

ZHA'NEE SIDES

6.

Eric tries to stall Mediator Daniels from making her final decision.

ERIC

Uhmmm, wait, let me call her for you....

Eric pulls out his phone in an attempt to make the phone call.

ERIC (CONT'D)

I think she's just stuck in traffic, I told you the 710 was really backed up. She'll answer my call. Watch this....

He elbows Na-Na to help him, she attempts to speak up, hesitantly but Mediator Daniels pounds her gavel.

MEDIATOR DANIELS

Congratulations Mr. Gonzalez and good luck. Have a great day!

Eric looks stunned, Na-Na is relieved and excited.

NA-NA

Oh Miyo, Finally! Gracias Dios Mio! Gracias, your honor!

Na-Na is overjoyed, walks quickly out of the mediation room.

Eric is walking slowly and looking around in a daze.

5

EXT. - BARBERSHOP - MORNING

5

Eric, driving his Luxury SUV, pulls up in front of his barber shop, "Sorry, We're OPEN", still in disbelief of the responsibilities that will come with the sole custody ruling.

He's sitting in his car, talking to himself with the court papers in his hand and some on the dashboard with a cigarette burning in the ashtray.

START

ZHA'NEE, (mid 30s, African American, darker brown complexion, naturally beautiful, talks with her hands, animated, funny, with the "shits"), walking down the street on her route as meter maid, and talking on the phone.

Wearing her blue uniform, earbuds obvious, long nails, heavy lip gloss & wearing a name plate necklace.

She's very animated and laughing hysterically.

ZHA'NEE
(laughing) But girl, did you see
her face when he walked in? Her ass
could've jumped out that window!

She stops in her tracks and bends over laughing and holding
her stomach.

She stands back up, and notices a Luxury SUV parked halfway
in the street.

Parking meter flashing red.

ZHA'NEE (CONT'D)
This dummy parked halfway in the
street! Bloop, got me one!! Aaah
hahaha!

She pulls out her ticket pad and walks toward the SUV.

She looks into the SUV and starts to fill out information on
the pad, as she gets closer, she pauses.

ZHA'NEE (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Bihhhh, it's Him... the Barber...
he just sitting in the car, (beat)
naw he not dead fool, he talking to
somebody.

She doesn't see anyone in the car with him.

She approaches the SUV and aggressively taps on the window
with her long nails.

This startles Eric.

He rolls the window down and smoke comes out of the window.

Zha'Nee waves the smoke away from her face, obviously
disgusted and leans forward.

Tight on her name plate necklace, panning up to her lip
gloss, shiny costume diamond earrings, eyelashes and baby
hair.

ZHA'NEE (CONT'D)
Aye, you know you can't park like
this, right?

Eric is taken back by her beauty.

He then looks over at the curb and in the driver side mirror.

ZHA'NEE (CONT'D)

You good?

Eric scrambles the paperwork into a messy pile and puts them on the passenger seat, face down.

ERIC

(stammering)

Oh yeah, aaah, my bad... imma move it.

Zha'Nee takes a couple of steps back, away from the window.

ZHA'NEE

Yeah ok, well you know I gotta walk back this way...and make sure you feed my meter too! I got 6 more tickets I need to write before I get off work today, and I already started filling yours out!

Zha'Nee starts walking away.

ZHA'NEE (CONT'D)

And you need to quit smoking them stankin' ass cigarettes too!

She whispers to her friend on the phone.

ZHA'NEE (CONT'D)

I bet he watching me..

She continues her conversation with her friend, laughing out loud and making hand gestures as she walks away.

END

Eric watches her walk away as he blindly reaches into the back seat, fumbling, to grab his case and then gets out of the SUV.

Eric can see the barbers watching this interaction from inside the shop.

He can only imagine what they'll have to say.

He walks past SKATE (mid 30s, Caucasian, formerly homeless, struggles with addictions of all kinds, cleans up the shop) picking up trash on the street. They nod at each other.