

DELORES AND JERMAINE

"Pilot"
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ACT ONE

INT. ROOM - CONFESSIONAL

JERMAINE, 22, SITS IN A COMFY CHAIR, TALKING TO CAMERA.

JERMAINE

I was the first person to go to
college in my family. It was a big
deal.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

JERMAINE IS AT THE TABLE, SMILING, SURROUNDED BY FAMILY MEMBERS HOLDING A CAKE. THERE'S A BANNER THAT READS "CONGRATS". JERMAINE'S HOLDING AN ACCEPTANCE LETTER.

FAMILY

We're so proud! / College boy! / I
want your room.

INT. ROOM - CONFESSIONAL

JERMAINE

And then I became the first person in
my family to drop out of college. Also
a big deal.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. SAME DINING ROOM - DAY

JERMAINE SITS AT THE TABLE, SURROUNDED BY FAMILY. THE "CONGRATS" BANNER HAS LETTERS CROSSED OFF. IT NOW READS "RAT."

FAMILY

You SUCK! / You're not getting your
room back.

INT. ROOM - CONFESSIONAL

JERMAINE

College was so much work. Study this, study that, ugh! How am I supposed to learn anything if I'm studying the whole damn time?! The only reason I even went to college was to prove to my family that we weren't losers and we can be somebody. But after two semesters I was like, "I think I proved my point!"

JERMAINE FLOPS BACK IN THE CHAIR, PUTS ON A HEADSET AND PLAYS VIDEO GAMES. **CREDITS ROLL.**

INT. JERMAINE'S BEDROOM - PRESENT DAY

JERMAINE IS LOUNGING IN PAJAMAS, EATING OATMEAL PIES AND WATCHING TV. THE FLOOR IS COVERED IN DIRTY CLOTHES.

JERMAINE

HAHAHAHAHA! Commercials have gotten so funny lately! I'm gonna buy you, body wash. You earned my business with your whimsy.

HE BITES INTO AN OATMEAL PIE. JAMAAL (LITTLE BROTHER, 13) AND YASHIKA (LITTLE SISTER, 11) ENTER. THEY WRAP UP JERMAINE IN A BIG HUG.

JAMAAL

We love you, Jermaine.

YASHIKA

We're gonna miss you.

JERMAINE

Aw, thanks, I'll miss you too. Where you going, Aunt Kathy's? Don't eat anything, she buys all her fish from a guy in a Jeep.

JAMAAL

What? No, we're not going anywhere.

YASHIKA

(ANNOYED) Daddy, you didn't tell him yet?

THEY TURN TO LOOK AT JERMAINE'S DAD, 40, STANDING IN THE DOOR, UNCOMFORTABLE.

DAD

Yeah... I've been meaning to bring it up, just haven't found the right time.

HE TAKES A PIECE OF PAPER OUT OF HIS POCKET AND UNFOLDS IT. HE TAKES A DEEP BREATH AND READS FROM IT.

DAD (CONT'D)

Hello my son. My light and my joy.
There comes a time in every man's life when change is needed. As the Book of--

JAMAAL

Dad's kicking you out.

JERMAINE

What? Why?

DAD SKIPS TO LOWER ON HIS PREPARED SPEECH.

DAD

(STILL READING) Because you're 22 and all you do is sit around watching TV. You don't help out. You spend all your money on video games and expensive name-brand body wash--

JERMAINE

That is not true! I also got these new Lebrons!

JERMAINE REVEALS HIS NEW SNEAKERS ON HIS FEET. JAMAAL AND YASHIKA ADMIRE THEM.

JAMAAL

I want a pair. (OFF DAD'S LOOK, SHAKING HEAD) Really irresponsible.

DAD

See? You hardly do anything, and when you do, it's for yourself. I've been taking it too easy on you. I thought you would show some initiative, like your twin brother.

JERMAINE

Jerome? He's in jail for dealing drugs!

DAD

It was something! At least he had a career plan. What's yours?

JERMAINE

I've actually been thinking about this. I like performing and I like food, maybe I could focus on both. Become a chef with my own restaurant, and then try to get my own TV show and become a celebrity chef! Then marry Salma Hayek! BOOM!

DAD

Chef? When's the last time you cooked a meal for us?

JERMAINE

Well the problem is that it's hard to find quality organic groceries in the hood...

DAD

You do this all the time. One week you wanna be a stand-up comic. The next week you wanna open a zoo. Who opens zoos? I'll tell you who: cities!

JERMAINE

I have big dreams - would you prefer if I spent my whole life on the same street like you?

DAD

You spend your whole life in this
bedroom! I'm sorry, Jermaine, but you
have to move out.

INT. ROOM - CONFESSIONAL

JERMAINE

Well, when all else fails, I can
always rely on my charm.

INT. JERMAINE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

JERMAINE IS TRYING TO BE CHARMING.

JERMAINE

Daaaad. Are you really gonna kick out
your son? Remember how cute I was as a
baby, Daddy? Remember my first steps?

HE GETS UP AND IMPERSONATES A BABY TAKING HIS FIRST STEPS.

JERMAINE (CONT'D)

(BABY VOICE) Don't kick me out, Daddy.
Pweeease.

DAD

If anything, this is just making the
decision easier for me.

JERMAINE

Yeah, I misplayed that.

EXT. MOM'S APARTMENT STOOP - AFTERNOON

JERMAINE SITS ON THE STOOP OUTSIDE OF HIS MOM'S APARTMENT.
MOM, 38, AND EBONY (MOM'S WIFE, 40 - SHE'S WHITE) WALK UP.

JERMAINE

Hey Ma! Hey Ebony!

MOM

Hey Jermaine. We heard what happened.

JERMAINE

Yeah, Dad's being crazy. But I can
just live here for a bit, right?

(WHISPERS) Thank you.

HE HUGS BOTH OF THEM AWKWARDLY. MOM SMILES APOLOGETICALLY.

EBONY

Jermaine, look. Your mother and I, we
just got married. We're newlyweds. And
we just want some time to get to know
each other.

JERMAINE

I get that, I really do... but where
am I supposed to stay while I get on
my feet?

MOM

What about Grandma Delores?

JERMAINE

Who?

MOM

Your dad's mom. She lives over on
Hamilton Street.

JERMAINE

Oh yeah. I barely remember her. Why's
it been so long since I've seen her?

MOM

She and your dad haven't been on speaking terms for a while.

JERMAINE

So he hid my own grandma from me? I could've been eating fresh baked cookies all this time?!

MOM

But I should warn you, she can be--

JERMAINE IS ALREADY HEADING OFF.

JERMAINE

(ALREADY LEAVING) Bye mom! Bye Ebony!

Why is your name Ebony, anyway? Tell me later, gotta go get some cookies!

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE DELORES'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

JERMAINE WALKS UP TO AN APARTMENT DOOR. HE KNOCKS. NO ANSWER. HE KNOCKS LOUDER.

DELORES (O.S.)

Is that Cleo? You better take those Girl Scout cookies somewhere else or I'll give you an ass-whippin' badge!

HE KNOCKS AGAIN. HE HEARS A LOUD GROAN. THE DOOR OPENS JUST A TINY BIT, AND HE SEES A SLIVER OF DELORES'S FACE.

DELORES (CONT'D)

What do you want?

JERMAINE

Um, Grandma Delores? It's me, Jermaine. Can I come in?

DELORES

Ha, oldest trick in the book. Say you're my grandson Jermaine, come inside, next thing I know you've taken a crap in my dishwasher and all my NFL collectibles are gone.

JERMAINE

Crap in the dishwasher? No, it's really me. I'd show you my ID but I lost it. Um, here, look at this text, it has my name right there.

HE GIVES DELORES HIS PHONE. SHE READS IT.

DELORES

"Hey Jermaine, it's Jerome. Come help me out, I'm getting arrested."

(REMEMBERS, HAPPY) Oh yeah, Jerome!

Good kid!

JERMAINE REACTS, "REALLY?!"

JERMAINE

So can I come in?

DELORES

I don't know, why are you-- (NOTICES)
game's back on!

INT. DELORES'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Delores IS DECKED OUT IN WASHINGTON REDSKINS GEAR. SHE RUNS OVER TO THE SOFA, LEAVING JERMAINE FREE TO ENTER, WHICH HE DOES. DELORES OPENS A BEER. JERMAINE LOOKS AROUND THE PLACE, WHICH IS DECORATED WITH FOOTBALL MEMORABILIA.

IT'S NOT WHAT HE EXPECTED.

DELORES

I see you eyeing my Redskins stuff,
don't touch it.

JERMAINE

That's not it. I was just expecting
more... fresh baked cookies. Maybe a
jigsaw puzzle of a cat. Macrame,
whatever that is. But this is...
something.

DELORES

Why are you here? Trying to get my
inheritance? I spent it on that
Redskins placemat, so don't bother.

JERMAINE

That's not it. See, I was living with
Dad, but then we kind of mutually
agreed to kick me out. And I thought,
wouldn't it be great to go spend some
time with my wonderful Grandma
Delores, who I definitely knew was
alive?

SHE TURNS TO HIM.

DELORES

You know, I remember the day you were
born. Your father handed you to me,
and I looked in your big brown eyes,
and I said to myself...

(MORE)

DELORES (CONT'D)

"This little bastard is gonna come try to mooch off my ass one day." Get out.

JERMAINE

(SURPRISED) Really?

DELORES

Yes, really. (TO THE TV) FACEMASK?!

REF, I WILL EAT YOUR KIDS!

HER INTENSITY MAKES JERMAINE JUMP.

DELORES (CONT'D)

If you got kicked out, where are your bags?

JERMAINE

I had bags. But one of your neighbors decided that he wanted the bags. So I gave him the bags and-- I got robbed.

DELORES

Welcome to Hamilton Street--(TO THE TV) GO FOR HIS HEAD! PUT HIM IN A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT CONCUSSIONS! (TO JERMAINE) Why'd your dad kick you out?

JERMAINE

I dunno. He thinks I'm lazy and selfish and immature and stuff, I kinda zoned out.

DELORES

Huh?

JERMAINE

Huh? (BEAT) Anyway, I can't stay with my Mom because she just--

DELORES

INTERCEPTION! (STANDS) BOO-YEAH!
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR OWNING UGG
BOOTS, TOM BRADY! (OFF JERMAINE'S
TERRIFIED LOOK) Don't look at me like
that.

JERMAINE

Hey, I love football, too. You a, uh,
(LOOKS AT TV) Blue Team fan?

DELORES

Hell no! This is my pre-game game.
Just gettin' the blood pumpin' for the
big Cowboy-Redskins Monday night game.

JERMAINE

Yeah, go Skins! Those Cowboys took
your land! Yay! We can do this every
night!

DELORES

There is no "we". There is only me. I
raised two kids by myself. I'm done
with taking care of people. Now I get
to enjoy my selfish life. Alone.

JERMAINE

I won't disturb you. I really don't
need a lot of space. How bout here?

JERMAINE TRIES TO SQUEEZE UNDER A SMALL TABLE HOLDING A BIRD
CAGE.

DELORES

That's where my birds sleep.

SHE POINTS TO A CAGE OF CLEARLY DEAD BIRDS.

JERMAINE

These birds are dead.

DELORES

Nah. They're just trying to make me
feel bad for not feeding them. (TO THE
BIRDS) I know your tricks!

JERMAINE

Such a character you are! We could
have so much fun together. Like one of
those buddy cop movies. I'll be like
the fast-talking rookie, and you're
like the--

JERMAINE REALIZES WHAT HE'S GOING TO SAY ISN'T MUCH OF A
COMPLIMENT.

JERMAINE (CONT'D)

Grizzled... wrinkly... bitter... out
of touch-- Damn, it already came out
of my mouth. (THEN) Look, I have no
idea where else to go. Can I please
stay here? Please?

DELORES TAKES THIS IN. THEN:

DELORES

Give me money.

JERMAINE

Seriously?

DELORES

Yes. I gotta new job, but it's not
paying as much. So gimme some cash.
You got a job?

JERMAINE

HELL NO! Excuse my language. I was a
cashier at a restaurant, but it didn't
work out.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. LIVER AND SHAKES - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

JERMAINE IS AT THE CASH REGISTER. HIS BOSS, MR. ROSS, WALKS
UP. THERE'S AN ANGRY, HUSKY CUSTOMER BEHIND HIM.

MR. ROSS

Jermaine, this customer ordered a
triple liver burger and fries.

JERMAINE

Yup.

MR. ROSS

And this is what you gave him.

HE DUMPS OUT A BAG. AN APPLE FALLS OUT.

JERMAINE

Yeah, that's an apple. Because a triple liver burger and fries isn't that healthy, and we don't really serve anything that isn't poison, and this gentleman should be concerned about his cholesterol and blood pressure, so I made an executive decision. That's a Fuji apple, by the way. They're to die for.

MR. ROSS

You're fired.

JERMAINE

For saving that fat dude's life?!

INT. DELORES'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

JERMAINE

I spent my last paycheck on these Lebrons. So I'm kinda swag-rich, cash-poor right now.

DELORES

Then, in my immortal words of a few minutes ago: get out.

SHE HEADS TO THE KITCHEN. JERMAINE "TURNS ON THE CHARM."

JERMAINE

(CHARMING) Grandma. Sure, it's been a while since I've seen you, but I know I was your favorite.

(MORE)

JERMAINE (CONT'D)

Are you really gonna kick out this
face? (THEN, BABY VOICE) Pweeeaaase,
gwandma...

HE SMILES HIS BIGGEST SMILE. DELORES THINKS.

DELORES

Okay, fine, you can stay.

JERMAINE

Yessss!

INT. ROOM - CONFESSIONAL

JERMAINE

Sooner or later, the lovable charm
gets 'em.

INT. DELORES'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

JERMAINE SITS DOWN, RELIEVED. HE REACHES FOR THE REMOTE --
BUT GETS HIT IN THE HEAD BY A FLYING SHOE.

DELORES

Get your hands off of my Vizio! No TV -
you're making a grocery run.

JERMAINE

I am?

DELORES

You think I'm letting you stay because
of how cute and lovable you are? No!
You're gonna work. Go pick me up some
cigarettes and a protein shake.

JERMAINE

Those are two very contradictory
things.

DELORES

True. Just the cigarettes then. GO!

SHE WAVES THE OTHER SHOE AT HIM. HE JUMPS AND HURRIES OUT THE
DOOR.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. DELORES'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

DELORES IS WEARING A HEADBAND AND WRIST BAND. SHE'S PLAYING A WORKOUT DVD ON THE TV. THE VOICE FROM THE DVD SPEAKS.

JIMMY JETT (V.O.)

(SEXY VOICE) Hey, I'm Jimmy Jett! You ready to sweat?

DELORES

Mmmmmm yes I am, Jimmy.

JIMMY JETT (V.O.)

Okay! Now kick the air three times!

DELORES KICKS THE AIR HALF-ASSEDLY, MAINLY JUST GAWKING AT JIMMY JETT. SHE SIPS HER BEER.

REVEAL JERMAINE STANDING OFF TO THE SIDE, WEIRDED OUT. DELORES NOTICES HIM.

DELORES

How long have you been there?

JERMAINE

I don't remember, I think I already repressed it.

DELORES

It's called Pilates.

JERMAINE

I think one of your pilates just fell out of your shirt.

DELORES

Whatever. You're finally awake - see that paper on the table? It's for you.

JERMAINE PICKS IT UP AND READS IT. IT'S A LONG LIST.

JERMAINE

"Chore list"? What is this?

DELORES

What, you never had chores before? Or are you so dumb you've never seen a list before?

JERMAINE

Dad was against chores. He said we should help out in whatever way our hearts desired.

DELORES

And how did you help out?

JERMAINE

I was the TV tester. Making sure the channels worked, the cartoons were funny...

DELORES

Well you better do every chore on that list, or it's the County Shelter for you -- guard your fillings. First chore: take out the garbage.

JERMAINE

This list is huge! I can't do all this in a week!

DELORES

That list is just for today, dummy.

(THEN, TO TV) That's right, Jimmy.

Show mama those squats.

JERMAINE CAN'T BELIEVE IT. HE GRABS THE GARBAGE BAG AND EXITS, GRUMBLING.

EXT. DAD'S PORCH - MORNING

JERMAINE WALKS UP TO DAD'S FRONT DOOR HOLDING THE GARBAGE. HE KNOCKS. DAD OPENS THE DOOR. HE'S SURPRISED TO SEE JERMAINE.

DAD

Oh - hi Jermaine.

JERMAINE

It's Jermaine! YAAAY! So! I know we had a little tiff yesterday. You said some things I know you didn't mean, but I'm here to forgive you.

DAD

Forgive me, huh.

JERMAINE

I was just at Grandma Delores's, but--

DAD

You were? Seriously? (NONCHALANT) Did she ask about me?

JERMAINE

What? No, not really. I've only been living there for one night though.

DAD

You're living at Grandma's?!

HE LAUGHS. FOR A LONG TIME.

JERMAINE

Yeah, it's the worst. Can I please
come back home?

DAD

Sorry, Jermaine, I need to stick to my
guns. I'm not bailing you out of this.

JAMAAL (O.S.)

Daddy! Jerome is calling from jail!

DAD

Tell him I'll bail him out as soon as
I can!

JERMAINE

Oh come on!

JERMAINE EXITS.

INT. DELORES'S APARTMENT - DAY

DELORES IS AT THE DINING ROOM TABLE CLEANING A SOUVENIR
FOOTBALL HELMET. JERMAINE WALKS IN THE APARTMENT.

DELORES

What took so long?!

JERMAINE

I was taking out the garbage.

DELORES

You're still holding the garbage.

JERMAINE LOOKS DOWN. IT'S TRUE.

DELORES (CONT'D)

Whatever. Go do the laundry. My lucky
Redskins jersey is in there.

(MORE)

DELORES (CONT'D)

Sweated straight through that thing.
Gotta have it fresh for tonight's
game.

JERMAINE GROANS. HE PICKS UP THE LAUNDRY HAMPER AND HEADS TO THE WASHING MACHINE, WHICH IS IN A SMALL SIDE CLOSET. AS HE PUTS THE LAUNDRY IN THE MACHINE, HE TALKS.

JERMAINE

You know, I just don't understand how
you can support a team called "The
Redskins". I mean, it's racist. I
really can't wait till they change it.

DELORES IS DEATH STARING AT HIM.

JERMAINE (CONT'D)

But then again, hey, it's tradition,
right?

HE GOES BACK TO THE LAUNDRY. AFTER A BEAT:

JERMAINE (CONT'D)

(SCREECHING) GRANDMA!

DELORES

(STARTLED) Jesus! What!

JERMAINE PULLS A POLICE UNIFORM DOWN FROM A SHELF.

JERMAINE

Why do you have a police uniform in
here?!

DELORES

What do you think?

JERMAINE

(BEAT) Were you a stripper?

DELORES

No, you sexist. Try again.

JERMAINE

You robbed a stripper?

SHE THROWS A SHOE AT HIM.

INT. ROOM - CONFSSIONAL

JERMAINE

Turns out she was a female cop in DC
during the 80's! Which explains a lot.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. GRIMY STREET - NIGHT

DELORES IS BEING HELD HOSTAGE AT GUN POINT BY A CRIMINAL.
COPS SURROUND THE SITUATION.

CRIMINAL

BACK OFF OR I'LL SHOOT THIS BITCH!

DELORES

Just think about what you're doing!

You got your whole life ahead of

you... is something I WOULD'VE said.

But since you just called me a bitch--

DELORES HEADBUTTS THE CRIMINAL THEN JUDO FLIPS HIM OVER.

DELORES (CONT'D)

Ass.

INT. ROOM - CONFESSIONAL

JERMAINE

But I guess she wanted a safer job
when she got older, so she became a
security guard.

FLASHBACK TO:INT. TARGET - DAY

THE SAME CRIMINAL FROM BEFORE HAS A GUN TO DELORES'S HEAD.
PATRONS WATCH IN FEAR.

CRIMINAL

I told you already! I really don't
wanna pay for stuff!

DELORES

Listen, you don't wanna do this. You
have your whole life ahead--

DELORES HEADBUTTS THE CRIMINAL AND JUDO FLIPS HIM OVER.

DELORES (CONT'D)

I love this sh--

INT. DELORES'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

JERMAINE

Was this the old job you were talking
about? I didn't know that about you.

DELORES

Well, maybe if you called me once in a
while you'd know a little about me.
Now go clean the bird cage.

JERMAINE

They're dead!

DELORES

They're meditating!

JERMAINE WALKS TO THE BIRD CAGE. HE GRABS A BRUSH AND SWEEPS THE BOTTOM OF THE CAGE.

JERMAINE

Ya know, I always meant to visit you,
but I was just busy.

DELORES

Oh really? Busy doing what? (BEAT)
HMMMMMMMM? I'm waiting--

JERMAINE

I CAN'T LIE THAT FAST!

DELORES

Thought so. You probably didn't even
know I was alive. I bet you never
asked your dad about me once.

JERMAINE

(LYING) Yes I did. Really.

DELORES

Really? That's surprising, since he
doesn't want anything to do with me.

JERMAINE

Yeah, why don't you guys talk?

DELORES

He thinks I was too hard on him. But
that's what he needed! I made a man
out of him.

JERMAINE

Yeah, a man who kicks his own son to the curb. What kind of man is that?

DELORES

Sounds like the first sensible thing he did with you. You're unemployed, a college dropout -- why'd you quit school?

JERMAINE

Because I have bigger dreams than that! I don't need college. Kanye didn't need it, Zuckerberg didn't need it... did Jesus go to college? If not, he'd be a really good third example.

DELORES

So you have big dreams? Like what?

JERMAINE

I want to be a celebrity chef. But everyone says that's stupid.

DELORES

Who cares what everyone says?

JERMAINE

I dunno, they're probably right. How's someone like me ever gonna get a chance to do something big? Maybe Jerome has it figured out.

DELORES

That's why you're gonna give up? You gotta be tougher than that. (BEAT) You know, I'm a great cook. I'm sure you remember hearing that.

JERMAINE

(LYING) Yeah, definitely.

DELORES

Tell you what - finish the rest of your chores and clean the kitchen so it's spotless, and I'll teach you Grandma's secret to cooking. Deal?

JERMAINE

Deal!

JERMAINE RETURNS TO HIS CHORES, MOTIVATED.

INT. ROOM - CONFESSIONAL

JERMAINE

That's when I realized - Grandma's not mean, she's got a master plan! She's Mister Miyagi! And I'm Daniel. And Salma Hayek is Elisabeth Shue. That's confusing.

INT. DELORES'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - LATER

JERMAINE LEADS DELORES TO THE KITCHEN. HE'S TIRED AND MUSSED UP, BUT UPBEAT.

JERMAINE

Look, Grandma. I did all those dumb chores and I cleaned the kitchen.

(MORE)

JERMAINE (CONT'D)

I left one spot so I can finish
dramatically like--

HE WIPES OUT ONE LAST SPOT.

JERMAINE (CONT'D)

--that!

DELORES INSPECTS THE KITCHEN AND NODS, IMPRESSED.

DELORES

Nice job.

JERMAINE

Thanks! So what is it?

DELORES

What's what?

JERMAINE

Your secret to cooking?

DELORES

Oh. Right. Lean in close.

JERMAINE LEANS IN, EXPECTANT. DELORES LEANS FORWARD... AND SHE SLAPS HIM. SHE LAUGHS.

DELORES (CONT'D)

(LAUGHING) You idiot, I don't know
anything about cooking. If you really
asked about me, you'd know that. I'm
the worst cook in the world!

JERMAINE

Are you serious?

DELORES

Yeah, but I did just sauté your ass.

Now order some Chinese before the game starts. Extra Mambo sauce, sucker.

SHE HANDS HIM A PHONE AND WALKS OFF, CHUCKLING. JERMAINE IS FUMING.

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

JERMAINE IS ON THE PHONE. IT'S RINGING. MOM PICKS UP. INTERCUT.

MOM

Hello?

JERMAINE

This is your fault, Mom! You told me to go live with Grandma Delores!

MOM

Oh, is it not working out?

JERMAINE

It's freaking Vietnam, dude! I hate it! She slapped me and laughed like the Joker.

MOM

I'm so sorry. Ebony says hi.

JERMAINE

Hi Ebony. Look, I know I can't live with you. You've got urges and whatnot, it's wonderful. But can you at least tell me why Grandma's so difficult?

MOM

I'm not sure, it's been a while...
maybe she's lonely. I mean, her
husband left her years ago, she hasn't
talked to her kids in forever...

JERMAINE

Man, that's Lifetime movie sad. (GETS
AN IDEA) Oh my god, that's it!

MOM

Oh! Are you going to reunite her and
Dad?

JERMAINE

What? No, that seems impossible. Plus
I'm still mad at Dad. I have a better
idea! Heh heh heh...

MOM

I just want to say, that laugh you
just did? We call that your dumb idea
laugh.

JERMAINE

That changes today!

HE HANGS UP THE PHONE.

INT. DELORES'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

DELORES IS ON THE SOFA, IN HER REDSKINS GEAR. JERMAINE
ENTERS, NONCHALANT.

JERMAINE

Hello Grandmother.

DELORES

Less ass-kissing, more mushu pork.

JERMAINE

(CONNIVING) All in good time,
Grandmother. (BEAT) It's just a shame
you're missing that big Redskins Party
at Bernard's.

DELORES

Redskins Party? Bernard's? Who the
hell is Bernard? LOOK AT ME WHILE I'M
INTRIGUED!

JERMAINE

Oh, Bernard's is just some joint with
a ginormous TV and like a billion
Redskins fans. You'd probably hate it.

DELORES

Huh. Sounds interesting. But I'm good
here.

JERMAINE

They have free apps.

DELORES

And we're just sitting here? Let's go!

JERMAINE

Cool! Why don't you put on a nice
dress?

DELORES

Why? It's just a sports bar.

JERMAINE

There's a dress code for the Monday night games. You gotta look nice!

DELORES

I don't have a dress. Do I look like Michelle Obama?

JERMAINE

(URGENT) Fine, just cut up a jersey to make it look like a skirt.

DELORES

You think that'll look good?

JERMAINE

It'll look somethin'.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

JERMAINE AND DELORES WALK INTO THE BAR. SHE LOOKS RIDICULOUS IN HER HOMEMADE JERSEY-DRESS, FANNYPACK, AND HEELS. THE BOUNCER STOPS JERMAINE.

BOUNCER

ID.

JERMAINE HANDS HIM A CARD.

BOUNCER (CONT'D)

This is a Blockbuster video card.

JERMAINE

Exactly. Would anyone under 21 own one of these?

DELORES

Just let him in, Greg.

BOUNCER

Delores?!

JERMAINE

Y'all know each other?

DELORES

I trained him when he was a rookie in the police force. Why are you bouncing here now?

BOUNCER

Well, apparently it's illegal to accept bribes. Who knew! Anyway, have fun, Delores!

BOUNCER HANDS BACK THE BIRTHDAY CARD. THEY WALK IN THE BAR.

DELORES

Everybody's so young. What kind of bar is this?

JERMAINE GRINS SLYLY.

INT. ROOM - CONFESSIONAL

JERMAINE

It's a singles bar! (PROUD) See, I saw the clues: Grandma drools at that workout dude, she watches football guys all day - she's hungry for a man! She hasn't had sex since the Prohibition! If I can get her a dude, she'd be nicer. I'm a genius!

(MORE)

JERMAINE (CONT'D)

I'm gonna get Grandma laid! That's disgusting. But genius!

INT. BAR - MOMENTS LATER

JERMAINE AND DELORES ARE AT THE BAR. THE BARTENDER APPROACHES.

BARTENDER

What can I get you?

DELORES

A Budweiser. And can you turn the Redskins game on?

BARTENDER

Maybe. After *The Bachelorette*.

DELORES

Huh?

A YOUNGER COUPLE STARTS BUMPING UP AGAINST DELORES AS THEY MAKE OUT.

DELORES (CONT'D)

What's going on? Isn't this a sports bar?

BARTENDER

Not unless you think tonsil hockey is a sport.

DELORES

No, but I think killing people who say "tonsil hockey" is a sport. Jermaine, what's going on here--

JUST THEN, A MAN, RICK (60'S), SITS NEXT TO DELORES. HE'S THE SMOOTHEST MAN EVER. HE HANDS THE BARTENDER A \$20.

RICK

Barkeep, I'll bet you twenty bucks you know how to find the Redskins game.

THE BARTENDER SWITCHES TO THE FOOTBALL GAME.

DELORES

There we go! Let's kick some Romo ass! Skins, baby!

RICK

Oh, you're a fan I see. Me too. Here's to the Skins.

THEY CLINK GLASSES. RICK TAKES A SIP. DELORES CHUGS DOWN HER WHOLE BEER.

RICK LOOKS HER UP AND DOWN.

RICK (CONT'D)

I didn't know Redskins fans came in "gorgeous."

JERMAINE SPITS OUT HIS DRINK ON THE BARTENDER.

RICK (CONT'D)

Name's Rick. You?

DELORES

Game's on. Shut up.

JERMAINE

Her name's Grandma-- er, Delores.

RICK SMILES AND TURNS HIS ATTENTION BACK TO THE TV.

RICK

Darn! Our defense ain't the same since the year we had Deion.

DELORES WHIPS HER HEAD TO RICK. HE HAS HER ATTENTION NOW.
JERMAINE IS EXCITED.

DELORES

You like Deion Sanders?

RICK

Deion was the greatest player to walk
on that field. Biggest Deion fan there
is.

DELORES

Ha! Do you carry a mint condition
Deion Sanders rookie card in your
wallet?!

DELORES WHIPS OUT HER DEION SANDERS ROOKIE FOOTBALL CARD FROM
THE WALLET IN HER FANNY PACK. RICK IS IN AWE. DELORES HANDS
THE CARD TO RICK. RICK CAN'T STOP STARING AT IT.

RICK

Damn, I haven't seen one of these in
years! (FLIRTY) But it's not the only
thing in mint condition around here.

RICK COZIES UP TO DELORES. JERMAINE STEPS AWAY, PLEASED.

RICK (CONT'D)

You come here a lot?

DELORES

Me? Ha! No. See my grandson, the
doofus over there? It was his idea I
get out the house.

RICK

I should go thank him because I'm glad
you did. Pretty lady like you
shouldn't be pent up in a house.

JERMAINE

SO SMOOTH!

DELORES IS SMILING, FLATTERED.

RICK

Sit tight, I'll be right back after I
visit the big boys' room.

DELORES

Hurry back, "big boy."

RICK WALKS OFF. JERMAINE WALKS UP TO DELORES. SHE'S HAPPY.

JERMAINE

Need me to find my own ride home
tonight?

DELORES

Oh shut up. I just met him. (BEAT)
Think he'll make me breakfast in bed?

JERMAINE

Grandma!!

DELORES

Just kidding! (BEAT) I do like me some
breakfast in bed though. Your grandpa
loved to cook. Maybe that's where you
caught the bug.

JERMAINE

Look at you gettin' all sentimental.
Admit it, you're glad I brought you
out here.

DELORES

Yeah, maybe I am. I guess I've been
cooped up by myself for too long.

JERMAINE

See, I'm not such a dummy all the
time.

DELORES

Ha ha - yeah, you're not. (BEAT) I
know I've been hard on you. Maybe I'll
cut you some slack.

JERMAINE

(EXCITED) Really?

DELORES

Yeah. Being a hardass is in my blood.
But it pushed your dad away. I don't
wanna push you away too. I could knock
off a few chores. I guess you don't
need to dust inside my pocket book
every day.

JERMAINE

That's awesome. Thanks Grandma.

JERMAINE IS PLEASED - MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

DELORES

Where's Rick? He's taking a while.

THEY HEAR A CAR NOISE OUTSIDE. DELORES CHECKS HER FANNYPACK AND REALIZES SOMETHING.

DELORES (CONT'D)

Oh no.

SHE RUNS OUTSIDE. JERMAINE FOLLOWS.

JERMAINE

Grandma, what's going on?

EXT. BAR - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

DELORES RUNS OUT TO RICK, WHO IS ABOUT TO HOP INTO THE PASSENGER SEAT OF A CAR. SHE GRABS HIM AND JUDO FLIPS HIM OVER, LIKE IN THE FLASHBACKS.

DELORES

You bastard! You stole my Deion

Sanders card!

JERMAINE

He did?! What the hell?!

DELORES IS ABOUT TO KICK RICK'S ASS.

RICK

Jermaine, help!

RICK LOOKS TO JERMAINE - THEY CLEARLY KNOW EACH OTHER. DELORES STOPS, CONFUSED.

INT. ROOM - CONFESSIONAL

JERMAINE

(SHEEPISH) Okay, here's the other part of my idea. I may have asked this guy I know, Rick, to come to the bar and give Grandma some attention.

(MORE)

JERMAINE (CONT'D)

I know it sounds bad, but I just
didn't know if any real people would
fall in love with a lady her age!
Okay, that sounds worse.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. BAR - PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

DELORES IS STANDING OVER RICK, CONFUSED. JERMAINE RUNS UP.

JERMAINE

Rick, you stole from her?

DELORES

Jermaine, you know him?

JERMAINE

...Yeah. He used to work at my old job
until he got fired for some reason.

RICK

(HELPFULLY) Stealing.

JERMAINE

I asked him to meet us at the bar and
talk to you a bit. But I didn't think
this would happen! Rick, give back the
card!

DELORES

Forget the card! So this whole night
was a trick?

JERMAINE

It wasn't really a trick, it was just
a... is "scheme" better or the same?

DELORES

You weren't trying to help me - you
were helping yourself.

(MORE)

DELORES (CONT'D)

Your dad's right, you are selfish.

(BEAT) I think you should find another place to live.

JERMAINE

Grandma, c'mon--

DELORES STORMS OFF.

BOUNCER

Damn, you almost made your grandma cry. You suck.

JERMAINE FEELS HORRIBLE. HE WALKS OFF. RICK STANDS THERE ALONE.

RICK

Once again, ol' Rick makes out like a bandit. (BEAT) Damn that lady is strong though.

HE LIMPS AWAY.

INT. BAR - LATER

JERMAINE IS DRINKING AT THE BAR.

VOICE (O.S.)

Rough night?

JERMAINE TURNS - IT'S HIS TWIN BROTHER JEROME.

JERMAINE

Jerome?! I thought you were in jail.

JEROME

Just got out. They let me out early to make room for all the Redskins fans who rioted after they lost. What's up with you?

JERMAINE

I suck, man. Dad got sick of me, so he kicked me out and I went to live with Grandma Delores.

JEROME

Grandma who?

JERMAINE

I know! She's basically a drill sergeant, but she took me in. And then I really messed it up with her. People are right about me: I'm a selfish, immature ass.

JEROME

Want to know some advice I learned in jail? There's no crime too big to be forgiven. You just have to man up and do whatever it takes to earn that forgiveness.

JERMAINE

That's really good advice.

JEROME

Yeah - The Belcrest Road Strangler
taught me that. It's why I'm here,
actually.

HE STANDS UP ON THE STOOL.

JEROME (CONT'D)

Hey yo everyone! Just want to
sincerely apologize for using this bar
as a home base for my drug dealing.
And selling you bogus flu shots that
were basically just bleach.

BOUNCER

Aww Jerome, we can't stay mad at you.
(POINTS TO JERMAINE) It's that guy
who's the jerk.

JERMAINE

Seriously?!

INT. DELORES'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MORNING

DELORES IS ASLEEP. A RUSTLE OUTSIDE WAKES HER UP. SHE WALKS
TO THE WINDOW, OPENS THE CURTAINS... AND FINDS HERSELF FACE
TO FACE WITH JERMAINE, WHO IS OUTSIDE THE WINDOW.

DELORES/JERMAINE

Aaahhh!!!

SHE OPENS THE WINDOW.

DELORES

What are you doing? You're not in the
will so there's no point scaring me to
death.

JERMAINE

I'm apologizing.

DELORES

By sneaking into my bedroom?

JERMAINE

I would've come in through the door
but you locked the chain thing.

DELORES

You know I have a gun, right? I keep
it under my other gun.

JERMAINE

It's cool, I would've dodged the
bullets Matrix-style. Or died. (THEN)
Look - I'm really sorry for what I
did. It was selfish and stupid. I hope
this makes up for it.

HE PULLS IN A TRAY - THERE'S FOOD ON IT, ALONG WITH JUICE AND
A LITTLE FLOWER IN A VASE.

JERMAINE (CONT'D)

Breakfast in bed. Probably not as good
as Grandpa's, but it's the best I
could do. In the kitchen at the bar,
at 4 am.

DELORES IS STILL GUARDED. SHE NOTICES THAT JERMAINE IS
BAREFOOT.

DELORES

Why are you barefoot?

JERMAINE

Here's why.

JERMAINE LIFTS A LID OFF OF A PLATE ON THE TRAY - THERE'S A TRADING CARD ON IT.

JERMAINE (CONT'D)

I tracked down Rick and asked for your card back. He said no, so I threatened to kick his ass. At which point he started to kick my ass. And then I made a deal: I gave him my Lebrons for the card.

DELORES

(IMPRESSED) Look at you... tracking down thieves, giving up your shoes, making breakfast in bed for other people... who says you're selfish and lazy?

SHE TAKES A BITE OF AN OMELET.

JERMAINE

(HOPEFUL) How is it?

DELORES

(IMPRESSED) It's not bad! (FISHES SOMETHING OUT) A little more shell than I usually like.

JERMAINE

Good to know. (TAKES OUT PHONE TO TYPE
A NOTE) "Grandma likes her omelets
without shell." Anyway, hope you can
forgive me.

DELORES

I think I might be able to.

JERMAINE

(BEAT) You know, my life has been
pretty crazy lately - hopping from
house to house, my family's separated,
my brother's in and out of jail, I
have to go across town just to see my
Mom and her wife, my Grandma and my
Dad don't speak... so you helped me
out when I really needed it. I
appreciate that. Anyway, gotta go beg
Dad for my room back. See ya around,
Grandma.

HE TURNS FOR THE DOOR.

DELORES

Hold on - would you consider staying?

JERMAINE

Oh, it's okay, I wasn't looking for
pity.

DELORES

It's not pity. I... (SWALLOWS PRIDE)
really do like having you around.

JERMAINE

(SLOWLY SMILING) I knew it! YES! I
smell a sequel to this buddy cop
movie! What would that movie be
called? *Swag and... Old... Lady...*
damn it I let the words out of my
mouth again.

DELORES

Go unload the dishwasher.

JERMAINE

Okay.

END OF ACT THREE

TAGINT. DAD'S HOUSE - THE NEXT AFTERNOON

DAD, MOM, EBONY, YASHIKA, AND JAMAAL SURROUND JEROME. A BANNER READS "WELCOME HOME FROM JAIL!" THERE'S A CAKE.

JEROME

Thanks everyone! It feels weird that
y'all bought a cake for this, though.

JERMAINE KNOCKS ON THE DOOR AND ENTERS.

DAD

Jermaine! You came.

JERMAINE

Of course I came. This is a big family
occasion. I brought something, too. I
went back to Liver and Shakes and
they're letting me cook now. This is
my latest creation.

HE UNVEILS A PLATTER OF FOOD. EVERYONE REACHES FOR ONE.

JERMAINE (CONT'D)

Liver nuggets in aged yogurt sauce!

EVERYONE PULLS THEIR HANDS BACK.

JERMAINE (CONT'D)

But that isn't even my big surprise.

Here's the big one.

HE GOES TO THE DOOR AND OPENS IT WITH A FLOURISH.

JERMAINE (CONT'D)

It's Grandma Delores!

THERE'S NOBODY AT THE DOOR.

JERMAINE (CONT'D)

Grandma! Get out of the car!

DELORES

No! You said we were going to meet the
Redskins offensive line, you liar!

JERMAINE

Don't you wanna see your family?

DELORES ANSWERS BY DRIVING AWAY.

INT. ROOM - CONFSSIONAL

JERMAINE

Okay, that'll take time. Rome wasn't
built in a day. Neither were most
places, but you get the analogy.

HE SMILES. THINGS ARE LOOKING UP.

END OF SHOW

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