

LILY OF THE VALLEY

"Set The Snow On Fire"

COLD OPEN

INT. TARGET STORE - MORNING

LILIAN GRANT, slowly walks through the store pushing a shopping cart with the weight of her body; her kinky natural hair peeks through her head scarf.

LILIAN
(talks to self)

Damn this a big ass store.

Glances at shopping list

LILIAN (CONT'D)

I guess this is going to be my workout today cause this leg pain has already got me fucked up. As long as I don't forget to get a snack I'll be good.

Lilian walks over to the women's clothing and picks up a dress.

LILIAN (CONT'D)

Ohhhhh speaking of a snack, this dress is fucking cute. Definitely a brunch dress. Bitches love brunches in California.

Taking another look at her phone lilian begins to tackle her list. She gets a notification on her phone that shows her medicine is ready for pickup.

LILIAN

Ayyyye talk about perfect timing. Now where the fuck is the pharmacy in here.

Looks up at the store map.

LILIAN
(deep sigh)

Fuck my life the pharmacy would be on the other side of the store.

Lilian finds the pharmacy and stands in line waiting to be helped. She approaches the counter and parks her cart. An older (senior citizen) white woman stands beside a computer.

PHARMACIST

Hello, how can I help you?

LILIAN

Hi. I'm picking up a prescription for
Lilian Grant. My date of birth is
4/12/92.

The pharmacist looks up her information. She looks at the screen, then looks at Lilian, and back at the screen. Putting her glasses on that are hanging from a necklace.

PHARMACIST

Ma'am, it says you have seven
prescriptions available for pickup. I
believe there is an error.

LILIAN

No ma'am. Your system is correct. All
of those are mine.

The pharmacist walks over and gathers the prescriptions together. She comes back to the computer and rings them up.

PHARMACIST

Okay your total is \$70.50

Lilian sorts through her purse trying to remember which card she uses for her prescriptions. She gets annoyed and just chooses any card.

PHARMACIST

That's a lot of money for medication.

LILIAN
(sarcastically)

Yeah it's a good thing I have a job
with insurance or I'd have to ask you
to help me pay for it.

The older lady adjusts the necklace holding her reading glasses as Lilian puts her card information in the keypad.

PHARMACIST

Here's your receipt dear.

Lilian takes the long receipt and uses to hide a yawn that slips out.

PHARMACIST

You know, you're too young to be this tired. You should try to get more rest.

LILIAN

And you should be resting in peace but here we are. You have a good day.

The cart carries Lilian to the self checkout area and \$150 later she gathers her bags and heads to her Uber.

INT. UBER - CONTINUOUS

She looks in one of the grocery bags and starts to frantically look through the rest of them. She sighs internally and slumps back into the seat.

LILIAN

Fuck I forgot to get my snack.

END OF COLD OPEN

INT. APARTMENT - MORNING

Lilian returns home from the store and swiftly walks to the kitchen with her heavy reusable bags. ZOIE CURTIS (30) is standing at the stove wearing a matching marijuana print headscarf and apron.

ZOIE

Well good morning hoe!

LILIAN

Good morning slut!

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

ZOIE

What do you plan on having for
breakfast?

Lilian begins to sort her medicine in the pill case on the counter.

LILIAN

Well I was planning on eating some
sour cream and cheddar Ruffles but I
forgot to get them at the store.

Zoie turns around from the stove.

ZOIE

Chips for breakfast? What are you? A
middle schooler from the hood?

Lilian looks up from the pill case.

LILIAN

Hey now. Ruffles has all the basic
food groups okay?!

Zoie turns to the cabinet and takes out a mug that reads
"fibromyalgia sucks" and a plate.

ZOIE

Well it's a good thing you forgot
because I made you breakfast.

LILIAN

Girl you're too good to me but I need
you to stop taking care of me.

Lilian takes the mug and takes a sip of the tea. She
immediately spits it out.

LILIAN

Bitch what did I tell you about giving
me chamomile tea. That shit tastes
like ramen water.

ZOIE

Wow bitch. That was a great spit. You
must have been a Triple H fan.

Zoie takes the mug and pours out the tea.

Zoie

I'm sorry I was just trying to help.
Chamomile is good for inflammation.

Zoie takes out a mug for herself that reads "wake and bake"
and grabs her some medicinal pancakes.

LILIAN

Fuck I think my tastebuds are
inflamed.

ZOIE

Ohh well you've struck luck twice
because I've just tried a new
medicinal pancake recipe.

Zoie passes a plate to Lilian and takes a seat across the
counter from her.

LILIAN

Weed pancakes? I fuck with it.

Together they sit and enjoy their breakfast sharing laughs
and stories. Lilian decides to change the subject.

LILIAN

You know friend. I do appreciate you for letting me stay with you after moving across the country.

ZOIE

Of course. I love having you here. It's like college all over again. Except we're not broke anymore.

They both let out a laugh.

LILIAN

Thank God right?! Well good news, I've been looking for apartments and founds a couple promising locations. I should be able to move out soon.

Zoie laughs.

ZOIE

Those pancakes must be kicking in fast cause I know you didn't just say you were moving out?

LILIAN

No I'm not high. I'm serious. It's time. I gotta be independent and take care of myself.

Zoie gets emotional.

ZOIE

But you don't have to leave. I have so much space here.

(MORE)

ZOIE (CONT'D)

And who's gonna remind you to take
your medicine or make you edibles on
your flare up days?

Lilian walks over to Zoie and gives her a hug.

LILIAN

Girl I'm not moving to Mars.

ZOIE

Well since you're moving, have you
asked Badu to help you?

Lilian walks into the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zoie follows Lilian into the living room and together they
take a seat on the couch.

LILIAN

I actually haven't said anything to
him. I've been looking at places on my
own.

Zoie looks confused.

ZOIE

Wait what?! You didn't ask the nigga
that specializes in real estate about
real estate?

LILIAN

No it's not like that. I just wanted
to do this on my own. He doesn't even
know I'm moving out.

A worried look shows on Zoie's face.

LILIAN

Oh no what did you do?

ZOIE

I kinda sent a message in the group
chat about you moving.

Lilian falls back into the couch.

LILIAN

Ughhh fuck my life.

ZOIE

I'm sorry I was just trying to help.

Lilian gets a call on her phone and it's Badu. Lilian rolls
her eyes.

LILIAN

See what you did.

Lilian takes the call and leaves the room.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

BADU KALEJAIYE (31) stands in front of an artisanal coffee
shop wearing a brown on brown suit combination.

BADU

Lily flower!

LILIAN (V.O.)

BADUUU!

BADU

You know I just got back from London
and I'm on my way to close on a house
and I thought you know I should call
my good friend Lilian and see how
she's doing.

LILIAN (V.O.)

Or Zoie sent you a message in the
group chat that I was moving out and
you decided to come help me.

Badu is tongue tied.

BADU

Ahhh. You got me. But you know Zoie;
she's an amebo. She means well.

Badu continues to sip his coffee.

BADU

Anyways. If you're available tomorrow
we can go see some places. I keep a
list of townhouses that I only show to
my good friends.

Lilian tries to find a reason to bail.

LILIAN (V.O.)

Uhm I think I have work tomorrow. I'll
get back to you. But take care of your
clients. Don't move your schedule
around for me.

Badu takes a seat at one of the tables in front of the coffee
shop.

Badu

For you the world my dear. I'll see
you tomorrow.

Badu hangs up before Lilian can respond. He continues to
drink his coffee and looks at his phone.

BADU

Best \$15 I've ever spent.

He gets up and throws the cup in the garbage, hops in his
Tesla and drives away.

INT. PARKING LOT - THE NEXT MORNING

Lilian walks around the corner from the bus stop into the
parking lot of her job. There she sees ROSS JOHNSON (27) pass
his Mercedes Benz C 300 sedan to the valet, casually flirting
with him.

*

ROSS

Promise not to fart in my car and I'll
think about taking you home with me
after work.

He notices Lilian walking up to the entrance of the building.

Ross

Lilian? Bitch I thought you said you
wasn't working today.

LILIAN

Yeah about that... I got my days
confused. I thought it was my day off.

ROSS

Damn brain fog. How did you get here?

LILIAN

I took an Uber, a very strange Uber. I
think my driver skipped his meds this
morning.

ROSS

Welcome to California.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - MORNING

Ross and Lilian walk through the lobby of the building. The
rooms are full of light thanks to the glass walls. The
furniture is very fancy and expensive looking, like it should
just be looked at and not used.

ROSS

I know you didn't ask me but I'm
planning your house warming party.

Lilian gives Ross a shocked look.

LILIAN

Well damn did Zoie tell you too?

ROSS

I mean I got the message in the group chat but I saw you tweeting about it like a week ago.

Lilian chuckles nervously.

LILIAN

Oh shit I forgot.

Ross sticks his middle finger up and waves goodbye.

ROSS

I'll have a Pinterest link to you by the end of day. Have fun at work bitch, bye.

INT. OFFICE LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Lilian waves goodbye and walks pass the receptionist.

LILIAN

Good morning Ebony! You look great today.

The receptionist EBONY (24) cannot hear Lilian because she has AirPods in her ears and is having an intense conversation through text. Lilian tries to get her attention.

LILIAN

Yoo Ebony. YERRRRR!

Ebony suddenly hears Lilian.

EBONY

YERRRRR! AH AH AH!

Ebony grabs Lilian and gives her a tight hug.

LILIAN

Oh wow you're so small yet so strong.

Ebony let's go of Lilian. Lilian gently massages her bruised ribs.

LILIAN

I see you've been practicing your New
York slang.

Ebony follows Lilian through the open office space pass a bunch of people working.

Some people are at big meeting tables, others are at desks or sitting on the floor. In the distance, a DJ is vibing out to the worst pop music ever created.

INT. MAISIE OFFICE - MORNING

Maisie Mack (32) sits behind a desk typing very fast wearing an orange satin blouse that compliments her skin complexion in the most beautiful way.

RECEPTIONIST

Maisie guess what? Lilian said my New
York accent is getting better.

MAISIE
(sarcastically)

Oh wow that's spectacular.

A short awkward silence falls between them. Lilian makes a face to Maisie to get rid of Ebony.

MAISIE

Uhhh Ebony, I need to speak with
Lilian in private.

Ebony walks out the office.

LILIAN

Damn that girl is a riot.

Together they laugh.

MAISIE

You look nice today. I see you finally
figured out the dress code. Although
them chucks is giving casual Kamala.

Lilian takes a seat in front of Maisie's desk.

LILIAN

Sorry I have to have a Mister Rogers
moment in your office.

Lilian changes her shoes and puts her sneakers in her bag.

LILIAN

I had planned to take the bus but I
got lost and had to take an Uber.

MAISIE

Life is rough sis. At least you made
it on time. So what did you need to
talk about?

Lilian takes a moment and looks around the office decor. A
transgender pride flag is draped across the desk with a
smaller flag next to a desk nameplate that reads "Maisie
Mack, Production Executive".

LILIAN

Uhhh I just wanted to let you know
that I'm going to be moving in the
next couple weeks.

MAISIE

Yes I heard. Congratulations.

Lilian looks confused.

LILIAN

How did you know this already? Do you
know a lesbian named Zoie?

Maisie looks confused.

MAISIE

I know a Zoie but you actually told me
that you were looking for apartments
and might have to leave early.

Lilian sits back in the chair embarrassed.

LILIAN

Wow well that's embarrassing. I must
have forgotten.

Lilian chuckles nervously and quickly walks to her office.

INT. LILIAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Lilian is halfway through her workday and she's fighting to get through a migraine. The pain is so intense she can hardly keep her eyes open. She doesn't tell anybody she has a migraine and continues to get her work done.

Ebony pops her head into the door of the office.

EBONY

Hey there. How's your day going?

Lilian winces. She slowly raises her hand and sticks her thumb up.

EBONY

I'm confused are you calling for a
taxi or?

LILIAN

It's a thumbs up darling. My day is
going wonderful thank you for asking.

EBONY

Well your day is about to get worse
cause you're late for your 1pm
meeting. Maisie wanted me to come get
you to meet her in the conference
room. Good luck, the white folks is
there.

Lilian takes a deep sigh and sinks into her chair.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Lilian slowly walks into the room and is met with a room full of white eyes.

She walks in and takes a seat next to Maisie.

MAISIE

Are you okay?

LILIAN

Yes I'm sorry I completely forgot.

MAISIE

Okay well get your shit together.

Four white men, a white woman sit and stare at Lilian and Maisie. Beads of sweat begin to accumulate on Lilian's forehead. Before she can get a word out, she runs over to the waste basket by the door and throws up.

WHITE WOMAN

Ohhhh somebody's pregnant.

Maisie runs out of the conference room after her and follows Lilian into her office.

INT. LILIAN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Lilian sits in her chair with her head on her desk. Maisie walks over to her and places her hand on her head.

MAISIE

Are you alright? What's going on with you? You're not pregnant are you?

Lilian sits up with her eyes closed.

LILIAN

There's no way I'm pregnant.

MAISIE

I may not be real fish but I know the signs of pregnancy.

Lilian opens her eyes.

LILIAN

I haven't had sex in seven months.
Unless my dildo can ejaculate there's absolutely no way I could be pregnant.

MAISIE

Well sucks to be you.

Lilian grabs the waste basket from under her desk and throws up again.

LILIAN

I think it was something I ate. That's my fault for trying to get a chopped cheese in California.

Maisie walks around the desk and stands in the entrance of the door.

MAISIE

Well the white folks in there are gonna be very much relieved their new Director of Audience Development isn't dying.

Lilian looks down at the waste basket.

LILIAN

Not today at least.

Before Lilian can tie the bag she throws up again.

LILIAN

Spoke too soon.

Maisie leaves and goes back to the conference room.

INT. BADU OFFICE - DAY

Badu is in an open office space filled with plants and natural light. He sits behind a desk drinking out of a mug that reads "I'm not yelling, I'm Nigerian". He calls Lilian on FaceTime and she answers on her computer.

BADU

LILY FLOWER!

Lilian winces.

LILIAN

Why are you yelling?

Badu laughs.

BADU

I'm sorry I just get excited when I
see your face.

Lilian closes her eyes and lays her head on the desk.

LILIAN

Alright what do you want from me?

Badu starts singing very badly.

BADU

(singing)

What do you want from-

LILIAN

Nah deadass what do you want?

Badu sits up in his chair.

BADU

I have found a condo with your name
written all over it.

Lilian doesn't say anything.

BADU

Three bedroom and two baths. Vaulted
ceilings, galley kitchen features, two
walk in closets and a big ass soaking
tub for flare up days.

The silence continues.

BADU

Lilian? Hello?

Lilian snores softly.

BADU

Lily are you asleep?

Silence.

BADU

Oh snap is that your boss?

Lilian jumps up out of her sleep and wipes the drool from her face.

LILIAN

I'm sorry what were you saying?

Badu lets out a deep sigh.

BADU

What is going on over there?

LILIAN

It's nothing I just have a migraine.

BADU

Wow does your boss know?

LILIAN

Nah she thinks I'm pregnant.

Badu squints his eyes.

BADU

I mean are you?

Lilian sticks her middle finger up to the computer screen.

BADU

Wait but why does she think that? You haven't told her you have fibromyalgia?

LILIAN

Nope

Badu still squinting his eyes.

BADU

Why not?

LILIAN

Cause I didn't want to mom.

BADU

But like shouldn't your boss know that
you have a disabil-

LILIAN

IM NOT DISABLED.

Lilian winces again.

BADU

Okay I didn't mean to upset you. Would
you be available to see the condo
tomorrow?

Lilian puts her hand over her forehead.

LILIAN

I don't even know what day tomorrow
is. I gotta check my to-do list
tonight and I'll text you in the
morning.

BADU

Sounds good. Feel better and you
should probably talk to your boss.

LILIAN

Thanks I'll put it on my list.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

With an applesauce pouch in hand, Lilian sits amongst a pile
of pillows as she takes her medicine one pill at a time.

LILIAN

(swallows)

Nortriptyline.

LILIAN

(swallows)

Tizanidine.

LILIAN
(swallows)

Birth control.

She continues to call out each pills she takes until she get to her last medication, a self induced shot on the side of her stomach. she cleans the area, gets the syringe ready and screams as she sticks herself.

LILIAN

CURSE YOU FIBROMYALGIA!!!

Lilian cleans up her shot and put the needle in a red sharps container. She gets in the bed and ask Alexa to turn the light off and read her todo list for tomorrow.

ALEXA

You have four things on your todo list. Call doctor, reorder prescriptions, send mom flowers for her birthday, massage therapist with Ross.

Lilian sits up in her bed confused and startled.

LILIAN

Alexa, read my todo list again.

Alexa repeats her todo list again. Confused, Lilian calls Ross on FaceTime. He answers and immediately puts the video on pause.

LILIAN

Did you hack into my Alexa app.

Ross hesitates.

ROSS

Hack is such an aggressive word.

Lilian rolls her eyes.

LILIAN

Anyways, why is Alexa telling me that we're going to see a massage therapist tomorrow.

ROSS

So I know you've been in a lot of pain recently and I know you don't always like to take muscle relaxers so I thought, why not get your tight muscles rubbed out by a fine as black man.

LILIAN

Oh wow how did you hear about this place?

ROSS

Well you know one of my sugar daddies has arthritis really bad so he goes to this massage therapist and he gets rubbed down and a spine adjustment.

Lilian yawns.

ROSS

Girl when I tell you he's like 20 years younger after those massages. He be tearing my ass up in bed.

LILIAN

Oh wow.

ROSS

Yeah he only goes twice a month which works out great cause then I only have to bottom twice a month.

Lilian's eyes widen.

LILIAN

Wow I definitely didn't need to hear that.

ROSS

My bad. Well are you excited for tomorrow?

Lilian sarcastically responds.

LILIAN

Yeah sounds great.

ROSS

Deadass?

LILIAN

Hell no. I don't want anybody touching on my body.

Ross sounds confused.

ROSS

What do you mean no? It sounded like a great idea to me.

LILIAN

A great idea is my body being normal and not confusing a hug or being tickled as intense pain.

Ross turns the video on his phone.

ROSS

Wow I'm sorry friend. I didn't even realize how that could actually be painful for you.

LILIAN

I know friend and I appreciate you but you don't have to make doctors appointments for me like I'm incapacitated.

Lilian's voice is stern.

ROSS

I know you're not helpless but you do so much for everybody else. We're just trying to keep you healthy so we can all do wealthy hood rat shit together.

LILIAN

IM FINE!! I know you're into old men but I'm not some old grandma you need to look after.

ROSS

Wow bitch that was shady, but given the time of night ima blame it on your medication. Good night grandma.

LILIAN

Good night butch queen.

EXT. RESTAURANT - THE NEXT DAY

Lilian sits outside of a restaurant drinking a cup of tea as she waits for her food to arrive. She sends a text in the group chat that reads "I need help". Her friends immediately blow up her phone. Zoie calls her on FaceTime first.

ZOIE

Omg Lilian are you okay? Where are
you?

Lilian tries to get a word in but her friends continue to cut
her off.

LILIAN

I'm fine. I just need your help-

Before she can get a word in Ross calls on FaceTime and
Lilian adds him to the FaceTime group call.

ROSS

Grandma you alright? Have you fallen
and can't get up?

LILIAN

Haha very funny. Seriously tho I'm-

Again Lilian is interrupted by another call. This time Badu
is added to the FaceTime group call.

BADU

See I knew you were pregnant!

Ross and Maisie both scream with reactions on both ends of
the spectrum.

ZOIE

Pregnant? That's impossible. Lilian
masturbates at least twice a week.

A look of shock comes over Lilian's face.

LILIAN

Have you bitches completely lost your
minds?

The group is silent.

LILIAN

I ask for help and you hoes think I had a stroke or some shit. That's not the type of help I was gonna ask for.

ROSS

Okay so what's going on? I've got bleach in my hair and I wanna be blonde not bald.

Lilian leans the phone up against her tea cup.

LILIAN

Okay great I'll make this swift. So good news, I found an apartment.

BADU

You did what?

ZOIE

Wow that's great. I'm so happy for you.

Lilian is excited.

LILIAN

Even better news. I can start moving in tonight!

They all react together.

ALL

TONIGHT?!

Lilian is still excited.

LILIAN

Yes. So do you think you guys can help me? I'm like half packed and I don't have much.

ROSS

Hold the phone hoe. So you mean to tell me that you've been secretly seeing places on your own and NOW you want our help?

Badu is squinting harder than he's ever squinted before.

BADU

I don't even know what to say.

LILIAN

I'm sorry I thought you guys would be happy for me. I wanted to do this on my own. I wanted you to be proud of me.

ZOIE

Well you know I'm proud of you. Even though I am sad that you're leaving me.

Lilian is still excited.

LILIAN

Okay gentlemen. Can you help? I could use the muscle.

Ross rolls his eyes.

ROSS

I don't know bitch this is all so sudden. I haven't even finished planning your party. I'll keep you posted.

Ross hangs up and leaves the call.

LILIAN

Badu? Will you help?

BADU

I love you friend but I still can't believe you went behind my back. If you wanted to do it all by yourself you could have just said that.

LILIAN

I'm sorry. I really didn't mean to go behind your back. I just didn't know how to tell you.

BADU

Well I don't know if I can help. I have actual clients to take care of. I'll let you know.

Badu leaves the FaceTime call. Lilian ends the call as tears begin to fall.

INT. APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Lilian and Zoie walk down the stairs with the last of her things. A small pile of bags rest by the door as Lilian grabs some last minute things from the kitchen.

ZOIE

I feel like this is a good amount of stuff to move on the first night. I hate the guys aren't coming. Then you'd be able to sleep in an actual bed tonight.

Lilian's mood and energy levels are so low she can barely respond.

LILIAN

Yeah.

Just then they hear a knock at the door. Zoie goes to answer it and jumps for joy. It's Badu and Ross.

LILIAN

Wow you actually came.

Badu and Ross walk in and start picking up bags.

ROSS

You think we'd let your scrawny ass move alone by yourself? Bitch you guessed it.

Lilian gently hugs Ross.

LILIAN

I love you so much slut.

After the hug Lilian hits Ross on the arm.

LILIAN

And don't come for me bitch. You know we wear the same size clothes.

They all laugh together.

BADU

This is all so touching but can we get moving please?

EINT. ZOIE'S CAR(MOVING) - EVENING

Lilian rides in the car with Zoie while Badu and Ross follow in their cars.

ZOIE

We've been driving for almost an hour, how far away is your new apartment?

LILIAN

We'll be there in like 10 minutes.

In the distance, they see a sign covered with graffiti that says "Welcome to Emeryville". Lilian immediately gets an incoming call from Ross.

LILIAN

Hello.

ROSS (V.O.)

Bitch are we lost?

LILIAN

Nah we're five minutes away.

ROSS (V.O.)

No we must be lost because there's no way your new place is in Emeryville.

LILIAN

What's wrong with Emeryville?

ROSS (V.O.)

It's the ghetto!

Ross hangs up the phone before Lilian can respond. They arrive at a small, ashy white building. The grass in the front yard is sky high and the windows are boarded up.

EXT. EMERYVILLE APARTMENT - EVENING

Zoie is too afraid to get out of the car so they wait for the guys to pull up. Moments later Ross and Badu arrive behind them. Badu walks up to the passenger side of Zoie's car.

BADU

Lily, you dey craze? What are you doing in Emeryville?

LILIAN

Why is everybody freaking out?

Ross gets out of his car and walks over the the driver's side of Zoie's car

ROSS

Lilian Pearl Grant how dare you have us out here in the ghetto.

(MORE)

ROSS (CONT'D)

There is over a million dollars worth
of life between the four of us out
here.

Badu cuts in.

BADU
(squinting and pointing)

Lily are you olodo? you have a
Mercedes, a BMW, and a Tesla in front
of bum island. I would like to not
have my car stolen tonight.

LILIAN

Alright relax bourgeoisies. Fun fact:
I grew up in Brooklyn in Marcy
Projects. I used to sleep with rats
the size of your cars and if it was
good enough for Jay Z and Tracy Morgan
then I'm sure I'll be fine in
Emeryville for a few months.

ZOIE

Yeah guys. Let's not judge a book by
its cover--

ROSS

Or a city by its statistics?

ZOIE

Or a city by its statistics. Let's
just support Lilian. She's a big girl
and I'm sure she knows which towns are
good for her right now.

Ross turns and walks away.

INT. EMERYVILLE APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

They all walk into the house and the inside is worse than the outside. Together they take in the scenery.

ZOIE

Damn I know I said not to judge a book
by its cover but this is the worst
story I've ever read.

Together they tip toe across the living room rug as if the floor is lava to avoid the stains and rat poop on the floor. There's nothing in the living room but a used black leather couch that's wrinkled and covered in suspicious stains. Ross goes to take a seat and Badu quickly grabs him by the arm.

BADU

Yoo bro don't sit there.

ROSS

Why not? These Chelsea boots got my
feet hurting.

Badu insists.

BADU

Nah fam. That's not an ordinary couch.
That's a cam couch.

ROSS

Cam couch? Like for films?

ZOIE

Yeah but not the type of films you're
into.

Badu whispers to Ross.

BADU

(whispers)

There's vagina juices on that couch.

Ross runs across the room into the kitchen and begins to laugh uncontrollably.

INT. EMERYVILLE KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The rest of the crew walks into the kitchen to join Ross in his laughter, everyone but Lilian.

ZOIE

I really hope they didn't tell you
that all the amenities were included
because they gave you a microwave and
a mini fridge.

ROSS

Damn that fridge isn't even big enough
to hold all your medications. After
that you'll have no place to put your
apple juice.

Lilian begins to get upset and slides down onto the tile floor. She goes to put her head in her hands but screams and instantly jumps back up. She's off balanced and almost falls but Badu catches her.

BADU

Lily are you okay?

LILIAN

(crying)

Yeah I thought I saw a roach running
towards me but I'm probably just
hallucinating.

Badu gives Lilian a hug while she cries harder.

BADU

You don't have to live in this hell
hole.

Ross cuts in.

Ross

Hell hole that's been ranked the
number one most dangerous city in
California for three years straight.

BADU
(mouthing to Ross)

You're not helping.

Zoie gets angry.

ZOIE

Alright enough of this shit! Lilian
you're coming with me and we'll call
the landlord in the morning. I would
rather suck a dick (makes a face of
disgust) then let you sleep in this
house.

Zoie grabs Lilian from Badu's arms and pulls her toward the
door. Lilian pulls away from Zoie and starts to cry even
harder.

LILIAN
(screaming)

STOP TREATING ME LIKE A BABY!

Silence falls on the room.

LILIAN

Im tired of being a patient. I'm tired
of you guys holding my hand with
everything. I have fibromyalgia not
cancer. I'm not made of glass.

The room is so quiet you can hear the squirrels in the roof.

LILIAN

Now I am going to stay in this apartment tonight rather you all like it or not.

ZOIE

Okay fine. We support you. But I'm gonna stay here with you tonight just in case.

LILIAN

I said IM staying here... y'all are going home.

ROSS

Well then your valuables are staying far away from here until your surrounds match your income.

BADU

And when you're ready to get that apartment for the love of Christ let me help you.

ZOIE

I know you want to be independent but take care of yourself but we just want you to be safe. It's already hard enough being a black woman in this country, don't make it harder for yourself.

The guys help Lilian settle in and immediately leave before a police officer pulls them over for being black while driving an expensive car.

INT. EMERYVILLE APARTMENT - NIGHT

Lilian lays on the queen sized bed in the living room due to the large hole in the roof of the bedroom. She sees a note left by Zoie and some sage to burn in the house.

After sifting through her bags Lilian finds all her medication. She sits and eats a sandwich as the light from her iPad and phone light the room.

Just before she gets in the bed, per usual she goes to kneel on the side of her bed to pray. However due to the fact that the bed is not on a platform she just sits on the bed and prays.

LILIAN

God, what have we gotten ourselves into? Thank you for giving me such amazing friends. Please help me to not push them away. I'm grateful you put them in my life. God also please keep me safe in this house. You protected me when I stayed in the Econolodge so I know you'll protect me again tonight.

Just before she could say amen Lilian hears something that sounds like gunshots. She quietly rolls over into the bed and lays down with a bag of ruffles potato chips.

LILIAN

Well God I don't know if it was fireworks or gunshots but the birds is in the air.

FADE TO BLACK.

The Beach by Giveon plays.