

One Fine Day

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FADE IN:

INT.SUV - DAY

JORDYN WHITAKER (30), a young black woman dressed comfortably chic and well manicured from head to toe, sits in the back of a moving SUV. Her gaze is fixed on her phone as she thumbs through comments on her social media page.

ON SCREEN:

Comment 1: it irks me to see fame hungry status climbers selling "black empowerment." I guess they're just giving away book deals to anyone with a podcast. 📖

Comment 2: I know a carefully curated brand when I see one ☐ #industryplant

Comment 3: Meh 📖 book didn't say anything i haven't already heard. #thankyounext

The SUV pulls up to a sleek office building. RED (older male in his late 60s), Jordyn's personal driver, attempts to get out of the car to open the door for Jordyn, but she stops him before he completes the gestures.

JORDYN

No need to get out, Red. Appreciate you though. Have a great day!

RED

You too Miss Jordyn, and happy birthday to you. Makes sure you take time to enjoy it! Too young to be workin all the time.

Jordan gives him a smile while exiting the car.

CUT TO:

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

Jordyn and a few other passenger are on an elevator that stops and its doors open. JESSICA, (late 40s) the eccentric, and carefree producer of Jordyn's podcast show, makes it just in time to slide through the closing elevator doors and onto the elevator.

JESSICA

Okay, BEST. SELLING. AUTHOR! Number one book in the country. I see you, girl!

People in the elevator, silently react to the break in silence.

JORDYN

(grinning and looking straight ahead)

Too loud, Jess.

JESSICA

My outfit or my mouth.

JORDYN

Both!

They laugh and exit the elevator together.

INT. STUDIO - DAY

A production crew sets up cameras, mics, lays out refreshments for Jordyn's podcast show. There's a marquee in the background with the show's name "For the People in the Back" and is surrounded by autographed candid shot of celebrities. Jessica flips through papers on a clipboard and checks her phone intermittently, while Jordyn sits with a laptop and paper print out in front of her, reviewing notes on each.

JESSICA

Dorion "the great" and her team should be here in 10 minutes. She's an R& B singer why does she need to have that many people with her.

JORDYN

Stop judging the guests, Jess.

Jordyn is multitasking, preparing notes while responding to Jessica's remarks.

JESSICA

You know i'm right ...but enough about this little ol' podcast. Are you ready for you're big interview with ROZ tomorrow? I remember when you were hustlin trying to get this podcast off the ground. Now look at you.

(MORE)

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Book deals, guest appearances on TV shows, running your own businesses. Now you're all booked and busy! Won't be long before you leave me behind.

JORDYN

(jokingly)

You'll be fine without me...

JESSICA

(playfully shocked)

Oooop!

JORDYN

Anyways, are you coming to my party tonight? On time?!

JESSICA

I'm in there like swim wear. But no promises on the ETA.

JORDYN

Why are you this way?

JESSICA

Listen, I never miss an opportunity to get cute. eat. drink. and be merry. An i'll try my best to be there "on time." But a better question is - will AJ be there?
Mmmhmmmm

Jordyn rolls her eyes playfully and walks over to test a mic on the table.

JORDYN

Messy.

JESSICA

Don't act like you don't still love that man.

A production assistant enters and interrupts before Jordyn can respond.

PETE (PRODUCTION ASSISTANT)

Sorry to interrupt but Dorion is here.

JESSICA
Thanks, Pete. Bring her in.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE BEGINS.

Jordyn Greets her guest, Dorion.

Dorion's entourage fills the room.

We see Jordyn laughing with Dorion during the interview.

We see Dorion strategically dabbing tears with a napkin, as to avoid messing up her makeup.

Jordyn embraces Dorion. And Dorion and her entourage begin to leave the studio.

Podcast crew slowly exit the studio.

Jessica leaves the studio.

MONTAGE ENDS.

Jordan is alone, in the studio by herself. She gets up, looks around and walks over to the door and flicks the light off while exiting.

INT./EXT. SUV - NIGHT

Jordan sits in the back of the same SUV from earlier. She's dressed in a sleek form fitting dress and is re-applying her lipstick just as the vehicle comes to a stop. Red attempts to get the door for her and she lets him. With Red's assistance she steps out of the car. She looks stunning.

RED
(pleased)
You have a great time tonight Miss Jordyn.

JORDYN
(light smile, mimicking Denzel voice)
My Mannn.

The two fist bump and exchange chuckles. Red heads back to the car, while Jordyn makes her way into the restaurant.

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT -NIGHT

Jordy enters the restaurant, is led by a host to her private section where she is greeted by a group of friends, family and co-workers.

GROUP OF PARTY GOERS
Happy Birthday!

Jordyn greets her guests, exchanging hugs and cheek kisses, while guest intermingle in the background. Jordyn's mom, SHARICE emerges from the crowd visibly tipsy. Sharice (50s) is in shape, well-dressed and has a youthfulness about her that makes you instantly question if she's old enough to have a daughter Jordyn's age.

SHARICE
Happy Birthday, Baby!

(yelling to the crowd and
pointing at Jordyn)
This is my daughter, mine!

JORDYN
(jokingly)
Ummmm....Somebody get her a water.

Jordyn and her mom chat. AJ, a handsome well-dress man in his 30s approaches the two women.

AJ
Happy Birthday!

They exchange a nice embrace.

JORDYN
What are you doing here?

AJ
I was invited right?

JORDYN
No, yes, of course. I just - I
didn't think-

AJ
C'mon now, I wasn't gonna miss your
30th bday.

JORDYN
Well its good to see you.

A woman, NATALIE, walks up and puts her arm around AJ, while simultaneously greeting Jordyn.

JORDYN (CONT'D)

(perks up)

You must be Natalie. It's nice to put a face to the name.

NATALIE

It's great to finally meet you. This guy talks about you all the time.

They hear clinking of a glass. And turn around to find Sharice giving a toast.

AJ

(jokingly)

Miss Sharice hasn't changed, she still lit.

Jordyn shakes her head, excuses herself with a hand gesture and heads over to her mom but slows mid-way and comes to a stop and listens.

SHARICE

Jordyn, I'm so proud of all that you have accomplished, you're every bit a me. I see your drive and determination to do good and be great and all I see is myself in you. By the time I was you age, I had already become VP of Creative Marketing at DeWitt & Lancaster, had purchase my own home and was making sure you had all you needed, with zero help in my life. Especially not from your dad.

Partygoers show a sea of expressions: second-hand embarrassment, concern, and cringe.

SHARICE (CONT'D)

You had tough shoes to fill but you're doing your thing and I couldn't be prouder. I love you baby.

Jordyn's mom walk over to her and hugs her.

SHARICE (CONT'D)

I love you, baby.

Still hugging. Jordyn fights back tears.

JORDYN
Love you too, Mom.

CUT TO:

Party goes doing old school dances.

CUT TO:

People chanting lyrics together in unison.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTAURANT

Jordyn makes her way thru clusters of people staggered outside the restaurant.

CUT TO:

Jordyn hops into a sedan with a Lyft sign in the front window.

INT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jordyn enters her apartment, removes her shoes, pour a glass of wine and heads over to her couch. She pulls out her phone and searches for old Roz interviews on the internet. The wine bottles she pours from serve as hour glasses tracking the passage of time.

Audio from Roz's interview clip plays as Jordyn begins to cry, rises from the couch, stumbling a bit and heads into the bathroom.

INT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT/BATHROOM- NIGHT

Jordyn places wine glass on the edge of the tub, starts running water in the bath, and heads over to the sink.

She takes a long and deep look at her face as the mascara runs down her eyes. She opens the cabinet above her sink which contains multiple prescription bottles. Closes the cabinet. She stares at herself in the mirror.

The screen goes black and we hear "The ROZ" show intro.

INT. SB NETWORK STUDIO - ROZ SET

ROZ (60s), a compassionate, non-judgemental Oprah-like host appears and addresses the studio audience.

ROZ

Today's special guest is Jordyn Whitaker. Jordan is a leader in her industry, her community and is also currently one of the most sought after voices of her generation. She runs a successful non-profit that is designed to help woman of color become successful entrepreneurs, is the creator and host of the top-rated podcast "For the People in the Back" and most recently has become a New York Times Best selling author of the book by the same name. Girl, when do you sleep?

Audience laughs.

ROZ (CONT'D)

Joking aside, you live what seems to be such an extraordinary and accomplished life. And trust me, there are plenty of questions I want to ask you about your journey from a small town in New Jersey to being a rising star and a role model to brown girls everywhere. But my first and most important question for you is how are you doing?

Audience is silent enough to hear a pin drop. Jordyn, dressed in the same sleek dress from her birthday party with her hair and makeup freshly done, is visibly taken aback by the direct and personal question.

JORDYN

I - I'm fine. I'm good. How are you?

Roz shakes her head and redirects the question back to Jordyn.

ROZ

No really, Jordyn. How are you?

CUT TO:

Jordan now looks completely disheveled with mascara running down her eyes.

JORDYN
(voice cracking)

I - I'm fine. I'm good.

ROZ
You don't look so good

Each time Jordan opens her mouth to talk a loud defibrillator noise is heard. She looks around in a panic to figure out what is happening to her.

The scene goes black and is underscored by a heartbeat flatline sound.

CUT TO:

INT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT/BATHROOM- NIGHT

The paramedics are in the bathroom surrounding Jordyn's lifeless body as they try to resuscitate her.

CUT TO:

FLASH BACK: INT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT/BATHROOM- NIGHT

Jordyn stares at herself in the mirror. She opens the cabinet above her sink which contains multiple prescription bottles and grabs two of the bottles.

She takes them with her into the tub and then proceeds to open the bottles and swallow the pills from each bottle. Eases into the tub and takes one last final sip of her wine.

FLASHBACK ENDS

CUT TO:

Jordyn's Mom, Jessica, and AJ stand just outside the bathroom and are all visibly distraught and consoling each other. As the Paramedic signals that Jordyn has passed on.

CUT TO:

INT. SB NETWORK STUDIO - ROZ SET

ROZ, tearfully and emotionally speaks directly to the camera.

ROZ

I'm sure you've all heard the shocking news about Jordyn Whitaker.

(a beat)

She was clearly struggling privately with issues that we will never fully be aware or understand. She would have been a guest on my show today and. While she not her in the psychical, her presence is felt. Let's check on our strong friends and family members who are doing it all without complaint. Let's check in on ourselves. It's okay to say you're not doing okay, its okay to not have the answers, but please, please know you are not alone in your struggles.

FADE TO BLACK.