

ACT 1, Scene 1

(Lights. ZION is crouched down sobbing. The stage is bare. The rest of the cast slowly enters from all areas to console Zion. As a collective they form a circle and rage is expressed. This is America by Childish Gambino plays. By the end of the song the Living Room is set. Do what your little heart desires xoxo.)

(Song ends)

ALL

(monotone. almost robotic. mindless even.) We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

RIVER

Fuck the Constitution!

ZION

Woah Woah Woah. Let's slow down.

AZARI

Nah, fuck it. Establish justice? insure domestic tranquility? provide for the common defense? promote the general welfare? secure the blessings of liberty? *(beat)* America has not fully established justice, has not insured domestic tranquility, whatever the fuck that means, does not provide for the common defense, does not promote the general welfare, and absolutely fucking does not secure the blessings of liberty.

SOL

I don't think it's us who should be having the conversation. It's them that should be having this conversation.

RIVER

Yessir.

T

Facts. I don't know. Sometimes I think, shouldn't we be having this conversation from time to time?

ZION

Yea, I agree 100% because we need to be informed citizens.

SOL

True, true.

RIVER

To be honest, I just find it weird that we still need to have these conversations.

AZARI

What do you mean by that?

RIVER

It's just like why do we still have to question everything before us?

ZION

Umm. You mean like learning about our family history?

RIVER

I mean I guess.

SOL

Let me just say some of our ancestors were never taught how to read or write so word of mouth was one of the only ways that stuck.

ZION

Alright guys, I think I'm gonna head to bed.

T

Good night Z.

SOL

Night Z.

AZARI

Sweet dreams.

RIVER

Goodnight.

ZION

Good night everyone.

(Exits.)

AZARI

Has anyone noticed something off with Z.

RIVER

Not really to be honest.

SOL

Yea I've noticed something here and there.

T

Yea same here. *(beat)* But I mean who hasn't been a little off lately.

SOL

I mean yea. But...

AZARI

I feel like it's been getting a little worse lately.

SOL

Maybe we should do something for them tomorrow...or even all of us to be honest.

T

I'd be hella down.

AZARI

Same here. I could use an off today to be honest.

RIVER

Yeah. I should be able to make it.

SOL

Okay sounds like a plan.

RIVER

I think I'm gonna head out. *(stands up)*

T
Aight, good night.

SOL
Goodnight.

AZARI
Night.

(RIVER exits)
(beat)

AZARI
Thank fucking god.

SOL
Wow.

T
I mean maybe they're going through something.

SOL
I guess.

AZARI
But why wouldn't they talk to us?

SOL
Let's just give them space. I'll text them in the morning.

T
Aight. But what do you think is going on with Z.

AZARI
Girl, I don't know. Could be a plethora of things.

SOL

I think we also need to give Z some space.

T

But not too much.

AZARI

Yea I'll check up on them tonight. What should we do tomorrow?

T

Self-care day. Ordering food, watching some RuPaul. Or maybe just see what the vibes are in the morning.

SOL

Let's just play it by ear. But it will be a self care day no matter what.

AZARI

Should I just text River now or wait.

T

Bestie, I don't know.

AZARI

Ima text them. *(pulls out phone)* What should I say? Hmm. "Heyy River, just checking to see if everything is okay. We're here if you need anything. - STA."

SOL

Sounds good.

T

Fuck yes. I'm so excited I'm gonna cream my pants.

SOL

Me too.

AZARI

Me three.

(Lights Out.)

END SCENE

ACT 1, Scene 2: Sol's Bedroom

(Lights up. Sol is in bed. There is a knock at the door.)

ZION

It's Z.

SOL

Come in.

(Zion enters.)

What's wrong, Z?

ZION

Nothing. I'm just having trouble sleeping and was wondering if you have any weed?

SOL

Yeah I do. But are you sure nothing's wrong?

ZION

Yeah. I'm fine.

SOL

Ok, it's over there in my top left drawer.

ZION

Alright. Thanks Sol.

SOL

Z?

ZION

Yeah?

(beat.)

SOL

Good night.

ZION

Good night...Do you wanna smoke together?

SOL

I'm- actually yea.

ZION

Do you wanna go outside or-

SOL

Stay in here and crack open a window?

ZION

Yea.

(SOL gets up, grabs a pouch and takes out a bowl, grinder, and bud, and begins to grind.)

ZION

Do you ever feel like you're doing too much but not enough at the same time?

SOL

Ummm...I dont think so.?

ZION

Oh.

SOL

Yeah. I mean I do feel like I'm not doing enough most of the time, but I rarely feel like I'm doing too much. But I also feel like no one could ever be too much you know?

ZION

I mean yea. But sometimes I feel like there's so much trapped within me that wants to come out. But I don't know what's trapped and I think it might be all too much to handle. But then everyone else comes to me when they need someone to talk to even if I don't feel like talking and I am just trapped.

SOL

It sounds like you need to set boundaries.

ZION

Yeaaa...I'm sorry.

SOL

For what?

ZION

For oversharing-

SOL

Dude. That's literally what I'm here for.

ZION

I know, but I'm just showing up unannounced to your room asking for weed and now smoking with you when you probably just want to go to bed.

SOL

It's okay, Z. Surprisingly, I live for shit like this. Sometimes I just think that this friend group is just superficial, like they react in such calculated ways.

ZION

To be honest, yea. How have you been doing lately? I feel like I've barely seen you this semester.

SOL

I mean the best that I can be I guess with all the shit that's going on.

ZION

Aren't we all the best we can be at the moment?

SOL

Yeah, yeah... Damn, you're cooked, baked, and fried my guy.

ZION

Not even.

SOL

Okay, Mr. "Aren't we all the best we can be at the moment"... (*under the breath*) "Aren't we all the best we can be at the moment."... Zion, how often do you feel alone in this friend group?

ZION

Umm. I would say pretty often.

SOL

How come you don't say anything?

ZION

I mean what is there to say? That I can tell how most of the friend group is at surface level and anytime I bring up something about myself it gets glazed over, and I feel like me as a person is headed nowhere and that I have had no personal development in the past year, and just feel stuck in a space where there is no concept of time or space. Meanwhile, Black and Brown people are being treated and have been treated for *centuries* as less than human yet we do nothing about it. But what the fuck is there for us to do?

SOL

Zion, you do not need to do anything but be there for yourself, and the people you care about. And I know you care a lot about strangers and people you don't know but you cannot pour from an empty glass. Actually scratch that and reverse it. My advisor said some eye opening shit to me the other day. She said, "You cannot pour from an empty cup, and should only be pouring from the overflow." Which is like a crazy concept but makes sense you know.

ZION

Yea, I guess.

SOL

I'm sorry for not being there for you as much as I should-

ZION

But you don't have to be there for me.

SOL

But I want to. I think there are times I become so focused so much on my own shit I forget that other's, people I care about can be a part of my self-care.

ZION

Yeah. You've also been so busy this semester already with classes, Art Club, and work.

SOL

Yeah. But I mean so have you.

ZION

Yea. But it's gotten to the point where I feel like I lost my why. In high school I had so much drive, especially Junior year, but then I also remember that is the same year that my depression was at its worst.

SOL

Don't you find it interesting in times that we are doing the most we have our lowest moments.

ZION

Yeah. It's almost like our mind and our body is telling us that we aren't meant to do this much. But sometimes I feel like we have to do this much.

SOL

Well yea. We're Black.

ZION

It's fucked up to think about. Like we are constantly in competition with ourselves and white people.

SOL

Why, yes. We are stuck creating a spot for ourselves at the table while our family members are the one serving the food that is being provided while making it known we deserve a spot at the table and we did not just get the spot because of diversity, instead we helped cook the food, wash the dishes, brought our own chair, all while learning the proper etiquette to maintain the spot at the table.

ZION

This is true. It's a part of the game.

SOL

But we shouldn't have to play this fuck as game. Like, sometimes I feel like I'm falling aimlessly hoping that the ground comes soon and is soft.

ZION

Why are you falling?

SOL

Huh?

ZION

Like, why do you feel like you're falling?

SOL

I just feel like I have no sense of direction and that everything around me is fleeting.

ZION

Ahhh. I'm sorry.

SOL

Yea. But aren't you going through something similar?

ZION

Yea hence apologizing.

SOL

Nigga, you've done nothing wrong.

(ZION and SOL'S phone go off)

ZION

Yikes, River invited us to a darty.

SOL

A what now-

ZION

You know exactly what I mean.

SOL

Yea, some white people shit.

(Lights out)

END SCENE

ACT I, Scene 3

SOL

Can ya'll hurry up. We're gonna be late.

AZARI

(offstage)

Hold up...umm...we're encountering some...technical difficulties.

SOL

How technical are we talking?

T

(offstage)

umm...I fear we may have preprogrammed a wee bit too hard...Zion nooo.

ZION

(offstage)

Goddamn this is huge.

(ZION enters stumbling with a dildo in hand)

ZION

Long live the king!

(AZARI and T enter)

SOL

Whose- Actually I don't wanna know.

ZION

Sure ya do.

T

Z, Sol does not want to know.

ZION

Whyyyyy???? We should be able to openly communicate about pleasuring oneself. For instance-

AZARI

Woah woah woah. I'm gonna have to stop you right there buddy.

ZION

But whyyyyy? It's just a dildo. I have many you know.

SOL

Yeah you do.

T

How would you know?

ZION

Because they took me to their-

SOL

So I think we need to go lay down.

ZION

Yeah we do.

AZARI

Umm...are ya'll fucking?

ZION

No, why would we be fucking?

T

You literally just said.

ZION

Naur. I was making an allusion actually.

AZARI

Why yes. And the full quote is "I took her to my penthouse, then I freaked it."

SOL

We most definitely did not do that.

ZION

I mean that would be kinda hot though.

T

Bro, chill.

ZION

I'm so chill. (*proceeds to try to meditate*) I have found serenity.

SOL

Sure ya have.

ZION

What's your issue now?

SOL

Don't have a party to get to?

AZARI

Riiight. Let me finish getting ready.

(*AZARI exits.*)

T

I'll take that.

(*T grabs the dildo and exits.*)

SOL

What was that?

ZION

What was what?

SOL

Why would you say that?

ZION

Say what?

SOL

You know.

ZION

Yeah. I don't know.

(Silence)

SOL

I need a shot.

(ZION pulls out two shots and gives them to SOL.)

ZION

Here. *(pause)* I didn't mean anything I just said. I'm sorry, it's just that-

SOL

Z I know.

ZION

But you don't know.

SOL

But I want to know.

ZION

No you don't.

SOL

But I do.

(Silence.)

ZION

I don't know. I've just been having a hard time with...you know...everything. Like how do I continue when I constantly feel like everytime I go to resurface another wave comes crashing down on top of me.

SOL

Then let someone pull you out.

ZION

That's easier said than done.

SOL

Yeah I know.

ZION

Sol.

SOL

Yea Z.

ZION

I don't think we should go to the party.

SOL

But-

ZION

But what? River?

SOL

Well yea.

ZION

I don't know, I just have a bad feeling about this party.

(AZARI and T enter.)

AZARI

Who's readyyy?

T

What happened here.

SOL

Z doesn't wanna go.

ZION

No. I said I don't think we should go.

AZARI

Whyyy?

ZION

I don't know to be honest. I just have this really bad feeling...and we haven't had a night in with just the four of us in a hot minute.

AZARI

But I wanna gooooo.

T

I think we should listen to Z.

ZION

No, it's okay. Just please be safe.

T

Are you sure Z?

SOL

Yeah, are you 100% sure?

(T pulls AZARI aside)

T

Bro. I don't think we should go.

AZARI

Butt why? We shouldn't just do whatever Zion says.

T

When it comes to these events I fear we shall.

AZARI

Fine. I'll just go by myself.

T

Now hold up. I'll come with you. We'll go to the party and ya'll can stay.

ZION

No, it's fine. Just lemme take another shot.

SOL

Umm. Are we sure about that?

AZARI

Why yes we are!

T

Where is this party anyways?

ZION

I think in some white rich kid's house.

SOL

Umm. I don't know if I wanna go now.

AZARI

Come on! Let's party!

(SOL and ZION look at each other then take a shot.)

END SCENE

ACT I, Scene 4

(The stage is in transitional lighting. ZION, SOL, AZARI, and T are walking to the darty. ZION and SOL are the most intoxicated. AZARI and T are more stoned than drunk.)

ZION

Where the fuck is this party?

SOL

I think the baseball house.

ZION

The what?

T

The baseball house.

AZARI

What's wrong, Z?

ZION

I may or may not have hooked up with a couple of the guys on the team.

SOL

Okayy?

T

Just be yourself.

ZION

(singing) BeeEEee whoooo youuu are for your priiiiiide.

AZARI

Pop off... Okay, I think this is it.

ZION

Yep. It sure is.

AZARI

River said to enter through the side gate.

(Beat. AZARI knocks at the door. Lights on. The backyard of the baseball house is revealed. ZACH, a random baseball player opens the gate.)

ZACH

Umm. Can I help you?

AZARI

Our friend River invited us here.

ZACH

(yelling in BRIANNA's direction) Baaabe! River's friends are here. You guys can come in, River will be here shortly.

BRIANNA

Heyy!! I'm Brianna River's friend.

ZION

I'm Zion.

T

I'm T.

AZARI

Azari.

SOL

I'm Sol. Nice to meet you.

ZION

Where do you know River from?

BRIANNA

Oh, they were in my orientation group. If anyone wants drinks there over there and the bathroom is through the kitchen to the hallway on your right and then it's the second door to your right. Umm...River should be here shortly.

(ZION starts slowly dancing to a song that's playing)

T

(to Zion) Dude, how many shots have you had?

ZION

Ummm. 5ish. (*hits wax pen*)

SOL

(*to Zion*) Where'd you get that from?

ZION

The dispo.

SOL

Can I take a hit? I left mine at the apartment.

ZION

Yea go for it.

AZARI

(*bringing Zion, Sol, and T shots*) It's shot o' clock!

(*Everyone takes a shot.*)

ZION

Tequila makes me sooooo...

SOL

Someone watch Z.

ZION

I was gonna say happy. But, I'm fine. I'm free like a bird.

BRIANNA

How do you all know River?

AZARI

I know them through Hip Hop.

T

And we all know them because of Azari.

BRIANNA

Niice. Do you only do hip hop?

AZARI

Um. No. I do jazz, contemporary, tap, and hip hop.

BRIANNA

No, ballet?

AZARI

I tried it, wasn't for me.

(River approaches with shots in hand)

RIVER

Heyy! So glad you guys could make it! *(hands everyone shots)*

ALL

¡Arriba, abajo, al centro, pa' dentro!

(Sticky by Tyler, The Creator starts playing. ZION slowly starts dancing, and then starts shaking ass.)

SOL

Ohhh shit!

ZACH

Ay! Ay! Ay!

AZARI

Get into it Z. *(joins ZION)*

(A circle forms and ZION, AZARI, T, SOL, and RIVER are dancing their hearts in what is obviously a routine. Song transitions into Cotton Eye Joe. AZARI, SOL, ZION, and T react.)

ZION

What the actual fuck?

T
(*to River*) I don't think this song should be playing.

RIVER
Why?

ZION
Does it not sound like it would be in a minstrel show?

BRIANNA
What's that?

ZION
Bro what?!

SOL
Calm down.

RIVER
Yea. Listen to Sol.

ZION
Nah! Ya'll need to be educated. A minstrel show is when white people but black make up on their face and acted like you're stereotypical "Negro" at the time.

(*silence*)

BRIANNA
Oh.

ZACH
I'm sorry man for playing it, I didn't know.

ZION
Of course you didn't know because why would you know! (*makes eye contact with ZACH*)
Excuse me. (*Exits*)

SOL
What the fuck was that?

BRIANNA

Yeah, what was that babe?

ZACH

Umm. It was nothing.

BRIANNA

Are you sure? Because that didn't look like nothing.

(ZACH exits where ZION exited)

RIVER

I'm sorry, Bri.

BRIANNA

For what?

RIVER

For bringing Zion?

BRIANNA

Wait. Why?

RIVER

Because Zion always causes a scene.

AZARI

What did you say?

RIVER

Wait. That's not what I meant.

SOL

It's exactly what you meant, and you know it.

RIVER

No it's not...It's just...Everything seems to be about Zion nowadays.

T

Girl, what? Just because we thought we should have a day in today for Zion does not mean everything is for Zion.

RIVER

It's just I've been going through things too.

SOL

Okay, and your point is?

RIVER

You guys have never done anything to support me.

AZARI

Nuh uh. You did not just say that. I took you under my wing in hip hop because people were picking on you. You would not be a co-Captain if it wasn't for me taking time out of my day to practice with you so you could get better (*beat*). And when everyone came to your first performance it was Zion's idea to get you flowers and for whatever reason he knew your favorite flowers because you had mentioned it.

T

You have no idea what Zion has gone through and yet you blame them for ruining the party-

SOL

You are aware Zion did not want to go to this. He just came because everyone else was coming and now you're pouting because Zion hurt your feelings? Give Zion grace there have been plenty of times where Zion bit their tongue to not hurt your feelings. Shit the whole friend group bites their tongue when you're around. You are so unaware of what's happening to you. Just like her over there.

RIVER

Do not bring Brianna into this?

SOL

What are you going to go crying over to her? Just remember that she just discovered that her boyfriend has a thing for Zion.

(Lights out.)

END SCENE