

TRE SIDES

10.

ERIC

Probably because she knows I gotta deal with y'all asses everyday.

BISHOP, (early 40s, African American, the "Preachy" barber, always wears a hat, dickies and a plaid shirt, sort of scruffy beard, gives almost sound advice, often unsolicited) jumps in the conversation.

BISHOP

That might be true, you do gotta deal with ~~THEY~~ crazy asses...but come on E, no ticket? You left your car halfway in the street AND you didn't put no money in the meter!

Eric looks outside at his SUV.

Unbothered, he walks over to his station and sets his case on top.

TRE, (late 20s, African American, born female, he/him pronouns, plus-sized, dreads partially covering his face, tatted, suffers from PCOS, has slight mustache and a beard, always in over-sized t-shirt and cargo type pants, calm voice) serious and changes the subject.

START

TRE

What happened at court E?

ERIC

Shiidd, they gave me 2 life sentences.

They all laugh.

Tre doesn't find it funny.

Eric catches Tre's seriousness.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Nah... I'm bullshitting, I get my girls back!

~~MANNY~~

~~Like on some every other weekend, Disneyland shit?~~

~~ERIC~~

~~Nah foo, mediator granted me sole custody, SHE gets the Disneyland shit.~~

~~Everyone is happy about the ruling.~~

~~Congratulations, hugs and fist bumps all around, including Tre.~~

~~Manny approaches Eric at his station.~~

~~Tre is at his station, next to Eric's.~~

~~The rest of the shop continue about their business.~~

MANNY

How did she take it Bro?

ERIC

She didn't even show up to court again, you know she don't care. She wanted this to happen. But it's all good, my girls are better at home with me anyway.

Manny joking.

MANNY

E, how? You don't even got milk in your fridge...bro you sleeping on a air mattress.(beat)

Manny realizes that this is a lot for Eric and backs off the jokes as he walks over to grab the broom.

MANNY (CONT'D)

But you're right bro, they got everything they need at home with you and Na-Na.

Tre can't hold back from sharing his thoughts on this.

This is a personal subject for him.

TRE

Man, them girls still need they momma, she gotta get her shit together. This type of shit can effect them in so many ways down the line. I know they got you and Na-Na, but damn.

END

~~Tre invites his client to the chair and puts a cape on him~~

~~Bishop, who is cutting a client, decides to lighten the mood.~~

BISHOP

You know, It's a big responsibility raising children

(MORE)

BISHOP (CONT'D)

Iyanla Vanzant said, "the children are our future, teach them well and let them lead the way". Just follow those wise words and y'all will be alright.

MANNY

Those are the wise words of Whitney Houston FOOL!

Mixed reactions from the shop, a few laughs and a few SMHs at Bishop.

Eric mumbles under his breath.

ERIC

Man, I need to "Bow down, pray to God and hope that He's listening" - wise words of the great Tupac Shakur.

Eric is still uneasy about this new "full-time" responsibility.

The guys continue cutting their customers.

Manny is sweeping the floor and approaches Eric.

MANNY.

All jokes aside bro, you know you can count on us. We got yo back with the girls, anything you need!

Eric thinks on what Manny has said.

He looks out the window in a daze, then turns back to Manny as Manny sweeps the floor near him.

ERIC

Aye, you think she likes me?

MANNY

Who likes you?

ERIC

Zha'Nee.

MANNY

Zha'Nee, who is Zha'Nee?

ERIC

The meter maid.

Everyone hears this, ears wide open.

Manny stops cold.

Bishop turns off his clippers to hear better.

MANNY

Y'all on a 1st name basis? How the fuq you know her name is Zha'Nee?

ERIC

It was on her necklace.

The shop erupts, clowning him.

BISHOP

I knew I "smelled a cat on the line..." You like that meter maid.

(laughing)

They all look at Bishop confused about the "cat on the line".

MANNY

Man, E, don't mess with that girl. She ain't all the way right. Don't you remember how she went off on us when we first opened? I think she might even carry a lil 22 on her. She a lil loco bro!

ERIC

I could use a lil cocoa-loco in my life.

They all laugh.

MANNY

Ok, but she is NOT it E. That girl is going to give you problems... problems that you don't need right now. You gotta figure out what's next with and Kylie.

Eric is reminded, once again, that he has a huge weight over him.

Off Eric looking out the window in the direction that Zha'Nee walked.

7

EXT. - BARBERSHOP - DAY

7

2K (early 20s, Latino, influencer barber, always dressed in designer from head to toe, perfectly groomed, films everything, always wears Ray Ban Meta glasses, has 3-phones) pulls up in front of the shop driving a sports car.

He gets out in slow motion, taps the meter with a credit card, checks his fit and enters the shop.

The shop greets him with nods and inaudible "what's ups" as he walks to his station and turns on his diffuser.

We see him continuing to sanitize, clean the mirror, and prep his station for his client who will arrive soon in the background throughout this scene.

Eric still looking out the window, and out of nowhere, LAMBO LEE (mid 30s, Asian, horrible understanding of English, usually nods and says "yes/ok" to everything, supply guy for the shop, gives whatever he has and not what you ask for, always has a ton of useless items strapped to his body) pops up into Eric's view with a huge smile on his face and exposing the items that he's selling.

This startles Eric.

ERIC

Oh SHIT!, This fool just scared the shit out of me.

We see Lambo Lee walking towards the front door.

He comes inside.

LAMBO LEE

START My friends... I have what you need today. How many you want?

TRE

Lambo, I told you last week don't come back until you got my clipper blades, you betta have 'em today.

LAMBO LEE

Ohhhhh, yes, yes, ok ok ok. I have right here.

Lambo Lee reaches into his inside pocket and pulls out a pack of small paper plates.

TRE

Naaahh fool, those are plates, not

BLADES!

Tre holds up a pair of clippers and points to the blade.

TRE (CONT'D)

BLADES, BLADES! This right here! I need new blades for my clippers.

The other barbers shake their heads.

LAMBO LEE

Yes, yes, ok ok ok ok. I will have for you next week.

ERIC

Let me get them plates tho, imma need 'em. What else you got?

Lambo Lee pulls out 3 more packs of plates, hands them to Eric.

Eric gives him money.

Tre knows that he won't get the blades next week.

Pulls his phone out and does an online search for the blades to be delivered.

TRE

Never mind man, don't bring 'em, they'll be delivered here tomorrow.

LAMBO LEE

Ok ok ok ok, yes yes. Next week.

Tre shakes his head and continues cutting/styling his client.

MANNY

Aye, I need a new brush.

Lambo Lee reaches into his pocket and pulls out a toilet bowl brush.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Damn, how did he know we needed a new one of those, the one we had disappeared from the bathroom.

ERIC

Disappeared, who the hell steals a toilet brush?

~~Lambo Lee shows color options of the toilet brush.~~

~~Eric chooses one and gives him more money.~~

~~BISHOP~~

~~Probably the same person who keeps using my spray air every night.~~

~~ERIC~~

~~Noooooo, don't tell me that.~~

BISHOP
Yup, 3 cans in a week.

Bishop looks to Lambo Lee.

BISHOP (CONT'D)
Hey Lee, let me get 2 cans of spray
air.

LAMBO LEE
Yes, yes ok ok ok.

Lambo Lee leaves out of the front door.

Eric feels bad that Bishop's things are being used.

ERIC
Bishop, man, I'm sorry, I'll
replace your cans. I can't believe
that this shit is happening again.

TRE
That's why I lock my cabinet every
night when I leave. Addiction is a
lifelong battle. And sometimes
people get weak, no matter how hard
they try to be strong or how good
of a front they put up.

MANNY
Yeah, I noticed that some of my
shit been moved around in my
drawers too. Nothing's missing yet,
but only a mater of time.

END

Eric is in disbelief.

Lambo Lee comes back in with a brown box and sets it on the
floor in front of Bishop's station.

We can see that the box has gray hair in it.

BISHOP
What is this?

LAMBO LEE
Gray Hair.

BISHOP
I asked you for SPRAY AIR!

The barbers all laugh.

Lambo Lee laughs, not realizing what the joke is.
