

"PLAYED"
BY
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INT. JEREMY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

A young man (dressed in pajama bottoms and a t-shirt) lays in a small room depressed, slouched on a ragged couch consuming a bowl chips. He seems to be in a trance as he sits glaring at the wall which stands bare in front of him.

ENTERS YOUNG MAN #2

As he lays zombie fide except for the repetition of hand motion from bowl to mouth, another young man (dressed in more casual clothes, a designer shirt, Levi's and all stars) approaches and with the thrust of his palm smacks the back of the slouches head with a force so strong it creates a sound of thunder throughout the room.

YOUNG MAN #2

Wake up!!

YOUNG MAN #1

c'mon Wayne!!

wayne dumps himself on the couch then lifts his legs and drops them on the coffee table in front of him. He snatches the bowl of chips from the young man.

WAYNE

so Jeremy, you still bummed

JEREMY

about what!!

WAYNE

Teresa

Jeremy snatches the bowl back from Wayne. He then grabs a t.v. remote from the coffee table.

JEREMY

(sarcastically)a lil'

Wayne rolls his eyes and lays back in the couch.

WAYNE

How many times can I say I'm sorry man? It's starting to sound like i don't even mean it anymore, which i don't, but doesn't take away the fact that i took the time out to say it man.

JEREMY

yea.

WAYNE

i mean, come on bro, who knew
Jessica would be a kleptomaniac.

Wayne then clicks a button on the remote control in disgust.

JEREMY

i miss my t.v. Wayne.

WAYNE

.....me too, but shit happens.

Jeremy launches himself off the couch and stands directly in front of Wayne.

JEREMY

shit happens!?

Jeremy faces forward toward the wall and drops himself back on the couch, and resumes his previous slouched position.

JEREMY

I let her into my house Wayne, I
trusted her. First a couple dollars
went missing but you know it's
cool, people miss place money all
the time. But then a watch, a phone
.....my j's Wayne

WAYNE

(in shock)your Jordans man!!!

Jeremy regretfully nods his head. Wayne begins to lower his head in shame.

JEREMY

but.....nothing can compare to the
day when i walked into my house,
sat on my couch, grabbed my remote,
and found to my surprise that there
was nothing to turn on Wayne,
because guess what, come
on....guess.

Wayne shrugs his shoulders sarcastically.

JEREMY

Really!? You don't know!? Well I'll
tell you Wayne, ms. klepto a.k.a.
the girl you hooked me up with,
decided to take my new, wide
screen, plasma television set

A moment of silence ensues as they both sit on the couch staring at a naked wall. Jeremy rest his head in his hands and Wayne begins to rub his back.

JEREMY

(sobbing) she was just a baby man, I didn't even get a chance to program her, now shes out there...somewhere...cold, alone, without her remote.

Wayne then realizes he's rubbing Jeremy's back and stops in disgust.

WAYNE

listen, i can make it up to you. see...my girlfriend Kira has this sister named Ashley right.....

Jeremy jumps off the couch cutting off Wayne, and begins to talk and move furiously.

JEREMY

no man! Wha...what would make you, in that peanut size head of yours, believe for even an instant that i might want to get set up with another freak show Wayne! it's not happening!

Wayne stands up puts his arms around Jeremy's shoulder and begins to plead.

WAYNE

Jeremy please. I mean look at what you were doing before i came in here, staring at a wall, do you hear me J, you were staring-at-a-wall-man. You know that's not normal. All i'm asking you is to take a chance bro, just one more chance at love from your homey Wayne, man,. I "promise" you this time will be different.

Jeremy knocks Wayne's arm off his shoulder.

JEREMY

no.

WAYNE

come on j!! look...she told me her
sister's from out of town right,
and she's been dating around you
know but, she can't find anyone yet
who could satisfy her mentally,
sensually.....

Wayne leans toward Jeremy with a devious smile.

WAYNE
physically.

Jeremy face shows signs that he's become intrigued by
Wayne's plea.

JEREMY
physically?

WAYNE
physically.... listen, if your not
going to do it for yourself at
least do it for me J, your main
man, your brother from another

Jeremy puts on a slight smirk then shrugs and rolls his
eyes.

JEREMY
well.....if it helps you out.

Wayne jumps for joy and once he lands thrusts one arms
forward, the backwards as if changing gears on a stick
shift.

WAYNE
yes! I wont forget it man I'm going
to call her right now

Jeremy sits back down on the couch but this time with a
different attitude, almost in joy. He tries to hold back his
grin but it seeps out with each word that utters from his
mouth. Wayne picks up the phone from the coffee table and
begins to dial, then puts the phone to his ear.

JEREMY
I know I'm going to regret this,
man.

WAYNE
ssshhhh!

someone picks up on the other line, Wayne demeanor changes
to that of a suave davidov as he responds to the other
voice. He begins to rap the phone cord around his fingers

until it becomes tangled.

WAYNE

Hay baby.....how you doin'? Word,
damn you sound sexy (laughs) well
you know they call me big wayne,
listen my homeboy wants to talk to
your sister....alright....

Wayne eyes widen then he turns his head as if to hide what he's going to say next from Jeremy.

WAYNE

(whispers)I love you too.

Wayne thrust the phone with both hands into Jeremy's chest. Jeremy is caught off guard. He stands up and scrambles to put the phone to his ear. His face shows signs of nervousness as he places the phone on his face.

JEREMY

hay.....

Jeremy begins to gather himself, and with his posture fixed, a hand in his pocket and an eyebrow raised begins to use that suave demeanor his friend Wayne used before him.

WAYNE

i mean, whats good

INT. JEREMY'S BED ROOM - NIGHT

A couple days and we see Jeremy spread upon his bed wearing the same pajama bottoms and a different t-shirt deep slumber. He's unexpectedly awakened by the loud ring of his telephone. He wakes up in a daze un affected by the string rings that emulate from somewhere inside his room. Jeremy then begins to wake up, and after he finally realizes his telephone is ringing scrambles to find it. He throws pillows, tosses his bed sheets, snatches open his closet drawers and shuffles through his clothes. Jeremy pauses, listens for the next ring, and realizes that it's coming from beneath the bed. He immediately drops to the floor, grabs the telephone, and thrusts his finger upon the talk button and brings it to his ear. He lays back in bed posture fixed, an eyebrow raised, and begins to speak again with that suave demeanor.

JEREMY

whats good girl.

ASHLEY (V.O.)

you boo.

JEREMY

like wise, hay, can i ask you something?

ASHLEY(V.O.)

now you know you can ask me anything baby, but, that means if i ask you something you have to answer me back

JEREMY

deal, but you have to promise to answer o.k.

ASHLEY(V.O.)

o.k.

JEREMY

no, no, no, you have to say you promise. in fact, I must here the words "i promise" come out of your mouth....k

ASHLEY(V.O.)

(giggles)o-k, i promise Jeremy Danielle Freeman i will answer whatever he ask me

A large smirk covers Jeremy's face as he begins to speak.

JEREMY

all righty then.....what you wearin'?

ASHLEY(V.O.)

(laughing)Oh my God.

JEREMY

hay-hay-hay! A deals a deal right, you can't make a promise and then break it right?.....right?

ASHLEY(V.O.)

fine.

Jeremy leans forward in his bed with both eyes bulged out.

JEREMY

go on.

ASHLEY(V.O.)

a t-shirt.

JEREMY

a t-shirt and.....

ASHLEY(V.O.)
I'll leave the rest to your
imagination.

Jeremy lays back down with a grin which spreads from ear to ear, obviously satisfied by her answer.

ASHLEY(V.O.)
now it's my turn.

JEREMY
o.k. go for it.

ASHLEY(V.O.)
do you love me?

The large grin Jeremy has vanishes suddenly and a nervous expression blankets his face. He begins to tap the hilt of the phone impatiently, as if now he can't wait for his conversation with Ashley to end.

ASHLEY(V.O.)
Well.....

JEREMY
sh-sh-sure

The innocence in Ashley's voice begins to fade away and a more sinister tone begins to present itself on the telephone.

ASHLEY(V.O.)
of course, because you know i love
you, passionately, now.....would
you kill for me?

Jeremy's starts to look confused as he struggles to figure out exactly what Ashley means.

JEREMY
uhhmm.....

ASHLEY(V.O.)
would you die for me???

JEREMY
uhh.....

ASHLEY(V.O.)
because I'd do it for you.....you
know why Jeremy?

JEREMY

uhhm.....

Ashley voice becomes more menacing. Jeremy starts to become pale, face frozen in terror.

ASHLEY (V.O.)

because i'm ride or die.

Ashley begins to sing and chant the phrase.

ASHLEY (V.O.)

ride or
die,ride-di-di-die-die-die-die-die....

Jeremy hangs the phone up in a lightning motion and tosses the it off the bed as if to repel Ashley's psychotic voice away from his mind. Terrified he puts covers himself back up with the blanket and plants his head on his pillow shivering. Although he's horrified he manages to utter out a few words with his remaining strength.

JEREMY

i hate you Wayne.

INT. JEREMY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

A week has passed since Jeremy's unfortunate discovery of Ashley's true self. Jeremy sits reclined on his couch wearing a t-shirt, jeans, and all stars. In boredom he bounces and catches a basketball off the wall in front of him.

ENTERS WAYNE

Wayne, dressed in another designer t-shirt, jeans, and all stars, grabs the ball before its able to reach the clench of Jeremy's palms, then throws it at his chest with complete animosity. Jeremy recoils from the sting of the impact, rubbing the part chest which was hit.

JEREMY

come on Wayne!

WAYNE

what happened!?

JEREMY

what do you mean!?

WAYNE

with Ashley j, what happened with Ashley? Kira said you blew her off!

JEREMY

Yea! because you set me up with another lunatic!

Wayne grabs the ball and throws it back at Wayne, which he catches to Jeremy's dismay.

WAYNE

what do you mean??

JEREMY

she was a psycho-path, man. She started talking about love.....

WAYNE

already?

Jeremy closes his eyes in frustration.

JEREMY

(frustrated) please don't cut me off, man. I'm trying to explain to you....

WAYNE

alright, alright, alright

Jeremy opens his eyes and continues. Jeremy and Wayne simultaneously drop to the couch.

JEREMY

so we were talking a couple of days ago, and she brought up love and i'm like "baby why are you asking something like that?? You should already know" right

WAYNE

i like that, answer a question with a question, so they don't get a real answer.

Wayne places his hand on Jeremy's shoulder.

WAYNE

I've taught you well

Jeremy looks at Wayne's hand in disgust, then slowly rises his head to meet with Wayne's eyes never changing his expression. Wayne feels threatened and hastily removes his hand from Jeremy's shoulder.

WAYNE

go on

JEREMY

but then she asked would i die for
her?.....

WAYNE

(gasp) word!?

JEREMY

would i kill for her?.....

WAYNE

(gasp) naw!?

JEREMY

and get this.....she even started
singing Tupac....

WAYNE

whats wrong with that?

JEREMY

it was Hail Mary Wayne...(sighs)the
ride or die part

Wayne lets out a high pitch laugh which, if only a couple
decibels higher, would shatter each and every window in
Jeremy's house. Jeremy thrust a pillow into Waynes face, and
even though hes smothered pieces of his giggle continues to
seeps through. Wayne grabs the pillow and places it on the
couch.

WAYNE

(catching his breath) she
was.....rapping....Tupac

JEREMY

it's not funny Wayne, it's not, and
how come i always get set up with
the freaks, man! Are you doing this
on purpose? is it intentional. Are
you setting me up? Is the next one
a murderer or something? Just let
me know so i can prepare, you know,
hide my knives and forks before she
carves me up in my sleep...

Wayne finally comes to his senses and catches his breath.

WAYNE

it's not like that Jeremy. Look, so
what she asked those questions.
Maybe she's a philosopher and just
wanted to get in depth with, and
what better way to know if you can

trust someone than by asking them questions like that, right. And the whole Tupac thing, who cares, look, I'll sing right now, here it go "I'm so sick of loves songs, so tired of tears, so sick of wishing, you were still here, said I'm so sick of love songs....(hums).....something, why can't I turn off the radio" see, did i mean anything by it? Am I really sick of love songs Jeremy.....no, I just felt like singing, just like Ashley probably just felt like singing.

Jeremy looks at Wayne in confusion and disgust.

JEREMY

i hate you Wayne

Wayne shrugs his shoulders.

WAYNE

what?

The telephone begins to ring on the coffee table, Jeremy looks at it in terror. Wayne reclaims the basketball and begins tossing it in the air.

WAYNE

I'm not picking it up.

JEREMY

I'm not either.

WAYNE

(whining) its your phone!

JEREMY

it's not that, stupid. it's her, she's been calling non stop the pat two days.

Wayne's face glimmers with enlightenment and then he begins to incorporate a devilish grin.

JEREMY

no...

They both leap to the coffee table, and clash falling to the ground in a short but bitter brawl for phone supremacy. Wayne rises as the champion with the phone in his hand and clicks the talk but as Jeremy reaches from the floor in

defeat.

WAYNE

hay Ashley we were just talking
about you.....Jeremy was just
telling how bad he feels about what
happened and.....

A more serious expression begins to unravel upon Wayne's
face.

WAYNE

what happened?.....calm down? Just
give me your address and I'll be
there.

Wayne grabs a paper template and pen from the coffee table.
Jeremy stands up and stares at Wayne in discomfort and
confusion.

JEREMY

whats wrong?

Wayne signals to Jeremy to be patient.

WAYNE

central and.....o.k. we'll be
there just hang on

Wayne hangs up the the phone and places it on top the
coffee table.

JEREMY

what happened?

WAYNE

Ashley said her house has just been
robbed, come on we better check
over there to see if they're
o.k.....come on lets go

Jeremy sits himself back on the couch. Wayne starts to head
out the door when he notices that Jeremy not behind him.
Wayne stands at the front door.

WAYNE

(disappointed) come on j

JEREMY

come on what? if I'm trying to
avoid my stalker, why would i bring
myself to go to her house....hmm?

WAYNE

just do it out the goodness of your heart, the only people who live there are Ashley, Kira and their mom. Three defenseless woman.....please?

Wayne looks at Jeremy with puppy dog eyes. Wayne tries to repel his stare but it keeps drawing him in, until finally Jeremy stands up, and begins to walk to the door.

JEREMY
all right I'm coming.

WAYNE
hurry up.

Wayne proceeds out the door while Jeremy closes it behind himself.

JEREMY
i hate you Wayne.

EXT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - DAY

Wayne pulls up to the curb in front of a small house. He sits in his car with Jeremy in the passenger seat. They both were engaged in a conversation before the car arrived.

WAYNE
so, i lifted my foot up and guess what.....covered in doo-doo

The two begin to laugh, but it gradually fades away until a silence fills the car, its broken by Jeremy's voice.

JEREMY
you know what Wayne...all this time we haven't met in person, not even once.....i mean, i haven't even seen a picture of Ashley, all i have to go by is her voice

The silence resumes, now broken by Wayne

WAYNE
what if she's cute?

JEREMY
.....I don't know

WAYNE
.....what if she's ugly?

They both look at each others face to face .

WAYNE

yeah, crazy and ugly aren't that
good of a combo, well, you ready?

JEREMY

(sighs) guess so

Wayne and Jeremy exit the vehicle and walk toward the oak door of the small house they were parked in front of. They stand on the step with a tattered "welcome" door mat underneath them. Wayne bangs on the door with his fist ferociously.

WAYNE

Hello!.....Hello!

Jeremy steps off the door mat and rings the door bell to the right of them. Jeremy looks at Wayne such as a mother does to a child when they make an avoidable mistake. Wayne shrugs and perks his lips in an expression that tries to eliminate Jeremy's stare.

WAYNE

i didn't see it.

JEREMY

well, maybe if you would just look
around instead of banging on the
door like the police

WAYNE

it's a door! you knock on a door!

JEREMY

knock Wayne! not knock it down!

WAYNE

here we go again, man. always....

A voice presents itself from the other side of the door.

VOICE

who is it?

WAYNE

it's Wayne and Jeremy, Kira and
Ashley told us there was a
robbery, we just came to see if
everyones o.k. mam.

VOICE

who's Ashley and Kira?

Wayne and Jeremy look at each other in confusion. Wayne

looks toward the door again.

WAYNE
their are girl friends mam.

VOICE
ohh lord.....

The door opens revealing an older woman (in her fifties) dressed in a designer dress and designer shoes, with her hair rapped in a bun. She turns her head towards the inside of the house at a stair case and calls out....

OLDER WOMAN
Shannon!

Someone races down the stair case to the front door. When she arrives we see a beautiful young woman wearing shorts, a designer shirt, and tennis hoes. She stands beside the older woman, with a guilty grin on her face. The older woman leaves as the boys still stand their in confusion.

WAYNE
whats going on Kira?

SHANNON
well.....

Jeremy obtains an epiphany, which only engulfs him in deeper confusion.

JEREMY
Ashley?

Wayne turns his face to Jeremy.

WAYNE
what do you mean Ashley!?

JEREMY
they sound exactly the same.

SHANNON
well.....maybe because were the same person, Ashley and i.....Kira too.

WAYNE
what!?

SHANNON
see.....i made up Kira to get back at you.

WAYNE

what have i done to you!?

SHANNON

well.....nothing really, but my
friend up their.

Shannon points to a window above her house, revealing another young woman. She opens the window and begins to laugh hysterically, pointing at Wayne.

YOUNG WOMAN

dirty dog!

Wayne and Jeremy look at the window. Wayne then puts his head down slowly in agony.

WAYNE

(under his breath) damn.....

JEREMY

isn't that your ex?

Wayne begins to nod his head up and down, still in agony. Jeremy looks at Shannon in confusion.

JEREMY

what about me?

SHANNON

well.....since we knew Wayne was a dog, we thought his friends were to. So we thought, you know, might as well take them all down. So i made up Kira's sister Ashley and you went with it. But.....you ended up being kind of cool. I'm sorry it went this way, i think if we would of met under different circumstances.....

Wayne begins to blush and smile a little, and through habit scratches the back of his neck with his index finger. Wayne still stands there with his head lowered in shame.

JEREMY

yea....but what about the whole psycho thing on the phone?

SHANNON

Well.....i was with a friend that night while we were talking and she dared me to do it.....and to be honest..... i just couldn't resist.

You hanged up on me and i kept on calling back to explain what happened, but no one answered the phone?

JEREMY

yea, because i thought you were crazy!

Shannon becomes saddened by Jeremy's answer.

SHANNON

I'm sorry Jeremy.....you can still call me if you want to.

She then raises an eyebrow, looks at Wayne up and down, and begins to laugh as she closes the door on him.

JEREMY

I'm sorry Way....

WAYNE

jus.....lets just go.

Wayne and Jeremy head toward the car. As they near it the young woman in the window peers her head outside.

YOUNG WOMAN

by dog!

She begins to bark but the sound is silenced by the slam of the Car doors as Wayne and Jeremy enter the vehicle. Wayne rest his head on the steering wheel.

WAYNE

you know this is between you and me right.

JEREMY

yea....but i doubt its going to stay a secret with those two.

Wayne slams his head into the steering wheel. Jeremy has yet again another epiphany and he puts on a glorious smile.

JEREMY

you know what Wayne, I've just thought of something, it's always me who has the bad luck with woman.....but this time.....it's you.....your the one with the bad luck.....because see, you leave this one without a girl..... and i leave it with one.

An uncomfortable silence ensues. Jeremy still smiles as Wayne lifts his head up, revealing himself to look dull and defeated. Wayne puts his key in the ignition and starts the car.

WAYNE

i hate you Jeremy.

The car drives off into the road as our characters head back home.