

PARK & OAK

"Pilot"

Written by

M. Skylar Ezell

(e) [Sky.Ezell@gmail.com](mailto:Sky.Ezell@gmail.com)

(m) (209) 481-3220

[www.SkylarEzell.com](http://www.SkylarEzell.com)

**COLD OPEN**

**NOTE: All characters are Black unless otherwise noted**

FADE IN:

**INT. SLOAN & COOPER - OFFICE HALLWAYS - DAY**

"Little Bit" by GTA ft. Vince Staples plays (instrumental). KENDRICK FOSTER, a dapper businessman in his late-20's glides through the halls, oozing confidence every strut. He fist bumps passersby, including S&C HATER walking with him.

S&C HATER

Someone's in a good mood.

KENDRICK

Well I'm about to snag a promotion after this performance review.

S&C HATER

Promotion? Word around the water cooler is layoffs are coming thanks to the merger with Sloan Financial.

KENDRICK

Rumors. S&C needs top talent to run our side of the house. And I'm it.

S&C HATER

So you're not worried?

KENDRICK

The sun is shining, my melanin is popping, and the barista made my tall macchiato a venti at no charge. Today's going to be a good day.

**INT. SLOAN & COOPER - UNKNOWN OFFICE - DAY**

We face Kendrick sitting with a forced, frozen smile.

S&C EXECUTIVE (O.C.)

In light of the recession and our new merger, we're eliminating staff redundancies. I'm sorry, but we're going to have to let you go.

**END OF COLD OPEN**

ACT ONE**INT. KENDRICK'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

CLOSE up on Kendrick's shocked face, except now he's grown stubby facial hair and stares blankly from his home's couch. His youngest brother ISAIAH, (25, witty "minority of a minority" rocking an LGBTQ+ rainbow/Black Pride tee and dreads) hands a laptop to their friend CHEO MARKS (late-20s, straitlaced, "Mitt Romney's Black friend" vibe).

ISAIAH  
(waving hand in face)  
Kendrick? Yo, Kendrick?

KENDRICK  
Huh?

CHEO  
He reliving getting fired again?

ISAIAH  
(moving to the couch)  
Mmm hmm. You can tell because he gets that bit of drool out the corner of his mouth.

Kendrick wipes his mouth and snaps to.

KENDRICK  
I didn't get fired. I was laid off.

Kendrick's middle brother SAVOY (27, selfish, overly aware of his good looks and style) lounges with a nebulizer mask strapped to his face. He brushes his hair with one hand and holds a mirror with the other as his breathing machine hums.

SAVOY  
(breathy)  
Bet you wish you were my CFO when you had the chance.

KENDRICK  
To work at my baby brother's startup based out of a Coffee Bean?

SAVOY  
First off, I'm not the baby. He is.  
(pointing to Isaiah)  
Second, it was a Starbucks.  
(stops brushing/to Cheo)  
Cheo, don't you put that in the article!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Cheo throws his hands up as a sign of surrender.

ISAIAH

Savoy, how about you finish your breathing treatment so we can go? Happy Hour ends in 30 and I can't afford full-priced drinks.

KENDRICK

Your asthmatic ass is lucky I keep a spare machine for you at my place.

Savoy rolls his eyes, having heard this 1,000 times before.

CHEO

Savoy are you sure you don't want your humble beginnings in the article? Conservative readers love a good "pick yourself up by your bootstraps" story.

ISAIAH

Yeah, when the subject's White. When he's Black they say he stole the boots!

CHEO

Why do you have to make everything about race, Isaiah?

ISAIAH

This is America. Everything is about race. Most of my clients at the public defender's office are people of color, because of race.

CHEO

So what? The white man is to blame for all Black America's problems?

ISAIAH

Of course not. White women are too.

Savoy's phone vibrates on the coffee table. He looks to Kendrick and nods for him to take a look.

KENDRICK

It's Aja. Want me to text her that you'll call her back?

Savoy gives a thumbs up. Kendrick grabs the phone, texting:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KENDRICK

(out loud)

Hey babe. Taking a breathing treatment at Kendrick's because I'm an irresponsible idiot who forgot his inhaler. Call you in 5. Love-**WHOA!** Why is "Gold's Gym" texting you a pic of her...medicine balls?

ISAIAH

(to Savoy)

You're cheating on Aja again?

SAVOY

(removing mask)

She's just a friend from the gym.

KENDRICK

Uh huh. So was April.

ISAIAH

And Dawn.

CHEO

And the two Keishas.

KENDRICK

Come on, man. I thought you were past all that. You can't put Aja through that mess again.

SAVOY

I'm not. It's innocent flirting between gym buddies. It's nothing.

The sound of men moaning comes from Cheo's laptop.

CHEO

Isaiah, why are two dudes in a sauna going at it on my computer?

ISAIAH

Yikes! I forgot to clear my search history. Ooh, favorite that for me?

CHEO

I'm not favoriting your gay porn!

ISAIAH

Homophobe.

CHEO

Boundaries.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DOORBELL RINGS. Kendrick moves to answer it.

KENDRICK  
Doing too much. All of you.

A BANK REP (50s, bland white guy), stands on the other side holding an envelope.

BANK REP  
Kendrick Foster?

KENDRICK  
Yes?

BANK REP  
I'm with Morton's Bank. Your-

Kendrick ushers the man into the hallway, closing the door.

**INT. KENDRICK'S CONDO - MAIN HALLWAY - DAY**

KENDRICK  
Keep your voice down!

BANK REP  
Your mortgage is 120 days overdue.

KENDRICK  
I told y'all I've been out of work for 4 months, but I'm looking. I've got some leads and-

BANK REP  
You have 45 days to catch up on your mortgage, Mr. Foster or we'll have to begin foreclosure proceedings. Have a nice day.

The bank rep hands Kendrick the envelope and leaves.

**INT. KENDRICK'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Kendrick re-enters after Savoy's treatment has finished.

CHEO  
Everything alright?

KENDRICK  
Huh? Yeah, it's fine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAVOY  
 (looking in a mirror)  
 Do you guys think my waves are too wavy, or not wavy enough?

ISAIAH  
 How is he Mom's favorite?

**INT. COTTON CLUB - FRONT LOBBY - DAY**

Cheo interviews Savoy in the lobby of Cotton Club, Savoy's Oakland-based startup. The small office has a sleek, modern look that embraces color. A mostly Black staff of software engineers, coders, and others experts go about their day.

SAVOY  
 Growing up in Oakland I watched as gentrification forced a lot of Black businesses to go under. It got harder to find who was left. But I knew if I could connect Black consumers to Black businesses in their areas, things could change.

CHEO  
 And so you started Cotton Club?

SAVOY  
 Yeah. I was apprehensive at first, but my brothers talked me into it. It's tough sometimes, but I do what I got to do to make it work.

CHEO  
 Do what you gotta do? Like what?

Savoy's at a loss for words. But he's saved when DENISE HARPER (mid-20s, loud clothes with a louder personality) barrels in from the break room with a cup of coffee.

DENISE  
 Ooh, we legit now, baby! Somebody done stole us a Keurig!

ARTIE  
 No, I bought it for the office.

DENISE  
 Off the back of that Costco truck parked by Jack London Square? Nice!

SAVOY  
 We had room in the budget?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARTIE

I'm CFO, remember? Let me worry about the money. Besides, every office needs a Keurig. It adds an heir of credibility, ya know?

DENISE

I can't wait to tell my mom I work at a successful, bona fide startup!

SAVOY

You've worked here for two years.

DENISE

(sipping coffee)  
I said what I said.

CHEO

(stuttering)  
H-H-Hi Denise.

DENISE

Oh hey, Cheo! I like that sweater.

Denise rubs Cheo's shoulder, then walks away. He melts into an incoherent puddle as he mumbles to himself.

ARTIE

The thirst is strong with this one, Obi-Wan.

SAVOY

Hey, are you sure you don't want to be quoted in the piece, Artie? You've managed Cotton Club's finances since the beginning.

ARTIE

I'm more of a behind-the-scenes kind of guy. Besides, I need to finish our audit.

SAVOY

You're still working on that? We got to balance the books before we present to investors in 6 weeks. Maybe I should hire a temp to help.

ARTIE

That's OK, I got it. Besides, it would take too long to bring someone new up to speed.

Artie and Savoy look back at a still-blubbering Cheo.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

ARTIE

Is he gonna be OK?

**INT. ISAIAH'S STUDIO APARTMENT - DAY**

Isaiah and his BFF JAZMINE CLARK (27, dark-skinned beauty and no nonsense HBIC in a SPELMAN COLLEGE hoodie) work on their laptops. Isaiah chews loudly on chips as he sorts through mail, much to Jazmine's annoyance. Rainwater drips into pots around the living room. Water drips onto Jazmine's head, forcing her to move to the left.

JAZMINE

Zay, I think you got another leak.

Isaiah opens an envelope from his landlord. Inside he finds a FINAL NOTICE of a \$500 rental increase, explaining he must sign or vacate within 30 days. He rolls his eyes.

ISAIAH

Doesn't matter. As soon as I find another place, I'm out this bitch.

JAZMINE

How's the search going?

ISAIAH

Yesterday I applied for a garage in Hayward with no heat or toilet for \$2,000 a month. So... not great.

JAZMINE

Why not stay with your brother?

ISAIAH

Who, Savoy? Seriously, Jazmine?

JAZMINE

No, not that egotistical man-baby. I'm talking about Kendrick.

ISAIAH

So Captain Save-A-Bro can tell me to sell out and feed the corporate beast he loves so much? No thanks.

Jazmine's phone rings.

JAZMINE

Yeah well, public service ain't all it's cracked up to be.

(answering phone)

Congressman Lopez! Yes, I finished

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JAZMINE (cont'd)  
 the news release and emailed it for  
 your review. Yes, I'm sure. OK,  
 I'll check my inbox in case I  
 didn't send the email that I  
 already sent. Twice.

CLOSE UP on Jazmine's inbox. The top message has the subject  
**"Kettleman & Associates Candidate Search"**.

JAZMINE  
 (whispering to Isaiah)  
 Hey, is Kendrick still looking for  
 a job? I may have something here.

ISAIAH  
 Yeah, as far as I know.

JAZMINE  
 (into phone)  
 You're right. As a State  
 Congressman your time is precious.  
 I should've called after I emailed.  
 Even if I did leave two voicemails.

Jazmine hangs up. Frustrated, she groans as she lies back in  
 her seat. A fresh leak drips water on her head there too.

JAZMINE  
 Wanna wrap this up at me and  
 Denise's spot before dinner?

ISAIAH  
 (loudly chewing)  
 Denise be too loud. It's hard to  
 concentrate when she's around.

JAZMINE  
 You don't say...

**EXT. BROWN SUGAR KITCHEN RESTAURANT - NIGHT**

Passerby walk about during a busy evening.

**INT. BROWN SUGAR KITCHEN RESTAURANT - TABLE - NIGHT**

The gang sits around the dinner table. In order: Kendrick,  
 Savoy, Cheo, Isaiah, Denise, and Jazmine.

DENISE  
 You broke up with him over a movie?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ISAIAH

We just didn't see eye-to-eye.

KENDRICK

Translation: His boyfriend wanted to see a regular-priced movie.

ISAIAH

Either we catch a matinee or I'm not paying! I ain't made of money!

Kendrick's checks his phone after it beeps and finds a new email. He opens it to find it's a rejection for a position he applied to at "Fischer Financial". He backs out of it, revealing 4 or 5 more rejection emails from other companies.

SAVOY (O.S.)

Your stinginess is nauseating.

ISAIAH (O.S.)

You try paying back \$100k in student loans.

JAZMINE (O.S.)

Maybe some will be forgiven now that Biden's in the White House.

SAVOY

And who's going to forgive those Crispy Chicken Wrap edges you got?

JAZMINE

Whatever, S-Curl Queen.

CHEO

Jaz, America can't afford that kind of socialism.

ISAIAH

But it can afford the kind that gave billionaires \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts?

CHEO

If it jump starts the economy, yes! Kendrick, you get what I'm saying.

KENDRICK

So, boo to those tax cuts. But Zay it might be a good idea to work the private sector for while. Then when you're stable, go back to being a public defender.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ISAIAH

Excuse me for choosing community over coin. Although I could raise my freelance legal rates for Cotton Club to make up the difference.

SAVOY

Hold up! This is between you, Kendrick, and Candace Owens over here. Leave Cotton Club out of it.

(to Kendrick)

Speaking of which, could you help Artie finish our audit? We're weeks away from an investor presentation.

KENDRICK

Sure. You paying?

SAVOY

Did I mention you're my favorite big brother?

The WAITRESS comes back to the table with cards/receipts.

WAITRESS

I've got your checks here. Mr. Foster, your Groupon went through, but the manager kindly asks that you not present one on every visit.

ISAIAH

(yoinks receipt)

Should've put it in the fine print.

WAITRESS

And who is Kendrick?

Kendrick raises his hand.

WAITRESS

I'm sorry. Your card was declined.

DENISE

Wait, his card was declined!?

KENDRICK

It must be some mistake.

WAITRESS

I tried it three times.

KENDRICK

The bank probably marked it stolen by mistake again. Try this one.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

The waitress takes the card. Then beaming with pride,

ISAIAH

Add my discount to his check. The Groupon has a two-plate limit.

**EXT. BROWN SUGAR KITCHEN RESTAURANT - NIGHT**

The group exits. Jazmine and Kendrick walk side-by-side.

JAZMINE

Oh, I almost forgot, one of the Congressman's top donors is Kettleman & Associates.

KENDRICK

The financial firm in SF?

JAZMINE

That's the one. They're looking for a new analyst. If you want, I can forward your resume.

KENDRICK

That's incredible! Thanks, Jaz!

SAVOY

What's incredible? Did she poop in the grass this time?

(as if Jazmine were a dog)

Good girl! That's a good Jaz!

DENISE

Even Jay and Kanye made peace. Kind of. How you two still got beef? You broke up freshman year!

JAZMINE

And he's been a wad of gum beneath my red bottoms ever since.

SAVOY

Payless sold red bottoms?

JAZMINE

Savoy, I am tired of your crap, you low-rent, Kroger brand Steve Jobs wannabe! You lucky I don't call my brothers to whoop that ass!

SAVOY

Smokey the Bear said "Only you can prevent forest fires". Turns out he was talking to your dry-ass scalp the whole time!

KENDRICK

Will you two please grow up! Damn!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Silence as the group keeps walking.

SAVOY  
(barks)

JAZMINE  
(smacking Savoy with purse)  
Bitch!

**INT. COTTON CLUB - KITCHEN AREA/BREAK ROOM - DAY**

Kendrick walks into the break area as Denise makes coffee.

DENISE  
Have you tried the Keurig yet? This  
Tahitian Mocha is bomb! I love  
finally working at a real startup.

KENDRICK  
Haven't you been here two years?

DENISE  
Yeah, I know. Damn!

Denise storms off, leaving Kendrick confused. Artie enters.

ARTIE  
Hey, thanks for helping with this  
audit. I told your brother I had it  
under control, but he worries.

KENDRICK  
No problem. Hey, are you free this  
afternoon to go over last quarter's  
numbers? The count's off somehow.

ARTIE  
Wish I could, but I'm swamped.

KENDRICK  
OK, how about tomorrow?

ARTIE  
Booked. Let's connect next week.

Artie takes a sip of coffee before leaving.

ARTIE (CONT'D)  
Try the Tahitian Mocha. Amazing!

DENISE (O.S.)  
(yelling)  
Told you!

**INT. COTTON CLUB - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY**

Kendrick stands by the door as he wraps a call with his mom.

KENDRICK

How much is the medication? No,  
Mom, it's no problem at all. I'll  
put the money in your account  
today. I love you too. Bye.

Kendrick hangs up and takes his seat as Artie delivers a presentation to Savoy and a handful of other employees.

ARTIE

We had a 3% subscriber uptick,  
bringing us just under target.

KENDRICK

These are figures I wanted to  
discuss with you. That 3% isn't  
reflected in Q4's revenue. When I  
looked through old earnings reports  
I found discrepancies that--

ARTIE

Listen, Kenny.

KENDRICK

It's Kendrick.

ARTIE

Finances for startups can be more  
complex than what you're used to.  
Let me worry about the numbers.

KENDRICK

I would, but--

SAVOY

If Artie says we're good, we're  
good. He knows Cotton Club's  
finances better than anyone.

KENDRICK

I'm sure he does, but the numbers--

SAVOY

Tell you what. Work with Artie, and  
you two figure it out. Together.

ARTIE

Yeah, I'd love to help you learn.

Kendrick strains to smile at Artie's passive aggressive dig.

**INT. SAVOY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT**

An over-sized painting of Savoy hangs above a headboard as Savoy and AJA (mid-20s, beautiful) sleep. His phone beeps and Aja reaches to shut it off and sees something... odd. [NOTE: Text messages are *italicized*].

ASHLEY (TEXT)

*Snap me that (3 eggplant emojis).*

Aja gets up, walks over and punches Savoy in his sleep.

SAVOY

Agh! Aja, did you just hit me!?

AJA

Who is "Gold's Gym" and why is she texting you at two in the morning?

SAVOY

She's just a friend from the gym!

AJA

That you're sexting!?

SAVOY

Yes! I mean, no! I mean, I wouldn't cheat on you. Not again. Never again. Look, what if I switch gyms?

AJA

You'll find a new gym this week?

SAVOY

Tomorrow. I love you, girl.

Savoy's phone beeps in Aja's hand as they embrace. SHOCK.

AJA

Did she just text a pic of her-

**INT. KENDRICK'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM DOOR - NIGHT**

Someone knocks/rings Kendrick's door. He answers in his PJs. It's Savoy in only boxers, holding a gym bag and basketball.

SAVOY

Hey roomy!

FADE OUT:

**END OF ACT ONE**



ACT TWO**INT. KETTLEMAN & ASSOCIATES - BILL HOLLY'S OFFICE - DAY**

Kendrick sits in his interview at Kettleman, similar in view as when he was laid off at Sloan & Cooper.

KENDRICK  
You're kidding! Your wife got her  
MBA from Emory too? Small world!

KENDRICK  
My favorite golfer? All of 'em!

KENDRICK  
I respect Kaepernick's right to  
protest, but I stand for the  
anthem. I mean, what about the  
troops!?

**INT. KETTLEMAN & ASSOCIATES - RECEPTION - DAY**

BILL HOLLY (40s, white, solid build), a Kettleman executive, walks Kendrick from his office. They shake hands.

BILL  
Pleasure meeting you, Kendrick.

KENDRICK  
Same to you, Mr. Holly.

BILL  
Oh please, call me Bill! Margaret  
will be in touch about the next  
round of interviews. And there will  
be a next round!

KENDRICK  
Looking forward to it, Bill.

Kendrick gets on the elevator. The doors close and the instrumental to GTA's "Little Bit" plays as Kendrick dances.

**INT. COTTON CLUB - SAVOY'S OFFICE - DAY**

Denise works on her laptop while Savoy is absorbed in his own reflection in a hand mirror.

DENISE  
The malfunction of the background  
program is likely rooted in some  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DENISE (cont'd)  
change propagation throwing  
everything off. What do you think?

SAVOY  
I think I'm getting a pre-pimple.  
Call the spa and book an emergency  
detoxifying scrub.

DENISE  
Savoy, I'm your top engineer, not  
your assistant. If you want to book  
a spa day, hire one or do it your  
damn self. I'm going to lunch.

SAVOY  
But you just got back from lunch.

DENISE  
No, I just got back from picking up  
my dry cleaning and watching Wendy  
Williams. Now I'm going to lunch.

Denise knows her value and isn't afraid to flex. She grabs  
her purse and laptop, then heads for the door.

SAVOY  
Could you leave the door open?

Denise let's the door slam behind her. Kendrick enters.

KENDRICK  
Hey, you got a minute?

SAVOY  
Sure. How was the interview at  
Kettleman?

KENDRICK  
Pretty great! I think I nailed it.

SAVOY  
My man!

KENDRICK  
Thanks. Listen, I tried working  
with Artie like you said, but he  
keeps blocking me on this audit.

SAVOY  
He's territorial. He just needs to  
get used to having you around.

KENDRICK  
Nah, something doesn't feel right.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SAVOY  
Or you're doing that thing you do.

KENDRICK  
Thing? What thing?

SAVOY  
That big brother thing where you think you have to be in charge all the time. Besides, it's like Artie said. Finances at a startup are complicated. I got this.

KENDRICK  
You mean like when we sent you to buy sugar for our Kool-Aid stand and you bought hair gel to look like Omarion instead?

SAVOY  
Dude, I was 7!

KENDRICK  
(singing/dancing)  
*And let it, TOUCH!*

SAVOY  
Kendrick. I know how to run my business.

KENDRICK  
My bad. You're right.

SAVOY  
(fake shock)  
I'm what?

KENDRICK  
(squinting)  
I think you're getting a zit.

Kendrick leaves Savoy to look frantically in his mirror.

**INT. AVAILABLE APARTMENT - FRONT DOOR - DAY**

Isaiah and Jazmine visit an apartment to tour. They ring the bell and are greeted by MANDY, (40s, Asian woman), an overly chipper leasing agent with a Southern drawl and BIG hair.

ISAIAH  
Hi. I have an appointment to view an apartment for rent.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MANDY

Hi! You must be Isaiah, and...?

JAZMINE

Jazmine. Nice to meet you.

MANDY

You too! I'm Mandy. Come on in!

They enter the apartment, but the place is a total dump.

MANDY

Like my daddy said to my prom date,  
"She's a bit of a fixer upper, but  
she cleans up real nice!"

Jazmine and Isaiah give the best fake laugh they can muster.

MANDY (CONT'D)

This is the main living area. And  
over there is the kitchen, which  
has recently been renovated with a  
gently-used double hotplate! Only  
one of the plates heats up, but the  
other makes for a very festive  
serving tray, perfect for  
entertaining guests!

Jazmine notices something odd on the wall near the floor.

JAZMINE

Are those pictures of electrical  
sockets on the wall?

MANDY

Oh the unit doesn't have any actual  
outlets, but the rent does include  
a pack of Double-A batteries a  
month for all your electronic  
device needs!

JAZMINE

(to herself)

What in the Cabrini Green meets  
Grey Gardens?

ISAIAH

The ad said something about views  
overlooking city architecture?

MANDY

Oh yes! You're going to just love  
this view. Best in the city!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Mandy opens a curtain to reveal the wall of the building across the street. She stands proudly at the window until gunshots ring out. Everyone hits the floor. POLICE SIRENS.

MANDY

Police response time is top notch!

ISAIAH

How much is the rent!?

MANDY

For this gem!? Only \$2,800 a month!

Isaiah and Jazmine quickly get up and walk out of the apartment unfazed. Mandy stays on the floor as sirens blare.

MANDY

I'll email you an application!

**INT. KENDRICK'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Savoy's in his drawers as he sets his phone camera on a tripod. He poses seductively, rubbing oil over himself. He turns slowly, just as Isaiah enters through the front door. He stands confused until Savoy makes his way back around.

SAVOY

What are you doing here!?

ISAIAH

Grocery shopping in Kendrick's fridge when he's not home, like I always do. What are you doing here? Is that oil?

Before Savoy can answer, Kendrick enters reading over some documents. He surveys the scene in front of him. He sighs.

KENDRICK

Isaiah, if you're gonna steal my food please limit yourself to one bag. And Savoy, no filming your OnlyFans in the living room.

Bored with his brothers' shenanigans, Kendrick hangs his jacket in the closet. He drops a paper, but doesn't notice.

ISAIAH

You have an OnlyFans?

SAVOY

Just for extra money, which I need now to buy Aja some flowers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Isaiah sees Savoy's basketball and his gym bag on the floor.

ISAIAH

She found out about "Gym Girl" and  
kicked you out, didn't she? HA!

Isaiah notices the paper Kendrick dropped and picks it up.  
Shock registers on his face as he quietly reads it.

KENDRICK

What happened to the check I wrote  
you for the flowers, Savoy?

SAVOY

It bounced! By the way, who still  
writes checks? Cash App me.

ISAIAH

Maybe he can't. Kendrick, is the  
bank foreclosing on your condo?

SAVOY

...What?

KENDRICK

It's nothing. It's under control.

Kendrick exits to the kitchen. His brothers follow.

**INT. KENDRICK'S CONDO - KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - DAY**

SAVOY

Clearly not if the bank is trying  
to take your house. How could you  
be so irresponsible? You!?

KENDRICK

You shake your bits n' pieces on  
the Internet to buy flowers and  
make payroll. Sit this one out.

SAVOY

(to himself/sitting at table)  
It's not like I show my face.

ISAIAH

(sitting next to Savoy)  
I knew Cotton Club was struggling,  
but damn! You using what you got to  
get what you want, huh? Respect.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAVOY

Things have been a little tight,  
but that's what investors are for.  
Anyway, this is about Kendrick  
lying about his finances.

KENDRICK

I didn't want to worry anyone. When  
I land this Kettleman gig, I'll be  
able to renegotiate with the bank.  
I've got things under control.

ISAIAH

You know it's OK if you don't,  
right? You always take care of us,  
but we have your back too.

Is it brotherly love filling the room, or...

KENDRICK

What do you want Isaiah?

ISAIAH

Can I crash here until I find a new  
place? Or until you two are out on  
the street? Whichever comes first.

The guys share a long, cathartic laugh.

**INT. COTTON CLUB - SAVOY'S OFFICE - DAY**

Savoy calls Aja, but gets sent to voicemail.

AJA (V.O.)

Hey, it's Aja. You know what to do.

SAVOY

Hey, babe. I know I messed up. But  
I swear I didn't do anything with  
that girl. You got to believe me.  
Just call me back, OK? I love you.

Denise bursts into Savoy's office as he hangs up.

DENISE

Savoy? We have a situation.

**INT. KENDRICK'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Kendrick enters from a run and checks to see if he's alone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENDRICK

Savoy? Isaiah? Anyone else who  
don't pay rent, but eats my food?

Kendrick waits a few seconds before passing gas.

KENDRICK

God, I miss living alone.

Kendrick's phone rings in his pocket. He answers it.

KENDRICK

Hello? Oh hi, Margaret! I'm good,  
thanks and you? Uh huh... Oh. No, I  
appreciate the opportunity. Yes,  
definitely keep me in mind for  
other possible roles. You too. Bye.

Kendrick hangs up, throwing his water bottle in despair. All those years of school, degrees, and climbing the corporate ladder and for what? FOR WHAT!? To be unemployed and homeless? He chokes back sobs until the phone rings.

KENDRICK

Hey Denise. Wait, slow down. What!?  
OK, I'm on my way.

**INT. COTTON CLUB - FRONT LOBBY - DAY**

Kendrick walks into Cotton Club HQ and stands next to Isaiah. The office is in chaos as REPO MEN take everything.

KENDRICK

Isaiah? What happened?

ISAIAH

I think everything's being repoed.

Kendrick and Isaiah are greeted by a panicked Savoy.

KENDRICK

Savoy, what's going on?

SAVOY

You were right about Artie. He's  
been embezzling from Cotton Club  
and hasn't paid a bill in months!  
The bank's taking everything!

FADE OUT:

**END OF ACT TWO**



ACT THREE**INT. COTTON CLUB - FRONT LOBBY - DAY**

SHEER CHAOS! Savoy steps on a chair to address employees.

SAVOY  
Everyone please remain calm!

EMPLOYEE #1  
Remain calm!? What about our jobs!?

DENISE  
(with Keurig/fake deep voice)  
And the Keurig!?

Savoy has no answer and climbs down, looking dazed.

EMPLOYEE #2  
They took my Mac! How am I supposed  
to write code without a computer?

Savoy ignores Employee #2 and escapes it to his office.  
Kendrick grabs a pen/pad and shoves them into their chest.

KENDRICK  
Figure it out!  
(To Isaiah)  
Check the files in the cloud  
account. Look for something that  
could help us. Loan contracts,  
lease agreements, anything.

ISAIAH  
Right. What are you going to do?

KENDRICK  
Get to the bottom of this mess.

Isaiah walks to the back. Kendrick heads to Savoy's office.  
He walks past Denise as she wrestles the Keurig away from  
REPO MAN #1 (40s, sturdy build).

DENISE  
I ain't going back to Folgers!

**INT. COTTON CLUB - SAVOY'S OFFICE - DAY**

Savoy paces and puffs his inhaler. Kendrick closes the door.

KENDRICK  
Savoy, where's Artie?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAVOY

Probably in Tahiti living in the beach house I've apparently been paying on for the last two years.

KENDRICK

Tahiti? Actually, that makes a lot of sense. We need to call the police.

SAVOY

Why? Artie's long gone, just like my money.

Kendrick finally notices Savoy's half-packed boxes.

KENDRICK

Wait, are you leaving?

SAVOY

Don't need an office if you no longer have a business.

KENDRICK

You're CEO. You can't just give up!

SAVOY

I was supposed to be this Black success story in a white-ass tech industry. Instead I'm a joke, my girl won't call me, and I'm broke. I failed, Kendrick. I'm a failure.

KENDRICK

You're not a failure. You're a brilliant engineer who invented an amazing app that supports Black businesses. I can't fix you and Aja, but me, Zay and our friends are here for you, no matter what.

(with deep intensity)

But also, you know how to run your business. Remember? So run it.

**INT. COTTON CLUB - FRONT LOBBY - CONTINUOUS**

Savoy STRIDES back in as Denise rides Repo Man #1's back. Savoy stands on a desk and brings the room to a standstill.

SAVOY

Everybody listen up! Cotton Club was created to connect Black people with Black-owned businesses in

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAVOY (cont'd)

their communities. Today that dream was threatened. I understand if some of you want to jump ship. But if you believe in our mission, I invite you to stay and fight for it! Take the day off to regroup, but come back ready to kick ass! Cotton Club is far from over.

(To Denise)

And please stop beating up the repo men. They're just doing their jobs.

APPLAUSE! Denise slides off of Repo Man #1's back.

REPO MAN #1

Sorry about your coffee machine.

DENISE

Thanks. Sorry I cut the brakes to your truck.

Isaiah runs into the lobby holding files.

ISAIAH

Bring everything off the trucks!

(To Savoy)

Your loan precludes any repossession without legal notice signed by the bank and Company Founder, i.e. you, 30 days in advance. That didn't happen, so this action is null and void.

SAVOY

Wait, for real?

ISAIAH

I insisted on that clause for your protection.

REPO MAN #1

I'm gonna need to call my boss.

DENISE

(snatching Keurig)

Yeah, you do that.

**INT. COTTON CLUB - SAVOY'S OFFICE - DAY (CONTINUOUS)**

Kendrick and Isaiah join Savoy in his office.

KENDRICK

Everything's back off the trucks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ISAIAH

And the DA's sending someone over to take your statement on Artie.

SAVOY

I couldn't have made it through today without you guys. Thank you.

(to Kendrick)

It's gonna be tough not having you around when you're at Kettleman.

KENDRICK

Actually, I didn't get the job.

SAVOY

Damn, for real? I'm so sorry.

ISAIAH

(to Kendrick)

What about your condo?

KENDRICK

One emergency at a time.

SAVOY

Work for me.

KENDRICK

What?

SAVOY

You weren't here 20 minutes before you figured out Artie was cooking the books. Zay helps out with the legal stuff, but it's gonna take some serious finance skills to keep Cotton Club alive. Might as well be my know-it-all big brother. I can't pay what S&C did, and it won't be enough to save your condo, but--

KENDRICK

I'm in.

SAVOY

Really?

ISAIAH

You heard about the pay, right?

KENDRICK

Yeah, but I kind of like it here. Besides, Kettleman didn't even have a Keurig.

## INT. KENDRICK'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Everyone decompresses with drinks in the living room.

JAZMINE

So you saved Cotton Club from Savoy's utter incompetence, only for Kendrick to be days away from foreclosure? Did I miss anything?

SAVOY

Besides mouthwash this morning? No.

CHEO

Why didn't you call me? This would be great for the profile.

DENISE

Don't worry. I got pics.

Denise winks at Cheo and once again, the brotha is *butta*.

KENDRICK

Now I just got to figure out what to do about my condo.

ISAIAH

No. We do.

SAVOY

It's not all on you anymore.

DENISE

You guys could just live together permanently and split the bills.

JAZMINE

Then Kendrick might save his condo and Savoy won't have to dance on OnlyFans to make ends meet.

SAVOY

Y'all told her!?

KENDRICK

Hey, I ain't say nothing!

ISAIAH

It wasn't me!

CHEO

I'm sorry, Savoy does what?

ISAIAH

It would be nice to pay down these student loans a bit.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAVOY

And have somewhere to crash until  
Aja and I work things out.

JAZMINE

Yeah but unlike that clap you had  
senior year, Aja ain't coming back.

ISAIAH

(to Savoy)

OK, I did tell her that one.

**INT. FOSTER CONDO - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Everyone helps for Moving Day. Savoy carries his portrait.

SAVOY

Where should I put this?

KENDRICK

I know just the place.

Kendrick takes the painting and chucks it in the hallway.  
Cheo breezes past Savoy to Denise who's holding a small box.

SAVOY

Hey Cheo, can you help me with--

CHEO

(to Denise)

Can I take that for you?

DENISE

Oh thanks, Boo!

Denise hands her box to love drunk Cheo and walks off.

CHEO

She called me "Boo."

CUT TO Jazmine on a call as Savoy works nearby.

JAZMINE

Yes, Congressman. I'll reach out to  
my press contacts ASAP. Talk soon.

SAVOY

You know I realized something.

JAZMINE

That your toxic masculinity is a  
front for your lazy stroke game?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Savoy steps closer to Jazmine. Almost... seductively.

SAVOY

No one else knew about my OnlyFans.  
Which means only someone who rubbed  
their hands across this chiseled  
body would recognize it onscreen.  
You subscribed to my page.

JAZMINE

Boy, please. Why would I pay new  
money for old trash?

Jazmine walks away laughing. When she's past Savoy,

JAZMINE

(to herself)  
...Dammit!

Cheo enters from the kitchen holding a bowl.

CHEO

Who left ramen on top of the dryer?

ISAIAH

So that's where I left it!

Isaiah snatches the bowl and begins devouring its contents.

CHEO

And this is why universal  
healthcare wouldn't work. Lack of  
personal responsibility.

ISAIAH

Whatever, fascist.

Denise picks up a box by the door. Kendrick walks over.

KENDRICK

Am I really doing this? Living with  
my annoying-ass brothers again?

QUICK SHOT of the whole room. Denise turns back to Kendrick.

DENISE

Yeah. And you love it.

Smiling, Denise walks away. With a smirk, Kendrick works on.

FADE TO BLACK:

**END OF SHOW**