twins and I am going to help her care for them while her husband is overseas for work.

YVONNE
What if we do it tonight?

THERESE
What!

YVONNE
Before you leave?

Madam Oralisa waves Yvonne off.

MADAM ORALISA
No can do. There are more ritual ingredients that I don't have now.

YVONNE
Ok, well get them tonight!

Madam Oralisa puts her hands on her hips and looks at Yvonne sideways.

MADAM ORALISA
And how do you expect me to do that? I still have to pack.

YVONNE
Please! I'll do anything.

Madam Oralisa moves to the front of her shop to turn the open sign to close.

MADAM ORALISA
The best I can do is six months, ma chère.

Yvonne thinks frantically and notices her engagement ring. She quickly takes it off and holds it out to Madam Oralisa.

YVONNE
You can have my engagement ring!

THERESE

Yvonne!

Yvonne waves Therese off.

YVONNE

Calm yo self, it's insured. I'll tell Pierre I lost it or somethin'.

MADAM ORALISA

Does this look like a pawn shop to you?

YVONNE

It's a fifteen thousand dollar ring.

Therese CHOKES on air.

Madam Oralisa just shakes her head no.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

I don't know much bout babies, but I do know they expensive as hell. Especially twins.

Madam Oralisa pauses, thinking. Yvonne realizes she's gotten to her.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

I'm sure your sister would appreciate it.

Madam Oralisa walks towards Yvonne with squinted eyes. She snatches the ring from her hands and looks it over.

MADAM ORALISA

I leave tomorrow night. I'll gather the other supplies and give you a call when it's time.

Yvonne looks excited, but Therese looks nervous.

MADAM ORALISA (CONT'D)

Make sure the blood is fresh.

THERESE

Wait, but how much blood?

MADAM ORALISA

Enough.

THERESE

How much is enough.

Yvonne grabs Therese by the arm.

YVONNE
(closed teeth)
She said enough. Now enough is
enough let's go.

THERESE
But...

Yvonne drags Therese towards the door to leave. Therese's eyes remain fixed on Madam Oralisa, who still stands with the ring, until she's outside the shop.

EXT. I-10 E NEW ORLEANS - NIGHT

Yvonne drives her car across Lake Pontchartrain.

INT. YVONNE'S CAR - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

Yvonne is focused on the road while Therese fidgets around in her seat.

Therese finally lets out a long SIGH and looks at Yvonne.

THERESE
Lisette just told us she has no
intention of breaking the curs. In
what world do you expect huh to
give us blood.

YVONNE
I'll cut ha throat if I have to.

THERESE
Yvonne!

Yvonne CACKLES.

YVONNE
I'm playin', I'm playin'.

THERESE
This is serious!

YVONNE
I know that, look, we gonna sneak
into her house. Find her room, you
hold her down and I'll prick her
finger and squeeze some blood out.

THERESE

Into what?

Yvonne thinks for a moment, then leans down, fishes around and pulls up an old PJ's Coffee cup from the floor.

Therese cuts her teeth.

YVONNE

Gotta improvise!

THERESE

And what if they call the cops.

YVONNE

Over a finger prick?

THERESE

Breaking and entering!

YVONNE

Well, we ain't stealing anything.

THERESE

Harassment!

YVONNE

By the time they press charges the curse will be broken. Pierre's family has good lawyers.

Therese makes a face.

THERESE

Pierre? Your fiancé who don't want nothing to do with you?

YVONNE

He will once this curse is lifted.

THERESE

Mmmm.

YVONNE

Look, you tryna get back with an S O B who went and had a whole baby on you, so you ain't got no room to talk.

Therese remains silence, starrng out the window.

Yvonne looks at her then turns back to the road with a satisfied look on her face.

YVONNE (CONT'D)
Hm, that's what I thought!

EXT. LISETTE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Crouched as low as they can go, Yvonne and Lisette make their way up to Lisettes house. Yvonne takes the lead.

Therese tries to bunch up her dress to move a bit faster.

They talk in whispers.

THERESE
Hol' up, I can't move as fast as
you!

YVONNE
(sarcastic)
Well, I wonder why? Could it be
that parachute you refuse to take
off?

Therese makes a face, but Yvonne doesn't turn around to see this.

They squat down under the window of the front of the house.

YVONNE (CONT'D)
I'll try the back, you wait here
and I'll let you in once I'm in.

Yvonne is about to leave but Therese grabs her arm.

THERESE
Wait, why you leaving me?

YVONNE
Cause I gotta hop the fence and you
ain't gonna make it in that dress.

THERESE
Uh uh, you know somethin' bad finna
happen when people split up in
horror movies.

YVONNE
This ain't no horror movie! The
only thing horrific around here is
your stank ass dress, now let go!

Yvonne yanks her arm away and heads to the back of the house.

Therese sticks her tongue out at Yvonne and folds her arms.

EXT. LISETTE'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Yvonne falls over the fence with a THUD.

She rolls around and GROANS quietly in pain before getting up and slinking her way over to the back door.

She tries to jiggle the handle, but it's locked. She HUFFS.

She tries to lift a window open over to her left, but it won't budge.

Suddenly, the back door begins to slowly CREAK open.

Yvonne GASPS and attempts to hide behind a rusty barbecue pit.

Unexpectedly, Therese pokes her head out of the doorway from inside.

She cups her mouth with her hands before whispering loudly.

THERESE
Yvooooooooonnnneeeee.

Yvonne pops up from behind the barbecue pit.

YVONNE
What in the...

THERESE
The front door was unlocked.

YVONNE
But the back...damn, don't anyone
be lockin' they front doors no mo'.

Therese darts back inside and Yvonne softly makes her way in as well.

INT. LISETTE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The women silently creep through the house trying to make their way over to Lisette's room.

Suddenly, Therese bumps her toe on the edge of something. She hobbles around for a second in pain.

THERESE
(whispering)
Goodness gracious!

Yvonne turns to her and gives her the death stare.

Therese makes an apologetic face and motions to zip her mouth shut.

INT. LISETTE'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

They make their way down the hall but see that all the doors seemed to be closed except for one with a little bit of light shining through.

They head that way.

INT. NURSERY - CONTINUOUS

Yvonne and Therese poke their heads into the nursery to see the baby sleeping peacefully in his crib.

They realize the light is coming from a moon shaped nightlight in the wall.

Therese becomes distracted by the cuteness of the baby and decides to walk over to the crib.

Yvonne tries to motion her back, but Therese puts up a finger indicating to give her a minute as she looks into the crib with a smile on her face.

Although annoyed, Yvonne walks over and joins her to gawk at the baby.

A smile begins to grow across Yvonne's face.

THERESE
(whispering)
So cute.

YVONNE
(whispering)
You right.

Suddenly, Yvonne's phone begins to loudly ring and both of the women's eyes bulge out in terror.

Yvonne takes her phone out to silence it and sees it's an incoming call from Pierre. She accidentally fumbles and drops it as it continues to ring.

YVONNE (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Shit, shit, shit.

The baby begins to stir awake.

Yvonne finally manages to silence the call.

VALERIE (O.S.)
Momma! Is that you up?

The baby begins to CRY.

Yvonne and Therese look at one another in fear.

YVONNE
(whisper)
Hide.

The women frantically run around the nursery looking for a place to hide.

Valerie's FOOTSTEPS crescendo as she makes her way to the nursery.

Therese hides in the closet and Yvonne scrambles to crawl into a ball and hide under the crib.

Valerie makes her way into the nursery and heads straight to her crying son.

She strokes his head.

VALERIE
Aww, baby, you're ok. Momma's here.

Valerie sees something strange poking out underneath the crib.

She bends over and pulls it to realize it is a piece of clothing attached to something.

Valerie gets on all fours and looks under the crib to realize the clothing is actually attached to someone, Yvonne.

Valerie GASPS and shoots back up to her feet.

Suddenly, Therese bursts out of the closet SCREAMING at the top of her lungs and tackles Valerie to the ground.

Valerie starts SCREAMING too.

THERESE
(yelling)
I got her, I got her, prick her
finger do it now do it now.

VALERIE
(yelling)
You smell like a dead animal!

Yvonne scrambles to her feet trying to proceed with the mission.

Yvonne is then smacked in the back of the head by a large yellow pages book that is being held by Lisette who decided to join in on the fight.

YVONNE

Ouch, you demonic old...

Lisette smacks Yvonne with the yellow pages again. Yvonne tries to wrestle the yellow pages away from Lisette.

Therese sees Yvonne and Lisette's struggle and tries to help out.

Lisette and Valerie gang up on Therese trying to get her on the ground.

Lisette's eyes grow wide and she clutches at her heart. She falls over onto the floor and the look of shock doesn't leave her face.

Valerie and Therese stop fighting to help her and figure out what's wrong.

VALERIE

Momma?

Therese kneels next to Lisette, panicked, unsure of what's happening to her.

THERESE

Oh, no! No, no, no! I think she's having a heart attack! Call nine one one!

Valerie jumps to her feet and spins around frantically. She realizes Yvonne and her baby are nowhere to be found.

Valerie looks horrified.

VALERIE

My baby!

She runs out of the room to frantically search for her child and Yvonne while leaving Lisette and Therese on the floor.

VALERIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(screaming)

My baby! My baby! Where is my baby?

EXT. I-10 E NEW ORLEANS - NIGHT

Yvonne speeds down the highway.

INT. YVONNE'S CAR - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

The baby sits buckled up and secured as best as he can be in the back seat.

He is screaming and crying his little lungs out back there.

With a panicked expression on her face Yvonne tries to think of something to do to calm the child.

YVONNE
 (nervously singing)
 Frere Jacques, Frere Jacques
 Dormez-vous? Dormez-vous?

The baby cries louder.

YVONNE (CONT'D)
 I'm sorry kid this is all I got!
 Sonnes les matines! Sonnez les...
 ah, forget it.

EXT. I-10 E NEW ORLEANS - CONTINUOUS

Yvonne continues to speed down the highway.

EXT. PIERRE AND YVONNE'S HOME IN THE GARDEN DISTRICT - NIGHT

With Baby Miles in tow, Yvonne opens up the black metal gate that encloses the large off white house Pierre and Yvonne reside in.

The gate opens with a loud CREAK that upsets Baby Miles and he begins to CRY again.

Yvonne GROANS.

YVONNE
 And I just got you to hush up!

Yvonne makes her way down the red brick path that leads to the green, concrete steps to the door.

She fumbles with the keys before opening the door.

INT. PIERRE AND YVONNE'S HOME IN THE GARDEN DISTRICT - NIGHT

Yvonne enters and tries bouncing Baby Miles to calm him.

YVONNE

I don't know what song to sing at
this point, you da biggest lil'
critique I eva met.

PIERRE (O.S.)

Yvonne?

Yvonne whips around to see Pierre descending the steps
rubbing the sleep from his eyes.

YVONNE

(nervously)
Heyyy...sweet love of mine.

PIERRE

What are you...who's...is that a
baby?

Yvonne looks Baby Miles up and down as if she isn't quite
sure about Baby Miles being a baby either.

She nods in confirmation.

YVONNE

Yep, this is...this a baby alright.

Pierre freezes on the steps in confusion.

PIERRE

Who's baby?

YVONNE

Why it gotta be someone's baby?

Pierre looks at her, unamused.

PIERRE

Yvonne...

YVONNE

Fine, it's Valerie's baby.

Pierre continues down the steps.

PIERRE

Who's?

YVONNE
 You know Valerie, that lady with
 the baby I pointed out at Therese's
 disaster wedding?

PIERRE
 The baby you were complaining
 about?

YVONNE
 Yep, this the one.
 (to Miles)
 Sorry, but you stay actin' up.

Baby Miles cries louder.

PIERRE
 Why do you have him?

She waves off the question.

YVONNE
 Never mind that. I just need to
 find a way to get him to shut up!

She shoves Baby Miles at Pierre who struggles to take hold of
 him.

Pierre holds Baby Miles awkwardly and looks down at him.

Baby Miles looks up at him just as confused as Pierre is to
 be holding him. Baby Miles SCREAM CRIES.

Pierre weirdly rocks him.

PIERRE
 Um...is he hungry?

YVONNE
 I don't know, you tell me!

PIERRE
 You're the one who came in with the
 damn kid!

YVONNE
 Don't curse around him!

PIERRE
 You just told him to shut up!

Baby Miles squirms around Pierre's arms and he struggles to
 hold Baby Miles properly.

PIERRE (CONT'D)

Did Valerie not give you his baby bag?

YVONNE

Now, why would a baby need a bag? Where you think he goin'?

PIERRE

A bag of baby supplies, Yvonne! Like diapers, bottles, clothes, you know, baby things.

YVONNE

Oh.

PIERRE

Why would she not...

YVONNE

It was spur of the moment.

PIERRE

Well, what are we going to do? What does he eat?

YVONNE

What do babies eat? Fruit loops?

PIERRE

Does he have teeth for that?

Pierre tries to check Baby Miles's mouth which makes him cry more.

PIERRE (CONT'D)

Maybe you should just call Valerie and see.

YVONNE

No, no, no I ain't tryna bother her. We watching him for a reason.

PIERRE

But...

Yvonne turns to the door.

YVONNE

Let's just go to the store and pick some stuff up for the trouble maker.

PIERRE
It's the middle of the night.

YVONNE
That never stopped Walmart.

Pierre makes a face realizing she is right.

With that, Yvonne heads out of the door.

Pierre adjusts Baby Miles to where he is hanging over his shoulder as he follows Yvonne out the door.

INT. Slidell Memorial Hospital - Hospital Room - Night

Lisette lays unconscious in a hospital bed plugged up to a bunch of wires and tubes.

A monitor BEEPS at the pace of her heartbeat. She is still alive.

A teary eyed Valerie stands, arms folded in the doorway, staring at her mother fearfully.

EXT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Therese leans on the wall near Valerie and stares solemnly at the floor.

Valerie turns to the DOCTOR who stands beside her.

DOCTOR
So your mother did suffer from a mild stroke.

Valerie WHIMPERS and wipes her tears with the back of her hand.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
But she is stable now.

Therese and Valerie both let out SIGHS of relief and place a hand over their hearts.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Her vitals are good.

VALERIE
When you think she'll wake up?

DOCTOR

Whenever she is ready. It's best to
let her get her rest right now.

Valerie nods.

The Doctor gives her a sympathetic smile before turning and leaving.

Valerie turns back to look at her sleeping mother in the doorway.

Therese smiles and places a soothing hand on Valerie's shoulder.

THERESE

Well, ain't that music to...

Valerie swiftly turns around and grabs Therese by the throat, squeezing hard.

Therese's eyes bulge as she attempts to pull Valerie's hand from crushing her windpipe.

Valerie slams Therese into the wall behind her and leans in close to her ear.

VALERIE

(low)

I got half a mind not to beat yo
mothafuckin' ass right here in
front a errybody in this goddamn
hospital.

Valerie stares Therese dead in the eyes and Therese stares back, eyes filled with fear.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

(through closed teeth)

Where da hell is ya psycho bitch
cousin and my child!

She releases Therese who keels over, gasping for air.

THERESE

(raspy)

I can explain.

VALERIE

You got five seconds.

Therese stands there nervously, breathing still heavy from being choked out. She thinks to herself, but is silent. She doesn't know what to say.

Valerie's nostrils flare in anger. She pulls out her phone with a shaky hand.

VALERIE (CONT'D)
I'm calling the cops.

INT. WALMART SUPERCENTER - NIGHT

Yvonne pulls a container of baby formula off of a shelf in the stores baby aisle and turns it over to read the ingredients.

Baby Miles, fast asleep, is swaddled in a baby wrap strapped to Yvonne's chest. The tag to the baby wrap still dangles from the bottom of it near Miles's little foot.

She strokes Miles's head before placing the container into the grocery cart that is already filled with various baby supplies.

Pierre pulls the shopping cart down the aisle from the front.

He looks back at Yvonne who has now picked up a box containing a portable bottle warmer. She flips it over to read the directions and then places it into the basket as well.

Pierre looks over all the stuff in their basket.

PIERRE
You sure we need all this stuff? I mean, how long do you plan on keeping the kid?

Yvonne pulls out her phone and unlocks it to see several missed calls from Therese. She puts it away.

YVONNE
Hopefully not long.

PIERRE
You mean to tell me you volunteered to babysit without designating a time that you would return him to his mother?

Yvonne ignores Pierre and walks over to the other side of the isle and picks up a box with a labeled that reads Double Electric Breast Pump.

Yvonne looks impressed before placing the box back on the shelf.

YVONNE
Hmm, impressive.

PIERRE
Don't tell me you secretly adopted
the kid.

YVONNE
Pierre, please stop bothering me
with these patronizing questions. I
finally got this one to stop
screaming in my ear, I don't need
you doing the same.

Pierre purses his lips and sighs in defeat.

As they continue down the aisle Pierre looks Yvonne and the
sleeping baby over.

He laughs to himself.

Yvonne looks at him suspiciously.

YVONNE (CONT'D)
What's got you giggling like that.

PIERRE
Nothing, I was just
thinking...motherhood looks good on
you.

Yvonne sucks her teeth.

YVONNE
Don't go getting no ideas.

PIERRE
Ya know, in the three years we been
together we hardly ever discussed
having kids and what that would be
like.

Yvonne shrugs.

YVONNE
Why would we?

PIERRE
Well, it seems like a conversation
we should have before marriage.

YVONNE
Mmm, I mean I said I wanted kids
and you did too.

PIERRE

Yeah, but that was all that was said.

YVONNE

That's all that needs to be said about that. Ain't no sense in thinking 'bout having kids when we ain't officially married yet.

PIERRE

Why do we have to be married to talk more about having kids.

YVONNE

Cause I won't be havin' no kids unless I'm married!

Yvonne moves faster down the aisle.

PIERRE

Are you afraid of having kids?

YVONNE

What?

PIERRE

I think you'd make a great mother.

YVONNE

Pierre, that's not...

PIERRE

I mean look at you. Quick to figure out what he needed. You're great at figuring things out. Made sure he's taken care of, make sure I'm...

Yvonne freezes and turns to Pierre.

YVONNE

I'm not afraid of having kids!

Pierre stands still, stunned.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

That was never an issue. I don't know much about babies, but I been around enough mothers in my life to know I would be able to figure it out and be a great one.

It's silent as Pierre thinks.

PIERRE

Do you not really want to have
kids?

YVONNE

Did you not...

Yvonne SIGHS and looks up at the ceiling trying to find a way
to explain herself.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

I would love to be a mother. But I
ain't finna be nobody's baby mama.

PIERRE

What?

YVONNE

All my life I've listened to my
Momma and other mommas bitch and
moan about how hard life is as a
single mother. I've watched people
in my family talk mess and judge
the women who's baby daddy either
ain't shit or ain't around all
together.

Yvonne turns to a pack of pacifiers on a hook and looks at
it. Running her thumb over it as she continues.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

So their ain't no sense in even
thinking about havin' a baby if
marriage isn't guaranteed for me
yet. I'm not having no child out of
wedlock and I ain't raising no
child without they father. This was
never the life I wanted for myself
so I sure as hell don't want this
life for my children.

Baby Miles stirs awake and makes a face.

A weird, guttural noise comes from him. Yvonne and Pierre
look at him confused and thrown off by the sound.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

What in the...

Yvonne catches a whiff of the hair and begins to gag.

PIERRE

What's the matter with...

Pierre smells it too and begins to dry-heave.

YVONNE

I think he went on himself.

Baby Miles giggles.

PIERRE

You gotta change him.

YVONNE

I gotta change him?

Pierre makes a disgusted face and takes several steps back.

PIERRE

I'm not going anywhere near
whatever just came out of him.

YVONNE

Fine, let's check out and I'll deal
with whatever the hell just
happened.

Yvonne begins to push the basket down the aisle in the other direction.

Pierre follows behind her at a distance.

PIERRE

I think my eyes are burning.

YVONNE

Oh, relax. You ain't the one with
this bomb strapped to ya whole
chest.

Baby Miles BABBLES.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

(to Baby Miles)

Yeah, yeah, I hope you proud of yo
self.

INT. Slidell Memorial Hospital - Hospital Room - Night

Therese sits in a chair next to Lisette's hospital bed where Lisette still lays asleep.

Therese, with a worried look on her face, watches as Valerie talk to two police offers who take notes on what she is saying with little memo pads.

Therese fiddles with her fingers, nerves on high.

LISETTE (O.S.)

You ever gonna at least explain to
me why da hell you was in my house.

Lisette finally managing to speak startles Therese.

Therese jumps out of her seat and rushes over to Lisette's side. She takes her hand.

Lisette is too weak to pull it away.

LISETTE (CONT'D)

And why da hell are you still in
that dirty ass dress!

Therese begins to cry.

THERESE

Oh, Lisette I am so sorry. I am so
sorry.

LISETTE

Now why you cryin' when I'm the one
in the hospital bed?

THERESE

Because it's all my fault and I'm
just so so sorry.

Therese cries more and Lisette looks up at her in disgust as tears and snot run down Therese's face.

LISETTE

Girl, wipe ya face. Clean ya self
up.

Therese tries to steady her crying and gasps a few times, then uses a corner of her dress to wipe her face and blew her nose.

Lisette looks even more disgusted and shakes her head.

LISETTE (CONT'D)

Mm mm mm.

Therese stands silently looking over Lisette. Lisette looks back.

They awkwardly stare at one another for uncomfortably too long.

LISETTE (CONT'D)
 (loud)
 Well!

Therese jumps.

THERESE
 Well?

LISETTE
 Is you ever gonna tell me why you
 was in my damn house in the middle
 of the night.

THERESE
 Oh

LISETTE
 Yeah, oh!

THERESE
 Um...

Lisette waits for her explanation.

THERESE (CONT'D)
 We kinda...needed to take some of
 your blood.

Lisette looks horrified.

LISETTE
 (screaming)
 Valerie!

Therese tries to calm her.

THERESE
 Wait, no, let me...

LISETTE
 (screaming)
 Valerie! Valerie!

Valerie and the officers come rushing into the hospital room.

VALERIE
 Momma?

LISETTE
 Officers, arrest this blood suckin'
 corpse bride, immediately!

THERESE	LISETTE (CONT'D)
No, no, I have to explain, please.	Get her out! Get her out! She tryna eat me!

Therese backs away from the officers.

An OFFICER, the bigger one of the two pulls out handcuffs and grabs Therese's wrist.

OFFICER
Ma'am, you are under arrest for
the...

THERESE
Wait, wait, I have to explain! We
did it to break the curse. We had
to break the curse!

VALERIE
(shouting)
Wait, stop stop stop!

The Officer almost fully has Therese handcuffed, but freezes at Valerie's protest.

Valerie walks over to Therese.

VALERIE (CONT'D)
You said what now?

THERESE
Yvonne and I went to a voodoo
priestess and she said the only way
we could break the curse was if we
could get blood from someone on
your side of the family. So we
thought we could sneak in and prick
one of you or something then run
out and get the curse broken. We
had to do it tonight cause the
Voodoo lady leaves for Jamaica
tomorrow.

Everyone in the room looks at Therese in utter shock.

Valerie stands horrified

There is a very long silence.

Suddenly, Lisette bursts out LAUGHING.

Everyone looks at her surprised, but she keeps laughing.

One of the officers begins to laugh along with her which entices the other officer to laugh along as well.

Valerie begins to laugh too and Therese nervously joins in on laughing at the hilarity of the situation.

LISETTE
 (in between laughs)
 She thought...blood...breaking into
 ma house...the baby gone.

The laughter continues for quit some time until Lisette has caught her breath enough.

LISETTE (CONT'D)
 And y'all want to know the funniest
 part about all this is?

Everyone, still laughing, wait for Lisette to deliver the punchline.

LISETTE (CONT'D)
 The curse was never even real.

Everyone continues to laugh, but Therese is frozen in shock with her mouth agape.

Lisette sees this and it makes her crack up more.

Lisette points and laughs.

LISETTE (CONT'D)
 Look at huh face.

Everyone is cracking up.

THERESE
 Wait, what do you mean the curse
 ain't real?

LISETTE
 Child, my momma was never into no
 voodoo! She was a Jehovah's
 Witness.

THERESE
 What?

LISETTE
 After ma Daddy left us fo' yo grand
 momma my momma sent her a letter
 sayin' she placed that curse tryna
 scare ya grandma enough to leave ma
 daddy.

Lisette begins to laugh again.

LISETTE (CONT'D)

It didn't work, but now you finna
go to jail for a federal crime
cause you tryna break a curse that
never even existed.

OFFICER

This is hysterical.

The officers laugh, but Therese looks at them, still
dumbfounded.

The Officer registers Therese's expression and ceases his
laughter by CLEARING his throat.

OFFICER (CONT'D)

Anyways.

The Officer continues to handcuff Therese and Lisette watches
this and continues to laugh.

INT. WALMART SUPERCENTER - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Yvonne has Baby Miles on the changing table. She steadies him
with one hand.

Baby Miles looks up at her and is giggling while chewing on
one of his fingers.

Yvonne slowly and cautiously begins to take off Baby Miles's
diapers, but quickly begins to gag again.

Baby Miles giggles louder.

YVONNE

What dead thing did you eat!

She holds the folded used diaper out as far away from her as
she can and extends it to the trash can.

Once she releases it she recoils her hand back and shivers in
disgust.

With her face looking more determined than ever she continues
to change him.

Once she is done she holds baby Miles up in the air and
smiles in satisfaction.

Baby Miles is smiling too.

INT. WALMART SUPERCENTER - NIGHT

With Baby Miles strapped back to her chest in the baby wrap Yvonne exits the bathroom.

She is smiling and looking down at baby Miles.

Yvonne looks exhausted, but she also looks happier than she has been all day.

Yvonne looks up and stops in her tracks.

Several feet away she spots Pierre talking to three police officers.

He looks worried and confused, but seems to be answering whatever questions they are asking.

He turns his head and spots Yvonne.

PIERRE
(shouting)
Yvonne!

The police officers begin to walk towards Yvonne.

Pierre tries to stop them.

PIERRE (CONT'D)
Wait, wait, wait there must be some
misunderstanding!

The police officers ignore Pierre and begin to walk faster.

Yvonne turns away from them, clutches Baby Mile's little head closer to her chest with her hand and makes a run for it away from the officers.

The officers chase after her.

INT. YVONNE'S CAR - DAWN - MOVING

Yvonne grips the steering wheel and speeds down I-10.

She is hunched forward with a crazed look in her eyes, focused on the road ahead.

Baby Miles's CRYING starts up again.

Yvonne glances at him, strapped up in the back seat, through the rearview mirror.

YVONNE

Ah, ah. I thought you was done wit
all dat. I thought we was friends
now.

Baby Miles continues to cry.

Yvonne begins to make the same funny SOUNDS with her mouth
that seemed to calm him before.

His CRYING subsides, he GIGGLES.

Yvonne smiles.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Uh huh, fussin' for no reason. How
bout you relax back there. Take a
nap or somethin'.

Baby Miles's eyes grow heavy and begin to close.

Yvonne repeatedly checks on him through the mirror. She
begins to relax herself.

All of a sudden, a flash of light catches her attention
through the mirror.

A police car, with it's lights flashing, follows right behind
her.

It's sirens WHIR loudly, waking up Baby Miles again.

He BABBLES in confusion.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Ah, shit!
(to Baby Miles)
My bad.

Yvonne checks her side mirror and realizes two noisy police
cars are actually following her.

Her right foot presses harder onto the gas pedal.

The police don't let up.

While simultaneously concentrating on the road, Yvonne
frantically fumbles around for her cellphone and pulls up the
picture-less contact belonging to Madam Oralisa.

She presses call mobile.

It RINGS as Yvonne weaves and sways around the other cars on
the road, trying to outride the cops.

MADAM ORALISA (V.O.)

Hell...

YVONNE

You got all the stuff?

MADAM ORALISA (V.O.)

Well I'm good, how 'bout yaself?

YVONNE

What?

MADAM ORALISA (V.O.)

Nothing, look, ain't I say I would call you? Not the other way around. I still gotta get...

YVONNE

How long that gonna take?

MADAM ORALISA (V.O.)

Oh, now you in a rush?

A cop car tries to cut Yvonne off, but she manages to swerve and avoid it.

Baby Miles doesn't make any noise, but his face exudes that he knows something is up.

YVONNE

Things...took a turn. How long you gone take to get the rest?

MADAM ORALISA

Shouldn't be too long, I...

YVONNE

Great, be there quarter to.

Yvonne hangs up the phone and tosses it on the passenger seat.

She intensely grips the steering wheel and heads towards a highway exit.

INT. FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

With a plate of eggs, grits, and sausage, Diana stands in front of the TV watching a news program intently.

On the screen a police helicopter camera documents the aerial view of ensuing police chase of Yvonne's car.

It follows Yvonne's car and the police cars through a neighborhood.

REPORTER (V.O.)

We're taking you out to the scene of Breaking News right now. This is a chase on highway I-10. Apparently a woman...

Aunt Alzida sits on the couch behind Diana sipping a cup of coffee.

She tries to move her head into a position to see the television screen, but can't manage to with Diana standing in front.

Aunt Alzida cuts her teeth.

AUNT ALZIDA

Yo daddy ain't no glassmaker, child.

Diana turns to Aunt Alzida and Aunt Alzida gestures for her to move from in front the television.

Diana takes a seat on the couch near Aunt Alzida.

She shoves her fork into a piece of sausage and shoves it into her mouth.

Diana CHUCKLES.

DIANA

Yvonne got a car like dat.

AUNT ALZIDA

That car sure is goin'.

They both LAUGH.

REPORTER

The subject in question goes by the name Yvonne Domingue, who last night reportedly snuck into a Slidell home and abducted the child of a single mother...

Aunt Alzida and Diana's eyes grow wide from shock as they stare at the TV screen.

REPORTER (V.O.)

Miss Domingue wasn't alone in the abduction.

(MORE)

REPORTER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Her accomplice, Therese Domingue,
has already been detained.

Aunt Alzida closes her eyes and makes the sign of the cross.

Diana lets out a loud SIGH.

DIANA
Good gracious God almighty.

EXT. THE STREETS OF NEW ORLEANS - MORNING

Yvonne weaves through traffic.

Other cars HONK at her as she blows through an intersection.

Police cars trail close behind.

A police car, with it's sirens WOOPING attempts to cut her off, but she turns in just enough time to zoom past.

Yvonne tears down a side street dodging people who run and jump out of her way.

INT. YVONNE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS - MOVING

Yvonne, with a death grip on her steering wheel, frantically checks her mirrors to see if she's lost them.

Suddenly, she sees three cop cars appear, coming down another street.

A light turns red ahead of her, but Yvonne floors through it. She flies through a cross street, but a cop car appears just ahead of her.

She eases off the gas pedal and makes a hard left down a street nearby.

Baby Miles sits happy in the back seat, having the time of his life, GIGGILING.

Yvonne checks on him through the mirror and begins to LAUGH as well.

EXT. FRENCH QUARTER, NEW ORLEANS - CONTINUOUS

Yvonne continues to weave from lane to lane before turning down an alley.

Her car appears again coming down a narrow street.

INT. YVONNE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Yvonne slows down.

She checks to see if she is still being followed.

The police sirens WAIL and she watches two police cars a block behind her still in pursuit.

YVONNE

Damn, don't these people got some
real crime to worry about?

EXT. FRENCH QUARTER, NEW ORLEANS - CONTINUOUS

Yvonne cuts past a car ahead of her and brings the car back up to speed.

Yvonne's car nears a crowd of tourist in the French Quarter and she makes an immediate turn down another street almost plowing down a dumpster.

A man, searching through the dumpster, gets spooked by the car and jumps into the dumpster to avoid getting hit by a police car following Yvonne.

The police car is hot on her tail, but Yvonne accelerates, does a one eighty turn and goes in a completely different direction.

INT. YVONNE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Yvonne finally comes to a complete halt at a stop sign.

She listens closely to the sounds of police sirens dissipating in the distance.

She CHEERS in triumph. She has gotten away.

YVONNE

Ha ha, we did it kid! We did it.

Yvonne CLAPS and Baby Miles CLAPS his little hands along with her.

He BABBLES in the back seat.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

I don't know what you sayin' back there, but I hope it translates to how we did the damn thing.

EXT. FRENCH QUARTER, NEW ORLEANS - MORNING

Yvonne parks in a vacant spot near a green painted house.

She gets out of the car and gets Baby Miles out of the back seat and carries him on her right hip.

She walks down the sidewalk with a sense of urgency.

Her phone begins to vibrate in her back pocket. She pulls it out and answers it without checking the caller ID.

YVONNE

Imma be right there! I'm a two
minute walk from...

OPERATOR (V.O.)

Hello, this is a collect call from
St. Tammany Parish jail from inmate
(Therese's Voice)
Therese Domingue
(Operator Voice)
Say yes if you would like to
accept.

YVONNE

Oh good Lord, yeah, yes.

There is a loud BEEP through the phone.

Yvonne does not slow her walk.

THERESE (V.O.)

Yvonne?

YVONNE

Therese, you let them catch you.

THERESE (V.O.)

Yvonne, bring Miles back! We are in
deep shit! You need to turn
yourself in.

YVONNE

Like hell I will! I am seconds away
from Oralisa. We finna break this
damn curse bayybay.

Yvonne smiles, very sure of herself.

THERESE (V.O.)

You ain't finna break nothing.

YVONNE

Alright miss Debbie downer. I see prison really changed your tune.

THERESE (V.O.)

Yvonne, you ain't breaking nothin' cause the curse ain't even real!

YVONNE

Why you messin' wit me?

THERESE

Girl, Lissette told me everything. Her momma never placed no curse. It was all just to scare grandmama into leavin' granddaddy.

Yvonne begins to slow, taking this in and contemplating.

She looks over at baby Miles who is chewing a strand of her hair.

YVONNE

I don't believe dat.

THERESE

I know, after all...

YVONNE

No, like I really don't believe dat. You mean to tell me you believe the same angry ole' bat that didn't want us breaking the damn curse in the first place?

THERESE

I...

YVONNE

She lyin'.

Yvonne SCOFFS.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

She is lying, Therese! She know we so close to breaking it she is lying so we won't!

THERESE (V.O.)

Yvonne, I really don't think...

OPERATOR (V.O.)

You have one minute remaining.

Yvonne and Therese are silent on the one with one another.

Yvonne's face shifts into frustration.

THERESE

Bring Miles back to...

YVONNE

Valerie will get huh baby back once I'm finished breaking the curse.

THERESE

There is no curse. We was wrong Yvonne. We aren't cursed.

YVONNE

We are, but we won't be.

THERESE

You can't...

YVONNE

I'll get you out of jail when I'm done. Bye.

With that, Yvonne hangs up the phone and slips it back into her pocket.

She picks up the pace of her step and adjusts Baby Miles on her hip. She looks down at him.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Ain't nobody ever wanna see me win.

Baby Miles GIGGLES, then spits up a little down his shirt. It gets on her pants.

Yvonne, grimaces.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Now why you did that. I was just starting to like you too.

Yvonne turns at the corner of the street.

INT. THE VOODOO BONE LADY VOODOO SHOP - MORNING

Yvonne bursts through the doors of the shop.

Madam Oralisa stands behind the counter checking out an elderly CUSTOMER, with curly grey hair and big round glasses.

Madam Oralisa turns her attention to Yvonne's entrance and looks at her and Baby Miles, confused.

Yvonne purses her lips and marches over to the Customer. She grabs the old woman's arm and begins to drag her to the front door.

YVONNE

I'm sorry, but you gotta go, you gotta go.

The old woman looks around frantically.

CUSTOMER

But I haven't even gotten my...

YVONNE

It's alright, come back another time, it's a holiday, holiday hours, sorry.

CUSTOMER

But It's...

Yvonne opens the door to the shop and shoves the woman outside.

YVONNE

Thank you, come again, happy Christmas.

CUSTOMER

It's September!

Yvonne shuts the door in the old woman's face and locks it.

She checks the blinds of the shop, making sure she hasn't been followed.

She turns back to Madam Oralisa who looks fed up with her.

YVONNE

So we good to go?

She swings Baby Miles over to her other hip.

MADAM ORALISA

And who is this?

Madam Oralisa points at Baby Miles.

Yvonne looks at her like she's stupid.

YVONNE

This is what we need for the ritual.

Madam Oralisa puts her hands on the counter and thinks to herself.

MADAM ORALISA

(mumbling)

Baby, blood, baby, blood, blood, baby...

YVONNE

They hell are you sayin' like dat. Speak up!

MADAM ORALISA

I'm just tryna figure out how yo ass mistook me sayin' we needed blood from they family to brining back a whole ass baby.

YVONNE

The baby is the blood.

Madam Oralisa takes a step back, horrified.

MADAM ORALISA

Have you lost yo whole damn mind! We ain't sacrificing no baby to break ya family's curse!

YVONNE

Ain't nobody sacrificing him, we just gonna use the whole baby alive.

MADAM ORALISA

Pardon me, da hell?

Yvonne SIGHS and looks up at the ceiling.

YVONNE

Look, operation steal they blood in the night went a little... off the rails. But, rituals should have substitutes too, right?

MADAM ORALISA

It don't work like dat.

YVONNE

Like when you substitute chili powder for cayenne pepper.

Madam Oralisa slaps a hand down hard on the counter.

MADAM ORALISA

What the hell do you think we
doin', baking a damn cake?

YVONNE

Now, why would I put cayenne pepper
in a cake?

MADAM ORALISA

That's not... Look, we can't...

Yvonne walks over to Madam Oralisa and gets in her face.

YVONNE

No, you look! I have gone through
hell and back to get this baby here
in order to finally put this curse
shit to bed. I have been up all
night, getting pooped on, getting
drooled on, and getting chased by
God damn law enforcement who had me
driving through the streets like I
was in a live action game of Grand
Theft Auto. We got probably less
than an hour before the po po come
in here lookin' fo me again. You
have my ring, so you know my money
is good. You held up your end, I
held up mine. All the ingredients
are here in someway or another. We
finna do the ritual and we finna
make it work. You hear me?

Madam Oralisa stares her dead in the eyes.

Yvonne takes another step forward, holding Madam Oralisa's
intimidating gaze, not fazed whatsoever.

Madam Oralisa lets out a deep breath.

MADAM ORALISA

Fine, let's break your curse.

Yvonne steps back with a satisfied grin on her face.

YVONNE

Let's do it.

Madam Oralisa uses her chin to gesture over to a far wall.

MADAM ORALISA

Go n' put the baby down and help me
set up.

Yvonne turns and walks Baby Miles over to the wall.

She bounces him around on her hip.

YVONNE

Things are lookin' good, my friend.
Things are lookin' good!

She gently places him down on the floor and sits him up. She then stands over him.

He looks up at her while chewing his hand.

Yvonne puts her hands on her hips.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Now don't go crawling around this
place. We gonna need you soon and I
don't wanna have to be lookin for
you when...

Suddenly, Yvonne is smacked in the back of the head with a large POP.

She stumbles around and grabs at her head.

Baby Miles let's out a CRY.

Yvonne turns to see Madam Oralisa walking towards her carrying a large piece of plywood in both of her hands.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

(slurred)
Wait, the...

Madam Oralisa raises the plywood above her head and let's it come crashing down on Yvonne's head once more with a loud BANG.

Yvonne hits the floor with a loud THUD.

Her vision is blurry, but she sees Baby Miles, with a scared look on his face, crawling towards her.

She see's Madam Oralisa's hands scoop Baby Miles up from the floor before closing her eyes and letting everything go black.

INT. ST. TAMMANY PARISH JAIL - CELL - AFTERNOON

Yvonne regains consciousness while laying on a bench in a jail cell next to Therese, still wearing her dirtied wedding dress.

Yvonne sits up and grabs at her head.

She rubs her temples, trying to ease her headache.

YVONNE

What in the world just happened.

Therese shakes her head and cuts her teeth.

THERESE

You had to go and steal that baby.

Yvonne looks around and finally realizes she is in a jail cell. Her eyes get wider.

She makes eye contact with a TOOTHLESS WOMAN on the other side of the cell who's wearing a bra and pajama pants with her pixie cut hair a mess.

Yvonne squints at her, trying to make sense of who she is, and the woman smiles a toothless grin.

Yvonne quickly averts her eyes.

YVONNE

Wha...where are we?

THERESE

We are, as they say, in the pen Missy.

TOOTHLESS WOMAN

(singing to the tune of
Locked Up by Akon)

I'm locked up!

YVONNE

How...How did I get here. We was about to break the curse with the ritual.

THERESE

Apparently, Miss Madam Oralisa knocked ya lights out and called the police on yo crazy child abducting ass.

Yvonne sits back, finally being able to put everything together.

YVONNE
That no good heffa!

Yvonne balls her hand into a fist and slams it down on her thigh.

YVONNE (CONT'D)
Now how we gonna break this curse!

Therese SIGHS in annoyance.

THERESE
Yvonne, did I not tell you there is
no actual curse.

Yvonne makes a face of annoyance and waves Therese off.

YVONNE
Oh, shut up, Therese.

Yvonne gets up and walks over to the sliding metal bar doors of the cell and looks out.

She folds her arms and thinks.

YVONNE (CONT'D)
I knew you was stupid, but I didn't
think you was gullible and stupid.

The Toothless Woman looks at Yvonne in shock and covers her mouth.

TOOTHLESS WOMAN
Oo, oh no she didn't.

Therese, angered, shoots up from the bench and steps forward towards Yvonne.

THERESE
Oh, I'm stupid? We are sitting in
jail facing federal fucking charges
because of you! But you wanna call
me stupid?

Yvonne turns to face Therese.

YVONNE
I was doing what I had to do to
save my marriage. Shit, to save
yours too! Which us more than you
could ever say.

Therese looks down and shakes her head in disagreement.

The Toothless Woman looks back and forth at Yvonne and Therese

TOOTHLESS WOMAN
Y'all sisters?

Yvonne and Therese both sharply turn their heads towards the Toothless Woman.

YVONNE
No! THERESE
No!

The Toothless Woman raises her hands in defeat.

TOOTHLESS WOMAN
Aight, my bad.

Yvonne steps closer to Therese.

YVONNE
If it wasn't fo me you would still
be at home shittin' and pissin' in
that ugly ass dress you got on more
miserable than you already are.

THERESE
You need Jesus!

YVONNE
Yeah, and you need a bath like
nobody's business.

TOOTHLESS WOMAN
With a good soap!

THERESE
You wanna know something funny?

YVONNE
No ma'am, not at all.

Yvonne turns back to look out into the rest of the jail.

Therese begins to pace.

THERESE
I don't know who's more miserable.

YVONNE
Miss girl, did you not here me say
no?

THERESE

Me, unable to let go of a wedding and a marriage that should have never been, or you, who's so fixated on blaming a fictitious curse for your relationship falling apart cause you got too much pride to admit that Pierre thinkin' of leavin' ain't nobody's fault but ya own.

Yvonne scoffs and looks up at the ceiling.

YVONNE

You really don't know what you talkin' about.

THERESE

How delusional can you be?

Yvonne tries to move away from Therese, but Therese follows.

THERESE (CONT'D)

Ya know, you stay pointing fingers at everyone in ya life. You been continuously trying to one up everyone, trying to prove like you so much better than everyone else in this family. Always calling everyone else out on they problems and flaws like you God instead of reflecting on your own.

Yvonne is silent. She refuses to look at Therese.

The Toothless Woman watches them both, fully invested and entertained in their conversation.

THERESE (CONT'D)

What are you even trying to prove, Yvonne?

YVONNE

That I ain't some embarrassing, pathetic, unwedded, and scorned woman like you and everyone else from our family.

Therese takes a step back in shock, letting the harsh words sink in.

Yvonne looks at her, but then quickly looks away.

TOOTHLESS WOMAN
Damn, now das cold.

Therese makes a face and simply nods.

THERESE
I see.

An Officer heads towards the jail cell door.

Yvonne takes a few steps back as the Officer unlocks the cell.

He slides the cell open.

OFFICER
Therese Domingue?

Therese steps forward, looking at the Officer and pointing at herself in confusion.

THERESE
Me?

OFFICER
Come, you made bail.

Therese is shocked, but obliges and heads out of the cell.

Yvonne smiles and claps.

YVONNE
(singsongy)
We gettin' out. We gettin' out.

She tries to follow after Therese, but the officer stops her. He gently pushes her back into the cell.

OFFICER
Not you, just Therese.

Yvonne's excitement falters.

YVONNE
What?

The Officer doesn't respond, but proceeds to lock Yvonne back into the cell.

Yvonne looks at Therese, but Therese doesn't even try to look at her.

The Officer guides Therese away.

Yvonne GROANS.

She turns and leans her back on the bars and slides her body down until she is sitting on the floor.

TOOTHLESS WOMAN
Don't be doin' that, they be peeing
on these floors.

Yvonne jumps up at the speed of light and shudders.

INT. ST. TAMMANY PARISH JAIL - ADMISSION OFFICE - DAY

Therese follows the Officer to the front where she spots Dimitri, dressed fully in his own police uniform, chatting it up with one of the other Officers near a desk.

She freezes in place.

THERESE
Dimitri?

At the sound of his name he turns his head to Therese. He looks her over and gives her a sympathetic smile.

DIMITRI
Hey.

THERESE
You...you bailed me out?

DIMITRI
I heard what happened. I mean it was all over the news. Heard you were still detained and came to see what I could do.

Therese gives him a soft smile.

THERESE
Thank you.

He smiles back at her, but then looks her and the wedding dress over with concern.

He nods his head towards the door.

DIMITRI
Let's get you home, huh?

THERESE
But...

Therese looks back in the direction from which she came from the holding cell, then back at Dimitri.

THERESE (CONT'D)

What about Yvonne.

Dimitri takes Therese's hands into his.

DIMITRI

Oh, don't worry. They are going to charge her for everything.

Therese pulls away in shock.

THERESE

What?

DIMITRI

Oh yeah, breaking and entering, taking the child, outrunning the cops, the whole ordeal.

THERESE

What about me?

Dimitri gives her a smug look.

DIMITRI

I pulled a few strings, talked to a few folks on the force and they're down to agree that you weren't aware if Yvonne's plans or intentions and were pretty much along for the ride against your will and better judgment.

THERESE

But, that's not true.

Dimitri raises his hand in an attempt to quiet her.

DIMITRI

Shh, shh, don't be too loud with that. Nobody needs to know that part.

THERESE

But I'm just as guilty as Yvonne! If I'm getting out, she should too.

DIMITRI

Therese, you aren't the crazy one, this isn't you.

(MORE)

DIMITRI (CONT'D)

I know you wouldn't have done any of this if your insane cousin back there wasn't getting into your head.

THERESE

You don't know that.

Therese takes a step back, heated.

THERESE (CONT'D)

And you know what, you're one to talk!

An Officer nearby raises an eyebrow.

Dimitri looks around nervously.

DIMITRI

Come one, let's just calm down and we can talk about this after I've gotten you home.

Dimitri reaches for Therese, but she recoils further back.

THERESE

No, you wanna call Yvonne insane, but you know what is really insane? Saying you love someone enough to marry them, but knocking up another woman and having that woman destroy your wedding!

DIMITRI

Therese, why are you acting like this? I just potentially got you out of going to prison and this is how you respond? I thought we were going to work through this?

THERESE

Work through the fact that another woman is carrying my husbands child?

DIMITRI

Well technically she was carrying... she gave birth the other day.

Therese takes a few steps further back in recollection. She LAUGHS.

THERESE

You know what? Yvonne may be insane, but clearly I am too. To even think that fixing a relationship with a man who is now a father to another woman's child is just as delusional as thinking breaking a curse will save a marriage.

Therese looks Dimitri straight in the eyes.

THERESE (CONT'D)

Get my cousin out of jail. It's the least you can do. And after that we are done. I want the wedding annulled and you out of my life. I got no desire to have anything to do with you anymore.

Dimitri looks at Therese sorrowfully.

Therese shakes her head.

THERESE (CONT'D)

None. Matter of fact...

Therese begins to try and take off the dirty wedding dress. Dimitri just watches, unsure of what to do.

THERESE (CONT'D)

I don't...want...anything to do...with that wedding...anymore!

Another Officer approaches her to intervene.

OFFICER

Ma'am? Ma'am!

Therese freezes and looks at the officer, the dress now at her ankles as she stands there with only her bra and underwear.

OFFICER (CONT'D)

You can't do that here or I will be forced to arrest you on the count of public indecency.

THERESE

Very well.

Therese pulls her dress back on. She gives Dimitri and serious look.

THERESE (CONT'D)
Get Yvonne out of jail and after
that I want nothing more to do with
you.

EXT. ST. TAMMANY PARISH JAIL - DAY

Yvonne bursts out the doors of the jail with her hands held high.

YVONNE
Free at last, free at last. Ah ha.

She sees Therese waiting for her outside. She doesn't seem happy but Yvonne runs over and hugs her anyways.

Therese doesn't hug back.

Yvonne releases her then looks her over with concern.

YVONNE (CONT'D)
What's wrong with you?

THERESE
Nothing, guess these are just the
symptoms of an embarrassing,
scorned woman.

Yvonne SIGHS.

YVONNE
Is this cause of what I said in the
cell?

Therese turns and begins to walk away.

THERESE
Go home Yvonne, take care of
yourself.

Therese stops and turns back to Yvonne.

THERESE (CONT'D)
And please, do us both a favor, and
never contact me again.

Yvonne laughs nervously.

YVONNE
Whatchu mean? We cousins! How do
you really expect me to do that.

Therese continues to walk away, not looking back.

Yvonne is left alone on the street in front of the Jail.

EXT. LISETTE'S HOUSE - DAY

Yvonne slowly walks up the steps to the front door. She KNOCKS a few times then rings the bell.

She waits a minute before loudly KNOCKING again.

LISETTE (O.S.)
I'm commin', I commin', shit!

Yvonne attempts to patiently wait.

She hears FOOTSTEPS followed by loud CLANKING sounds approaching the door.

Lisette, walker in hand, slowly opens the door. The already displeased expression on her face turns more exasperated when she sees Yvonne.

Yvonne gives her a weak smile and a small wave.

YVONNE
Hey there.

LISETTE
You got some nerve showing ya face at ma house again. Go home, before I call the police on yo crazy ass.

YVONNE
I was just hoping to...

Lisette lifts the walker with both hands and aims the tennis ball footed legs at Yvonne. She shoves the walker at Yvonne pushing her backwards.

LISETTE
Git!

YVONNE
Ow, what the...

LISETTE
Git, git, I don't care where you go just get away from here!

YVONNE
Can you just give me a...

Lisette begins to shove harder.

YVONNE (CONT'D)
Ow, can you quit!

Yvonne grabs ahold of one of the legs on the walker and tries to take it from Lisette.

They struggle with it, tugging back and forth, until Lisette loses her balance and falls over.

LISETTE
Ah, God damnit!

YVONNE
Oh ma God.

Yvonne frantically tries to help Lisette up.

VALERIE (O.S.)
Momma, what's going on?

As Yvonne helps Lisette to her feet Valerie comes rushing over, holding Baby Miles, to see what the commotion is.

Lisette steadies herself, then SMACKS Yvonne hard across the face.

Yvonne slightly stumbles back, then balls her hand into a fist and raises it in frustration.

YVONNE
Oooo, you crippled old...

Valerie steps in between the two of them, she looks completely exhausted.

Baby Miles's face lights up when he recognizes Yvonne.

VALERIE
Yvonne, for the love of all that is good would you please just leave us alone!

Yvonne calms herself and turns her attention to Valerie.

YVONNE
Look, I ain't tryna bother you...

VALERIE
Then please go.

YVONNE
I got a whole trunk of baby stuff from when I...

(MORE)

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Well, I really have no use for it
and I thought the least I could do
was bring it over here.

VALERIE

It's ok, we don't need nothin' from
you.

Baby Miles extends his arms and tries to reach for Yvonne.

Yvonne looks at him and smiles.

Valerie lowers Baby Miles's arms and tries to turn him away
from Yvonne.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

You can be on ya way now.

Yvonne looks at Valerie, pleading.

YVONNE

Let me just give you the stuff and
I promise y'all ain't ever gotta
see me again.

Baby Miles wriggles his arms from his mothers grasp and
attempts to lean and grab towards Yvonne again.

Valerie looks at Miles, then at her mother who stands to the
side with her walker starring down Yvonne and shaking her
head in protest.

Valerie looks at Yvonne and lets out a long SIGH.

VALERIE

Fine, but then you leave!

LISETTE

(angry)
Valerie Marie!

Yvonne smiles, and turns to head to her car.

Valerie turns to her mother.

Lisette purses her lips.

LISETTE (CONT'D)

Now watch her steal ya kid again!

She turns to take her and her walker back inside.

LISETTE (CONT'D)
I ain't gone do nothin' to help you
this time.

VALERIE
Just be nice, momma.

LISETTE
Yeah, fuck nice! She can go to
hell.

INT. LISETTE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Lisette's kitchen table is stacked with various baby
supplies.

Valerie looks over the items.

Yvonne holds a smiling Baby Miles. She bounces and rocks him
on her hip.

YVONNE
Those towels are supposed to be
hypoallergenic. So is the lotion.

Valerie picks up a box and looks it over trying to figure out
what it is.

YVONNE (CONT'D)
That's a cool mist humidifier. It's
supposed to be good for when he's
sick or something.

VALERIE
And how long was you planning on
keepin' my child.

YVONNE
Just til that night.

Valerie laughs in disbelief.

VALERIE
You is somethin' else.

She places the humidifier down and picks up a onesie and
holds it out. It reads: The Snuggle Is Real

VALERIE (CONT'D)
I may be smiling and letting you
hold him, but don't think I'm at
all over what you did.

She picks up a container of baby formula and reads the ingredients.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

I'm just glad he ain't hurt. For some reason he likes you, probably what they call Stockholm syndrome though, and to tell you the truth I really don't have much fight left in me.

YVONNE

I understand.

Valerie swiftly turns to Yvonne and puts a hand on her hip.

VALERIE

I mean what in the living hell was going through yo damn head that possessed you to do it?

Valerie shakes her head.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

Breaking and entering, givin' ma poor mamma a heart attack, stealing my baby.

YVONNE

We thought we needed to get rid of the curse.

VALERIE

So you risked my baby's life?

YVONNE

We had no choice, yo mamma wouldn't...

Valerie shakes a finger at Yvonne.

VALERIE

No, no, no, don't not go blaming ma mamma as a reason for abducting a child and committing other felonies.

YVONNE

It's just...

VALERIE

I mean did you even think for a second what that would do to me? To Miles?

Yvonne is at a loss for words.

Valerie looks at her in disdain.

YVONNE

I really wasn't thinkin' bout
anyone but myself and my marriage.

Valerie shakes her head. She takes the container of formula and walks over to another part of the kitchen closer to the sink.

VALERIE

A shame. And all the while the
curse wasn't even real.

Yvonne SIGHS.

YVONNE

Yeah, well, guess I'm back to
square one on that one.

Valerie pulls an empty baby bottle from a cabinet

VALERIE

Whatever you thought the curse was
finna fix I'm sure y'all can work
out yalselves.

YVONNE

I don't think so. Stealing a baby
and lying about it kinda did it for
him.

Valerie laughs as she opens the container of formula and scoops some to put in the bottle.

VALERIE

Well, you love each other don't ya?

YVONNE

It's more complicated than that.
Apparently, there are things I need
to work out within myself and what
not.

Valerie side-eyes her as she reaches for a gallon jug of water.

VALERIE

Ya think?

YVONNE

Yeah, yeah.

Valerie pours just enough water into the baby bottle and screws on the top.

VALERIE

Marriage is overrated anyways,
ain't it.

YVONNE

So you prefer living like this? As
a single mother?

Valerie shakes up the ingredients in the bottle. She laughs.

VALERIE

Look, I know you and every other
busybody who wanna have they nose
up ma butt would agree my situation
ain't ideal, but we makin' it work.

Yvonne looks at Baby Miles who is playing with a strand of her hair and smiles.

Valerie passes the bottle over to Yvonne who feeds it to Baby Miles.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

When Miles's daddy said he didn't
want to be with me no mo' I was so
sad I ain't leave the bed for days.

Miles BABBLES and sucks at the bottle.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

But then I realized I still had my
Momma. She was there to help me fix
my broken self. And when Miles came
along prioritizing him and his
happiness brought me joy enough.

YVONNE

So you sayin' I should have a baby
and move back in with ma Momma?

Valerie shoots Yvonne an annoyed look.

VALERIE

Girl, I'm sayin' if marriage ain't
on the table for you right now stop
worrying so much about not having
it and focus on the love you do
got.

Valerie begins to clean up the counter.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

You and Therese got a great bond.
That girl thinks the world of you.

Yvonne SCOFFS.

YVONNE

Therese? I don't think we know the
same Therese.

VALERIE

She say y'all be fightin'. That you
and her been tryna out do each
other fo ages, but if you ask me,
that's all love.

YVONNE

I don't know about all dat.

Yvonne hands Baby Miles back over to Valerie.

VALERIE

That girl let you drag her through
hell and back tryna break that
curse that day and I know it wasn't
just to save her own marriage.

YVONNE

Did you not see her in her wedding
dress smellin' of the funk of forty
thousand years? That girl wanted to
save her marriage more than she
wanted air to breathe, clearly.

Valerie rocks Baby Miles with the bottle in his hands.

VALERIE

That may be true, but she went
along with your psycho plan because
she had faith in you.

Yvonne silently contemplates this.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

You would know all this if you
would take the time to try to
understand the ones you love
outside yourself.

Baby Miles BABBLES some more.

Yvonne looks at him and they smile at one another.

INT. THERESE'S HOUSE - FOYER - EVENING

The doorbell RINGS and Therese makes her way over to the door.

She opens it to see Yvonne, all smiles, standing there with a large white bag in her hand.

Therese, looking peeved, just stares at her.

Yvonne raises the bag.

YVONNE

Got us seven pounds of crawfish!

Therese doesn't budge. She says nothing.

Yvonne moves around Therese and walks into her home.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Now I do love me some Castnets, but
I remembered you like em better
from Lucky Jeans, down on Ross, so
I went there.

Yvonne walks over to Therese's table.

She looks back at Therese.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

You got newspaper?

THERESE

No.

They both stare at each other for a while.

Yvonne's seemingly excited expression turns sorrowful.

YVONNE

Look, I...

THERESE

I got something else tho.

Therese's blank expression doesn't falter. She heads over to her bedroom.

Yvonne waits patiently for her to come back.

Therese comes back out dragging the wedding dress behind her.

She lays it over the table then turns to Yvonne.

Yvonne shrugs.

YVONNE
That should do it.

Yvonne places the large bag of boiled crawfish onto the center of the wedding dress covered table.

Therese and Yvonne both take their seats.

Yvonne rubs her hands together and smiles with delight.

Therese still expressionless rips open the bag and they dig in.

Therese takes one out and begins to peel it. She notices Yvonne making an individual pile of crawfish closer to herself.

THERESE
Ah ah, you can't be doing that!

YVONNE
What?

THERESE
Hoarding them like that. That ain't fair. You know the rules, you get as many as you're fast enough to go through.

YVONNE
Girl please, and who paid for this?

Therese sucks the head of one of the crawfish and says no more.

YVONNE (CONT'D)
Mmmmm. That's what I thought.

Therese finally cracks a smile and begins to laugh.

Her and Yvonne laugh together.

FADE OUT.

THE END.