

INT. DANNI'S LIVINGROOM – LATER THAT DAY

Danni bursts through the front door of her single family home. Rushes to the kitchen to put down the grocery bags in her arms. Rushes about the house, fluffing pillows in the guest bedrooms, laying out towels in the guest bathrooms, giving each room one final check before her girlfriends are due to arrive.

She's in the kitchen cooking when the front door rings. She turns a couple of the burners low and heads to the front door. Throws it open to find her girlfriends YVONNE MASON and CASSIETTE BURGESS standing on her front stoop. They all scream and embrace as the ladies step inside.

CASSIETTE

Danni, your house is gorgeous!

YVONNE

I told you you'd be impressed.

DANNI

Thank you, ladies. It took a while to get it just the way I wanted it, but I think I'm finally there.

CASSIETTE

Well, it was worth it. You did a great job.

YVONNE

Is ol' girl here yet? We were all supposed to connect at O'Hara airport and fly in together. Did she get here yet?

DANNI

Are you serious? You know that child is late to everywhere. But she'll be here soon, I'm sure. She won't want to give us too much time to talk about her.

VENUS MURRAY enters through the partially open front door.

VENUS

You got that right.

DANNI

Hey, girl, what's up?

YVONNE

So what happened that you couldn't meet up with us?

Venus hugs Danni.

VENUS

(to Yvonne)

Why are you always up in my business?

CASSIETTE

Yall aren't going to spend the entire weekend arguing, are you?

DANNI

Trust me, they won't. They know I'll put them out.

YVONNE

Daneshia, I'm hungry and something smells good. What did you have delivered, girl?

The women enter the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN – CONTINUOUS

DANNI

Oh no, honey. I'm cooking!

YVONNE

(shocked)

You?

CASSIETTE

Don't let Danni fool you. She's always known how to cook.

YVONNE

Since when?

CASSIETTE

Since forever. Where have you been?

YVONNE

I don't remember Danni ever cooking anything. I do, however, recall that she always had several local restaurants on speed dial though.

DANNI

Very funny. Here, taste this.

Yvonne tastes a spoonful of what Danni has in the pot.

YVONNE

Mmm...she's got skills, that one.

DANNI

Told ya. And you can thank G. Garvin for that recipe.

YVONNE

If I was ever so blessed as to meet G. Garvin in person, sweetie, I can tell you right now that the very last thing I'd have on my mind is that recipe.

CASSIETTE

Hey, Venus, how's your event planning business going?

VENUS

Very well, actually. I've signed six new clients in the past three months. And I have an assistant now. Couldn't handle all the work by myself anymore.

YVONNE

God bless her. I pity the woman that has to work for you, picky as you are.

VENUS

Whatever, Yvonne. And FYI—I hired a man.

CASSIETTE

Nooooo!

YVONNE

You little hussy.

VENUS

It's strictly business.

YVONNE

(slyly)

It always is.

DANNI

(cutting in)

So, Yvonne. What's new and fabulous in your world? Non-work related.

YVONNE

There isn't anything in my life that isn't work-related, Dan. You and I have that in common, remember?

CASSIETTE

(blushing)

Well, I have something new and fabulous in my life, ladies.

VENUS

Look, she's blushing. That could only mean one thing: a man.

YVONNE

Or a woman.

CASSIETTE

(horrified)

Yvonne! The things you say!

YVONNE

Hey, it's been a while since we've all been in touch. People do change.

DANNI

Not Cassi. And not in that way.

YVONNE

Ohhhh, the Christian thing. You're still into that?

CASSIETTE

(irritated)

It's not something I'm into—it's who I am now.

VENUS

(cutting in)

So tell us about this man that has your light-skinned cheeks all rosy red.

CASSIETTE

(blushing again)

Well, his name is Chauncey—

Yvonne opens her mouth to make a comment.

DANNI

(to Yvonne)

Not a word.

CASSIETTE

I met him at a jazz spot called the Indigo Lounge one night when a couple of my co-workers and I had a Girls' Night Out a few months ago.

YVONNE

Okay, I'm not being facetious when I say this—but I didn't think you people listened to anything other than Gospel music. I'm serious, that's what I thought.

VENUS

(to Yvonne)

Why do you do that?

YVONNE

Why do I do what?

VENUS

Interrupt people with questions that have nothing to do with the story.

DANNI

I'm serious, ladies. I'm not going to have yall arguing the next two days. This weekend is too important to me.

Beat.

DANNI

(to Cassiette)

Please continue.

CASSIETTE

He's the piano player at the lounge. He came up to me after the band's last set and introduced himself. We had a cup of coffee later that evening and talked for hours and hours into the next morning. We've been talking everyday since.

CASSIETTE

(to Yvonne)

And yes, he's Christian too.

YVONNE

I didn't say a word.

DANNI

I'm happy for you, girl. This sounds promising.

CASSIETTE

It feels promising. It feels right, you know?

VENUS

So if I'm hearing you properly, you might be calling on me to coordinate your wedding at some point in the future?

CASSIETTE

(smiling shyly)

You never know.

VENUS

It'll be a fabulous event.

DANNI

(proudly)

Those are the only kind you throw, according to Essence magazine.

Beat.

DANNI

(to Cassiette and Yvonne)

Did yall see that write-up on Venus in Essence?

CASSIETTE

Yes! I meant to call you about that, V. Congratulations, honey.

VENUS

Thank you.

DANNI

(to Yvonne)

No congratulations from you, girlfriend?

VENUS

She's in stage two of her hunger. The stage where she gets all quiet.

CASSIETTE

Preceded by the annoying stage where she runs off at the mouth. Thank God that's over.

DANNI

Both of which are followed by the final stage where she goes straight evil and glares at you all evil-like but won't say a word.

VENUS

Not any nice ones anyway.

YVONNE

Y'all know all this about me, and yet there's still no food on the table.

Danni turns the burners off on the stove.

DANNI

It's done, it's done! Grab a plate and dig in.

YVONNE

That's my cue. Excuse me.

Beat.

(jokingly)

Let's just hope this ain't nasty.

INT. LIVINGROOM – LATER THAT EVENING

The women are drinking wine, laughing.

YVONNE

(to Cassiette)

Okay, so now that you're all Christian and everything, you can tell us the truth.

CASSIETTE

About what?

YVONNE

That little Bahamas thing. You know what I'm talking about.

VENUS

Are you still on that? That was seven years ago, Yvonne.

YVONNE

And Cassiette was a completely different person back then. Quite the sinner. I want to know how you managed to get separated from us, where you were for those six hours, and who you were with all that time. Your story always was a little suspect to me.

DANNI

Cassiette, don't explain yourself. That's your business. Yvonne always has had problems minding her own.

YVONNE

(laughing)

Don't act like yall didn't want to know too. Come on.

VENUS

Let it go, girl. Besides, I love you ladies, but I'm tired. I'm going to bed.

*End excerpt*