

THE NIXONS

EP.1 Unhoused

Written by
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TEASER

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Understated yet with a modern and quaint feel, with the best gadgets and rustic furniture.

ISRAEL "IZ/IZZY" NIXON(25), Black, the black cat husband in his underwear and a XXL hoodie, scrambles some eggs in a skillet. JAYCE "JAY" NIXON(26), Black, the golden retriever husband, enters the kitchen with an eyesore of an outfit.

JAYCE
Morning, sexy!

Jayce walks to Israel and kisses his cheek.

ISRAEL
You're extra cheery today.

Jayce walks to the cupboard and grabs two cups.

JAYCE
Today's the day! Caine and I are
pitching the game to Eric.

Jayce walks to the fridge and pours orange juice into the cups. Israel stirs the eggs in the skillet.

ISRAEL
That's exciting.

JAYCE
This could make or break us.

Jayce sets the cups on the table.

ISRAEL
Everything's gonna be fine. I've
reviewed everything in the proposal
and outline and don't see anything
wrong with it.

Jayce walks to Israel and hugs him from behind.

JAYCE
Thank you for stickin' it out with
me during this whole thing. I know
you're tired of the late nights and
the constant...

He kisses Israel's neck.

JAYCE (CONT'D)
Phone calls and Zooms with Caine.

He kisses Israel's neck again.

JAYCE (CONT'D)
But once this game gets approved,
I'll make it up to you.

ISRAEL
Oh yeah. How?

Israel turns around to see Jayce's outfit.

ISRAEL (CONT'D)
Oh...no...no. What're you wearing?

JAYCE
This is my good luck outfit.

ISRAEL
Good luck outfit?

JAYCE
Yeah.

Israel grabs two plates from an overhead cabinet and scoops the eggs onto them.

ISRAEL
Okay...

Jayce points to his bright orange Hawaiian shirt. Israel turns around and watches Jayce, perplexed.

JAYCE
I wore this shirt when you finally
agreed to go on a date with me.

He points to his blue and pink striped tie.

JAYCE (CONT'D)
I wore this tie when I graduated
from college.

He points to his forest-green cargo shorts.

JAYCE (CONT'D)
These are the shorts I wore when I
proposed to you.

He points to his black and red Jordans.

JAYCE (CONT'D)
I wore these at our wedding.

ISRAEL
I remember I was there.

JAYCE
And I'm glad you were. Boop.

He taps Israel's nose, then points to his satchel.

JAYCE (CONT'D)
You bought this for me on our
honeymoon to San Diego.

Israel nods.

ISRAEL
Uh-huh, and the hat?

JAYCE
Oh, I just wanted to wear it.

Israel SUCKS his teeth.

ISRAEL
Okay...um...yeah, no. Go change.

JAYCE
You don't like my outfit?

ISRAEL
Babe, you look homeless.

JAYCE
The term's called unhoused.

ISRAEL
Don't care. Go change.

Jayce looks down, defeated.

JAYCE
Can I eat my breakfast first?

ISRAEL
Yes, then change into the gray suit
you wore to your sister's wedding.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - CLOSET - DAY

A wide array of clothes and shoes. In his gray suit, Jayce stares at himself in the large mirror. He SIGHS.

Israel enters in his work uniform of black and white cow-pattern pants, a black T-shirt, and a red apron. He leans against the doorway.

ISRAEL

A lot of sighin' in here. You're gonna be late.

Israel stands next to Jayce. They stare at themselves in the mirror and adjust their clothes.

JAYCE

I look ridiculous.

ISRAEL

No, you don't.

Jayce turns to Israel.

ISRAEL (CONT'D)

Lemme fix your tie.

Israel grabs Jayce's tie and loosens it.

ISRAEL (CONT'D)

Jay, I know you're nervous and superstitious, but you don't need a good luck outfit or rabbit's foot to impress Eric. You impressed him enough when he hired you. Let the game speak for itself.

JAYCE

I just...Caine and I need this win.

ISRAEL

You'll win. Just be Jayce.

He reties the tie.

JAYCE

We've spent so much money on this project, it can't fail.

ISRAEL
It won't fail.

JAYCE
I wanna show everyone at work I'm
not a loser.

ISRAEL
You're not a loser.

He finishes with the tie.

JAYCE
I love you.

ISRAEL
I love you more.

Israel exits the closet. Jayce stares at Israel's ass.

JAYCE
(whispers)
Hate to see you go, but love to see
you walk away.

Jayce exits the closet. He grabs his satchel and stuffs it
with his orange Hawaiian shirt.

INT. OBSESSIVE GAMES COMPANY - LOUNGE - DAY

A bright and colorful kitchenette, with several video game
posters and consoles encased in glass on the wall.

CAINE KNOWLES(26), Black, nerdy, and chaotic in a blue
Hawaiian shirt and gray cargo shorts, sips coffee on an
abstract piece of furniture. Jayce enters and walks to Caine.

CAINE
Dude, where's your Hawaiian shirt?
We agreed on Hawaiian shirts!

JAYCE
Relax, Iz made me change.

CAINE
But we agreed on Hawaiian shirts.
We've talked about it for weeks--

Jayce pulls out his Hawaiian shirt from his bag.

JAYCE
Better.

CAINE

Whatta bout the cargo shorts?

JAYCE

I keep a pair in my desk.

Caine sips his coffee.

CAINE

Why'd I ever doubt you?

JAYCE

You doubt me at least twice a day.

Jayce shakes his head before they walk to their desks.

INT. BIG BOY STEAKHOUSE - BAR - DAY

A country western-themed restaurant with pictures of cowboys, football teams, taxidermy animal heads, and the restaurant's mascot, Big Boy, throughout the years.

The neon open sign is off.

Israel chops lemons and places them in a black container.

DINA REED(31), Black, heavyset, an intrusive country bumpkin waitress, walks to the bar and watches Israel cut lemons.

ISRAEL

What, Dina?

DINA

Whatcha doin'?

ISRAEL

Just cuttin' some lemons. What're you not doin'?

DINA

You want any help?

ISRAEL

No.

She walks behind the bar, grabs a small knife, cuts some lemons the wrong way, and puts them in a container.

ISRAEL (CONT'D)

I said I don't need help--

DINA

So, how was your night?

ISRAEL

Good.

He dumps more lemons into the container.

DINA

Did you do anything fun?

ISRAEL

Depends on your definition of fun.

DINA

Did you spend time with the hubby?

ISRAEL

Yep.

DINA

Yay. I love that for you.

She gently claps her hands. Israel puts his knife and cutting board in the sink.

DINA (CONT'D)

Israel?

She puts her knife down and stares at him.

DINA (CONT'D)

Do you like me?

ISRAEL

Dina, I barely know you.

DINA

Yes, you do, silly.

He leans against the bar and crosses his arms.

ISRAEL

No, not really. Now ask me if I wanna know you.

DINA

I wanna be friends.

ISRAEL

Why?

DINA

Because you seem like a nice guy.

ISRAEL

Hate to tell you this, but I'm not.

DINA
But aren't you married?

He grabs the container of lemons and puts a lid on top.

ISRAEL
Okay...and?

He leaves the bar and walks to the kitchen.

INT. OBSESSIVE GAMES COMPANY - JAYCE'S CUBICLE - DAY

It looks like a bomb went off. Stacks of paper are everywhere, and candy wrappers stick out from the drawers.

His computer has sticky notes all around it. There are pictures of him and Israel on a hike and at their wedding.

INSERT: A PICTURE OF JAYCE AND ISRAEL ON A HIKE.

INSERT: A PICTURE OF JAYCE AND ISRAEL AT THEIR WEDDING.

In his Hawaiian shirt and cargo shorts, Jayce reads over his game proposal.

JAYCE
How hard can this be? I proposed to
Iz this should be a cakewalk.

INT. OBSESSIVE GAMES COMPANY - OFFICE SPACE - DAY

ERIC THATCHER(45), Black, the hyperactive CEO of Obsessive Games, exits his office. He walks to a large gong and WHACKS it twice.

Jayce peeks his head over his cubicle wall. Eric rubs his goatee when he speaks.

ERIC
Today's proposal day! I wanna be
blown away by your games. You gotta
impress me. If you want your game
to become a reality! First up are
Vera and Trinity.

VERA(20's), White, and TRINITY(20's), White, both dressed like cyberpunk anime characters, enter the office. Eric closes the door behind them.

INT. OBSESSIVE GAMES COMPANY - JAYCE'S CUBICLE - DAY

Caine runs to Jayce's cubicle.

CAINE

Vera and Trinity are pitching a
game! GD Vera and Trinity? Oh
God...Oh God...

JAYCE

Oh my God.

CAINE (CONT'D)

Oh my God.

CAINE (CONT'D)

Why're you oh my God-ing?

JAYCE

Cause you're oh my God-ing.

CAINE

Oh my God.

JAYCE (CONT'D)

Oh my God.

Jayce grabs the picture of him and Israel at their wedding
off the cubicle wall and admires it.

INT. BIG BOY STEAKHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

A well-oiled machine with large charcoal grills, stoves, and
heat lamps. Several COOKS(20-50's), whip out delicious meals.

Israel puts several yeast rolls in a black plastic basket. He
scoops up some whipped butter and puts it in a small ramekin
from the cold bar. He then exits.

INT. BIG BOY STEAKHOUSE - MAIN FLOOR - DAY

A packed house. Every seat is filled. COUNTRY MUSIC PLAYS
over the speakers. Israel puts the rolls on a table and walks
to the POS system.

Dina taps him on the shoulder.

DINA

Hey.

ISRAEL

Yes, Dina?

DINA

Some woman is asking for you.

ISRAEL

If it's Mrs. Julia, tell her I'll
be with her in a minute.

DINA

It's not Mrs. Julia.

Israel finishes with the POS system and then turns to Dina.

ISRAEL

Okay, who is it?

DINA

Her.

She points to ESTELLE EDWARDS(40), Black, reckless, and irresponsible, dressed in tight jeans and a Sunny Skies T-shirt, waves at Israel.

ISRAEL

Hell no, you gotta be kidding me.

ESTELLE

Israel!

She waves at him. Israel's face drops.

DINA

What's wrong?

Estelle walks to Israel.

ISRAEL

Get yo ass up outta here.

He walks away from her.

ESTELLE

Aren't you happy to see me?

Israel enters the kitchen. Estelle follows behind.

INT. BIG BOY STEAKHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Israel walks to the bread station and makes another basket.

ESTELLE

Izzy, why won't you talk to me?

He ignores her.

He grabs a ramekin and fills it with whipped butter. He put it in the bread basket and exits the kitchen.

INT. BIG BOY STEAKHOUSE - MAIN FLOOR - DAY

ESTELLE
Israel stop.

INT. BIG BOY STEAKHOUSE - TABLE 10 - DAY

Israel places the rolls onto the table.

ESTELLE
Listen to me.

ISRAEL
No thanks, I'm good.

He walks to the bar and grabs two giant cocktails.

INT. BIG BOY STEAKHOUSE - BAR - DAY

ESTELLE
Israel, I'm your mother.

ISRAEL
Unfortunately.

Estelle stands still. She watches Israel dart around the restaurant, unfazed by her presence and comment.

INT. OBSESSIVE GAMES COMPANY - JAYCE'S CUBICLE - DAY

Jayce and Caine rehearse their proposal.

JAYCE
We guarantee that High Seas Havoc
will be Obsessive Games' biggest
game of the year.

CAINE
You can't guarantee that.

JAYCE
You wrote the script.

Eric, Vera, and Trinity exit his office and BANGS the gong.

ERIC
Alright, next up, Caine and Jayce.

They look at each other. Caine grabs their files and Jayce's laptop. Jayce reaches into his desk and grabs a rabbit's foot. He kisses it. They walk to Eric's office.

JAYCE
Your ship loses power, and several
sea creatures attack your ship.

CAINE
Now, protecting the ship from
deadly foes is up to you.

INSERT: GAME VILLAIN CHARACTERS SLIDE.

Eric writes on his legal pad.

JAYCE
The player must clear different
locations on the ship to earn
points, weapons, and allies.

INSERT: GAME LOCATION SLIDE.

ERIC
Okay, interesting. Quick question:
Why a cruise ship?

Jayce and Caine look at each other.

JAYCE
Well um.

ERIC (CONT'D)
I don't like the name Walter.

CAINE
Ya see...

Eric writes more notes on his legal pad.

ERIC
Is the game multiplayer?

Jayce raises his hand, but Caine puts it down.

ERIC (CONT'D)
Why sea monsters? Why not like
demons? Demons are trending again.

CAINE
(under his breath)
It's on a cruise ship...

Jayce nudges him again.

ERIC
I'm not sold on the name.

Eric assaults them with countless questions.

INT. OBSESSIVE GAMES COMPANY - JAYCE'S CUBICLE - DAY - LATER

Jayce and Caine rest their heads on the desk. They're defeated. Jayce CLICKS his pen several times.

CAINE
That. Was. Brutal.

JAYCE
Yes. It. Was. You think we're gonna
get it?

CAINE
No. No, I don't.

Jayce CLICKS his pen again. Eric steps out of his office.

ERIC
Deon and David, your turn.

DEON(30's), Black, and DAVID(30's), Black, both in suits,
enter Eric's office. Deon closes the door behind them.

INT. BIG BOY STEAKHOUSE - TABLE 10 - DAY

Israel walks to the CUSTOMER(20) table. Estelle sits at the
table and nibbles on a roll. He then places the Customer's
meal on the table.

ISRAEL
Here ya go.

ESTELLE
Hi, Israel...

ISRAEL
Really?

Dina watches as she takes the order of a nearby table.

ISRAEL (CONT'D)
Anything else I can getcha?

ESTELLE
Can I have some water?

ISRAEL
Swallow your spit.

He walks back into the kitchen.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. BIG BOY STEAKHOUSE - DUMPSTERS - DAY

Israel sits on an empty crate and calls Jayce.

INTERCUT: JAYCE AND ISRAEL'S PHONE CALL.

INT. OBSESSIVE GAMES COMPANY - JAYCE'S CUBICLE - DAY

JAYCE

Hey babe--

ISRAEL

Jayce! You're not gonna believe
who's at work!

JAYCE

Who?

ISRAEL

Estelle showed up at work.

JAYCE

What!

He jumps up to his feet.

JAYCE (CONT'D)

Are you okay? Do I need to get you?
Are you in jail?

ISRAEL

No! No! No, not yet. She just
showed up. I know she's plotting
something. She wants something,
probably money.

JAYCE

Babe, take a break.

ISRAEL

You can't abandon me on the side of
the road and pop back up ten years
later like it never happened!

Dina pokes her head out the back door. Israel covers his
phone with his hand.

DINA

What was that about?

ISRAEL
(to Jayce)
Babe, I'll talk to you later.

JAYCE
You got this. Love--

Israel hangs up.

DINA
Was that the hubby?

ISRAEL
What do you want?

DINA
I just came to check on you.

He stands up and dusts himself off.

ISRAEL
Excuse me...I have tables.

He brushes past her and reenters the restaurant.

INT. OBSESSIVE GAMES COMPANY - JAYCE'S CUBICLE - DAY
Jayce WHISPERS to Caine.

JAYCE
Psst. Caine?

Caine stands and WHISPERS to Jayce.

CAINE
What?

JAYCE
Should I be concerned that Iz--

CAINE
Iz will kill us all and destroy
Seattle in seconds. Yes, yes, I do.

JAYCE
Huh?

CAINE
He scares me. Israel scares me.

JAYCE
Seriously. Iz's mom showed up at
his job, I'm worried he's gonna--

CAINE

Blow up.

JAYCE

Yeah.

CAINE

If you wanna check on him, I'll
cover for you. Just make sure that
he doesn't consume the city with
his rage fire.

Jayce SMACKS HIS LIPS as Caine throws his hands up.

CAINE (CONT'D)

I'm just saying.

JAYCE

Just cover for me.

Jayce grabs his satchel and phone and runs out the door.

CAINE

Israel has a mother, is she Lilith?

INT. BIG BOY STEAKHOUSE - BAR - DAY

Israel watches Estelle interact with several customers. He
holds a customer's bill. Dina walks to him.

DINA

She's very pretty. You look just
like her.

ISRAEL

Have I done something to you?

DINA

I--

ISRAEL

I've always thought you were
aggressively clingy. But today is a
whole new level of clingy.
Everywhere I turn, there you are,
like some stalker. Leave me alone!

DINA

Israel...

ISRAEL

I'm a grown-ass man who doesn't need a babysitter, caregiver, or whatever you envision you are to me. I don't wanna be your friend. Because if it were up to me, you wouldn't be my coworker.

Dina shakes her head in disbelief. He storms off and walks to table 10.

INT. BIG BOY STEAKHOUSE - TABLE 10 - DAY

Israel SLAMS his hands on the table.

ISRAEL

Whatever you're planning ends here. You need to leave. Now.

ESTELLE

Israel I--

ISRAEL

Silence satan!

Estelle sits back in her seat.

ESTELLE

I don't know what I did to you to deserve this!

ISRAEL

You don't know what you did! You don't know! Well, lemme tell ya.

INT. BIG BOY STEAKHOUSE - HOSTESS STAND - DAY

Jayce barges into the restaurant. He spots Israel, then grabs him, covers his mouth, and takes him away.

Israel's RANTS are MUFFLED by Jayce's hand.

JAYCE

Sorry...Sorry...so sorry. Enjoy your meal. Enjoy your meal.

Jayce takes Israel to the front and exits.

Estelle watches them leave.

JAYCE (CONT'D)

Sorry. Sorry.

EXT. BIG BOY STEAKHOUSE - PARKING LOT - DAY

JAYCE

Iz, Israel. It's me. I gotcha. I
got you. You're safe.

He removes his hand from Israel's mouth.

ISRAEL

I'm gonna kill her!

JAYCE (CONT'D)

Iz, I'm putting you down.

He put Israel down, but Israel charges to the door. Jayce
grabs him by his shirt and pulls him back.

JAYCE (CONT'D)

No, no, Iz, relax.

ISRAEL

Why she show up? Why now? I haven't
seen or spoken to her in ten years,
and now, suddenly, she wants to
reconnect. She's full of it.

JAYCE

Breathe. Just breathe, Iz.

ISRAEL

She wants something! I don't
understand how she can abandon me
on the side of the road and never
look back.

JAYCE

Iz, please relax--

ISRAEL

She shows up at my job...oh my god.
She cost me my job. I'm gonna get
fired. I'm gonna get fired.

JAYCE

Iz, relax--

ISRAEL

That was part of her plan. She did
this on purpose. She's evil!

JAYCE

Israel relax.

Now frustrated, Jayce kisses Israel.

ISRAEL

What was that for?

JAYCE

Just because. I know you're upset,
but you can't let her win.

Jayce hugs Israel and gives him a gentle but firm squeeze.

ISRAEL

Why're you so good at this?

JAYCE

Because I love you, and...I knew
you needed a hug.

Israel eyes Jayce up and down, then squints.

JAYCE (CONT'D)

What?

He CHUCKLES NERVOUSLY.

ISRAEL

You changed clothes.

JAYCE

What? No...I had this on.

Jayce looks at the door when Estelle exits the restaurant and
walks towards them. Israel lunges towards her.

ISRAEL

Stay away from me!

JAYCE

Ma'am, please leave him alone.

Jayce restrains Israel. Estelle eyes Jayce up and down.

ESTELLE

Who you?

JAYCE

I'm Jayce, his husband.

ISRAEL

None ya damn business!

Jayce puts his hand over Israel's mouth.

ESTELLE

There's that temper again. It
always scared me.

JAYCE

You're gonna make this worse.

ESTELLE

For who?

JAYCE
For me.
ISRAEL
(muffled)
For you.

JAYCE (CONT'D)
Just go.

She eyes him up and down again.

ESTELLE
Be careful with him. That temper's
gonna push you away.

Estelle walks to her raggedy gold van, filled with junk, clothes, food, and pieces of furniture. She gets inside and STARTS the van. Jayce watches her drive off.

Dina runs outside to the couple with Israel's jacket.

DINA
Hi, I'm Dina. Are you Iz's husband?

She extends her hand. Jayce shakes her hand and then puts Israel down.

ISRAEL
Am I fired?

DINA
No, but you gotta get outta here,
I'll cover your shift. Go home.

Israel looks at Jayce.

DINA (CONT'D)
It's okay...

She digs into her pocket and hands him a wad of cash.

DINA (CONT'D)
Here's your tips.

Israel takes the money, and Jayce and he walk to the car.

JAYCE
Thanks.

She nods, then reenters the restaurant.

INT. JAYCE'S CAR - DAY

Jayce enters the car on the driver's side and buckles himself in. He STARTS the car.

ISRAEL

She's right, y'know. My temper's
gonna scare you away.

Jayce turns to Israel.

JAYCE

Israel Titan Edwards Nixon, I've
been in love with you since high
school. Nothing's ever gonna scare
me away from you.

Israel lays his head against the window. They drive off.

EXT. SEATTLE - JAYCE'S CAR - DAY

They drive through Seattle. Israel falls asleep. Jayce turns
to admire Israel.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cozy with minimal furniture.

Jayce carries Israel inside, then lays Israel on the couch
and covers him with a blanket. He sits next to him and
watches Israel sleep. He turns on the TV and SURFS THROUGH
THE CHANNELS.

JAYCE'S PHONE RINGS. He answers it.

JAYCE

Hey, Caine, what's up?

INT. CAINE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

A complete mess, with huge piles of junk and trash.

CAINE

Hey, haven't heard from you. I see
Seattle wasn't destroyed, so you
managed to calm Israel.

INTERCUT: HOUSE/CAINE'S APARTMENT

JAYCE

Israel isn't gonna destroy the city
or hurt anyone.

CAINE

You don't know that for sure.

Caine paces around. Jayce LAUGHS.

JAYCE

I appreciate it. We're both fine.
Iz is sleeping on the couch; I'm
watching football. Did Eric notice
I was gone?

CAINE

Nope. He was too busy in pitch
meetings to notice.

JAYCE

Oh...you think we're gonna get it?

CAINE

I hope so. We just have to make
those adjustments to the game to
impress Eric.

JAYCE

Yeah.

CAINE

Look, man, I don't wanna keep you.
Tend to your atomic bomb. I'll see
you at work tomorrow.

Jayce LAUGHS.

CAINE (CONT'D)

JAYCE

Bye.

See ya.

They hang up.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Both are now asleep. The TV BLARES A FOOTBALL GAME. Israel
tosses and turns. He wakes up to JAYCE'S SNORES.

Israel kisses Jayce's forehead and enters the kitchen.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Israel turns on the lights. He enters the pantry and grabs
containers of flour, sugar, brown sugar, and chocolate chips,
which he puts on the table.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jayce jolts awake. He looks at the spot where Israel was.

JAYCE

Iz?

Jayce grabs the remote and turns off the TV.

He enters the kitchen.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Once clean and tidy, it now looks like a mini bakery. Freshly baked cookies, cakes, pies, tarts, and breads are everywhere.

JAYCE

Iz?

He finds Israel covered in flour as he frosts a cake.

JAYCE (CONT'D)

Babe?

He looks around the room. He walks to Israel.

ISRAEL

Hey.

JAYCE

What're you doing?

ISRAEL

Baking.

JAYCE

You're stress baking again.

Jayce grabs a cookie and eats it.

ISRAEL

No, I'm not.

JAYCE

Iz, there's pies, cookies, cakes, just glutenous goodness! This is a fat kid's dream or an almond mom's worst nightmare.

ISRAEL

Help yourself. We got plenty.

JAYCE

We have more than plenty. You've turned our kitchen into a bakery.

Jayce sits at the table. Israel finishes the final details on the cake and puts it in Jayce's face.

ISRAEL
Lemon custard cake? Your favorite.

JAYCE
Yes, I mean, no. Iz, talk to me.

ISRAEL
About?

JAYCE
Estelle...

ISRAEL
I'm not talking about her. Ohh. Do we have any sweet potatoes?

JAYCE
Israel, I'm serious.

ISRAEL
I'm serious, too. Sweet potato pie sounds so good right now.

Jayce walks to Israel and gives him a bear hug.

JAYCE
Your heart's racing.

ISRAEL
It is?

JAYCE
Yeah...I'm so sorry about today. If I coulda changed it, I would've.

Israel looks down at the floor. Jayce lifts Israel's head by his chin. They lock eyes.

JAYCE (CONT'D)
We all have issues with our parents. My parents are insane.

ISRAEL
Your parents are filthy rich.

JAYCE
Being rich doesn't mean you're happy all the time.

ISRAEL
I'm gonna disagree.

Jayce LAUGHS.

JAYCE
I love you.

ISRAEL
I love you, too.

The couple sways. Israel rests his head on Jayce's shoulder. Jayce grabs another cookie from the table and eats it.

They YAWN.

JAYCE
Let's head to bed. We've both had a long day.

They break from the hug and then walk out of the kitchen. Jayce turns off the lights and grabs some more cookies.

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Modern contemporary with a very cozy feel.

Jayce and Israel cuddle, asleep. A LOUD THUD comes from the kitchen. Jayce jolts awake.

JAYCE
Iz, wake up.

He shakes Israel.

ISRAEL
What?

JAYCE
I heard a sound.

ISRAEL
I hear a sound, too...

JAYCE
Israel, I'm being serious--

The MICROWAVE DINGS Israel jolts awake.

ISRAEL
What the hell was that?

JAYCE
Told you.

Israel jumps out of bed and grabs a baseball bat from under the bed.

JAYCE (CONT'D)
Where you goin'?

ISRAEL
Protectin' my house.

Israel exits. Jayce stays in bed. Jayce looks outside the window to see Estelle's van. Jayce chases after Israel.

JAYCE
Iz...

INT. HOUSE - STAIRS - NIGHT

Israel creeps down the stairs with the baseball bat raised. They WHISPER to each other as they head to the kitchen.

JAYCE
Iz...

ISRAEL
What?

JAYCE
I know who's making the sound--

The MICROWAVE DINGS. Israel barges into the kitchen.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Estelle devours countless desserts at the kitchen table.

He swings his bat.

ISRAEL
Get out of my house!

JAYCE
Israel, it's Estelle...

Israel lowers his bat.

ESTELLE
Pie?

She raises her plate to Israel.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

ISRAEL
Jayce, call the police.

ESTELLE
No. No. No. Wait.

She stands up.

JAYCE
What're you doing here? How'd you
find out where we live?

ESTELLE
I followed you home.

ISRAEL
What the hell!

ESTELLE
If you want, I'll leave.

ISRAEL
Yes!

Jayce restrains Israel by his shoulders.

JAYCE
Seriously, what're you doing here?

ESTELLE
I just wanted to see my son
and...uh...his new husband.

ISRAEL
At three in the morning!

He turns to Jayce.

ISRAEL (CONT'D)
Jayce, call the police.

ESTELLE
Wait before you do. Hear me out.

ISRAEL
No. Jayce call the police.

JAYCE
Iz, let's hear her out.

ESTELLE
I came to see you at the restaurant
because...my house burned down. I
have nowhere to go.

JAYCE
So that's your van parked behind
the house?

ESTELLE
Yes.

ISRAEL
What van?

He walks to the window and pulls back the curtain to see
Estelle's gold van.

ISRAEL (CONT'D)
What's happening right now?

ESTELLE
Izzy, I'm homeless.

JAYCE
Unhoused--

ISRAEL
Not right now.

ESTELLE
Please. I have no one.

ISRAEL
Hmmm, that sounds familiar.

JAYCE
Israel, just hear her out.

ISRAEL
I want you out my house.

He throws down the baseball bat and walks toward the door.

JAYCE
Where you goin?

He exits the kitchen.

ESTELLE

He wants to be alone. He used to do that when he was a kid; some things never change.

JAYCE

But you can.

Jayce grabs several cookies and puts them on a napkin. He eats some before he offers Estelle a cookie. She doesn't take a cookie.

JAYCE (CONT'D)

I don't know what exactly went down between you and Iz, but if he hated you, he woulda took that baseball bat to your head.

ESTELLE

Oh...

JAYCE

But he didn't, so maybe there's hope for you both.

ESTELLE

Why're you being nice to me?

JAYCE

I love Iz, and I love the person who made him.

He reaches for her hand. She pulls it back.

ESTELLE

Eww, don't do that...

JAYCE

Sorry...uh, help yourself to the food. Please don't steal anything. I'm gonna check on Iz.

He exits the kitchen.

Estelle gorges on the baked goods.

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Israel lies on the bed, his back toward the door. Jayce hops into the bed. He cuddles next to him.

JAYCE

Babe?

Israel ignores him.

JAYCE (CONT'D)

Iz?

Jayce kisses Israel's neck several times.

JAYCE (CONT'D)

I know you're upset. But this could
be good for you to start over.

Israel doesn't respond.

JAYCE (CONT'D)

I know today has been a lot for
you, but--

ISRAEL

I don't force you to talk to people
you don't like.

JAYCE

You're right because you beat the
shit out of em.

ISRAEL

Which I do outta love.

Israel turns to face Jayce.

JAYCE

I love you and think I need you to
take a chance on her.

ISRAEL

No.

JAYCE

She's unhoused.

ISRAEL

Not my problem.

Jayce sits up.

JAYCE

Israel Titan Edwards Nixon, if you
don't talk to your mother...I'll--

ISRAEL

You'll what?

JAYCE

I won't do that thing you like.

ISRAEL

What! That's not fair, you know I
really like that thing.

JAYCE

Then go talk to her.

ISRAEL

But.

JAYCE

No buts or I won't touch your butt.
Now go do it.

Israel SIGHS as he gets up and walks to the door.

He SIGHS again, then exits the bedroom.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Estelle devours a strawberry cupcake. She turns around when
she hears ISRAEL'S FOOTSTEPS. He leans against the threshold.

ISRAEL

Hey.

Estelle stands up.

ISRAEL (CONT'D)

Sit down, I don't wanna fight. I
came to talk.

She sits down.

ESTELLE

This is a very good cupcake. You
could always bake your ass off.

ISRAEL

It calmed me when I was stressed.

ESTELLE

I must've really stressed you out.

She points to a cake. They both look at the floor.

ISRAEL

So, you're unhoused.

ESTELLE

I am.

ISRAEL
You working?

ESTELLE
No, I was laid off.

ISRAEL
Why? What you do?

ESTELLE
Long story.

Israel sits down, grabs a lemon bar, and takes a bite.

ISRAEL
I got time.

ESTELLE
I punched a Karen in the face.

ISRAEL
That wasn't a long story, but I see
where I get my temper.

She looks around the kitchen.

ESTELLE
The house is gorgeous. You and your
husband did a really nice job.

ISRAEL
Thanks.

She looks at the table.

ESTELLE
Israel, I know I haven't been the
best mother--

ISRAEL
Yeah, no shit.

ESTELLE
But if you let me, I'd like to
change that.

ISRAEL
I just don't understand how you can
waltz into my life after everything
you did.

ESTELLE

I didn't know what to do or how to approach you, so I panicked and just showed up at your job.

ISRAEL

You coulda cost me my job. Next time you wanna reconnect with someone, you don't show up to their job and wreak havoc.

ESTELLE

I was scared. I didn't know what to do. I was scared. Iz, I wanna fix it. Me leaving you on the highway haunts me.

ISRAEL

It haunts me to this day.

They both look down.

ESTELLE

Izzy, I just turned fifteen when I had you, and your dad didn't want to be involved. I didn't know how to mother--

ISRAEL

Because your mother didn't know how to be a mother to you.

Estelle looks up.

ESTELLE

I tried my best with you. But everything overwhelmed me. I was young, dumb, and just immature...I didn't know how to love you.

Israel fights back his tears. He balls his fist.

ESTELLE (CONT'D)

Izzy, I'm so sorry. But I need you. Your mama needs you. Please.

He wipes his tears, then looks at her.

ISRAEL

You can stay. We have a guest room upstairs, it's yours.

ESTELLE

Really?

ISRAEL

You got two months to get your shit
together and get a job. Seattle
ain't cheap.

She goes to hug him. He puts his hands out to block her.

ISRAEL (CONT'D)

We ain't there yet, and I don't
know if we'll ever get there.

She backs up.

ISRAEL (CONT'D)

I didn't do this for us and I damn
sure didn't do it for me. I did it
for Jayce.

ESTELLE

I'll get my stuff.

ISRAEL

Get it in the morning. You need
some rest.

Israel exits. She watches him leave. When the door closes,
she sobs. She covers her face to MUFFLE HER CRIES.

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Israel enters to find Jayce asleep. He walks to the bed and
kisses Jayce's forehead. He gets into bed and cuddles Jayce.

JAYCE

How'd it go?

ISRAEL

She can stay.

JAYCE

That's good. You can now rebuild.

He rolls over.

ISRAEL

Oh no, sir, it's time for you to do
that thing.

Israel smirks. Jayce rolls over to face Israel. He hops on
top of Jayce and straddles him.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

JAYCE

You're worried about her?

ISRAEL

Kinda, I haven't seen her in years, she's basically a stranger in our home. I'm worried that she'll rob us or kill us...or both.

JAYCE

I highly doubt she'd kill us. Babe, your mother...she's in a tough spot right now, but we need to be there for her.

ISRAEL

I hope I made the right choice.

Jayce rubs Israel's shoulders.

JAYCE

You did. It may not seem like it right now, but you did.

ISRAEL

You better be right.

Jayce sits on the bed and waits for Israel.

A nervous Israel steps out of the closet in his work uniform.

JAYCE

Hey, what's wrong?

ISRAEL

Nothin'.

JAYCE

You sure?

ISRAEL

Yeah.

Jayce stands up, walks to Israel, and hugs him.

JAYCE

I know you're nervous about goin' back to work, and that's super understandable. But who cares what they think or say?

ISRAEL

I don't want people to be scared of me. I'm tired of that.

JAYCE

Dina's not afraid of you.

Jayce smirks, then Israel.

ISRAEL

You got jokes.

Jayce kisses Israel.

JAYCE

Everything'll be fine.

ISRAEL

Okay.

They grab their bags and jackets and exit the bedroom.

INT. HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

They walk past Estelle's room and stop. They peek inside to check on her, still asleep. Israel shuts the door.

EXT. BIG BOY STEAKHOUSE - PARKING LOT - DAY

Israel stands before the doors. Jayce flashes a toothy grin and a thumbs-up. Israel reaches for the door handle, then yanks it open. He steps inside.

INT. BIG BOY STEAKHOUSE - MAIN FLOOR - DAY

Israel enters. His coworkers stare at him. He walks to the POS system to clock in. Dina taps him on the shoulder.

DINA

Good morning.

He turns around.

ISRAEL

Morning.

DINA
How ya doing?

ISRAEL
Good.

DINA
Do you want to work the bar?

ISRAEL
Sure.

He clocks in and makes his way to the bar.

DINA
Israel?

ISRAEL
Yeah.

DINA
If you need anything. I'm here.

ISRAEL
I know, thanks.

He walks to the bar and puts his stuff down in a crate.

INT. OBSESSIVE GAMES COMPANY - JAYCE'S CUBICLE - DAY

Jayce types away on his computer as he checks out his notebook of codes and algorithms.

Caine runs to his desk.

CAINE
Jay!

He looks around before he WHISPERS.

CAINE (CONT'D)
Jay.

JAYCE
What?

CAINE
I heard from Amanda, who heard from Riley, who heard from Mandy, from accounting, who heard from Frank, the night security guard, who overheard Eric say that we're in the final three.

JAYCE

What! Are you serious?

CAINE

So serious. But this time we'll meet with Eric and the Board.

JAYCE

Who're we up against?

CAINE

Vera, Trinity, Deon, and David.

JAYCE

Oh shit.

CAINE

I know.

They both celebrate with their terrible dance moves.

JAYCE

This is amazing.

CAINE

We just gotta make those edits. You busy tonight after work?

JAYCE

No, come over and we can knock out the edits.

CAINE

Bet.

Caine sits at his cubicle and GIGGLES to himself. Jayce shakes his head and smiles.

INT. BIG BOY STEAKHOUSE - BAR - DAY

Now packed with customers. Israel whips up various cocktails and beverages. Dina walks to the bar.

DINA

You're killing it right now.

ISRAEL

Thanks.

Dina walks to her tables.

ISRAEL (CONT'D)

Wait.

She turns around.

ISRAEL (CONT'D)

Thank you for yesterday. I know I can be cold and distant, even cruel, but you don't deserve that. I'm sorry.

She smiles.

DINA

You're welcome. When I first started working here, I could tell you carry a lot on your shoulders. I just wanted to be there for you, kinda like a big sister, because I've seen strong people like you break, and sadly, they never come back from it.

He nods.

DINA (CONT'D)

You're a good guy, Israel.

ISRAEL

Call me, Izzy.

She smiles again.

ISRAEL (CONT'D)

If you're not busy later tonight, would you like to join Jayce and me for dinner?

DINA

I'd like that, Izzy.

ISRAEL

See you at eight, and I'll text you my address.

She walks to her tables.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT - LATER

Israel makes a gorgeous roasted chicken dinner with herb-crusted potatoes, green beans, and a garden salad.

The DOOR BELL RINGS.

ISRAEL

Babe, can you get that?

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jayce gets up from the couch and opens the door. Caine enters with a crate of notebooks, sketches, laptops, and several cases of energy drinks.

Israel enters.

ISRAEL
Hey Dina...

He sees Caine.

ISRAEL (CONT'D)
Oh, it's you.

He reenters the kitchen.

CAINE
What's he doing here?

JAYCE
He's my husband, he lives here.

CAINE
Unfortunately.

Jayce nudges him. The DOOR BELL RINGS again. Jayce answers the door. Dina enters with a bottle of wine.

DINA
Hi! You have a lovely home.

She hugs Jayce.

JAYCE
Iz, Dina's here.

Israel reenters the living room.

ISRAEL
Hey, Dina, welcome. You've met Jayce; that's his friend, Caine.

DINA
Nice to meet you.

ISRAEL
Make yourself comfortable, dinner's almost done.

He enters the kitchen. Dina follows behind him.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dina looks around at all the desserts. Israel walks to the stove and stirs a pot.

DINA
Holy crap, did you make all this?

She points to a red velvet cake.

DINA (CONT'D)
Is that a red velvet cake?

She walks to the cake and admires it.

ISRAEL
Yeah. If you want, you can have it.

DINA
Really? The whole thing?

ISRAEL
Yep.

A BEAT.

ISRAEL (CONT'D)
Dinner's ready!

Caine and Jayce enter the kitchen. Jayce grabs several plates and then hands them to Israel. Israel plates the food.

DINA
Israel, this looks amazing.

CAINE
It's alright.

Israel turns to face Caine and raises an eyebrow.

Caine looks down in shame.

CAINE (CONT'D)
Sorry...

ISRAEL
Just shut up and eat my food.

CAINE
(whispers)
Okay...

JAYCE

Hey, babe, are you gonna call
Estelle down for dinner?

ISRAEL

I'll get her.

Israel exits the kitchen and walks upstairs.

INT. HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Israel KNOCKS on Estelle's bedroom door.

He waits for a response. He reaches for the doorknob and
pushes the door open. He finds Estelle still asleep. He shuts
the door and heads downstairs.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Israel reenters the kitchen.

JAYCE

Where's Estelle?

ISRAEL

She's locked herself in the room.

Israel sits at the table and makes himself a plate.

DINA

You let her stay with you? Why?

Israel turns his head to Jayce.

ISRAEL

I dunno, ask him.

JAYCE

Because I want what's best for you
and your emotional well-being.

He takes a bite of his chicken. Israel rolls his eyes.

CAINE

You've got a good man, Iz.

Israel whips his head to Caine.

He looks down in shame and WHISPERS.

CAINE (CONT'D)

Sorry.

He shovels more salad into his mouth.

DINA
It's good that you forgave her.

ISRAEL
Oh no, I didn't forgive her, but...

INT. HOUSE - STAIRS - NIGHT

Estelle walks down the stairs and sits when she hears Israel's voice.

ISRAEL (O.S.)
She broke in last night, ate a good amount of the desserts, and told us she was homeless--

JAYCE (O.S.)
Unhoused.

Israel SIGHS.

ISRAEL (O.S.)
And told us she was unhoused, it's only temporary till she gets back on her feet. This is her one chance, and she best not blow it.

Estelle smiles as she walks back to her room.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

DINA
See, I told ya you were a nice guy.

Israel rolls his eyes.

ISRAEL
The verdict's still out...

Caine nods his head. Israel turns to him. He looks down in shame and WHISPERS.

CAINE
Sorry.

They continue their dinner.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT - LATER

Jayce washes dishes as Israel makes a plate for Estelle.

JAYCE
That was fun.

ISRAEL
It was.

JAYCE
I'm glad you had fun.

ISRAEL
Having people over isn't half bad.

He finishes the plate for Estelle.

JAYCE
I'm proud of you.

ISRAEL
Thanks. I'll be right back. I'm
gonna bring Estelle her food.

JAYCE
Okay baby.

Israel exits. Jayce checks out Israel's ass when he leaves.

JAYCE (CONT'D)
Mmh.

He shakes his head in approval.

JAYCE (CONT'D)
That ass...

He returns to the dishes.

INT. HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Israel walks to Estelle's room and KNOCKS on the door.

ISRAEL
Hey, I brought you a plate.

ESTELLE (O.C.)
Can you set it by the door?

ISRAEL
Uh...sure.

He places the plate at the door.

ISRAEL (CONT'D)
I put it by the door.

ESTELLE (O.C.)
Thanks.

ISRAEL
Welcome.

He walks towards the steps before he returns to the door.

ISRAEL (CONT'D)
Hey, um, I'm off tomorrow. If you
want, we can move your stuff in.

ESTELLE (O.C.)
Sure.

Israel grins.

ISRAEL
Cool...enjoy your dinner.

He walks downstairs.

Estelle opens the door and takes the plate. She stares at the
steps. She reenters the bedroom.

END OF ACT FOUR

TAG

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jayce stands by the Keurig and watches it fill his mug.
Israel enters.

ISRAEL
All done?

JAYCE
Perfect timing. Just finished.

Israel walks to Jayce. Jayce wraps his arms around his waist.

JAYCE (CONT'D)
I'm proud of you. These last few
days have stressed you out but
you're doing the damn thing.

Israel passionately kisses Jayce.

JAYCE (CONT'D)
Also, what are you gonna do with
all of these pastries?

ISRAEL
I dunno. Do you think any of your
coworkers might want any?

JAYCE
Maybe I can ask.

ISRAEL
Okay...

A BEAT.

ISRAEL (CONT'D)
Y'know, I wouldn't be upset if we
had a repeat of last night.

JAYCE
Thinking we were getting robbed.

ISRAEL
No. The other thing.

JAYCE
Ohh...yeah. But what about Estelle?

ISRAEL

She'll be fine. I heard her and her
many boyfriends growing up. I guess
you can it karma.

Jayce LAUGHS.

JAYCE

You're naughty.

ISRAEL

Very naughty.

Israel bites his lip. He then takes Jayce's hand and runs
upstairs to their bedroom.

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jayce and Israel kiss as they take off their clothes. Israel
tosses Jayce on the bed. He straddles him.

They kiss again. Estelle bursts in. Jayce SCREAMS.

She covers her eyes.

ESTELLE

Sorry! My bad. Sorry, I
thought this was the door to
the bathroom!

ISRAEL

Get out!

JAYCE

Get out!

Estelle closes the door.

ISRAEL

Now she knows how I felt walking in
on her and her boyfriends.

Jayce covers Israel's mouth.

JAYCE

Shhh, I was about to do that thing
that you like so much.

He removes his hand from Israel's mouth; they kiss again.
Jayce turns off the lamp, and the room goes dark.

END OF SHOW