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OPENING SCENE – AFTERNOON – “WHEN THE DOOR OPENS”

[RODNEY, ELAINE]

*Rodney enters the stage from the bedroom looking for his briefcase...
Rodney walks center stage pacing.*

Rodney:

Man, what did I do with my briefcase? (Sighs) I need a drink... there is too much going on.

[Door Bell]

Rodney

I tell you, Jehovah Witness just doesn't care what area they go in! Man, I moved out of the hood to get away from them. Damn. They even come to Alpharetta.

(Goes to open door)

(Rodney opens door)

Rodney

I don't believe in God! Oh, Elaine.

Elaine

Hello, Rodney! How are you BOSS?

(Elaine enters to stand in front of sofa)

Rodney

Elaine, why are you here? You should be at the studio, WORKING.

Elaine

I am working, I was enjoying the aroma of your office. I always loved the smell of Tom Ford on your body.

(Elaine begins looking around)

But, I came across this

(shows his briefcase)

So, I wanted to be the good little SECRETary and make sure my BOSS is enabled to do his work.

Hands Rodney the briefcase)

I know you have so much going on in your life right now.

Rodney

Well, Thank you!

(Begins walking to the bar)

You care for a drink.

Elaine (Walks over to Rodney)

Rodney, where is the "family?"

Rodney

Dana, she took the kids to the mall.

Elaine

Oh really!

(Walks to sofa and sits down pulls skirt up)

Rodney, I have been meaning to talk to you about something.

Rodney

Elaine, I can't afford right now to give you extra money or anything.

(Elaine gives sign to Rodney to sit on sofa) (Rodney sits in chair)

Elaine

Rodney, every time I am with William I always think of you!

(Walks over behind Rodney)

And I know you think about me, as well!

Rodney

I am sorry! But, unlike you, I am very happy at home. I don't need to picture no one else but my WIFE. I am not you all.

0A

Elaine

Who is you all?

Rodney

You men and women who manipulates us good people to fall in love, causing us to hurt that causes us to fall in you all shoes.

Elaine

Rodney, we all make mistakes. You know I love you! I am not asking you to leave your wife or anything of that matter. Just know I am very happy at home as well. I was thinking to spice both our marriages up, you and I can have that very discreet rekindle. So, take it like this, you can have your cake and your ICE CREAM too.

Rodney

Elaine, one thing you should know. I am lactose intolerance! I can't handle the bull that you are trying to bring to the table. So, with that this is what I need for you to do as my SECRETARY. Get the hell out of my house and don't you come or call my house, unless, I request you too. And remember my HISTory is just that, MY STORY! Have a good day, Elaine.

Elaine

You are kicking me out.

Rodney

I have not raised my foot up yet. Good Bye.

(Rodney escort Elaine out the door... goes to the bar fix him another drink. (He sits on sofa and begins working out of his briefcase and suddenly falls asleep.)

[SCENE]

ACT II SCENE 1 - AFTERNOON - "THE LIVES OF THE WATKINS"

[DANA, TINA, JACOB II, TAMARA, MONICA II]

Dana walks into the living room in her everyday house wear... She begins cleaning the end table while humming "Amazing Grace")

[Door Bell 2R]

Dana *(Stops humming and yells)*
Hold on, I am coming!

(Dana opens door...)

Tina & Dana *(Begins screaming)*
Oh my God!

Dana *(Excited)*
Oh my God! Tina! Come in. Girl, you look fabulous!

(Tina walks in and Dana leads her to the sofa)

Dana *(Shocked)*
Girl, you look great!

Tina *(Looks Dana up and down)*
I would say the same, but girl, Dana! You look like you have been fighting in Iraq and you are not winning.

Dana
Whatever! I have been maintaining my house!

Tina
Well, I do see that! I just love your home! You and HIM must be doing great. How is your law firm going?

Dana
Girl! That was given up 9 years ago!

Tina
Oh, when you got married?

Dana

Yep, Rodney told me that he wanted me to just stay home and be his loving wife, and be ready when he comes home so he can cater nights with me. But, you know I had to pray on that thang!

Tina

Oh, really! You prayed!

Dana

Yes, you know me, got to stay in prayer! And girl, being married! You need all the prayer you can get!

(Under breath) If I could only turn back the hands on time!

(wipes the center table)

1A

Tina

That's Cute! Because, you know, you and I have not talked since__ Oh my God!

Tina & Dana

The day of the wedding!

Tina

When you had me in that loud purple gown, singing, "Loving, You!" I wanted to sing, "I Heard It through the Grapevine."

Dana

Tina, you looked beautiful as always! And it was not loud!

Tina (Aside)

Why is it always the bride picking out the most horrible bridesmaids' gowns! And never think the dress is ugly. Dana, the dress was ugly. God knows it was! I tell you, you brides are selfish!

Dana (Concerned)

How was I selfish?

Tina

You put me in that loud and ugly dress, that no man wanted me! You just had to have all of the attention. That's how you brides are! *(Sing)* But,

I had a sewing grandmother and I learned how to cut my patterns. Thank you, Jesus. Child, I cut that dress up caused I liked the fabric and made me something sexy! Yes, ma'am!

Dana *(Laughing)*

Girl, please! I can't believe you!

(Pause) (Dana cleans end table, Tina looks at her strange)

Dana

Anyways, how did you find me?

Tina

Well, since my sister lost communication with me and I knew that I needed to see her! I decided to come and visit___

Dana *(Interrupts and in shocked)*

Visit? Where are you living now!

Tina

Girl, I had to get out of Atlanta! Too many people moved here! It was just too rough here! Bills increasing, jobs decreasing, churches are emptying and the clubs expanding, cost of living went sky high and minimum wage remained the same! Then, the mayor taking pension money from school teachers and firefighters. Then, they put the teachers in prison for trying to help a child and themselves. I can't have Atlanta blood on my hand. And you know if someone would truly shoot up a church house then I know they would shoot me up too! No place is safe but Atlanta I don't want my World Changed like that.

Then this Hollywood of the ignorant! They can have it. Don't judge my character from these "reality" shows. The Atlanta we know. Baby, we were rough but we was together. We knew unity. HELLO SOMEBODY.

Dana

(Smiling) I know that's right!

Tina

Then, I went through this stage of depression

another reason I left. You know my mom passed. By the way, my best friend was not there for me! *(Under breath)* She got married and left me behind!

Dana

Don't go there! *(moves the flower around)*

Tina *(laughs)*

Anyways! I put all that behind me, to check up on my sister But, how I found you was I had gone to your parents' house praying they still lived there to see if they would give me your information, and your dad, with his sexy old self.

Oh my God, that man knows he loves you! That's why he rushed to give me your information.

Dana *(Smiling)*

Yeah, I will always be Daddy's princess!

(Tina begins coughing)

I am so rude... Tina, you care for something to drink!

Tina

Sure, let me get a rum and coke! Without the rum! *(Smiles)*

(Dana stands there in confusion)

Girl, just a coke!

Dana

I was about to say. Okay! I'll be right back!

(Dana exit stage left... Tina goes to the wall stage-front... to admire the awards)

(OFS)

How are my parents?

Tina

(Aside) If you were to leave this fool, call and check on them you would know. *(Yells)* They seem to be doing great! But worried!

1B

1C

(Dana walks in with 2 glasses... one with coke and one with ginger ale mixed with coke)

Dana (Concerned)

Worried! Did they say why they were worried!

(Tina stands with a shameful facial expression... Dana goes in a deeper concern)

Dana

Tina, what is going on? Talk to me!

Tina

(Walks slowly to Dana)

Well, Daddy D and I were talking, while your mom was cooking! About how we've grown and how they had us in church every day. I told your mom that I reached the calling that she always told me that I had. That's when we began to talk about YOU!

Dana

What do you mean?

Tina (Very Caring)

Dana, thinking back over our lives! You and I always prayed together, enjoyed life together! You know we are like sisters. That's why I call you my sister! Your parents! You know I love them as my own for your mom is a second mom to me. So, you know I would do anything for them. Dana your parents reached out to me and flew me here to talk to check on you.

Dana (Angry)

What?

Tina (Angressive)

Dana, she told me that you don't attend church anymore, nor do you call to check on them! And that you gave up your successful law firm, just to be married to Richard! Nine years, Dana... From 35 years of covering, guiding and loving you... you didn't push it away Dana you threw it out and you never thought to check on them.

Dana

His name is Rodney and I know! But, being here

taking care of the house, my husband and my kids I don't have time for all that! Then, Rodney became this big time music producer! The interviews, travel, late night work! I don't have time!

Tina (*Angry*)

You don't have time to serve your God! But, time for a man! Then, you don't have time to pick up the phone to man! Then, you don't have time to pick up the phone to say, "Mom, Dad, how are you?" You know I love you, but sis...

[SONG INTRO: "IS IT WORTH YOUR SOUL"]

sis, tell me...is it worth it!

(Tina goes into Song, "Is It Worth Your Soul")

(Pause... Dana is crying in Tina's arms... Main door opens... Tina and Dana jumps, Dana wipes her tears... Jacob runs into the house goes to upstairs...dropping his books)

Jacob

(Running)

Hi!

Dana (*Yelling with tears*)

Jacob, stop running in this house!

Jacob

(Running upstairs)

I would but I got to go to the bathroom!

Tina

Well, the man has to go to the bathroom!

(Laughs) Was that, little Jacob, your things son?

Dana

Yes, that is my, HUSBAND'S son, the big Jacob! He dance choreographer of the Red Carpet Boot Camp!

Monica

Oh, my God! What about it's daughter__

Dana

One more time, Tina! But, Monica! She should have come in with Jacob. But, she's truly grown now. That is the one who causes me so much pain! She

is truly a cancer. Cause, girl! Monica, she is a pain that chemo just can't get rid of.

Tina

She can't be that bad...

(Monica and Tamara walk in)

1F

Tamara *(Shocked)*

Monica, I can't believe you had done that!

Monica

Tamara, I only did what any other woman would have done!

Dana

Hi, Monica! Hi, Tamara! How was your day?

(Monica rolls her eyes at Dana) (Tina looks at Monica and looks concerned at Dana)

Tamara

It was very long, with a little excitement!

Dana

Really, tell me what was so exciting about it!

(Walks towards Dana and Tina)

Tamara

Oh my God! Mrs. Watkins___

1G

Monica *(With Attitude)*

None of your business! Come on Tamara! Let me show

(Looks at Dana)

WHAT MY DAD BOUGHT ME?

(Tina, Dana and Tamara looks at Monica... Monica walks to Tamara and pulls her arm to go upstairs... in the way of dodging Dana.) (They go upstairs)

Tina

Oh my!

Dana

Don't you say it!

Tina

I wasn't! But, can I ask a question!

Dana (*Attitude*)

What is it, Tina?

Tina

Hold on, don't catch an attitude with me! I'm not the teenage girl, who just disrespected you!

(Turns her head away from Dana)

Dana (*Attitude*)

You're right. I am sorry! Oh my God girl. Exhale Dana. Okay, Tina what is your question.

Tina

You're telling me! Randy continues to buy her things and she's disrespecting you like that. He can't say he doesn't see it, I saw it and I it was only 2 minutes of being in the room with her.

Dana

No! In this case, she says that, but RODNEY, he so busy at the studio that he's not able to anything for her. So, the money he gives me, I go out and buy her some things. But, Monica has her mind set to believe that I am with her father just because of his fame and money.

Tina

So, you are buying her all this stuff and getting nothing but disrespect!

(Tina pulls out cell phone)

Hello, Bravo! I have a reality show for you, called "Dumb Ass." I will call back my friend is creating the storyline.

Dana

Really, Tina!

(Tina laughing)

(Dana Curious)

What is funny?

Tina

Nothing! Nothing at all!

(Laughs and Sighs)

You remember, when you thought you was grown and tried to disrespect your mother! And, she beat

1H

1J

you like it was the last days. Then, she told my mom! She sat you down and talked to you about disrespect! Then, she got up and beat you like tomorrow was NOT promise! Girl, I felt sorry for you!

Dana

Tina, I just feel it, you are itching to say something. Go, go ahead

Tina

I don't have anything to say! *(Pause)* But, instead of trying to be a friend! You need to stand up and be that parent! I don't care if you are the stepmother! When that thing married you, he made you the queen of this castle! And that little girl there, who thinks she is grown, is just like you in your dad's house. The princess! All she is needs is to be loved, guided and supervise! Not, run over a grown WOMAN. Who has already walked in her shoes!

God said, in his word, "Spare the rod, hates the child." Child, if you love her YOU better beat her.

Child, I have heard and seen enough! Remember, what I said! But, I have to go; I got a dinner date!

(Dancing in excitement) And of course, I am wearing my purple revised gown!

(To audience with attitude)

And yes, I can still fit it, after 9 years!

(Goes into purse)

Here is my number! Call me anytime! But, I will stop by before I leave!
To back to Virginia!

Dana

Okay girl.

(Tina and Dana hugs... Tina leads to exit stage main door...Dana follows to lock door.) (Jacob comes from upstairs rubbing stomach...)

Jacob (*Singing*)

I feel so much, better! Don't go in the restroom for an hour or so...

Dana (*Laughing*)

Boy, move! Cause, you won't be feeling anything, if you don't get these books up!

Jacob

Okay! Okay!

(*Jacob* picks up *books* off floor and place them on the *desk*...)

So, Dana! I meant momma! What were you and Tina crying about?

Dana (*Shocked*)

You remember, Tina!

Jacob

Why Shouldn't I? Those sexy lips! With, that long silky hair! That big juicy _

Dana (*interrupts*)

Shut up! You were only 6 years old!

Jacob

I was born a man! So, I always knew what to look for!

Dana (*Laughing*)

Jacob, boy! Get out of my face and go study!

(*Jacob* smiling... grab *books* and begins to walk up steps...Singing and dancing: Tina, Who can sex you like me) (*Reach the top of step*)

Nobody!

Dana

Lord, have mercy, that boy! Don't know what do with him!

(Walks to table gets a *magazine* and sits on *sofa*) (Begins looking in *magazine*... and Dana looks at *clock*...)

Dana

Oh my! How time passes! I got to cook dinner before Rodney gets here.

(Monica and Tamara walk downstairs with Monica caring a gym bag.)

Tamara *(Concerned)*

Monica, how could he? You got to tell someone!

Dana *(Attitude)*

Tamara, who can I tell! Cause, I truly can't tell my dad!

Tamara

Tell, Mrs. Watkins!

Monica *(Attitude)*

I refused to tell her anything! She is not my mother! She's a NO body! Who pretends to love my dad, just because he has the fame and the money! She doesn't love him!

Tamara

Well, IF she doesn't love your dad She surely shows

(Jacob walks downstairs... with her back towards steps)

for you! And your sexy brother!

(Jacob walks behind Tamara, wrapping his arm around her waist)

Jacob

So, you think I'm sexy! Come to my room, I can show you better than what I can tell you!

Tamara

(To Jacob)

I have advanced from Pre School and I don't need no

(Walks away in a seductive way)

refreshers!

Jacob

How would you know?

Monica (Attitude)

Boy, nobody wants that appetizer!

Jacob

Monica, you better watch it! Before, I pull those pieces out! It's nothing but glue and thread. You know what... you fake Chris Brown got beat by Rhyanna reject.

(Tamara begins laughing...)(Jacob walks to Monica, laughing and hugs her)

Jacob

I love you, but you are stupid!

Tamara

(Under her breath) Got that Right!

(Monica looks at Tamara... Tamara turns away)

Monica

Jacob, are you going to take us over Tamara's house?

Jacob

When, did the boycott start again? That, the man had to take the women everywhere they want to go! Man, I tell you, let me go get my keys.

Monica

Boy, shut up and take us over there!

Tamara

Please.

(Jacob leaves to go upstairs)

That boy is so stupid!

Monica

Pay him no attention... he was attacked by some crows and they nibbled to his brains. Once, they finished, he had nothing left. But, you got to love him!

Tamara

He's a sweet heart!

(Dana walks in the living room from kitchen... wiping hands with rag)

1N

Dana

Oh, Tamara! Are you staying for dinner, too?

Tamara

Mrs. I would love too...

Monica *(Attitude)*

No, we are going to stay at her house tonight!

Dana *(Attitude)*

No, you are not! You did not ask your father or me!

Monica

Girl, please!

Dana *(Slightly Angry)*

Let me tell you something, Monica! I am sick and tired of you disrespecting and disobeying me!

Monica *(Aggressive)*

Well, get out!

Dana

Excuse me, Tamara! I'm sorry you have to see this side of me.

(Tamara goes to sit on sofa and pulls out her phone)

1P

Dana

You know what! Monica! I married your dad for better or worst!

Monica

And you are the worst.

Dana

And you my dear is truly the worst! Yet, I love you enough to allow you to keep your teeth in your mouth. But, you are driving me to knock them all out!

Monica

Dana, if you ever touch me, you will be locked up!

Dana

You remember this! You SPOILED. CONCEITED,

1R

UNEDUCATED PRE SCHOOL being of a woman! When I moved into this house___

Monica *(interrupts)*

My daddy's house!

Dana

I became Queen of this castle! You are ONLY your dad's little princess... So, as long as I am here, I am the ruler. Do I make myself clear?

Monica *(Angry and Attitude)*

Remember that the princess always replaces the queen!

(Monica snaps her finger at Tamara and walks out of main door...)

Tamara, be a sweetheart and grab my bags.

(Dana walks away, and sits on sofa... with the act of a head ache)

Tamara

Mrs. Watkins, I am sorry! I will talk to her!

(Dana nods her head in agreement and pain... crying) *(Jacob comes rushing down the stairs with keys)*

Jacob

Are you ok?

Dana *(Depressed with head down)*

I'll be okay! Just go!

Jacob

Well, know that I love you!

Dana *(Looks up)*

I love you too... but just go!

(Jacob exit stage through main door)

(Dana Crying...kneeling)

[MUSIC INTRO]

Dana *(Crying)*

I am here on my knees, pleading for your forgiveness, God!

Lord, it's me! I know that you have not heard from me in a long time. But, it's me, Dana. I really need more of your grace, I can't bare this no more. I need you to intervene in my life right now God.

Lights fade out with vocalist

[SCENE]

SCENE 2 - LATE MORNING - "DRIFTING ON THE MEMORIES"

[DANA, RODNEY]

(Lights.... Rodney walks in the house... very quietly...) *(He goes and place his bag on the stage right floor of the sofa...and his folder of papers on the center table. Putting his keys on the desk in a quiet motion)*

Rodney

Man, I am starving!

(Rodney goes outside...) *(Dana walks downstairs in a slow manner in her silk robe, elegant heel house shoes)* *(She notice Rodney is home by his bag... she stands on step, looking around for Rodney)*

Dana *(Quietly but loud)*

Rodney! Rodney!

(Continues downstairs) Rodney.

(To herself) I know I heard something. Rodney. Monica. Jacob.

(Grabs bottle) I don't like these types of games. Who's here?

(Rodney walks into the living from, from kitchen... with a plate of food)
(Kisses Dana on the cheek after scaring her... goes and sit on the sofa)

Rodney

Hey, baby!

Dana *(Scared)*

Rodney, don't do that! You almost saw Jesus! Because, I was this close of knocking the hell out of you!

Rodney

You wouldn't do that would you baby!

Dana

Would you like to replay it? So that, I could act like its not you!

Rodney

Baby! I'm sorry! *(laughs)*

Why are you up, baby?

Dana

Because I'm tired of going to bed alone!

Rodney

Baby, you know we got this new group that we need to do something with! We got big plans for them!

Dana

I know baby! No, I heard you come in. Already couldn't sleep. So, I came down to cuddle with you and get me some warm milk.

Rodney

Okay, you were missing Big Daddy!

Dana

Oh I do! I think about him every time you and I are together... *(Smiles)*

Rodney *(Shocked)*

Say What?

Dana

Boy, I am just joking!

Rodney

You better be!

Baby, go ahead and get your warm milk!

Dana

I am!

(Dana walks to the kitchen...)

(Rodney continues to eat and do paperwork)

[Phone Rings]

Rodney

Man, who would be calling here after twelve...

(Rodney answers the phone)

Hello! Why in the hell are you calling my house__

(Rodney looks towards kitchen Nervous)

Are you trying to ruin me?

Yes, you are! I told you to never call my house.

(Dana walks in with a glass of milk)

Rodney

Yeah man, I know the feeling.

Dana

Baby, guess who stopped by__

2B

Rodney

Yeah, man! You got the wrong number!

(Dana walking to sofa...sit next to Rodney. Rodney drops phone on sofa)

Dana

Who was that, baby?

Rodney

Some dude, looking for some girl name, Charlene!

Dana *(laughing)*

I remember those days, giving the wrong number to the guys that I had no interest in!

Rodney

Yeah, I know! You had done it to me!

Dana

I sure did! Lord, knows you were a jerk!

Rodney

But, look at who you are with now!

Dana

That's only because God had to change my mind and my attitude!

Rodney

Stop playing! God had nothing to do with you and I getting together! You had fallen in love with sexy producer. And those other guys couldn't provide what I provide.

(Looks down at pants and smiles)

Dana

Trust and believe it! That was NOT the case!

Rodney

Whatever you say, Baby!

Dana

Let's Drift back to the memories! You were a man with DREAMS of being a big time producer! Who actually had fallen off the face of the earth! Then, God brought you back in my life. I helped build your career and you, my loving husband, was established with an already made family! Sorry, that God took your baby mamma.

Rodney

So, you bringing up what you had done. Then, you want to say God did it?

Dana

Rodney, it took God and everything in his power for me to even consider you to be in my life.

I see where this is heading! I am going to bed now... we are not going to bed like this.

(Dana walks to the stairs) (Rodney starts back on his papers... Dana stops)

Dana

Are you coming?

Rodney

Once, I finish with all this paperwork, then, you will be in my arms.

Dana

{Dana shakes her head}

Okay, baby! Oh, by the way... I need for us to sit down because we really need to talk!

Rodney

Okay, baby...

(Rodney grabs folder)

(Dana goes up stairs... down stage right)

Rodney

Man! That was close...

(Rodney places phone on phone base)

(Jazz Music Up Tempo Effect) Music plays... Lights Fades out

[SCENE]

SCENE 3 - LATE MORNING - "CAN I TALK TO YOU"

[RODNEY, TINA, DANA, JACOB II, MONICA II, TAMARA]

[DOORBELL RINGS 3]

*(Rodney comes downstairs with nothing on but a pair of boxer briefs...
Rodney answers door on third ring)*

Rodney

Dang, I am coming!

Tina

Hello, is Dana, here?

(Tina aggressively invites herself in and goes to sit on sofa)

Rodney

Yeah, she's here! You would be!

Tina

Sir, it's me! Tina!

Rodney

I don't recall but you can come on in and have a seat!

(Yelling)

Dana, a Tina is here!

(Rodney goes into the kitchen...)

Dana (Yelling)

I will be down in a minute!

Tina (Yelling)

Girl, hurry up!

Dana *(Yelling)*

I am coming! Girl, wait!

(Dana walks downstairs, wearing a fitted short dress and heels)

Tina

Alright now! That's my girl, Dana! That must have been my sister, Ceelee that I saw on yesterday, cause she shol' was ugly!

(Dana goes and hit Tina in a joking manner... Tina dodges Dana's hit while laughing)

3A

Dana

Whatever! How are you this morning?

Tina

I am blessed and highly favored!

Dana

I see that you are in a good mood this morning.

Tina

As good as God has been to me, I cannot afford NOT to give him all my praise. And girl, my praise is coming from my smile.

Dana

Amen to that! So, what brings you here so early this Saturday morning?

Tina

Well, since you are my sister, and I tell you everything whenever you are around.

(Excited)

Girl, I met a man on last night.

Dana

Oh yeah, you wore the purple revised gown I bought and you cut! How did it go?

Tina

Dana, I already knew that he was attractive. Cause, we met at this church conference. So, yes he's a MAN of God.

3B

(Shouts [MUSIC])

Hallelujah!

Anyways, we went out to dinner! The typical dinner date!

Girl, why did this man have my order already place, when we got there!

Dana

How did he know what to order? All of my favorite.

Tina

Dana, I was wondering about that too! Girl, check this! At the conference my sister in Christ and I, was sitting at our table. And you know that high- class bland food they serve to us broke blacks. Trying to make us feel we are living grand.

Dana

Yeah, the food that no one really eats. Yeah, Anyways!

Tina

Well, you know me! Always got something to say!

Dana

Yes, God!

Tina (*Stares at Dana*)

When, the waitress came and asked what we wanted, I started naming things that I wanted. Collards, mac and cheese, dressing with dark brown gravy. Because, girl, you know I got this body from nowhere but eating Grandma's cornbread and NOT a dinner roll.

Dana

Girl, you are stupid!

Tina

Why was he sitting behind me that day? Girl, everything that I told the girl I wanted he had for me last night. Nice size portion. Because, I know he wasn't trying to call me fat. Hello. Anyways...

Dana

Sounds like a catcher. When is the next date?
When can I meet him?

Tina

(Calm and looks at Dana likes she's crazy)

Child, I am not interested!

Dana

Tina, you enjoyed him, he's a man of God and all this other stuff.

Tina

Girl! That was the flesh ALL SO excited. But, I don't know, the spiritual connection wasn't there.

Dana

Tina! Now, you just said he was a man of God!

Tina

Now, Dana, you know! NOT all men and women who attend spiritual functions are there for the seeking of spiritual growth. Its either two or three things! One, its routine for them! Two, they are looking for love or three. Just there to keep up drama!

Dana

Now, you don't have the ALL power of knowing!

Tina

But, when my spirit is corrupted, then... I have to question things!

Dana

That is your problem! You think every man is the wrong man. You said Rodney was the wrong guy for me!

Tina

Oh, I still say that!

Dana

Yet, I am still happy with him!

(Tina picks up magazine)

3D

Tina

This is such a good picture of me!

Dana

Don't do me!

Tina

Love you!

Tina

So, Dana, dear! Where are you going this morning?
Looking like you work on MLK!

Dana

Whatever Tina, I am going to the mall!

(Rodney comes out of kitchen to go upstairs with a piece of toast)

Dana

Oh, Rodney! You remember, Tina! Don't you!

(Rodney looks in confusion)

This is my best friend, Tina! She was the Maid of Honor for our wedding.

Rodney

Oh, how are you? Long time! You look totally different. Actually, ten times better.

(Tina charges at Rodney, Rodney run upstairs. With Dana running in front of Tina)

Dana

Excuse him! He was up all night doing paperwork.

3E

Tina

It's no problem.

(Yelling)

I don't like him anyways!

Dana

Tina!

Tina

The truth shall set me free!

Dana *(sighs)*

Tina, would you like to join me to make it a girl's day out? We can go to the mall and just enjoy ourselves like we used too.

Tina

I would love too! But, first you have to change clothing!

(Tina sits on sofa)

Dana

(Looks herself up and down)

Why?

Tina

Because when he say that he wants a divorce! I don't want my name to be in it.

Dana

Girl, please! No one is getting a divorce! Not in this house!

Tina

Okay, you question my spirit! But, I am never wrong!

Dana

Girl, come on here!

(Yelling)

Rodney, I am leaving to go to the mall, now!

Come on, Tina!

Tina

I like the sound of that! Can we go to Nordstorm Rack? I need the expensive for the inexpensive. I don't have a man with money.

Dana

Stop judging them and you can, Ms. Holier than Thou! Come on here.

(Dana and Tina walks off stage through the main door...)

(Jacob walks downstairs in Basketball shorts and wife beater.) (Jacob goes into the kitchen...pause... Jacob comes from kitchen upset... Jacob walks back upstairs.)

Jacob

Can a growing man, get a decent meal! What about the children?

(Monica and Tamara walk in... Monica is carrying her gym bag.)

Tamara

So, Monica! Are you going to talk to your dad or Mrs. Watkins, about what is going on?

Monica

First, her name is Dana! And yes, I will talk to my dad about it!

Tamara

I'm not going to disrespect her like that! Not like you do!

But, Monica! I don't care who you are going to talk too! But, you need to talk to someone!

Monica

I said, I will!

[CAR HORN]

Tamara

Oh my God! My parents have no patience!

(Rodney walks downstairs...catching Monica and Tamara's attention...)

Monica *(Excited)*

Hi, daddy!

Tamara

Hi, Mr. Watkins!

Rodney

Hey, baby! Hi, Tamara!

[CAR HORN]

Tamara

Let me go!

Monica

Ok, girl!

(Tamara quickly walks out...closing the door) (Rodney comes from the kitchen with a glass and goes to bar)

3H

Monica

Daddy! I need to talk to you!

Rodney

I can't right now, baby! I am busy!

Monica *(Yelling)*

Daddy, I really need to talk to you!

(Rodney turns around to Monica upset)

Rodney

Who in the hell do you think you're talking to like that?

(Rodney slaps Monica falls on floor)

Don't you never talk to me like that in my house!

(Jacob comes from upstairs looking down...) (Rodney walks upstairs looking at Jacob... as Jacob is looking at him in disappointment.) (Jacob goes to help Monica up, she's holding her face, crying)

Jacob *(Comforting)*

Come on, sis! We will make it through it!

Monica

(Crying and holding her face)

Jacob! All I wanted to do was talk to him!

Jacob

I know!

Monica

How would you know? Whenever you want to talk to him, he's there for you! I bet if I was standing here on fire, he wouldn't do anything, but walk over to that bar and grab himself a drink!

Jacob

Monica, you know dad loves you just as much as he loves me!

3I

Monica

No, I don't Jacob! Look at what you have and what I don't have.

Jacob, dad bought you a car!

I don't even know how to drive. He gives you a hundred dollars more when you get a C on your report card. And I get straight A's!

Jacob

Come here, Monica!

Monica, I know that I am always clowning on you and everything. But, I have never known that you were feeling like that! I thought you just hated the fact him and Dana are together!

Monica

I hate that too!

Jacob

You hate everything!

Monica

Jacob, all I wanted to do is tell dad what happened to me!

Jacob

What? Talk to me! Do make it quick, I have a date__

Monica (*Pacing*)

Jacob!

(*Dramatic*)

I was raped and now I'm pregnant!

Jacob (*upset*)

By who! By Who... Monica!

Monica

(*Takes a deep breath*)

By Gregory!

Jacob (*Yelling and upset*)

You talking about the boy, you suppose, to be dating!

(*Jacob goes to desk to get gun...storms out...*)

Monica

Jacob! Jacob! What are you about to do?

Jacob

I am going to go take care of this! He has messed with the wrong family!

Monica

No, Jacob! Jacob, No!

(Jacob walks out of door...) *(Monica sits on sofa covering her face of where her Rodney slapped her)* *(Tamara walks in the door cheerful)*

3K

Tamara

Monica, girl! My parents said I can stay for a little longer.

(Pause)

What's wrong with Jacob! He just stormed by me as though someone has stolen his last piece of manhood! I have never in my 5 years of knowing you guys for him to be like that!

(Looks at Monica in concern)

Monica, what is going on? Did you and Jacob get into a physical fight! If so, do you want me to call the police! They will come quicker if I call!

Monica (Depressed)

No, Tamara! Jacob and I didn't get into a fight! I told him about how I became pregnant. He just rushed out of here! With me carrying this baby. I just let him do what he do!

Tamara

Now, out of all people! Why are you going to tell someone who is only 16? At that, you're older than him! What can he do?

Monica

Tamara, I didn't want too! But, something unexpected happened, when I was trying to tell my dad.

Tamara

What? Tell me girl. What happened? How did it go?

3L

Monica

In a whole different direction than what I thought it would go!

Tamara

Ok, well! Most dads turn out that way when something happens to their daughters! For example! When Renae's boyfriend went off on her and beat her! Oh my god! Everyone just knew that Renae's dad was just going to call the police. But, he fooled everyone. He had gone over to the boy's house with a 9. Ready to just cut lose.

Monica

Tamara, my dad didn't nor is he going after Redd! He turned around and slapped the hell out of me!

Tamara

Oh my God! Do you want me to call the police now?

Monica

No, Tamara! I don't want NO police! I don't want anything! I just want to know where do, I go from here!

Tamara

Monica, there is nowhere for you to go! What you have to do? You have to believe in God! You have to know he is there for you! You have to understand that there is a purpose of your loneliness... your depression... your lost and confusion... For God has something in stored for YOU and the baby! Just talk to him!

Monica *(Crying)*

I don't know how too!

Tamara

Just like you are talking to me, Just talk!

(Tamara leaves stage through main door) (Music intro - Talking To You)

(Monica sits on sofa and holds pillow...begins crying)

[SCENE]

SCENE 4 - LATE AFTERNOON - "THIS CAN NOT BE HAPPENING"**[RODNEY, DANA, WILLIAM, ELAINE]***(Rodney walks through main door)***Rodney** *(Yelling)*

Baby, I'm home! Are you about ready? The limo will be here soon.

Dana *[OS from Bedroom]*

I am almost ready! I'll be down in a second. Once we get in the car Rodney I think we should have a talk.

(Rodney takes a deep breath and shaking head... while pouring a drink) **[DOORBELL RINGS 2]** *(Dana walking downstairs...adjusting her hair)*

Dana

I'll get it baby!

(Dana reaches door...doorbell rings again) **[15 MINUTE INTERMISSION CALL]**

(Rodney takes a deep breath and shaking head... while pouring a drink) **[DOORBELL RINGS 2]** *(Dana walking downstairs...adjusting her hair)*

Dana

I'll get it baby!

(Dana opens Door...)

William *(angry)*

Hi, Dana!

Dana

Hi, William! Come in, why don't you!

Rodney

What's up, William? Coming to wish your brother luck for the Producer of the year award!

William *(Angry)*

Don't "what's up" me, yo!

Rodney

What is wrong with you, bro?

William

Oh, now! I'm your bro!

Dana (*Concerned*)

Rodney. William, what's wrong?

William (*Angry*)

Well, apparently! Your husband and my wife is not happy at home! And decided to rekindle their past!

Dana (*Curious*)

What are you talking about, William?

William

Well, I didn't find out, until the other night! When, something had awaken me from sleep and told me to pick up the phone to check on my parents! And, guess who was on the phone.

Dana

William, what are you trying to say! What is going on?

William

Dana, did you hear your phone ring at twelve, something in the morning?

(*Dana* pauses and looks at *Rodney*)

Rodney

Baby, I don't know what he is talking about! Yo, William! I don't know what you are on, but, dude! I think you need to go!

(*Rodney* begins to escort *William* to Door)

William

Oh really, now! You thought you hung up the phone. Who is Charlene!

(*Dana* stares at *Rodney* and begins to walk upstairs)

William

Hold on, Dana!

(*Dana* turns around...*William* walks outside...*Rodney* grabs *Dana*. *Dana* snatches away from *Rodney*.)

Dana (*Angry*)

Don't you dare touch me!

(Pause) The wrong number!

(William walks in with Elaine...)

William *(To Dana)*

Dana, meet your step kids' mom, Elaine!

Dana

Okay! William! Oh my God! Yes, the kids' mom name is Elaine. But, their mom is dead. She died in a car accident 11 years ago. This is Elaine, she is just the secretary of the studio and your wife.

William

Dana, I didn't know either! All I knew was that they worked together in the studio. Rodney was Elaine's boss! That's all!

(Dana looks at Rodney)

Dana

Rodney?

4C

Is this True?

(Dana slaps Rodney) Tell me this is not true.

(Rodney stands there... Dana slaps Rodney and walks away)

Dana

This cannot be happening to me! I gave up what I love for you! My law firm, my family, my home. Church! Every DAMN thing! And for what! To find out, for the past 9 years of our marriage! The two years of our dating! You actually had me feeling sorry for you and these kids! 11 years Rodney! I'm, here believing that, this woman is dead! Died in a damn car accident! You have that much hatred for her to say she's dead! Yet, you are going to hire her to work for you. So, did you hire her to continue to have relations with her?

Rodney, Elaine was at OUR wedding. Sitting on the front row! Next to William and your mother!

Rodney

Baby, I don't know what William is talking about!
I have not cheated on you!

William (Angry)

I knew you were going to say, something like
that!

Rodney (Aggressive)

Man, because your marriage is failing! Don't come
here trying to mess up mine.

*(Rodney charges at William... both begin to fight. Dana grabs and slaps
Rodney in breaking up fight)*

Dana

You know what, Rodney! William didn't mess up our
relationship! You did! When you didn't want to
communicate with me! When, all your focus was in
the studio. Well, let me tell you something!
When, this piece of trash here, didn't want you!
Apparently, she didn't it! Because, she left you
to be with William! You had nothing to offer me!
Yet, I had so much to offer you! Why don't you
just get out?

4D

(Rodney pauses and walks to door...Opens it and close back.)

Rodney

You know what? Luckily, tonight is my award night
and my limo awaits me, so I will leave for now.
But, since I pay the bills here, put cloths on
your back and fame for your name. I think it
would be best for you to get the hell out of MY
house by time I get back.

*(Rodney adjusts his tuxedo jacket put on sunglasses and exit through main
door... Dana sits on sofa.)*

William (To Elaine)

How about you go and wait in the car?

(Elaine exits through main door. William walks over to Dana)

[MUSIC INTRO]

William

Dana, I know we don't know much of each other like that. But, after hearing all the sacrifices you gave to him. I have to tell you.

(Lights fades into a spot light on Dana and William) (Dana runs off stage, to go upstairs set... Dana is packing her suitcase) (William Ends Song with exiting through main door)

[SCENE]

SCENE 5 - AFTERNOON - "FOR TRYING TO BE A FRIEND"

[MONICA, JACOB, TAMARA]

(Monica sitting in chair reading magazine... she hears the door open she quickly hides magazine) (Jacob walks through the door)

Monica

Jacob, where have you been?

Jacob

Been here... been there... Been a little everywhere!

Monica

Jacob, what did you do?

Jacob

Umh... I went to school, ate lunch, got a date with this hot sexy chick...

Monica

Stop playing with me! You know what I am talking about.

[DOORBELL RINGS 3]

(Monica goes to answer door... Jacob runs upstairs)

Tamara

Oh my God, Monica! Where is Jacob?

Jacob

He just ran up to his room... why are you looking for him?

Tamara

Girl, I didn't know that Jacob can throw down like that.

Monica

What are you talking about?

Tamara

You were not there! Your brother may clown you and everything. But, girl he has truly shown his love for you.

Monica

Tamara, what are you talking about?

Tamara

See if you were at school today, you would know!

Monica

If I didn't have to go to the doctor for this baby, I would have been at school.

Tamara

Oh yeah!

Anyways, girl... Jacob got up in Red's face. The next thing I know, Jacob had knocked Redd into the lockers. I was going to call the police, but, I wanted to see this one.

Anyways, Jacob had to knock out at least two of Red's teeth. And broke his nose! Jacob was on it.

5A

(Jacob comes down the stairs slow... Monica walks over slowly crying and hugs Jacob)

Tamara

Girl, there was no one able to pull Jacob off of him. I would have but I had on my two hundred heels and no sir... no one is not about to step on these shoes. And I just bought them too. Oh, I had on this cute little outfit custom made of course. Oh God, Store bought...

(Tamara turns around...walks over to Jacob acting like she has a microphone)

Tamara

So, Mr. Watkins, are you retiring from dancing, to become a full time boxer now?

Jacob
Tamara, shut up!

Tamara

What are you going to do? Punch me!

Jacob and Monica

Tamara. Go home!

Tamara (To Audience)

You see what you get for trying to a friend! You get kicked out! I tell you...

(Tamara walks out... lights fade out)

[SCENE]

SCENE 6 - LATE AFTERNOON - "SPEAK LORD"

[MONICA, DANA, DONALD, MICHELLE, RODNEY]

(Dana comes downstairs with suitcases) (Monica coming from the kitchen.)

Monica (Remorseful)

Ms. Dana! Can I talk to you?

Dana

Monica, I have to go! I don't have to time to hear your little smart comments.

(Dana walks passed Monica to go to door...with Monica dropping her head.)

(Monica turns to Dana when she reach door)

Monica

Momma!

(Dana stops and turns around and looks at Monica)

Dana

Monica, are you ok?

Monica

Please, I need someone to talk too!

(Dana places her suitcases on the floor and leads Monica to the sofa...)

Dana

What is going on?

Monica

I tried to talk to my dad about it!

[PHONE RING 2]

Dana

That must be my dad! Hold that thought!

(Dana answers the phone)

Dana (on phone)

Hi, Dad! Come in for a minute! The door is unlocked.

(Monica looks up at Dana)

Dana

I hope you don't mind talking in front of my dad!

(Donald and Michelle walk in arguing and going up to Dana; He hugs her) (Monica sits there watching the bond between Dana and Donald.)

Donald

Hi, sweetheart!

Michelle

Hello, darling!

Donald

Are you okay?

Dana

Yes, sir!

Michelle

Are you sure?

Baby, Dana you tore up from the floor up!

Dana

Yes, mommy!

Donald (To Monica)

Hi, there little lady!

Monica *(softly)*

Hi!

Dana

Daddy! Mommy, this is Monica! You remember the little flower girl for the wedding!

Michelle

Oh my! My have you grown! I remember when you barely talking!

Dana

Monica, this is my dad, Mr. Reid! And my mother, First Lady Reid!

Donald

Michelle, I guess our daughter has forgotten. See, when you introduce people you respectfully give them their proper sub heading.

(Gives *Dana* a sharp cut eye)

I'm Reverend Donald Reid___

[SHOUT] (Shouts)

Michelle

Donald, sweetheart! There isn't anything about that dance that is in the spirit!

Donald

See, when the spirit hits, then, I just have to dance! Heyyyyyy!

[SHOUT] (Shouts)

Michelle

That is the spirit of attention! Now, get somewhere and sit down.

Dana (To Monica)

You have to excuse these two! Sometimes, you just have to sit back and enjoy the love between them.

Monica (smiling)

It's rather funny to me!

Donald

There is nothing funny about the Holy Ghost!

[SHOUT] (Shouts)

6B

6C

Michelle

Donald, if you don't... I promise you I will lay hands on you and you will NOT be able to get up from it.

Donald

Praise the Lord!

(Donald goes and sits on sofa)

Donald (To Monica)

Such a beautiful smile!

Monica

Thank you, Reverend Reid!

Donald

No, baby, you just call me, grandpa!

Dana

I'm sorry! But, she needed to talk to me about something!

Donald

Well, okay! Is this something of a woman issue? If so, I can leave out.

Michelle

Yes. Now, get the hell out! BYE!

Monica

No, sir! It's about my relationship with my dad. And me begging for her forgiveness!

Donald

In that case! Move Dana!

(Moves Dana to the side)

Donald

Talk to me!

Monica (Disappointed)

Well, I was trying to tell my dad about what happened to me! The boy, that I am supposed to be dating, invited me to a party, on a Thursday. Two months ago.

Donald and Michelle

A school night! Okay!

Michelle

Oh, Jesus!

Monica

He was influenced by some other boys from the party to have sexual intercourse with me.

Donald and Michelle

Sexual Intercourse!

(Michelle begins anointing the house... Jacob walks in the house, calmly...)

Jacob

What's up, everybody?

Donald

Is this the boy?

(Donald charges at Jacob, having Dana to jump in front of Donald.)

Dana (Yells)

No!

Daddy, Mommy! This is Jacob! The ring bearer!

Donald

okay, the one who dropped the ring somewhere and it took us nearly 20 minutes to find it. Had me outside sitting in the hot sun burning up! You owe me!

How are you, son?

Jacob

I'm good!

Dana

Jacob, this is my mother, First Lady Reid. And my daddy, the REVEREND D. Reid!

Donald

Back to you, with your beautiful self!

Monica

Grandpa! I am pregnant!

6E

6F

I kept saying, NO! I kept saying, NO! I kept saying

(Monica slight faints)

(Donald and Dana grab her before falling on floor and put her in the chair.)

Dana

Monica! Monica! Come on baby!

Donald

Come on sweetheart! You have us to talk to now. Come on!

Monica (Crying)

But, the hurtful part was, I tried to tell my dad! But, he wouldn't listen! And he slapped me!

(Donald looks up at Dana...Dana is crying)

6G

Michelle (Yelling)

In the name of Jesus!

Dana

Daddy, I didn't know anything about this!

(Monica and Dana is crying)

Donald

Okay, baby! That will be handled! Now, you wanted to beg for Dana's forgiveness!

Monica

First, I want to say, I'm sorry about lying to you! And you too Jacob!

(Jacob and Dana looks in confusion)

6H

Daddy, told me to never tell neither one of you! Our mother is not dead! She is still living! I get to see her sometimes.

(To Dana)

The reason, I've been treating you the way I have Ms. Dana. Because, it's already challenging for me to live here with Jacob! For, our dad favors him. And by you being the woman in his life! There is no room for me!

Dana

Monica, I never knew you felt that way! But, I want you to know I never attended to replace you in your dad's life. If anything, I always tried to be there for you!

Monica

I know! I just wanted my dad attention! After, 17 years I would have thought he would grow in loving me. But, he never did.

Donald

Baby girl! I understand what you are saying. For, I too know how it feels to be replaced by someone from the outside. Especially, when, you feel you should be the most important person in their life!

Jacob (Angry)

Hold up! Our mom is still living!

Dana

I know that! I found that out yesterday! That's why I'm leaving today.

Monica & Jacob

NO! I'm sorry! You can't leave! We need you!

(Rodney walks in the house in his suit...)

Rodney

Hello, everybody!

(Michelle Sings... Speak Lord)

Donald

Dana, Go and get in the car!

(Dana goes and gets her suitcases, slapping Rodney in face as she exit)

I'm talking to you two as well! Don't worry about clothing! I will buy you both some clothing.

(Monica slaps Rodney as she exit. Jacob walks passed Rodney and push him towards center stage)

Michelle, you too!

Michelle (*Aggressive*)

The Devil is a liar and so are you! I'm getting ready to handle this one!

(*Donald pulls Michelle back*)

Donald

Rodney, let me talk you! Man to man! Sitting my title to the side!

Michelle

Not today you won't!

Donald

Say what!

Michelle

You are not about to put nothing to the side! You are a true man of the cloth! And I would hate to knock one of these church folks in the mouth because of this manner. You stay in that good standards I'll handle this one. Donald, do you think I am stupid? As soon as you heard Dana crying you was ready to come over here. Why do you think I came?

Donald

I can handle this Michelle.

Michelle

Yes you can! But, sweetheart! But, babae, I am a Nolian girl. I was born a Nolian and raise a Christian. And I have not forgotten where I come from. When we hear that a grown man, slapped a woman in the face especially his own daughter, babae...

(*Walks to Rodney's face*) I want to see him slap a grown woman in the face.

Slap me, Rodney! I am trying to talk to you! Slap me!

(*Rodney leans back to slap Michelle, Donald charges Rodney*)

Donald

Boy, if you touch my wife, you might as well say, farewell, to life!

6K

Michelle

If you, EVER in your life want to lay another hand on a female, especially your daughter! I need for you to holla back at me youngan!

Donald

Rodney, let me tell you one thing! And I wanted to tell you this before the wedding! If you was to hurt my daughter! Physically,

Michelle:

Physically

Donald

mentally

Michelle

mentally

Donald

and Emotionally

Michelle

And Emotionally... Yeah, yeah, yeah...

Donald

I was going to hurt you, physically, mentally and emotionally.

(Donald and Michelle begins fighting Rodney...Rodney breaks from the fight)

6L

Rodney

Mr. Reid__

Donald (Attitude)

There is nothing you can say to me, right now! You have a daughter, who has been raped!

Rodney (Shocked)

Raped.

Michelle

Yes! Raped! R A P P E D!

Donald

The worst of it, she tried to tell you! The one she supposed to come to for comfort! I don't know what it is about you all young men! But, someone

needs to tell you! When you cause a cause, you need to take care of the effect. Your kid's need you! But, this is what I'm going to do for you! I am going to take your kids to my house for a little while.

Michelle and Rodney

Say what?

Rodney

I can take care of my own kids. I don't need you to take my kids.

Michelle

I agree with him on that.

Donald *(To Michelle)*

To allow them the knowledge of a spiritual life!

(To Rodney)

And to give you time to think.

Michelle

You know what, Rodney! I do not agree with my husband with everything. Especially, taking your kids to our house! But, the spirit is telling me, you do need this time. Yes, you have house, the fame and everything that you desire. But, do you have God. Rodney, Don't wait until you lose everything to find God, you need to Put Your Trust In Jesus.

(Lights Fade into Michelle)

(Rodney goes and sits on sofa, in a stressful mode with Donald providing comfort)

[SCENE]

SCENE 7 - MORNING - "MIND OVER MATTER"

[RODNEY, TINA]

(Rodney sitting on sofa in depression...Television running playing "Titanic")

[DOORBELL RING 3]

(Rodney quickly turns off TV by remote... he rushes to pick up papers on second door bell and opens door on third ring)

Rodney (*Excited*)

Baby!

Tina (*Walks in*)

Morning, Richard! Can you tell my sister that I am here?

Rodney (*Walking back to sofa depressed*)

I would if she was here!

Tina

I tell you! That's one thing about that girl! The mall is her second home.

Rodney

She's not at the mall! She's moved back with her folks!

Tina

(*Shouts*)

Glory to God!

7A

Rodney (*jumps up*)

What?

Tina

Ronnie, sit down let me talk to you! Sit Down!

(*Tina pushes Rodney on sofa.*)

Now, Reggie! Dana and I grew up together! And from our growth together! She knew what's best for me and I know what is best for her. And truly you are not the best for her!

Rodney

I ___

Tina

Not a question! No response needed! Now, as I was saying, before I was rudely interrupted. Russell, when you and my girl got married! The wedding was beautiful! She was so happy! The sunshine! The perfect outside wedding! But, the main problem was, no one wanted her to marry you.

Rodney

Tina, I am the best thing ever happened in her life.

7B

Tina

Really, Randy! Well, let's analyze this!

(Yelling and running around)

Dana! Dana! Dana!

Oh, I forgot! She's not here!

Rodney

I see you got jokes!

Tina

No, I have facts. See, I knew eventually that something was going to happen!

Rodney

How is that?

Tina

For God had already placed it in my spirit!

Rodney

See there you go with that God business!

7C

Tina *(Aggressive)*

Rufus let me tell you something! Don't you ever knock down my father! He's been too good to you and I. He woke us up this morning. Trust and believe. I know my sister was praying for you! The only way you became this big time producer. Not because of your skills or everything as such. It was because God wanted more for his daughter. And, since she was faithful to him! He provided you your dream. So, you can be happy and make her happy! When a man finds a wife he finds a good thing. And with his grace and mercy, he answered her prayers on your behalf.

Rodney, do you love you Dana? Do you want your marriage to heal!

Rodney

First, the name is RODNEY. And, Yes, I want my marriage! I love her with all of my heart, mind and soul!

Tina

Child, don't tell me! You should have told her that before she left your behind.

Rodney

I've been trying! She's not answering my calls or emails. NOTHING. Not even my facebook messages.

Tina

Rootabaker! Curious minds stand before you! Why did she leave?

Rodney

Again, it's Rodney! Since, you must know!

Tina

Robert, please! Stop withholding classified information.

Rodney

Dana, found out that I was living a double life!

Tina

You're Gay!

7D

(Charging Rodney)

I bind that in the name... Lose him Satan.

Rodney *(Aggressive)*

Hell, no! She found out that I have been have a relationship with my baby momma.

Tina

Your who? Isn't she dead?

Rodney *(Sighs)*

No, Tina!

At that time, she was dead to me! From there I had everyone to believe she was dead.

Tina

Dumb ass!

Rodney

Oh Miss Holier than thou! Judging and cursing me!

Tina

Oh, don't turn this storyline on me, you are the

star of this play! And that word is in the bible, you would know if you pick it up sometimes!

7E

Rodney

Tina, you know what! I got an idea. Dana she listens to you! You can get her to come home!

Tina

My name is Ray Charles and I cannot see myself in your in the middle of your mess!

(Rodney walks away shamefully)

Tina

Lord, why me? Why him?

(Sighs)

Lord, have mercy!

Ray, let me tell you what you have to do to get Dana back. I am going to tell you like Isaiah told Hezekiah, you have got to get your House in Order.

Rodney

I tried to clean up, I mean I am no Dana...

7F

Tina

You have got to be as dumb as Nicodemus! Not this house made by man's house. This out!

(Pointing at Rodney's body)

Rodney

What should I do?

Tina

First, you need A Changed Mind!

[MUSIC - CHANGE] *(Tina lays hands on Rodney causing Rodney to fall on his knees)*

Lights fade on Tina and Rodney

[SCENE]

SCENE 8 - LATE EVENING - "NOT WORTH IT"**[RODNEY, ELAINE, DANA]**

(Rodney is sleeping on the sofa and Elaine enters from the back kitchen entrance) (Rodney slowly wakes up rubbing on Elaine)

Rodney *(Excited)*

Dana!

Elaine *(Seductive)*

No! It's me!

Rodney *(Upset and stressed)*

What the hell are you doing here?

Elaine

Well, I had to come comfort my husband!

Rodney *(Angry)*

Husband! I never asked for your nasty ass hand in marriage.

Elaine

Well, Rodney! We've been together for over 19 years. We have two of the most beautiful kids. Anyways, where are our kids.

Rodney *(Interrupts, Upset)*

Our kids_! NO! My kids! Elaine, you left me with them. You left me for another guy because he was more established. Yeah, I forgot, I was only living from my dream. Thanks for support.

On top of that, you didn't tell me you were leaving. You left a Dear John on my pillow.

This is the kicker, the next time, I got any communication from you, it was by mail. You had the nerve to send me an invitation to you and William's wedding.

Elaine

Well, Rodney! Although you didn't come! You had done the same thing. And I did show up. William and I... and we gave you both a gift an expensive one at that.

Anyways, stop being salty, that's all in the past. I came over, because I think you and I need to work our future.

Rodney

What?

Elaine

Yes, baby! I was thinking since everything has come out to the open! And apparently, we are both going through a divorce. I was thinking that we could try and rekindle our family. Besides, you can now fulfill all those wonderful dreams that you had for me. What do you think?

8B

Rodney

First off, I think you are out of your damn mind! For, one reason, I am not going through divorce. I am going to get my wife back. Two! Rekindle a family with you! Elaine, you have messed up my family once again. Three...

Elaine

How do you figure that you and her are going to work things out? And why don't you just get over it and be with me. The one who made you!

Rodney

Say, what! You didn't do anything! Once again! You ruined my life! You caused me not to be able to love like I should.

Because of YOU, I've lost the one person who shown me the meaning of love, respect and prayer.

Elaine

You know you love me!

Rodney

Yeah, I love you! But, not in love with you! I love you for the word of God tells me to love my enemies.

8C

Elaine *(Shocked)*

God! Since when have you started believing in God!

Rodney

Yeah, God! The redeemer of Sinners! The Balm of Gilead! The ruler and creator of everything! He told me if I ask I shall receive. And I have already asked him to save my marriage. For my marriage is a portion of my soul. And right now, my soul is wounded. And I am seeking him to heal that wound. For right, now, by his strips I am healed.

(Elaine walks over to Rodney's face. Dana walks into the house...shocked)

Dana

Rodney! Let's__

Oh, I see! You and Ms...

Rodney *(Excited)*

Dana!

Dana *(Upset)*

I think you may want to leave!

Elaine

I am sorry, but your wifely duties are no longer needed.

Dana

Okay! Let me try this again. It behooves you to leave my home now!

Elaine

And I said, your duties are no longer needed!

Dana

Oh, really! See, I was coming here to work this out with MY husband.

And I find you. A worthless, no good, sleep with anyone for a dollar hood rat in my home!

See I always told myself. As a strong black girl! That I will never step to the level of child play when I become a woman! But, you two-dollar slut, comes into my home. Where I dealt with all the bull crap__

Rodney

Baby!

Dana (Slaps Rodney)

Excuse you, I am talking!

Elaine (Snatches Dana)

Dear we just love your inspiring, devotion of your need of marriage. In the words of Boys II Men, it's so hard to say, Goodbye!

(Elaine escorts Dana out the main door and closes it)

So, darling you can now enjoy life elsewhere.

Rodney

Elaine, you are not going to be disrespecting my wife like that.

Dana (OFS outside of door)

Okay! Did she? See...

(Rodney walks to the door and Dana enters into the door) (Dana walks to desk to get gun...)

8F

Dana

People consider Madea crazy! But, I know where my girl is coming from now!

(Pulls out gun and point gun at Elaine...Rodney Hides)

Get the hell out of MY HOUSE!

(Elaine grabs coat and runs out)

Elaine

Rodney, you call me when this crazy girl leaves!

(Points gun at Rodney. Rodney throws his hands up)

Rodney

Baby!

Dana

Don't baby me! Now, told you I needed to talk to you! Yet, you were too busy to listen! Come close dear. A little closer! Come on, you can do it.

(Dana hits Rodney with Gun and goes to stand over Rodney with gun pointed to his head)

Dana

Well, I guess you have no choice now do you!

Rodney

No, baby!

Dana

Rodney! I was there for you from the beginning until now. Never left your side! No one, on my side, likes you but they accepted you because I accepted you! I gave up my law firm, just to be with you! Everyone called me stupid.

Now, I feel that way. Stupid as hell__

Rodney

You're not stupid, baby!

Dana

I know I'm not! Cause, I'm not the one who has a gun to my head to feel stupid.

Rodney, you had your child in confusion, pain and alone!

And what did you do! The same thing you're doing now!

(Throws Rodney across stage)

Sitting on your butt!

(Dana crying)

I ought to just kill you, Rodney!

Rodney

Dana, go ahead and shoot me! Cause, if I don't have you in my life as my wife. I have nothing else to live for.

Dana

Really! Because, you are not worth for me to do it! Bye, Rodney!

(Dana hands Rodney the gun and wedding ring...and walks out)

Lights fades out to her spot light walking out...

(MUSIC with Voice Overs) [Gun shot]

ACT I - SCENE 2 - EARLY MORNING - "IT'S NOT OVER"**[RODNEY, DANA, MONICA I, JACOB I]****Rodney (Sleep)**

Dana! Baby!

(Dana enters from bedroom in a church hat, 2pc dress... walking and wakes up Rodney. Rodney jumps up from his nightmare.)

Rodney (Looking Around)

Dana, baby you are still here! Where is Monica?

(Monica I enter from bedroom)

Monica I

Good Morning, daddy!

Rodney (To Monica)

Oh, baby girl! I love you so much!

(Hugs her tightly)

You will always be daddy's princess! Oh, baby, I love you so much!

1A1

Rodney (Looks around)

Where is Jacob?

(Jacob I enter from kitchen mad)

Jacob I

Can a growing man get a decent meal around here. What about the children?

Rodney

Jacob, little man! You are not going to get a car until you graduate. And I better NOT catch you with no gun in your hand. But, I want you to make sure to always protect your sister, okay.

Jacob I

Okay.

(Rodney hugs Jacob I real tight)

1A2

Jacob I

I still want something to eat!

Dana

Baby! Are you okay?

(Rodney slowly walks over to Dana, hugs her and gives her a deep kiss)

Dana *(Shocked)*

Rodney! What is wrong with you?

Rodney *(Hugging her)*

Dana, I love you! I love you so much! Baby, I know you and the kids are on you all way to church. But, before you go, I need to plead for your forgiveness.

Dana

What are talking about, Rodney? You are scaring me!

1A3

Rodney

I am sorry, for not being the man that you need! That you desire! When I was nothing you sacrifice your life for mine!

Dana

That's the duty of a strong woman. A gives and help build her man. Just as a man should do for his woman! For the words of God tell us too. Be each other keeper. And you know I abide by the word of God, before I abide by any rules of man.

Rodney

Dana, let me sacrifice my life to you totally. And the only way I can do that is... I have to sacrifice my life to Christ before I sacrifice to man. Having the money, house, cars and clothing! And rest of this material stuff that I don't need. I am nothing without him.

(Rodney grabs Dana's hands)

Dana, sweetheart! To be honest, Elaine is not dead, she's living. She's the secretary at the studio. Which, she will be fired today! She offered me a secretive relationship behind you and William's back.

1A4

Dana *(Angrily)*

Did you take the offer?

Rodney

No baby, but, honestly God had shown me in a dream what could happen if I did!

Dana *(Calm)*

Oh ok! Well, we will continue this conversation later! We have to get to the church.

Rodney

Okay, baby! Save a seat for me! I am going to get dressed. And I will meet you all there!

Dana *(Shocked)*

Say what?

(Rodney running up stairs)

Dana *(To Audience)*

Thank God, for A Changed Mind!

(Dana takes the kids and exit through main door.)

CURTAIN CALL MUSIC

[SCENE]

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for your support tonight Nspired Images Presents to you A Russell M. Tyson's Gospel Stage Play "A Changed Mind"

Each announcing, will read the following lines prior to called)

Ladies and Gentlemen for your evening entertainment, Nspired Images presents to you the cast for your evening enjoyment.

In the supporting role of Tamara Greene

In the supporting role of Reverend Donald Reid

In the supporting role of Michelle Reid; Gospel Recording Artist "Necy" Clark

In the supporting role of William Ray

In the featuring role of Elaine Given Ray Ms. Vicky James

In the lead featuring role of Evangelist Tina Glass

In the lead featuring role of Jacob Watkins

In the lead featuring role of Jacob Watkins Mr. Dee Byers

In the lead featuring role of Monica Watkins

In the lead featuring role of Monica Watkins Ms. Kita Hunt

In the co starring role of Dana Reid - Watkins, Mrs. Twanda Hudson

In the starring role of Rodney Watkins

He's the CEO of Nspired Images and your writer, director and Producer of this evening's production ... Ladies and Gentlemen Mr. Russell M. Tyson