

TEISHA

A Short Film by

Howard Johnson

REGISTRATION NUMBER: I273989

DATE REGISTERED: 3/8/2015

EXPIRATION DATE: 03/8/2025

Fire crackers pop.

Camera pans down.

Loud music plays.

**EXT. FRONT PORCH OF HOUSE – NIGHT**

Three guys sit on the porch.

Jay cell phone rings

J  
Wassup boo?

**EXT. FRONT PORCH OF HOUSE – NIGHT / INT. TEISHAS BEDROOM**

SPLIT SCREEN. J AND TEISHA ON THE PHONE.

TEISHA  
Not much. What's goin on?

J  
We just posted at my moms spot.

UNSPLIT SCREEN

D  
That's Teisha?

J  
Yea.

D  
They still comin down?

LIL CHARLES  
Aye! Hook me up with her homegirl!

D  
Naw bru. You dead on that.

LIL CHARLES  
You gotta let some pass D!

D  
Not this time.

J  
Come on y'all! Im on the phone.  
Yall talking loud like we in the country.

Lil Charles  
So you tellin us we cant talk and its  
New Years! Boy Stop!

D  
I know and he got the music on 65!

J  
It's my house. Yall trippin.

J Goes in the house.

D  
Boy this yo mama house!

Lil Charles  
He know it.

They laugh.

**INT. J MAMA HOUSE / TEISHA BEDROOM - NIGHT**

SPLIT SCREEN. J AND TEISHA ON THE PHONE.

J turns the music down a little.

He sits on the couch.

TEISHA  
Hello?

J  
Yeah, Im here. My bad baby. Them  
cats talking all loud like they across  
the street from each other.  
Wassup? You still coming down?

TEISHA  
Can I get a Happy New Year?

J  
Happy New Year.

TEISHA  
Thank You. I still aint called Tameika.

J  
Why you hesitating?

TEISHA

I don't know. You say we coming to your friend's house, right?

J

Yeah.

TEISHA

Didnt you say he stays in the projects?

J

Yeah, yall good! Anybody mess with you, they messing with me. Ya feel me?

TEISHA

I guess. As long as I aint around no guns and drug dealers.

J

We dont rock like that no mo baby. That was in our younger days. We get right and stay right now!

TEISHA

I hear ya. Let me call Tameika. Imma call you back.

J

Bet!

They hang up.

TAMEIKA SLIDES INTO SPLIT SCREEN.

**INT. TEISHA BEDROOM/ TAMEIKA BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Tameika phone rings.

She looks at her caller ID.

TAMEIKA

Wassup girl? Happy new year!

TEISHA

Happy new year! What are you doing?

TAMEIKA

Tryin to figure out what shoes Im wearing

tonight.

TEISHA

Oh yeah. Ive been meaning to ask if you'll come to the A with me in a couple of weeks?

TAMEIKA

Of course baby! Who you done fell in love with now?!

TEISHA

Whateva Tameka!! You remember that guy I met at the party?

### **QUICK FLASHBACK – INT. PARTY – NIGHT**

J grabs Teishas hand.

J

Whats's up boo?

Teisha smiles.

### **FLASHBACK ENDS - INT. TEISHA BEDROOM/ TAMEIKA BEDROOM - NIGHT**

TAMEIKA

Yeah, I remember.

TEISHA

Well, he wants me to come out there and since I get my car in a few weeks. It would be perfect time.

TAMEIKA

You know I got you, girl.

TEISHA

You stay ready!

TAMEIKA

That's my middle name baby girl.

TEISHA

They stay in the hood though!

TAMEIKA

You act like we dont have the projects out here!

TEISHA

You right.

TAMEIKA  
What you doing tonight?

TEISHA  
Just gone catch up on some school work.

TAMEIKA  
School work on New Years Eve.  
Only Teisha.

TEISHA  
You know me, girl. You have  
fun and be careful!

TAMEIKA  
Yes, Mam. Is his friend cute?

TEISHA  
I dont know Tameka. Go party your butt  
off and call me when you get back.

TAMEIKA  
I will.

TEISHA  
Later.

J  
J RETURNS IN SPLIT SCREEN.

**INT. TEISHA BEDROOM/ EXT. J'S FRONT PORCH OF HOUSE- NIGHT**

J phone rings.

He's sitting on the porch with D and Lil Charles.

D  
Yo phone ringing, man.

J  
That's just Teisha.

D  
You ain't gone answer.

J  
Naw, I know she was gone come.  
Where that blunt at?

Teisha looks at the phone with a confused face.

Blank screen says two weeks later.

**EXT. THE PROJECTS - OUTSIDE - DAY**

J talks on the phone.

J  
Yeah you can park right there.

Teisha parks the car.

D gets up.

D  
That's them?

J  
Yep.

D  
Man, I hope she fine.

Teisha and Tameka get out the car.

D  
Which one Tameika?

J  
The one on the right.

D  
Hell yeah.

They approach the porch.

TEISHA  
What's up?

J  
Just another day. Tameika this D.  
D This Tameka

TAMEIKA  
Wassup?

D  
Aint nothing. Just chilling. Yall  
wouldve came next week when  
my ride got out the shop, I  
would've picked yall up!

J just looks at D,

J  
Nigga!

D  
What?? You know my car  
in the shop, man.

Teisha and Tameika smile.

TEISHA  
You need something from the  
store, bay?

J  
Hell yeah.

TEISHA  
Let these characters have  
some alone time.

J  
Sound right.

Teisha and Jay leave the porch.

#### **INT. TEISHA'S CAR – DAY**

TEISHA  
So how you been?

J  
Missin you.

TEISHA  
Whateva. When was your  
last relationship?

J  
High Schoool.

TEISHA  
High School!

J  
Yea.

TEISHA  
What happened?



J  
We just grew apart after  
graduation?

TEISHA  
Yea.

J  
Sound like you tryin to  
settle down?

TEISHA  
Not right now, but when I  
finish college, I do.

J  
Why you wanna settle so early?  
You still have a whole life to live!  
I know it's too early for me!

TEISHA  
I guess you right.

They pull into the store.

Teisha gets out the car.

TEISHA  
You not coming in the store?

J  
I gotta make a call real quick.

TEISHA  
So you gonna let me go in  
the store by myself!

Teisha slams the car door.

Jay gets out the car.

**INT. - THE STORE – DAY**

Jay enters the store.

Teisha stands at the counter.

Jay goes to the back and grabs two beers.

He comes back to the counter.

TEISHA

I dont see how you drink  
that mess.

J

A beer a day keeps the doctors  
away.

Teisha shakes her head.

TEISHA

That's all you want?

J

Uhhmm. Let me get a 3 pack  
of them swishers.

Teisha pays.

They exit the store.

**EXT. THE STORE – DAY**

They enter the car.

**INT. TEISHA'S CAR – DAY**

J

I feel you on the relationship thing.  
It's just a just a little early to be  
talking about that.

TEISHA

I feel ya. We did just meet. My bad  
for just putting it out there. That's  
just how I feel.

J

I understand. Thanks for the beer  
and gars.

TEISHA

You good baby.

J

I wander what ya girl and D doing?

TEISHA

There's not telling.

They pull up to the projects.

They exit the car.

**EXT. THE PROJECTS- DAY**

Teisha and J approach Tameka.

TAMEIKA

I'm ready to go. This mutha... ughhh!  
Said he was making a run and be back  
in 10mins. That was 30mins ago!

J calls D.

J

Wassup man?

Split screen with D.

J (CONT.)

Why you leave that girl  
out here like that?!

D

Money talks, man. Im over  
here waiting for little Eddie  
to bring my money.

J

Well Im back and they finna  
dip. Shawty pissed off.

D

I know. Tell her Imma call.

J

Boy you stupid.

Unsplit screen.

J

He said he sorry shawty.

TAMEIKA

Whateva! I'm in the car Teisha!

Tameka walks off.

TEISHA

You know ya boy wrong, right?!

J

Yea.

TEISHA

Can't stay out her with my girl mad.

J

I know. We can reschedule.  
It's not a problem, baby.

TEISHA

Yeah. Just me and you  
this time.

Teisha grabs his hand

TEISHA

I really wanted to spend some  
time with you though.

J

Me too, boo.

They embrace.

Teisha kisses J on the cheek.

She walks off.

J

Call me when you get home!

TEISHA

I will.

**EXT. FRONT PORCH BIG HOUSE-DAY**

D

You heard little Charles locked up?

J

Hell yeah. Heard he shot somebody.

D

Don't he have a gun license?

J

Yea. The situation all the way messed up. The dude tried to rob him should be in there.

D

Hell yea. His mama say they gave him 15months.

J

He done left the county already?

D

Yep. Caught good too. He in the Diversion Center.

J

So he working?

D

Hell yeah. I gave his mama my new number, so he should be calling. Don't think he works weekends.

J

Bet.

D

You talked to Teisha.

Jay looks at him and shakes his head.

Jay phone rings.

AUTOMATED VOICE

Will you accept a collect call from..

"Lil Charles"

Please press 1 or say yes.

J

Yes. Wassup fool?

LIL' CHARLES

Just working like crazy.

J

That's messed up how you in there.

LIL' CHARLES

I'm lucky dude lived!

J  
You aint lying.

LIL' CHARLES  
My mama told me not to buy that gun.

J  
Dude would've probably shot you,  
though!

LIL' CHARLES  
Yeah. It's over now. What yall got  
goin on? Oh, what happen with them  
girls yall was suppose to link with.

J  
Boy.

J stands.

J  
Let me tell ya bout ya flexed up  
homeboy out here!

LIL' CHARLES  
Talking bout D?

J  
Hell yeah. They came to the trap  
downtown, right. Soon as they  
get here, he talking bout that car.

LIL' CHARLES  
The one thats been broke for 4 years.

J  
Hell yeah!

Still sitting on the porch, D is laughing the whole time.

J (CONT.)  
So me and Teisha go to the store and  
this fool left the girl in the trap.  
We get back Tameka mad, so now  
Teisha ready to leave. He aint come  
back and didnt even get his money from  
little Eddie!

LIL' CHARLES  
You know that boy crazy.

J

Scratch that though. When you get out?

LIL' CHARLES

I don't know man. The boss man of this joint wants me to write something about how I changed.

J

Changed ?

LIL' CHARLES

I know right. Hesitating on writing it.

J

I feel ya. It's all good . We got you when you get out!

LIL' CHARLES

Yall got me! Imma have me! Told ya Im stacking like crazy in here.

J

That right! You like the job?

LIL' CHARLES

Its straight.

J

What you do?

LIL' CHARLES

Most of the time I'm on an assembly line, packing boxes?

J

Gravy.

LIL' CHARLES

Sometimes I just clean up.

J shakes his head.

### **EXT. LIL' CHARLES JOB-NIGHT**

Charles sweeps the factory.

An older gentleman offers to refill a young lady's shrink wrap.

She is working on an assembly line.

Her shrink wrap container is full.

The girl smiles as she shakes her head in a no gesture.

Charles continues to sweep.

He sees her again. This time her container is empty.

LIL' CHARLES

You want me to refill that shrinkwrap  
for you?

TEISHA

Let me finish these last few first.

LIL' CHARLES

Cool.

TEISHA

I thought I would have seen this  
other guy by now.

LIL' CHARLES

I saw him. He knew it was full.  
He was just flirting.

Teisha laughs.

TEISHA

I know. You can put it up there now.

Charles takes the empty roll down and replaces it.

TEISHA (CONT.)

Be careful.

LIL' CHARLES

It aint that heavy.

He struggles. The roll drops in place.

LIL' CHARLES

Whew.

TEISHA

Wasn't that heavy, huh?

Teisha laughs.

LIL' CHARLES

Looks can be deceiving.



TEISHA

Yeah.

LIL' CHARLES

My name Charles. Everybody calls  
me little C or Little Charles, though.

Lil Charles extends his hand to Teisha.

TEISHA

I'm Teisha

They shake hands.

LIL CHARLES

Let me look like I'm doing something.  
I'll catch you in the break room.

Lil Charles goes back to sweeping.

TEISHA

Alright.

Teisha looks confused. She wanted to keep talking to Lil Charles.

**INT. LIL' CHARLES JOB-BREAK ROOM - NIGHT**

Lil Charles enters.

He looks at his food.

A sack lunch.

He drops his head.

Teisha sees him.

TEISHA

Dont look so sad.

Lil Charles laughs.

LIL' CHARLES

Im straight. Just tired of looking at  
the same thing everyday.

TEISHA

There's a vending machine right there.

She points to the machine.

LIL' CHARLES

I know. Trying to save money.

TEISHA

I feel ya.

LIL' CHARLES

We eat again when I get back to the spot. So, it's cool.

TEISHA

What's the spot?

LIL' CHARLES

Have you ever heard of The Diversion Center?

TEISHA

Naw. What's that?

LIL' CHARLES

Its a center where you work and serve your sentence.

TEISHA

Sentence? Aww lawd. Tell me what you did? You aint rape nobody, did you?

LIL' CHARLES

HELL NAW!

TEISHA

Good. Im just sayin. There's sum CRAZY people out her now.

LIL' CHARLES

You right. But trust me. The means was definately justified.

TEISHA

What happened?

LIL' CHARLES is quiet.

TEISHA

You don't have to talk about it.

LIL' CHARLES

Naw, you cool. Somebody tried to

rob me and I shot'em.

TEISHA  
So why are you in jail?

LIL CHARLES  
Exactly. Something about my gun  
license wasn't legit. Some BS but dude  
in jail too.

TEISHA  
So he lived?

LIL' CHARLES  
Yeah.

TEISHA  
That's good..I mean..

LIL' CHARLES  
It is what it is baby.

Lil' Charles looks at his food.

LIL' CHARLES  
I'm not eating this mess today.

He keeps the orange, throws away the sandwiches and heads for the vending machine.

He decides on a Big Texas Cinnamon Roll.

He returns to his seat. He begins peeling the orange.

LIL' CHARLES  
You gotta boyfriend?

TEISHA  
Not really.

LIL' CHARLES  
Wow, I wish he heard 'you say that.

TEASHA  
He probably wouldnt care. Everytime  
I try to kick it with him, he always busy.

LIL' CHARLES  
He probably getting to the money, baby.

TEASHA  
I would understand that but he the only  
reason why I moved down here.

LIL' CHARLES

Oh yeah. Where you from?

TEASHA

Athens.

LIL' CHARLES

Word! That's dope. What's it like there?

TEASHA

Quiet.

LIL' CHARLES

Cool. What's dude name?

TEASHA

Johnny. Everybody calls hime J.

LIL' CHARLES

I know a J. He light skin.

TEASHA

Yep.

Lil Charles is surprised.

LIL' CHARLES

OOOH! So YOU Teisha..

Teisha is confused.

TEISHA

So you know me?

LIL CHARLES

Nope. But I know J. He got a homeboy named D.

TEASHA

Yep. That's him.

LIL' CHARLES

This is so crazy. I know about the whole incident. I talked to him the other day.

TEASHA

Really? That was crazy.

LIL' CHARLES

Yes it was. Man I can't believe this.

TEASHA  
Please tell him to call me.

LIL' CHARLES  
I will.

Ring, Ring. Break is over.

LIL' CHARLES  
Now that's timing.

They Exit the break room.

TEASHA  
You gone tell him?

LIL CHARLES  
I got you. Damn I forgot my book.

Lil Charles goes back to break room.

**INT. BREAK ROOM -NIGHT**

Lil Charles grabs his book.

He sees Teisha's number in his book.

LIL' CHARLES  
She must really dig dude.

He exits break room.

**INT. DIVERSION CENTER-NIGHT**

Lil Charles dials on a payphone.

RING RING

Split Screen

J answers.

AUTOMATED SERVICES  
Will you accept a collect call from  
"Lil' Charles". If so press 1 or say yes.

J presses 1.

J  
Wassup folk?

LIL' CHARLES

Aint nothing, man. Just got off work.  
Back at the spot. What you got going on?

J

Nothing. Waiting on dis little chick  
to come through.

LIL' CHARLES

You talking about Teisha?

J

Teisha? Who is Teisha?

LIL' CHARLES

The one you and D met up  
wit a few days ago?

J

Ooh! Forget Teisha. Boy you need to see  
Re-Re. I'm talking bout short, light skin..  
thick. This girl might have me wrapped  
'round her finger.

LIL' CHARLES

What about Teisha?

J

Man, shawty on that relationship tip  
and I cant even dig it.

LIL' CHARLES

Boy, you hell. Anyways I called  
to tell ya I met her at work today.

J

Oh yeah.

LIL' CHARLES

Yeah, man, she cool people.

J

She straight.

LIL' CHARLES

I think shawty really feeling  
ya, bruh. She say you the reason  
she moved out here.

J

You believe that?!

LIL' CHARLES

She sounded convincing.

J

Boy you crazy.

LIL' CHARLES

I dont know now. She gave me her number and told me to tell you to call her.

J

Hold up. She gave you her number and told you to tell me what?

LIL' CHARLES

Yep.

J

Where they do that at?

LIL' CHARLES

I don't know sound like she trying to keep tabs on ya, bruh.

J

Yeah it do.

Jay rubs his chin.

J

Check the move then. We suppose to be meeting Friday. Tell her I gotta babysit.

LIL' CHARLES

Really bruh!?! HELL NAW.

J

Come on folk. She might wanna holla at ya!

LIL' CHARLES

Dont rock like dat buddy.

J

For ya boy. One time. Aye this ReRe calling. Imma hit you back.

Jay hangs up.

LIL' CHARLES

What?

He looks at the phone.

LIL' CHARLES (cont.)

How you gonna call ME back a jail phone?

**INT. LIL' CHARLES JOB-BREAK ROOM - NIGHT**

Lil Charles gets cinnamon roll from vending machine.

Teisha enters.

LIL' CHARLES

Hey Teisha, I saw your number in  
my book.

Teisha is excited.

TEISHA

So you talked to Jay? Did you tell  
him to call me! I was hoping to  
hear something from you.

LIL' CHARLES

Yeah, I talked to him.

TEISHA

What did he say?

Lil' Charles sits at the table with her.

LIL' CHARLES

He said umm umm. Oh yeah umm.  
He said something wrong with his phone.

TEISHA

Oh (sarcastically). How he answer  
your call and not mine?

LIL' CHARLES

I can't answer that question.

TEISHA

I'm about to call him.

Teisha dials J's number. No answer.

TEISHA

Damn, man.



LIL' CHARLES

Wassup?

TEISHA

We suppose to be meeting up  
this friday.

LIL' CHARLES

Yeah about that..he said something  
about tell you he had to babysit.

TEISHA

Babysit? Really?! Hmmm.

LIL' CHARLES

Dont' shoot the messenger.

TEISHA

WOW. So you got a girlfriend?

LIL' CHARLES

It's like that??!

TEISHA

We just having a conversation,  
Charles! A girl can't ask questions  
without any double meaning or  
implications of something else. Guys.

LIL' CHARLES

I feel ya. Im just saying. But naw I dont.

TEISHA

Why not? You seem like a cool dude.

LIL' CHARLES

Focused on the money, baby.

Screen Splits in 4 blank slides.

First screen slides from top.

**INT.TEISHA BEDROOM-DAY**

Teisha is on the phone. Pause

Second Screen slides from top

**EXT.FRONT PORCH JAY MOM'S HOUSE-DAY**

Jay sits and smokes one with ReRe.

His phone rings. He looks at the caller ID.

He waves the phone off with a hand gesture.

RE RE

Who's that?

J

That's just my lil homegirl.

RE RE

Yea, right.

He passes the blunt. Pause

Third screen slides from top. Split in half.

**INT. J'S MOM HOUSE - DAY / INT. LIL' CHARLES APT. - DAY**

Tyrone is on the phone with J.

J

Where ya been man?

TYRONE

Still tryn to hold on to this job  
since I been out.

J

Dats wassup.

TYRONE

I been talkin to ya girl, man.  
She really diggin ya bru.

J

Who?

TYRONE

Teisha.

J

Oh yea. We was suppose to been  
meeting up Friday. Tell her I'm  
gone be in Albany.

Tyrone shakes his. Pause.

Fourth screen slides from top. Split in half.

**INT. TEISHAS PLACE - NIGHT / INT. LIL CHARLES APT. - NIGHT**

TEISHA

What time is?

Lil' Charles looks at his phone. He hangs off the edge of the bed.

LIL' CHARLES

3:30.

TEISHA

A.M.! I got class in the morning.  
I need to get some sleep, baby.

Lil' Charles looks at the phone. Pause.

Blank screen.

TWO WEEKS LATER

**EXT. J'S MOM HOUSE – NIGHT**

Three guys sit on the porch.

Teisha pulls up.

Teisha lets the window down.

TEISHA

Charles! You comin?

Lil' Charles looks at J.

D looks at Lil Charles.

Lil' Charles exits the porch towards the car.

Scene fades to black.

**TEISHA 2**

**COMING SOON**

