

1 INT. COFFEE SHOP - NOON

1

The instrumental of the Erykah Badu song "Green Eyes" plays. One lyric can be heard , "My eyes are green/'cause I eat a lot of vegetables". The song slowly fades out.

ERIKYA is at the counter ordering her usual and one more drink. She waits for her drink on the side.

A couple comes up next to Erikya causing her eyes to light up, then immediately dart away. The man of the couple looks at Erikya, and starts talking.

DAQUAN

Yo, Erikya, is that you? I haven't seen you in a minute. How've you been?

Erikya looks at the man and reluctantly starts talking to her ex-boyfriend, DAQUAN.

ERIKYA

Quan, hey! It-it has been a while. Um, I'm doin' good. Uh, how you been?

DAQUAN

Pretty good, can't complain.

ERIKYA

(Muttered)

Better you, than me.

Erikya's eyes fall on the girl next to him. Tall, thin, blonde haired, blue eyed, and... white---everything she wasn't.

ERIKYA (CONT'D)

(Out loud)

I see you have a new girl. Hi, I'm Erikya.

ERICA

Hi, there. I'm (chuckle) also Erica. It's nice to meet you.

There's an awkward silence hanging between the two as if to wonder who's the better Erica/Erikya---the bohemian goddess who looks like she was crafted by the gods or the basic white girl who looks like she hopped off of a Pinterest board.

The white girl wins---the white girl always wins.

BARISTA
Order for Erikya.

Erikya lets out a light chuckle.

ERIKYA
I wonder which one of us that's
for.

ERICA
Probably you. DayDay put the order
under his name.

BARISTA
Order for... DaQuan.

DAQUAN
I'll go grab our order, baby, you
go sit down.

DaQuan kisses Erica on her cheek as she goes to sit at a
table. Both Erikya and DaQuan walk over to the counter.

ERIKYA
Mike Epps in Friday, huh?

DAQUAN
Better than you calling me Quandale
Dingle.

They both laugh.

ERIKYA
Y'all got the same flow; you cannot
blame me.

DAQUAN
I'mma give it to you. He got some
fire ass bars.

ERIKYA
See.

As they grab their drinks, they share a reminiscent stare.

DAQUAN
It was good seein' you.

ERIKYA
Yeah, you too.

They go their separate ways, DaQuan to Erica and Erikya to her friend LAURYN.

LAURYN
Your eyes are lookin' a little
green. Been eatin' your vegetables?

ERIKYA
Shut it.

LAURYN
I saw Quan over there. How you
doin'?

ERIKYA
We broke up like seven months ago.
I don't care anymore. He can go be
with his new "friend".

LAURYN
He switched up his girl real quick,
though. He went from black queens
to snow bunnies.

ERIKYA
She callin' him DayDay.

LAURYN
The dude from Friday?! Does she
even know what that is?

ERIKYA
She prolly think it's a day of the
week.

The burst out in laughter. DaQuan looks over at their table. Erikya's eyes sadden just a little bit.

Lauryn's eyes follow Erikya's before she starts talking again.

LAURYN
Yo, you hear 'bout the new Victoria
Monet project?

Erikya's attention snaps back to Lauryn, and they resume conversation as normal.

2 INT. ERIKYA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

2

The instrumental can be heard again. This time the lyric is "I'm insecure" before fading out.

Erikya sits on her floor in front of her mirror. She's scrolling through DaQuan's instagram. Multiple picture's of him and Erica can be seen.

ERIKYA

I wonder if she had to ask.

Scrolling down further, only two can be seen of him and Erikya.

Erikya puts the phone down and stares at herself in the mirror. She runs her hand through her locs. She picks them up one by one, before standing to go grab some scissors. She holds the scissors at one of her locs for a few seconds before throwing them across the room.

She examines herself again, this time picking apart her body. She grabs the fat of her thighs, arms, face, and stomach before running her hand through her locs again.

ERIKYA (CONT'D)

I hate him.

She flops back on the floor, and picks her phone up. She goes on a website and starts wig shopping.

ERIKYA (CONT'D)

I hate him so much.

Another lyric plays, "You've done something to my mind/And I can't control it".

3 INT. NAIL SALON - AFTERNOON

3

Erikya and Lauryn with their other friend JILL all sit in the nail salon getting their nails done. There are noticeable differences in Erikya's appearance: a blonde wig, basic clothes, less jewelry, and sad eyes.

Both friends take notice of this, and share looks, but decide not to say anything.

One more lyric plays, "I'm so confused."

LAURYN

French tips and a blonde bussdown?
That's new.

JILL

Yeah, girl. You like 'em colorful
and you love your locs.

ERIKYA

I do. I do. I just... wanna try something new.

JILL

There was nothing wrong with the old.

Erikya lingers on that for a second.

ERIKYA

I never said there was. I'm just trying things.

LAURYN

Like that time in high school when you had bone-straight hair. You were trying things then.

JILL

Ooh, or like that one time when you tried no eyebrows. Girl, you so lucky you can pull off anything.

ERIKYA

First off all, we don't talk about that. High school me was a... she was a person. (chuckles) Second of all, life is about evolution, and I am evolving.

JILL

I thought you just got comfortable with yourself.

ERIKYA

And now I'm restless.

The nail tech finished with one of Erikya's hands. She brings it up to her face. There's a small look of distaste, but she hides it.

Jill and Lauryn look at each other with worry.

JILL

At the root of these, is always a person. Is it DaQuan?

Lauryn's widen, but she keeps her mouth shut. Erikya, surprisingly, stays calm.

ERIKYA

I might not tell you the truth, but
I ain't gon' tell you a lie.

The conversation ends there, with a single tear running down Eriky's face.

4 INT. ERIKYA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

4

The girls are all in the living room laying next to each other. Light whispers can be heard from Lauryn and Jill, while Eriky sleeps.

LAURYN

What are we gonna do?

JILL

I don't know. I wanna help, but I just don't know how to help her. Like I thought she was handling it well.

LAURYN

Right! like Quan is not that special. Why she so hung up on him?

ERIKYA

I wish I knew.

Eriky opens her eyes slightly.

JILL

Oh, my love, I'm sorry.

Jill and Lauryn holds out their arms and embrace Eriky.

LAURYN

What do you need from us?

A beat passes.

ERIKYA

Time. Patience. Love.

JILL

Always.

They stay wrapped around each other for a long time.

Another lyric plays, "Before I heal, it's gonna be a while/I know it's gonna be a while, chil'"

5 EXT. FARMER'S MARKET - MORNING

5

There are slight returns to normalcy in Erikya's clothing. She wears a crocheted dress and skirt and more jewelry. The blonde wig is still there, as are the sad eyes.

Erikya looks through the different fruits and vegetables, humming to herself when she sees a familiar face.

ERICA

Oh, Erikya! It's good to see you.

Erikya's eyes widen ever-so-slightly, then she flashes a charming smile Erica's way.

ERIKYA

It's good to see you too, Erica.

She takes a look in Erica's basket.

ERIKYA (CONT'D)

Fruits for Qua-I mean DaQuan, I see. It took me forever to get him to try a strawberry.

ERICA

Really? He does everything for me so easily.

ERIKYA

Lucky you (muttered) reaping the fruits of my labor.

ERICA

What was that?

ERIKYA

Nothing. Nothing.

Erikya flashes another smile before going to walk away.

ERIKYA (CONT'D)

Well, it was good seeing you.

ERICA

It's a shame.

ERIKYA

Hmm?

ERICA

It's a shame that I don't *really* love him. We weren't supposed to be

anything more than hookups.

ERIKYA
I'm sorry, what?

ERICA
You got cheated on, and the better woman won.

Erikya is taken aback by this.

ERIKYA
I- what? What are you talking about?

ERICA
You got cheated on. He never loved you. You were just too attached, so he couldn't let go. Until he did.

Erikya slowly nods as tears prick at her eyes.

ERIKYA
And what am I supposed to do with this information? The relationship's over.

ERICA
I just wanted you to know that he chose me, the better woman.

ERIKYA
What makes you the better woman?

ERICA
Soo many things. I'm prettier, richer, and I can actually give him pretty kids, which is all I want him for anyways.

ERIKYA
Goodbye, Erica.

ERICA
Walking away? Ha, Quan lied when he said you were a strong woman. You'd get over it easily. Look at you trying to be me. You'll never be me.

ERIKYA
I never wanted to be you. I just wanted to be loved.

ERICA

Pathetic.

ERIKYA

(Beat) I know. Have a good life
with him. I hope you meet his
mother, and she hates you.

A lyric plays as Erikyia walks away, "Then you lost your
love."

6 INT. ERIKYA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

6

Erikyia put all of her 'white girl' clothes back on. She
put her hair up in the claw-clip hairstyle she often did
with her locs, only this time with her wig. She had that
"clean girl make-up" on.

A lyric plays, "It's too late".

A tear falls as she stares at herself in the mirror. She
hugs herself as she falls to the floor.

ERIKYA (V.O.)

Love never forced me to do
anything. It simply whispered sweet
nothings in my ear. Shave your
eyebrows, she likes manic girls
that'll destroy her life.
Straighten your hair and bleach
your skin, the closer you get to
white, the prettier you are. I've
never lacked beauty, I just don't
have the right kind. The one that's
desired by all. Maybe it's my fault
because I don't love myself enough,
but how do you do that when love
escapes your grasp every time.
We've never met each other, to me
it's a tall tale that you tell
around a campfire. (Beat) My eyes
might be green, and I'm a lotta
insecure... That's just it. I don't
know what else to do because I've
done everything else. I've tried it
all. And lord knows that I can't
stand these growing pains.

As Erikyia says her last line, the songs last line plays,
"I can't stand these growing pains".