

BABY WOMAN

PILOT EPISODE

WRITTEN BY

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WGA REGISTRY: 2047506

OVER BLACK:

A quote appears: "Catch on fire if you must, sometimes everything needs to burn to the ground so that we can grow"
- A.J. Lawless -

FADE IN:

INT. VICTORIA'S ROOM - LATE MORNING

We hear a WOMAN'S VOICE.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
You are not being raised to be mediocre. Excellence is not an option. As black women it's our birthright.
(beat)
Do you understand?

The world fades away behind VICTORIA as the woman's words echo.

VICTORIA CARR, 24 (acquiescent and angelic) cocks open her eyes. Her thick hair sticks up like a lions mane. She has to puke, she sticks her head into a TRASH CAN and lets go.

In a daze, she attempts to remember last night. She checks her phone and finds 10 missed calls from her boss. On her dresser, her work folder sits untouched.

VICKY (a boisterous CARTOON CHARACTER) of Victoria enters. She is the repressed part of Victoria's subconscious come to life. They co-exist but they don't interact. Vicky speaks Victoria's inner turmoil to the audience.

Vicky stumbles on screen queasy.

VICKY
That's what I get for tryna drive
the boat!

INT. BAR - FLASH BACK

Victoria sits alone in a hole in the wall, half empty bar. She looks around and checks her phone out of anticipation.

JOSIE 24, (boughetto and outspoken) sashays towards Victoria, her Kamala Harris wrap bounces with each step.

She takes the empty stool next to Victoria, then drops her mini HERMES BIRKIN on the countertop.

JOSIE

After all these years, you're still tightly wound, hemmed up in a corner when you should be working the room getting numbers.

Victoria uncrosses her arms in attempt to loosen up.

VICTORIA

And you're still the same Josie, late and thirsty.

Josie side eyes Victoria.

JOSIE

And is...

(beat)

So

why did I have to find out you moved to LA from the streets?

VICTORIA

Instagram is not the streets.

SEBASTIAN 25, (dapper and self-assured) walks up and joins them, his walnut complexion glistens under the bars lights.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

Who's this?

Victoria admires Sebastian's handsomeness.

JOSIE

He's not my man.

SEBASTIAN

Girl, you wish.

JOSIE

Victoria meet Sebastian. My roommate and personal chauffeur.

SEBASTIAN

Come on, bring it in.

He embraces Victoria with a down home southern hug. Victoria is awkward. Sebastian removes himself then seductively saddles the stool.

At that moment a BARTENDER arrives with three drinks. Josie pulls out her phone to record.

VICTORIA
Do you have to record everything?

JOSIE
YES!

SEBASTION
Don't tell me you're one of those people that hate social media?

Vicky appears and talks to the audience.

VICKY
Social media perputates our anxious and stressed out generation because we are overstimulated by unrealistic ideologies of what we think success is.

VICTORIA
It's cool.

Josie hands Sebastian his drink, and pauses before handing Victoria hers.

JOSIE
Wait, I don't recall you drinking in college.

In an attempt to prove her wrong, Victoria takes a sip of the liquor, but she gags. Her face contorts like Wendy Williams. She plays it cool as Vicky wanders in.

VICKY
I know damn well I'm not supposed to be out here drinking like this when I have to get up at the crack of ass...but FUCK it, I wanna have fun!

VICTORIA
This shit is gross.

JOSIE
They don't call this the heavy hitter for nothing.

Josie chugs her drink like a pro. She locks eyes with an ATTRACTIVE MAN from across the room.

Sebastian is bubbly, full of hot liquor. He stands, and then drifts into the distance.

Victoria struggles to take off her jacket, she almost falls off the stool. The liquor is hittin' her ass.

JOSIE (CONT'D)

What have you been up to?

VICTORIA

Girl, I'm on my last leg, just working, surviving off of Trader Joe's Chicken Masala.

JOSIE

Oh, you a Trader hoe?

VICTORIA

Yes mam.

They share a laugh

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

How's everything been with you, Ms. Hermes?

JOSIE

I can't complain, just living my best soft life. Drinking Joe & The Juice coffee every morning, Trap yoga, you know, pampering myself.

Josie takes a sip of her drink. Victoria wishes they could trade places.

VICTORIA

I feel it. How's your brother?

JOSIE

Oh girl, he's good somewhere off the grid.

Josie reminisces.

JOSIE (CONT'D)

Remember that time our freshman year we baloney'd Gary's car?

Victoria talks through giggles.

VICTORIA

How could I forget. He was riding around campus with paint patches missing for weeks.

JOSIE

That's what his cheating ass gets.

They crack up.

The ATTRACTIVE MAN makes his way over to Josie. He steals her away, she happily follows. Sebastian crashes the bar like a whirlwind with more shots, they toast and choke down their shots. "Realer" by Megan Thee Stallion plays.

SEBASTIAN

This my Shit!

Sebastian pulls Victoria towards the dance floor, a Bartender walks around with SHOTS, Victoria takes another one, she is shit-faced. The room SPINS along with her.

On REVEAL, Vicky has a mic in her hand as she sings passionately.

VICKY

You about to lose yo job. You ah-
you ah- you ah- you about to lose
yo job.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. OFFICE SPACE - DAY

Victoria paces back and forth in front of a CONSOLE DESK. She anxiously plays in her hair. Her eyes search the LOBBY aimlessly.

JANE, (A Middle-aged crotchety Caucasian woman) storms in with KITTEN HEELS and a scowl. She motions for Victoria to follow her into her office.

Jane takes a seat at her desk. Victoria's shirt is half-tucked into her PANTS. She stands before her boss unconfidently.

Jane checks a few PAPERS. Then, closes the FOLDER, irritated. She looks at Victoria.

JANE

I've been calling you. You were
supposed to be here an hour ago.
(beat)
On top of being late, this is not
what I asked you to do. These
aren't even in alphabetical order.

Jane slams the folder on her desk.

VICTORIA

I'm sorry. I--

Jane cuts Victoria off.

JANE

Excuses sound best to the person
that's giving them.

CUT TO:

Vicky peeks out from behind Victoria, she takes off her
EARRINGS.

VICKY

Bitch, first of all...

JANE

You look like you just rolled out
of bed. You don't even look like
you work here?

Vicky sits on Jane's desk.

VICKY

Excuse me? Miss meow, meow chow
kitten shoe wearin ass.

JANE

You can't just breeze through life.
You have to put in the effort.

JANE (CONT'D)

As of today you are on probation.

Victoria is frozen, She recalls the dream with her mothers
haunting words, "*Excellence is not an option. As black women
it's our birthright*". She realizes she never wanted to be
excellent.

Jane gives her a PAPER to sign. Victoria looks at it, and
something boils over in her, she's had enough.

VICTORIA

I quit.

Victoria crumbles the paper and throws it at her. Jane is
appalled, Victoria walks out of her office with her nose in
the air.

Vicky stands proud, with her hands on her hips.

VICKY

I know that's right! Fuck this job!

EXT. VICTORIA'S HOME - LATE MORNING

Victoria walks into a regular looking apartment, her roommate, STEPHANIE, (hippy and white) stands in the middle of the room with her arms crossed.

STEPHANIE

Victoria what the hell? You left boiled eggs on the stove. They exploded every where, you could have burned down the house, I could've died.

VICTORIA

Oh shit! I'm so sorry. My mind has literally been in scrabbles.

STEPHANIE

This is not working out. You have to go.

INT. MAEVE'S HOME/YOGA ROOM - MID DAY

Maeve, 40's ("The Cool Aunt") blows up an air mattress. She makes the space that was once a yoga room into a comfortable living space for her niece.

MAEVE

This should do for now. I'll get the last of the boxes, you rest.

VICTORIA

Thanks Auntie Maeve.

MAEVE

Question, Why did you get kicked out anyway?

Victoria holds a sheepish grin.

VICTORIA

I don't want to talk about it. Just know I won't be boiling eggs anytime soon.

INT. MAEVE'S HOME/YOGA ROOM- EVENING

Victoria rides out a shitty day on a twin air mattress. She munches on HOT CHEETOS, and sips Maeve's famous GREEN JUICE, a nasty ass combination.

Another notification comes in on her phone that reads:
*Insufficient funds, your Wells Fargo account XXX-2513 has
 reached zero dollars.*

VICTORIA
 WHYYYY? Ugh, today is just WTF!

She slaps her forehead in distress.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
 I should have never quit.

Vicky is sprawled out on a half deflated air mattress.

VICKY
 What the hell. I should be happy I
 don't gotta be around them white
 folks no more and keke at at they
 dumb shit. I don't care about your
 fucking dog or cat, or what they
 ate.

Victoria looks at a CORK BOARD of memorabilia and PHOTOS. We
 focus on a beautiful portrait with Victoria's name printed in
 tiny font at the bottom.

She is interturrpted by a PHONE CALL. It's her MAMA, (MOURIE
 CARR, 53) a no nonsense woman that does things by the book.
 Victoria is reluctant but picks up anyway.

VICTORIA
 Hey Ma.

MOURIE (FACE-TIME)
 Girl what's goin on with yo head?
 You need to put some twist in it or
 something.

Victoria brushes back her hair with her hand.

MOURIE (CONT'D)
 How is everything?

VICTORIA
 Everything's good, works good. I
 actually just got a raise.

MOURIE
 Damn right you got a raise, you are
 excellent.

Victoria winces at that phrase. She grabs her stomach in
 pain.

VICTORIA

Ma, I have to call you back, I gotta finish up some work stuff.

MOURIE

Well don't let me stop you. I just wanted you to know me and your father are coming down. I need to lay eyes on you, make sure you doing okay.

VICTORIA

I'm fine, really. Now I gotta go.

Vicky starts to dig a hole and swindles herself inside of it.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

I gotta find a job ASAP! Right after I get off the toilet.

Victoria sprints to the bathroom.

INT. VICTORIA'S ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Victoria opens her LAPTOP, determined. She starts her job hunt on Craigslist, the perfect place to find a bull shit job.

VICTORIA

Nope, not doing that.

She continues to scroll while saving jobs she likes. Then she stumbles upon a dog walker job, and perks up.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

How hard could that be?

JUMP CUT TO:

MONTAGE OF TRIED AND FAILED JOBS

EXT. PARK - DAY

Upbeat music plays, as Victoria picks up dog shit. She attempts to control FOUR BIG ASS DOGS. She is manhandled and dragged out of frame.

CUT TO:

In frame Vicky is dragged by the dogs.

VICKY
 (Yells)
 This is bulllllshiiiiitttttt!

INT. DAY CARE HOME FACILITY - DAY

Victoria is in a home style daycare. TOYS are everywhere, CHILDREN run and scream in madness. Victoria stands in the center of the chaos, flustered. A LITTLE GIRL tugs at her arm relentlessly.

LITTLE GIRL
 Billy made a mess in the bathroom.

VICTORIA
 There's a Billy? Since when?

The girl pulls Victoria into the bathroom. A LITTLE BOY stands with his pants to his ankles happily pissing everywhere.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
 OH HELL NAW!

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

A CONVEYOR BELT dishes out gigantic WHITE DILDO'S. Workers stuff them into PACKAGES expertly. Victoria nervously attempts to package the dicks.

The supervisor hovers down the aisle, closely watching. In her attempt to keep up, Victoria fumbles the penises.

VICTORIA
 Damn who hole this going into?

Vicky packs DILDO'S, with a fire breathing DRAGON behind her. The dragon blows his breath and singes her hair. Vicky is BALD, she pats her head with a dildo.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFE - NIGHT

Victoria slaves away washing dishes. She is on her last dish when a WORKER comes in with a stack full of dirty dishes.

VICTORIA
 What's this? I get off in 5 minutes.

The WORKER shrugs and walks off. Victoria is annoyed. In walks JOSE, an Abuelo looking man. Victoria takes off her apron, Jose speaks in broken English with his hands.

JOSE

Victoria que eres doing?

VICTORIA

My shift is over. I'm not washing all of those dishes.

JOSE

If you don't finish, no hay trabajo para ti.

QUICK-CUT

Victoria mumbles in Spanish as she walks out.

VICTORIA

Chupame el culo.

Jose hears her, he starts to curse her out in full blown Spanish.

JOSE

Escuche que pequeò a mierda.

Vicky flips him off.

INT. VICTORIA'S LIVNG ROOM - MORNING

We see Maeve curled up on a big fluffy cloud SOFA underneath a blanket. Victoria creeps up and snuggles under her.

MAEVE

How did it go?

VICTORIA

For the past three days I've picked up dogshit, discovered I don't want kids, washed hella dishes and played with huge penises.

MAEVE

I've been meaning to upgrade mine.

VICTORIA

You didn't need to tell me that.

Victoria sits up.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
 If Mrs. Mourie finds out about any
 of this I'll be in a grave
 somewhere.

MAEVE
 Everything will work itself out.

VICTORIA
 Will it?

Maeve gets up and grabs her crystals. She places them around Victoria, who is hunched over pulling loose thread from her sock. She is weighed, her breaking point is near.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
 I don't even know what I want to do
 with myself. I'm hella broke, I
 feel behind in life. It seems like
 all my friends lives are great and
 I'm just here. No career, no
 relationship, and a militant for a
 mother.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
 Look at me, I went from having my
 own place to sleeping on a twin
 sized air-mattress.

As she rants Maeve listens. Victoria buries her face into the palm of her hands. Maeve lights sage and twirls it over Victoria's head. Victoria covers her nose.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
 How do you like that smell, it
 stinks.

MAEVE
 It's gonna get all the bad juju
 out.

The room is smoky, Victoria sits in thought, coughing.

INT. JOSIE APARTMENT - DAY

Josie is in a state of the art kitchen decked with a big ass island countertop. She is about to take a bite of her sandwich when Sebastian walks in with a hand full of mail.

JOSIE
 My favorite person is home.

Sebastian drops the mail on the countertop, and dramatically slouches over.

SEBASTIAN

Oh my God, them kids was working my damn nerves today.

JOSIE

I don't know how you deal.

Josie looks through the mail. We focus on a POSTCARD sent from her brother JAMIE. She holds a smile.

SEBASTIAN

I had to break up two fights before lunch. How you a thug at seven and musty?

Sebastian's rant is interrupted by a vibrating phone. Josie watches it buzz in agony. Sebastian picks up on her sunken mood.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

You don't have to answer, that's why God created the ignore button.

Josie gives Sebastian a familiar look as he walks away. She answers, it's her mother LOURDES, 41, a true narcissist.

LOURDES (FACE-TIME)

Do you know your father had the nerve to call me inconsiderate and self serving!

Lourdes exhales.

LOURDES (CONT'D)

After all I've done to keep this family together.

Josie rolls her eyes.

JOSIE

Don't you have a therapist for this?

Lourdes berates her, proving what her father said to be true.

LOURDES

This is exactly why I can't talk to you. You always take his side.

Josie is irritated, she hangs up in her mothers face.

EXT. FRESH AND MEATY BURGER STAND - DAY

Josie, Victoria and Sebastian pull up to a shabby little BURGER STAND. People wait for their orders outside. Victoria is drawn to the atmosphere immediately, it feels familiar to her.

JOSIE

You'll definitely like this place.
Their turkey burger is fire.

Sebastian studies the name Fresh and Meaty, he gives Josie an iffy look. They exit the car.

SEBASTIAN

Vegan friendly my ass, it looks
like they slaughter the cows in the
back.

JOSIE

They have veggie burgers.

SEBASTIAN

It's called Fresh and MEATY.

As they walk up, signs on the outside read "*Only 2 customers allowed in at a time*". Sebastian notices the thick, glass windows.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Unt unt, they got bullet proof
windows. I'mma go wait in the car,
order for me, I'll cash app you.

INT. FRESH AND MEATY- CONTINUOUS

Josie and Victoria enter the resturant, they look up to the MENU on a T.V screen. Josie orders for the group.

JOSIE

I'll have two meaty burgers with
cheese. One veggie burger, and
three lemonades.

Victoria digs through her purse, pretending to find her wallet.

VICTORIA

I think I left my wallet at home.

CUT TO VICKY:

VICKY
 Oh, my God. I'm so embarrassed. I'm
 out here beggin.

Vicky slaps her forehead.

JOSIE
 It's cool, I got you.

The CASHIER pops her GUM. Josie hands her the CARD and
 admires her ridiculously LONG NAILS.

They head outside to wait on their order on a BENCH. The
 NEIGHBORHOOD is not yet gentrified.

We see BLACK FOLKS wait at the BUS STOP. People ride through
 the streets bumping loud music. Victoria takes in her
 surroundings, the atmosphere reminds her of OAKLAND.

EXT. KENNETH HANH PARK VIEW TOP - EVENING

On a HILLTOP, the three stogies sit on the roof of a JEEP and
 chow down. Sebastian is interrupted by a TEXT MESSAGE, he
 blushes as he reads it. Josie teases him.

JOSIE
 Who got you over there grinning
 from ear to ear?

Sebastian pulls his phone into his chest.

SEBASTIAN
 You in my business, don't do datt.

Josie tries to snatch the phone.

JOSIE
 I already know who it is anyway.

SEBASTIAN
 You don't know nothing.

JOSIE
 That's your catfish boo.

He continues to text his mysterious partner. Victoria
 massages her temples, stressed out.

JOSIE (CONT'D)
 You good?

Victoria breaks her silence.

VICTORIA

I quit the job my mom got me, now I have to find a new job, and I got kicked out by my roommate. Life is doing too much.

JOSIE

Damn.

SEBASTIAN

Whew chyle, I'm glad my family lives all the way in Miami.

Sebastian sips his drink in a shady manner. Victoria changes the subject because she doesn't want to bring the mood down.

VICTORIA

(to Josie)

Have you had any luck in the dating department?

JOSIE

GIRL, have I?
It's a hot girl summer over here!

Josie sticks her tongue out like a City Girl.

SEBASTIAN

You was just having a Mary J. Blige "I can't live without you" moment with what's his name...

JOSIE

He was a fuck boy. I'm on to the next.

JOSIE (CONT'D)

(to Victoria)

You're all in my love life, what about yours?

Victoria tenses up, she chomps down on a handful of fries as a distraction.

VICKY

It's the cobwebs for me.
I probably shoulda took one of those dildo's.

Vicky takes a broom and clears out cobwebs from in front of her.

JOSIE

You need to loosen up. Maybe go on
a couple of dates?

(beat)

Look at all of these men's.

Josie swipes through her SOUL SEARCH'N profile while Victoria watches. We focus on Josie's phone as she swipes left through a group of RAGAMUFFINS.

We see MEN with LEBRON JAMES HAIRLINE'S, SERIAL KILLER looking white boy's KISSING their dogs, and all of their bios read, "Let's Link". Victoria looks disgusted.

CUT TO VICKY:

VICKY

(hollers with laughter)

Good the FUCK BYE! Them niggas look
like road kill.

INT. MAEVE'S HOME - EARLY MORNING

Victoria sways to the sounds of AFRO BEATS in front of a vanity mirror as she prepares for yet another job interview.

Vicky sits on the vanity drawer reading a book titled, "*I Need Some Money Nigga*". Victoria speaks outloud to herself.

VICTORIA

Get it together, keep it together.

Maeve peeks in on her.

MAEVE

How are my chakras suppose to open
with all this noise?

Victoria turns down the music. Maeve enters the room, she fixes Victoria's shirt COLLAR.

MAEVE (CONT'D)

You're going to do fine today, I
saged your room.

VICTORIA

That's why it smells like that in
here.

Victoria cracks a smile, she looks at Maeve through the mirror, then gets serious.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
Do you think I breeze through life?

Maeve looks at her with love in her eyes.

MAEVE
Listen, you don't have to have it all figured out right now. If you wanna breeze through life, so be it. Follow it, see where it takes you.

MAEVE (CONT'D)
None of us have it all together. We are all trying to figure this thing out.

Victoria relaxes, she turns to her aunt warmly.

VICTORIA
Thank you, for everything.

They share one of those good ole church hugs.

INT. OFFICE ROOM - MORNING

Victoria studies the INTERVIEWERS DESK filled with family portraits. We focus on FRAMED PICTURES of Michelle and Barack Obama.

INTERVIEWER
So Victoria, tell me about yourself?

Victoria hates this question.

VICKY
What does me telling you about myself have to do with me patrolling a parking lot?

VICTORIA
(code switches)
I'm a Berkeley graduate with a degree in communications. I'm originally from Oakland. I just moved to LA...

The interviewer pays more attention to her resume than to her.

INTERVIEWER

I'll be honest with you.
You are over qualified for this
job. Why choose security?

VICTORIA

I took the first job I was offered
straight out of college and that
wasn't really what I wanted to do.

The interviewer looks unmoved.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

Honestly, I really need a job, and
you guys are hiring.

INTERVIEWER

This job is not glamorous. You must
have great customer service,
observe, patrol and report.

(beat)

Do you have a guard card?

Victoria looks lost.

VICTORIA

A guard card? What is that??

The Interviewer looks at her like she's crazy.

INTERVIEWER

Unfortunatley, I will not be able
to hire you without a guard card.

The interviewer hands her a buisness card.

INTERVIEWER

When you get your guard card, call
me.

EXT. OUTSIDE HIGH RISE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Victoria aimlessly rides a BIRD SCOOTER feeling defeated.
She zigzags through the sidewalk and makes a sharp turn
crashing into BUSHES.

Vicky stumbles around with little BIRDS circling her head.

CHANCE MORGAN (27, Hershey Adonis) rushes to help Victoria to
her feet. She is awestruck at the sight of him.

Vicky bursts out a mini FAN. Her face scrunched up in delight.

VICKY
GOT DAMN HE FIIIIOOOOONNNEEEE!

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. PLANT NURSERY - DAY

Victoria and Josie scroll through an indoor plant nursery. They admire different plants and catch up.

VICTORIA
I would have never taken you to be
a plant mom.

JOSIE
Why not?

VICTORIA
You just look like you'd let your
plants die.

They crack up.

JOSIE
I really want to be a dog mom, but
I'm not picking up dog shit.
Plants are little to no
maintenance, and water is free.

Victoria is triggered at the mention of dog shit. Josie picks up a Monstera plant and examines it.

VICTORIA
For you to be well off, you sure
are frugal.

JOSIE
I'm not frugal, I'm responsible
with my money.

Victoria looks down at Josie's designer purse.

JOSIE (CONT'D)
This was a gift.

Victoria's PHONE VIBRATES with a text from her mom that reads: "*Victoria call me*". She ignores the messages and turns off her phone.

JOSIE (CONT'D)
Your whole vibe just changed.
What's wrong?

VICTORIA
My Mom is being hella nagging.
Is your mom like that?

At the register, Josie purchases the Monstera.

JOSIE
Please, Lourdes forgets she has
children. It's not in her nature to
be overbearing, or even care.

VICTORIA
I wish I had that freedom. This
woman has arranged everything in my
life, right down to my first
boyfriend, and we didn't have shit
in common.

They exit the plant nursery and sit in a patio area of a
cafe.

EXT. CAFE PATIO - CONTINUOUS

JOSIE
Not your momma hooking you up. What
was he like?

VICTORIA
He was a very handsome smart and
condescending Biochemist.

Victoria reminisces.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
He was my first, and it was bad. He
lasted for about 3 minutes, and his
penis was the same size as a Roku
remote.

JOSIE
NOT A ROKU REMOTE!

Josie is hysterical.

JOSIE (CONT'D)
I think your mom just wants what's
best for you.

Victoria ponders.

VICTORIA
When did you become so grounded?

JOSIE
When I met Sebastian, he's like my
spiritual life coach. You should
talk to him.

INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

The sound of FORKS can be heard scraping PLATES. The room is
thick with tension.

VICTORIA
I'm surprised you're here. I
thought you were coming at the end
of the month?

MOURIE
Well, if you would have returned my
messages, you wouldn't be
surprised.

VICTORIA
Where's dad? I thought he was
coming too.

MOURIE
You know your daddy not missing a
Raiders game for nobody, not even
Jesus.

They share a laugh.

MOURIE (CONT'D)
How's everything at the job?

VICTORIA
It's great. I show houses now.

Maeve is confused, she eyeballs Victoria.

MOURIE
I'm so proud of you. My baby is
growing up and doing big things!

Victoria pushes food around on her plate in angst.

INT. UPSTAIRS BATHROOM - EVENING

Mourie rinses her hands in the sink and dries them off on an ugly DECORATIVE TOWEL. She begins to look around, then finds herself in Maeve's yoga room.

INT. YOGA ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Open boxes are stacked in a corner, She looks inside of the box and finds Victoria's graduation photo. She continues to look, and realizes it's all Victoria's things.

Victoria's phone lights up with a voice message, Mourie grabs the phone and plays it out loud. The voice on the other end of the speaker says: *Victoria your final check is ready for pick up at the office. If you don't retrieve it by tomorrow, it will be mailed to you.*

Mourie is caught red-handed.

VICTORIA
Ma, what are you doing?

MOURIE
You quit your job?

Mourie snatches Victoria's clothes out of the boxes like a mad woman.

MOURIE (CONT'D)
You been lying to me this whole time?

Victoria is mute.

MOURIE (CONT'D)
Girl, I know you hear me talking to you?

Victoria is nervous.

VICTORIA
You wanted me to exceed your expectations and the worlds, I did that. Graduated at the top my class, an honors student. Took the job you wanted me to take, everything that I have done up until this point has been for you!

Vicky appears dressed in all black, a church organ plays as she lays in a casket, she reaches up and closes it's top.

MOURIE

Now you're getting beside yourself.
What kind of mother would I be if I
didn't pour everything I had into
you.

A beat.

VICTORIA

You're suffocating me.

Victoria rushes out of the house.

INT. HOODIES DONUT SHOP - NIGHT

Victoria sits glumly in a dimly lit DONUT SHOP, tucked inside a booth, bussing down the remnants of her KOOL-AID drink (The RED kind).

The abysmal ambience matches her mood. A frail looking CHINESE WOMAN vigorously wipes countertops. Victoria watches as she mindlessly slurps. The feud between her mother weighs on her.

Vicky paces back and forth, she floats between anxiety and certainty. Victoria is sick of herself, she calls Josie.

VICTORIA

I need a drink, you down?

INT. MAEVE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS NIGHT

Maeve stands in a PLANT filled kitchen with one arm pressed over the lid of a BLENDER packed with BEETS. The blender gives up, beets explode everywhere, Maeve shrugs and eats them from her bosom.

Mourie drags herself into the kitchen.

MOURIE

Why didn't you tell me that
Victoria was staying with you?

MAEVE

Because she asked me not to.

Mourie feels like a bad parent.

MOURIE

Did I do something wrong?

Maeve wipes down the beat splattered countertops.

MAEVE

You gotta let her live her own life
Mo, make her own mistakes.

MOURIE

She didn't even come to me. Am I
supposed to sit back and watch her
throw her life away?

Maeve stops wiping, she looks at Mourie sideways.

MAEVE

You act like the girl was on First
48. You've sheltered her for so
long, she just wants some freedom.

MOURIE

I did everything so she wouldn't
have to live a life of struggle. I
don't want that for her.

MAEVE

Have you ever stopped to ask
Victoria what she wants?

Mourie ponders.

MAEVE (CONT'D)

Do you remember our 20's?

MOURIE

We were a hot ass mess.

Mourie shakes her head at the memory.

MAEVE

Exactly. Victoria is a saint in
comparison.

Maeve gives Mourie some beet juice.

MOURIE

That's still my baby girl.

MAEVE

She's not a baby anymore.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. THE GOODNITE KAROKE BAR BATHROOM - NIGHT

Victoria and Josie stand in front of a mirror, they apply LIP
GLOSS and check their edges like a black girl would.

JOSIE

Girl, you done put on ten coats of
lip gloss.

(beat)

You drunk bitch.

Victoria laughs.

VICTORIA

I came here to get drunk, I ain't
come for no Karaoke.

JOSIE

Karaoke is the best part.

(beat)

You sure ass hell look better than
what you sounded like earlier.

Victoria rambles.

VICTORIA

I'm hella grown. My mama always
placing me on this high ass
pedestal I don't wanna be on. I
just wanna be happy.

JOSIE

Shoot, You wanna switch moms? Cause
mine drives me crazy!

A loud BANG on the door startles them. A WOMAN'S VOICE
drunkenly shouts--

WOMAN'S VOICE

Hurry Up.

Victoria swings open the door. The woman squeezes by and
falls into the bathroom, she slams the door behind her.

Victoria and Josie dance their way through THE GOODNITE'S
tight and divey atmosphere. Josie guides her towards a LONG
ISLAND COUNTERTOP BAR in the middle of the place.

INT. THE GOODNITE KAROKE BAR COUNTERTOP - NIGHT

Josie flips through alphabetical FOLDERS of songs. Victoria
reads the room. People dance, laugh and chug drinks. A
waitress slides two shots in front of them.

VICTORIA

Cheers to a Good night!

They toast their SHOT GLASSES in the air, and take them back like water. Victoria's face is filled with disgust.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
Where's Sebastian?

JOSIE
He's at Bible study.

Victoria looks confused as hell.

JOSIE (CONT'D)
I'm gonna go sign us up for KAROKE.

VICTORIA
FUCK IT! We gotta do Webbie
"Independent"

JOSIE
Aye, I like the way you thinking
now.

They recite the song A cappella "*She got her own house, she got her own car, two jobs work hard, you a bad broad*".

Then Josie disappears into the crowd. Victoria unexpectedly see's the HERSHEY ADONIS A.k.A Chance as he walks in with a group of people.

She eyeballs him, almost drooling. He passes her headed to the to the bar.

Vicky stares into the camera dramatically, giant red hearts pop back and fourth out of her eyes.

Josie returns, and catches Victoria sprung.

JOSIE (CONT'D)
Who you all googly-eye over?

Victoria continues to stare. Josie follows her sight line to Chance.

JOSIE (CONT'D)
Oh he fine, fine! Just go over
there and talk to him.

They share a delighted look.

VICTORIA
I'm scared.

JOSIE
Girl, what are you afraid of?

JOSIE nudges her out of her seat, Victoria stands nervously.

VICTORIA
What I'm suppose to say?

JOSIE lives for this, she gives her the ultimate pep talk.

JOSIE
Nothing.

Victoria is confused. Josie stands in front of her, then straightens her jacket.

JOSIE (CONT'D)
You go over next to him, order a drink, and if he's the gentleman that he looks like, he'll offer to pay for it, and the conversing will begin.

Victoria is amused at Josie game. She takes it in, then proceeds to awkwardly walk towards chance. Josie calls out one last piece of advice.

JOSIE (CONT'D)
Don't fuck this up.

INT. THE GOODNITE KAROKE BAR - CONTINUOUS

While at the bar, Victoria brushes against Chances shoulder, He doesn't notice. She calls for the BARTENDER.

VICTORIA
Excuse me, can I get a heavy hitta?

The bartender looks confused as hell. Victoria repeats herself. Chance overhears and intervenes.

CHANCE
I think she means a long island.

Victoria blushes.

VICTORIA
Thank you.

Chance leans in on her and thinks to himself for a moment.

CHANCE
You look very familiar.

Victoria feigns ignorance, Chance remembers.

CHANCE (CONT'D)
Oh, you the girl who fell off of
the bird earlier.

Victoria is embarrassed.

VICTORIA
I was hoping you didn't remember
that.

He laughs.

CHANCE
You good, I've fallen off of them
before. They low key dangerous.

VICTORIA
Yea they are, I've learned my
lesson.

He smiles at her, the bartender brings Victoria her drink.
She takes a delicate, lady-like sip.

Chance slides the bartender his card, he pays for her drink.
Victoria smirks, she looks over at Josie and gives her the
thumbs up.

CHANCE
So, you gotta name? I'm Chance.

He holds out his hand, Victoria shakes it.

VICTORIA
Nice to meet you again, I'm
Victoria.

Chance flirts with his eyes.

CHANCE
Is this your first time here?

VICTORIA
Actually it is.

CHANCE
Word. Me and my homies come here
every Wednesday night. You're going
to love it.

Victoria takes another sip of her drink. A MAN two-steps
across a small stage singing horribly. Victoria covers her
ears in anguish.

VICTORIA
 Somebody needs to take the mic from
 him now!

CHANCE
 That's Brandon, he always gets
 drunk and starts thinking he can
 sing like Miguel.

A STUBBY BLACK MAN bum rushes Chance and highjacks the conversation, beads of sweat bubble up around his forehead as he speaks in a gritty New York accent.

BLACK MAN
 Yo, JB got himself into some shit,
 you gotta get out there quick
 before them niggas stomp a mud hole
 in his ass.

CHANCE
 Say less.

CHANCE (CONT'D)
 (to Victoria)
 I gotta handle this right quick.

He takes off behind the stubby black man. Victoria bounces back to Josie.

INT. THE GOODNITE KAROKE BAR COUNTERTOP - CONTINUOUS

JOSIE
 What happened?

VICTORIA
 We talked, it was brief.

Josie is distracted by a text. She becomes flushed with excitement.

JOSIE
 Girl, I'm going to have to call it
 a night. I've got a situation that
 needs to be situated.

We hear Victoria and Josie's name blasted through the microphone.

VICTORIA
 You really about to leave?

JOSIE
 Sorry, I got a dick appointment.

Victoria rolls her eyes.

VICTORIA
How am I going to get home?

JOSIE
I'll order you a lyft. Text me when
you're ready to go.

Josie stands and gathers her things.

VICTORIA
Ehhh? I do not want to go up there
by myself.

JOSIE
You've got this, you're gonna kill
it!

Josie gives her a quick hug and then dips. We hear the DJ
announce: *coming up on the stage we have Victoria and Josie.*

VICTORIA
Fuck it, Why not

Victoria's on stage, she stares into the crowd. We focus on
her face as she sweats, low-key scared as hell. Then the beat
drops.

She starts to slowly move from side to side as she belts out
the lyrics off key. "*I-N-D-E-P-E-N-D-E-N-T, Do you know what
that mean*"-

The crowd sings along, they encourage her. Chance is in the
audience, he watches intently. Victoria spots him and gets so
hype she fumbles the words but quickly finds herself.

She throws herself into the moment, a little drunk, she feels
every word she sings.

Victoria looks at Chance and boldly sings to him. "*If you
ain't on sit down, If you ain't on sit down, If you ain't on
sit down*" Chance draws a slow smile, which for a brief bit of
time makes Victoria feel victorious, finally.

END OF EPISODE.