

insecure

Episode 510

"Everything Gonna Be, Okay?!"

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05/21/21 – Production Draft	pgs. 1-34
05/22/21 – Blue Pages	pgs. 15,15A
05/25/21 – Pink Pages	pgs. 1,1A,2,2A
05/26/21 – Revised Yellow	pgs. 1-34
05/28/21 – Green Pages	pgs. 5,5A,30
06/04/21 – Goldenrod Pages	pgs. 5,5A,14, 19,20,22,22A, 23,28A,29,30
06/04/21 – Buff Pages	pgs. 19,20,22, 23,30
06/05/21 – Salmon Pages	pgs. 20,23,23A, 27,27A
06/11/21 – Cherry Pages	pg. 32

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INSECURE

Episode 510 - "Everything Gonna Be, Okay?!"

CHARACTER LIST

ISSA DEE.Issa Rae
MOLLY CARTER.Yvonne Orji
LAWRENCE WALKER.Jay Ellis
KELLI PRENNY.Natasha Rothwell
TIFFANY DUBOISAmanda Seales
NATHAN CAMPBELL.Kendrick Sampson
TAUREAN JACKSONLeonard Robinson
SEQUOIA "QUOIA"Courtney Taylor

Ahmal.Jean Elie
Brandon.Kamal Angelo Bolden
Carol.L. Scott Caldwell
ChadNeil Brown, Jr.
CurtisRichard Nevels
DavidGregg Daniel
D.J.Kindsey Young
Derek DuBoisWade Allain-Marcus
Desmond KanolaJames Bland
Elijah/Kid's VoiceRichard Whitney Gardenhire Jr.
Fast Mike.Tahir Moore
Felicia.Kelsey Scott
*Freida.Lisa Joyce
JeromeMalcolm David Kelley
Kevin.Sean Patrick Thomas
MarcusHarry Lennix
*Nala.Mieko Clark
Nasir.Christopher Flanagan
RemyFaruq Ellis
*Sarah.Sujata Day
SiennaAlesha Renée
SimoneLondyn Ariah
Stacy.Nikiva Dionne
StellaBrittany Baker
SylviaApril Grace
TaraLauren Wilkins
*Thug Yoda.Tristen J. Winger

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LOCATION LIST

INTERIORS:	EXTERIORS:
NATHAN'S CAR	ISSA'S APARTMENT
ISSA'S APARTMENT	TIFFANY'S DENVER HOUSE
- LIVING ROOM	- BACKYARD
- BATHROOM	INTERNATIONAL LOCATION
MOLLY'S APARTMENT	INTERNATIONAL LOCATION HOTEL
- FRONT DOOR	SOUTH LA STREETS
- BEDROOM	LA STREETS
CRENSHAWN'S WAREHOUSE	
- MAIN ROOM	
- PRIVATE AREA	
TIFFANY'S DENVER HOUSE	
- KITCHEN	
LAWRENCE'S APARTMENT	
RESTAURANT	
CHAD'S CONDO	
HAYWARD LAW FIRM	
INTERNATIONAL LOCATION HOTEL	
- HOTEL ROOM BATHROOM	
LYFT LUXE	
THE BLOCC OFFICES	
- CONFERENCE ROOM	
HOUSE IN SOUTH LA	
- ENTRY/KITCHEN	
- BATHROOM	

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DAY / NIGHT BREAKDOWN

SCENES 1 - 2	NIGHT 1
SCENES 3 - 4	DAY 2
SCENES 5 - 8	DAY 3
SCENES 9 - 12	DAY 4
SCENES 13 - 15	DAY 5
SCENES 16 - 17	NIGHT 6
SCENES 18 - 21A	NIGHT 7
SCENES 22 - 23B	DAY 8
SCENES 24 - 26	DAY 9
SCENE 27	NIGHT 9
SCENES 28 - 30	DAY 10
SCENE 31	DAY 11
SCENE 32	NIGHT 11

1 INT. NATHAN'S CAR/EXT. ISSA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (N1) 1

It's quiet as NATHAN's car pulls up to the curb and parks. ISSA has an eerie feeling of deja vu as she starts to get out of the car. She notices that Nathan isn't budging.

ISSA
Can we go inside and talk about
this?

Nathan leans back in his seat and shrugs, staring ahead.

NATHAN
I don't really have nothing to say.

ISSA
... Nathan, for real. Come inside.
Let's talk. Please.

Nathan takes a long beat to consider.

NATHAN
I was wrong...

Issa looks hopeful, though confused. He looks at her.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
This isn't good for me. All this
shit tonight? It was
embarrassing...

ISSA
I know--

NATHAN
I've been ignoring this feeling I
had all along, but... I gotta take
a step back. All this messy shit
feels toxic for me.

A gut punch. She takes a beat to process what she's heard. She wants to try to change his mind, but all she can say is:

ISSA
Okay.

Nathan faces forward again, masking his own hurt. Issa gets out of the car. Nathan watches as she takes the lonely walk into the gates of her apartment. Then, he drives away.

2 INT. ISSA'S APARTMENT - A LITTLE LATER (N1) 2

Issa walks into her dark apartment, stiff. Sad. She takes off her shoes and grabs some vodka from her bar cart.

Then, she gets a text. Nathan? No. It's Lawrence: *"I'm really sorry about tonight. That's not how I wanted things to go."*

Issa stares at the message for a long beat, upset. Then, she sits on her couch, curls up in the fetal position and falls asleep.

3 INT. ISSA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING (D2) 3

Issa wakes up on her couch to KNOCKS at her door. She's in the same clothes from the night before. She gets up to answer. MOLLY holds up bags of breakfast, OJ, and vodka.

MOLLY
(re: Issa's outfit)
Oh, you really did want to be alone.

ISSA
I'm glad you're here.

Molly walks in and starts to unbag the food.

MOLLY
You hungry?

ISSA
Not really.

MOLLY
Well I'll put your food in the oven for when you are.

ISSA
Thanks. I'm gonna get in the shower.

Issa trudges to the bathroom.

4 INT. ISSA'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS (D2) 4

Issa looks at her fucked up, makeup-smearred, tear-stained face in the mirror. Molly rummages around in the kitchen.

MOLLY (O.S.)
Y'all are gonna get over this and then laugh about it one day.

MIRROR ISSA looks back at Issa.

MIRROR ISSA
I don't know, girl. I've heard you cry a LOT. You're down bad. I don't know where you go from here...//All these choices and decisions and you still ended up here. You hate to see it.

ISSA

I just want to fast forward to the
part of my life when everything's
okay.

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5 INT. MOLLY'S APARTMENT - TWO MONTHS LATER - DAY (D3) 5

Molly's apartment is decorated for her birthday and filled with guests, among them: old friends (Issa, KELLI, and TAUREAN), new friends (Taurean's brother, KEVIN, and sister-in-law, STELLA), and co-worker (STACY). Molly's mother, CAROL, and her father, DAVID, are also there, along with CURTIS, Curtis' wife, KIM, and JEROME. Issa plays happy hostess as she refills guests' glasses with Prosecco.

ISSA
(re: Stacy's glass)
You good?
(re: Stella's glass)
You good?
(re: Kevin's glass)
You not good.

She tops off Kevin's drink as he and Stella speak to Stacy and Kelli.

KEVIN
What's their dynamic at work now
that he's partner?

KELLI
Is it erotic? In my head, it's
erotic.

Stacy laughs as Taurean and Molly's family join.

STACY
It's very professional. They're
pretty good at keeping everything
separate. But I see Molly having to
check him every now and then.

TAUREAN
Check me? How can she check me when
I'm always right?

STELLA
Ha! I'm happy another woman can
call the Jackson boys on their
mess.

CAROL
My baby don't play. She came out
the womb arguing.

Curtis turns to Taurean.

CURTIS

Don't trip, man. You wanna keep Molly humble? Just ask her to spell "necessary" without spellcheck.

KEVIN

Well, I can't wait to finally meet her. Where is she?

ISSA

She's still getting ready. She's not used to celebrating her birthday. I had to convince her to let me throw this.

KEVIN

I get it. I have a friend whose birthday is on 9/11. She never celebrated it again after the tragedy. I don't know why I keep bringing that story up at parties.

Kelli laughs way too hard, hitting Kevin in the arm.

KELLI

Hilarious! You're already the better brother to me.
(then, getting a text)
Oh! She's at the door.

ISSA

I'll let her in.

6 INT. MOLLY'S APARTMENT - FRONT DOOR - MOMENTS LATER (D3) 6

Issa opens the door for... TIFFANY! She and Issa sway as they hug each other.

ISSA

Welcome baaaaaaack!

TIFFANY

L.A. smells so goood!
(then, confused)
So do you, actually...

As they walk down Molly's corridor:

ISSA

Thank you. I spilled a candle on myself when I was getting ready. It hurt pretty bad.

KELLI (O.S.)
MY BITCH!

Kelli runs over to give Tiffany a big hug.

KELLI (CONT'D)
How's Denver, girl?

TIFFANY
It's... good. We're adjusting. I
can't wait to show everybody around
when y'all finally visit.

ISSA
I'm still trying to organize
everyone's schedules, but I promise
it's happening! We coming.

Kelli calls off:

KELLI
Babe! Come meet my main bitch!

TIFFANY
(to Issa)
Since when is she--?

ISSA
Oh, he's just her rebound from
Daniel Kaluuya.

TIFFANY
Don't you have to be dating Daniel
Kaluuya to rebound from him?

ISSA
Don't try to make sense of it.

TIFFANY
Well, look at my girls, all boo'd
up.
(then, realizing)
Oh no. Sorry, Issa.

ISSA
No, I'm okay. "It's fine."

DESMOND KANOLA approaches.

DESMOND KANOLA
How's everybody doing? I'm Desmond.

TIFFANY

It's... great to meet you, Desmond.
How did you two meet?

Desmond laughs suggestively. Then, Kelli laughs suggestively.
It's weird.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

Wait, where's Molly?

ISSA

Missing out. Let me go check on
her.

7

INT. MOLLY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER (D3)

7

Issa enters as Molly switches outfits.

ISSA

Girl, what the fuck are you doing
taking so long? I'm running out of
small talk and Prosecco.

MOLLY

I'm sorry. I just keep changing...
everything.

ISSA

All your things are fine!
(re: ass and chest)
These things. Them thangs. Let's
go!

MOLLY

Okay-- did I hear Tiffany?

ISSA

Yeah, she just got here. She's
asking about Denver.

MOLLY

Fuuuck. I promise I'll get my work
schedule together this week.

ISSA

Don't trip, I fell off of planning.
Crenshawn has been taking up all my
time-- but we said we'd prioritize
this trip.

MOLLY

We *did* say.

ISSA

And Lord knows I need a vacation.
LA's been feeling too small to me
lately. I gotta get out of here.

MOLLY

You still feeling...

ISSA

Like a mess?

MOLLY

'Cause you're not. You gotta look
at how far you've come. For real.

ISSA

Well, tonight we focusing on you.
And having fun. And nothing else.

MOLLY

Okay, let me just try this on. Does
it look wrinkled to you? You
remember Deena used to always wear
them wrinkly silk shirts? Ha!

ISSA
(realizing)
Aww bitch... you're nervous.

MOLLY
The last time I met a man's family
shit fell apart. I just want to
come correct.

ISSA
Oh, they're already obsessed with
you. They're ready to love you...
and they will. If they don't, I'll
try to make them hate me, to lower
the bar.

Molly laughs, giving Issa an appreciative look. She gives herself one last look in the mirror.

MOLLY

Thank you for forcing me to
celebrate myself. I love you.

ISSA

Love you, tooooooo.

8 INT. MOLLY'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER (D3) 8

Issa and Molly emerge from Molly's bedroom. On cue, Taurean brings in a cake (with a "3" and "2" candle on top). As he starts to sing HAPPY BIRTHDAY, everyone else joins in. Molly kisses him on the cheek as he sings, then claps as she turns to everyone, gushing. Molly hugs her mom. They both beam. Kelli leans into Issa as everyone continues singing:

KELLI

She looks so happy. Good job, girl.

Issa smiles, looking on.

9 INT. CRENSHAWN'S WAREHOUSE - TWO MONTHS LATER - DAY (D4) 9

QUOIA stands looking worried, as Issa walks inside.

ISSA

How bad is it?

QUOIA

It's a busted pipe, girl. It's bad.

ISSA

Crenshawn gets back Tuesday? If any
of the clothes are ruined, we're
having an underwater themed
showcase. We can't afford this
right now...

Issa sighs as Quoia opens the door wide to...

10 INT. CRENSHAWN'S WAREHOUSE - MAIN ROOM - CONTINUOUS (D4) 10

... complete darkness. Issa steps inside.

ISSA

Quoia? Why is it so dark? You got a
night plumber?

She flips on a switch and--

EVERYONE

SURPRISE!

Issa jolts as a room full of her closest people scream in her face. We see Molly, Kelli, AHMAL, ANTHOLOGY COLLECTIVE, and CRENSHAWN. It's Issa's 33rd birthday, and they're all gathered to celebrate her! iPhones get her insane reaction.

ISSA
(terrified)
Ahhh!!!
(then, relieved)
Oh shit--
(then, touched)
I hate y'all!

Everyone laughs as Issa turns to Quoia, who does a dance.

QUOIA
Ayooow! Happy birthday, boss!

ISSA
How did you even--?!

Quoia points, and there's Molly, who smiles, coming over.

ISSA (CONT'D)
You and Molly? Planned it *together*?

QUOIA
(with a shrug)
She cool.

Molly gives Issa a huge hug.

MOLLY
Happy birthday, boo! We got you!

ISSA
So, there's no busted pipe? I don't need to start an OnlyFans?

MOLLY
I mean, I'd subscribe. I have a flat ass fetish.

QUOIA
I told people they should donate to The BLOCC in lieu of birthday gifts. And girl-- the donations are pouring in. We've already made \$5000! Five G's, like a cell phone.

ISSA
What?! Are you serious?! That's incredible. Y'all are incredible.

She's really touched. Molly puts an arm around her.

MOLLY

"Tonight we're focusing on you. And having fun. And nothing else."

ISSA

Look atchu, quoting my quotes.

KELLI

One time for the birthday bitch!

Kelli hugs Issa from behind. Ahmal, who's nearby, waits for his hug too.

ISSA

Ayye! Two time for the birthday *me!*
(hugging Kelli back)
Thank you for being here, Kelli.

AHMAL

Thank me, too. Like, this was cute and all, but I made it a function.

KELLI

You made it funk-y. 'Cause you stink. Ha!

AHMAL

Are you proud of that?

A long beat, as they stare each other down. Right on cue, a CATERER walks up, a tray of shots in hand. Everybody cheers. Kelli knocks Ahmal's shot to the ground.

11 INT. CRENSHAWN'S WAREHOUSE - LATER (D4)

11

The gathering has progressed with people dancing and mingling. Issa is feeling good as she tipsily scopes out the guys at the party with Molly and Kelli.

MOLLY

What about him?

ISSA

He comes to too many things. What if it doesn't work out? What if the sex is bad? I gotta look him in the eye?

KELLI

Whenever I have bad sex with a man, I glare at his dick. I want them both to feel shame.

MOLLY

(to Issa)

Okay, you're thinking too hard.
It's birthday dick. You deserve.

ISSA

I do fucking deserve. Okay...
(scanning room, then)
Him.

Kelli and Molly get excited.

MOLLY

O-kay! He looks pipe-y, too. You
want us to warm him up for you?

ISSA

Nahnahnah, I'm grown, I got this.

MOLLY

Let's fucking go!

Issa walks over to talk to a BOWLEGGED MAN, as Kelli and Molly watch.

KELLI

You gotta wing her solo. I have to
run. The white man got me on a
deadline.

MOLLY

I'm telling you...

KELLI

Okay, bitch. Don't beat a dead
horse. I said I'd think about it.

MOLLY

I know, but I brought up the idea
of an estate division with the
partners? They're into it...

KELLI

Okay, okay. I'll call you tomorrow.

As Kelli hugs Molly goodbye, Issa walks up to them.

ISSA

Y'all got some Shout wipes? I just
spit red wine on his shirt.

Molly and Kelli freeze, looking past her.

ISSA (CONT'D)
I'm rusty!... What?

Issa follows their gaze to see Nathan walking in.

12 INT. CRENSHAWN'S WAREHOUSE - PRIVATE AREA - LATER (D4) 12

Nathan and Issa walk to a private-ish area.

ISSA
Hey... you came.

NATHAN
Well, I'm still on all of The
BLOCC's email stuff, so...

ISSA
Oh... right. I just, haven't heard
from you.

NATHAN
Yeah, I know. I got your messages,
I just...

A beat. Then, Nathan hands Issa an envelope.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
This is from everybody at the shop.
We wanted to donate since, you
know, you've helped us out so much.

ISSA
Tell them I said thank you.

NATHAN
Yeah. Hope it helps.

ISSA
... Me too.
(then)
How have things been? With you.

NATHAN
Good. Things are good... this place
is finally starting to feel like
home for me.

ISSA
Really? That's-- I'm happy to hear
that.

NATHAN
Yeah.
(then)
(MORE)

NATHAN (CONT'D)

I know the last time we talked, I
said some things... and I didn't
mean to make you feel like...

ISSA

No, no, you... made some points.

NATHAN

I was just hurt. You know?-- But I didn't want that to be the way things ended.

ISSA

Me neither... I've always thought that people come into your life for a reason and... you've made up so many good reasons for me. And I hope I did for you, too. I just don't want you to... regret anything.

NATHAN

I don't regret any moment I spent with you.

(then)

... Anyways, I was just stopping through. Happy birthday. It was good to see you.

ISSA

Thanks again, Nanceford.

He laughs. She watches him leave. Back in the main room, the DJ starts to play Stevie Wonder's "Happy Birthday." The crowd makes a semi-circle around a large cake and Issa cheeses wide. Behind Quoia, Molly stands behind an ATTRACTIVE MAN and points to the top of his head, mouthing, "Birthday Dick!"

13

INT. TIFFANY'S DENVER HOUSE - THREE MONTHS LATER (D5)

13

Tiffany leads Issa, Molly, and Kelli from room to room, mid-tour of her beautifully furnished Denver home.

TIFFANY

(trying)

... it's an architectural staple for the homes in this area.

MOLLY

Wow, girl. I tried to hate on Denver, but *this* is beautiful.

ISSA

Y'all are really whole-ass homeowners. Wow.

TIFFANY

That's what I keep telling myself.

KELLI

Well, I'm still not rollin', but I'll admit, my god-baby has all the space she needs... And Denver does have that sticky-icky, so maybe it ain't all bad.

ISSA

That's why they call it the Mile-High City.

They laugh, then notice Tiffany isn't laughing.

KELLI

Unh-unh. What's up?

TIFFANY

(emotional)

I'm just really glad y'all came. I fucking hate it here.

Off the girls' reactions.

14

EXT. TIFFANY'S DENVER HOUSE - BACKYARD - LATER (D5)

14

The friends catch up over a brunch spread in the garden.

TIFFANY

... I mean, I don't know anybody, I'm still not working-- I did not sign up to be a Denver Housewife!

MOLLY

What about Derek's family? Haven't they been around?

TIFFANY

Not really. Simone's novelty wore off quick. Now it's more like, "Aww, we love her, but come get your baby."

KELLI

Well, is the pre-school working out?

TIFFANY

It's fine. Except for the fact that she's the only Black girl in her class. But... we'll figure it out.

ISSA

You will. You definitely will.

Tiffany senses that she's dragging the mood down.

TIFFANY

Anyway, sorry for being a drag.
Tell me the tea. What am I missing?

MOLLY

Issa met somebody!

ISSA

(off Tiffany's squeal)
Stop! It's not even like that. I've
got too much going on.

MOLLY

Show them his picture. Bring-em-
out, bring-em-out!

Issa rolls her eyes and shows the girls his picture.

TIFFANY

Ooo, he's cute!

ISSA

He's cool. He's a giver. And I'm a
taker, so.

KELLI

Good for you! I had to throw
Desmond's ass back into the sea. I
was getting too caught up.

Just then, DEREK comes outside with SIMONE (21 months), who
toddles out with a cupcake for Tiffany. It's cute.

SIMONE

Happy biiiiirirthday, mommyyyyyy!

The girls all ad lib excited hellos to Derek and Simone.
Derek holds up bags of treats.

DEREK

Save some room for dessert, ladies.

The girls cheer as Derek sets out the treats.

DEREK (CONT'D)

It's so dope y'all came out. None
of these L.A. niggas have come to
visit me. Men suck.

The girls dig into treats.

As Issa goes to the cabinet, on the counter, she spots a framed photo of Derek, Lawrence, and other men with their kids. She lingers there a beat. Molly clocks Issa seeing it.

MOLLY

You know what I've always wondered?

ISSA

What?

MOLLY

What would you have said to Lawrence if Nathan hadn't interrupted?

ISSA

I don't know.

MOLLY

You really don't know?

ISSA

(shrugs)

No. And it's too late anyway.

MOLLY

(a beat, then)

It's not too late if that's what you really want.

ISSA

What happened to, "You're doing it again... you're being inconsistent."

MOLLY

Now you quoting my quotes?

(then)

I'm just saying, this is coming from someone who used to overthink everything. Sometimes it's not that hard.

Just then, Molly's phone rings. It's Curtis, she answers.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

What's up bighead--

ISSA

Tell him I said, hi.

Molly waves Issa off, laughing, then her face falls:

MOLLY (CONT'D)
Wait, Curtis, slow down. Mom-- what
happened?!

Issa clocks that something is wrong and approaches Molly, who seems suddenly unsteady on her feet.

MOLLY (CONT'D)
(emotional)
Curtis, noooo...

Molly collapses into Issa sobbing, as Issa tries to comfort her.

PRE-LAP: Gospel version of "Happy Birthday."

16 INT. LAWRENCE'S APARTMENT - ONE MONTH LATER - NIGHT (N6) 16

LAWRENCE has his phone propped up as he rushes to put on his finest dinner attire. His mom, SYLVIA, sings on FaceTime.

SYLVIA
*Hap-py Birthday! Hap-py Birthday!
Hap-py Birthday! In Jesus Name -
Hap-py Birth-dayyyy!"*

LAWRENCE
Okay, that's where it ends. Thanks,
Mom.

SYLVIA
You're welcome.
(to Lawrence's dad)
Come tell your son happy birthday.

MARCUS enters the frame:

MARCUS
Happy birthday, Son. Did you get my
gift?

LAWRENCE
Yes, I got the paperweight.

MARCUS
Good. Can never have too many
paperweights. Here's your mother.

SYLVIA
So, what are you doing tonight?

LAWRENCE

Going to this sushi spot in Beverly Hills. 'Jah and I had lunch with Condola earlier and she took him for the night.

SYLVIA

She's such a good mom. Has great style, too. Dresses nice. One braid. Simple. Clean. I like it.

Lawrence gets another call on his phone. He walks over to it and is surprised to see who's calling him.

LAWRENCE

Mom, Mom, let me call you back tomorrow. Thankyouloveyoubye.

Lawrence hangs up with Sylvia and answers the other line:

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Hello.

We INTERCUT with:

17 INT. ISSA'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME (N6)

17

Issa works out of her home office.

ISSA

Oh... Hey! You answered?! Who answers on their birthday?

LAWRENCE

You called me, but didn't want me to answer?

ISSA

The plan, admittedly, had some holes, but I didn't expect-- anyway, happy birthday!

LAWRENCE

(laughs, then)

Thank you.

(then)

... It's been a while. Nice to hear from you.

ISSA

Yeah... same. You sound great. Not that you shouldn't. You should sound how you sound.

(MORE)

ISSA (CONT'D)

Louis Armstrong is the only person
who shouldn't sound how they sound.
(à la Louis Armstrong)
What a wonderful world...
(trails off)
So gravelly.

Lawrence laughs. Then, there's an awkward beat:

LAWRENCE

By the way, I heard about Molly's
mom. I tried calling her, but--
How's she doing? Is she okay? Not
that you can be okay after losing a
parent...

ISSA

It's been a really tough month for
her. I've just been trying to be
there for her.

LAWRENCE

Yeah. Of course.

ISSA

(composes herself, then)
With everything that's happened,
I've actually been thinking a lot
about things... about you...
(then)
And I... just didn't want to leave
anything unsaid, you know?

LAWRENCE

Yeah...

ISSA

So, I guess, I was just calling to
see if I could take you out for
your birthday.
(then)
I mean, if you're not busy?

Lawrence exhales and gives a small awkward laugh.

LAWRENCE

I actually do have plans tonight.

ISSA

Of course you do. It's your
birthday. Why wouldn't you? Duh!

LAWRENCE

But, maybe--

Lawrence's DOORBELL rings, interrupting. Issa can hear it.

ISSA

Well, I'll let you get to it. Have a good birthday, again!

LAWRENCE

Hey-- Thanks.

Issa hangs up. Lawrence stands frozen as his doorbell rings... again. He takes a beat, then answers. A beautiful woman, TARA is at the door. She kisses him.

TARA

Happy birthday, Babe! You ready?

LAWRENCE

Yeah, let's do it.

Lawrence and Tara leave.

PRE-LAP: Drake's "Ratchet Happy Birthday" plays.

18

INT. RESTAURANT - THREE MONTHS LATER - NIGHT (N7)

18

Issa walks up to a hostess booth with "I'm late" energy. The HOSTESS glances up.

ISSA

We're here for the Prenny party?

HOSTESS

Yes! Both of you can follow me.

Surprise: a good-looking man walks up behind Issa. It's her date, NASIR. As they walk towards the party table, Nasir rests a hand on the small of Issa's back.

REVEAL: a long table in the middle of the restaurant. Kelli and Desmond sit at one end, looking cozy. Around the table sit Taurean, Molly, Tiffany, Derek and SEVERAL OTHER FRIENDS. Everybody looks beautiful and happy. Two empty seats at the farthest end remain. Issa walks up to Kelli's side, ecstatic but apologetic:

ISSA

Happy birthday, Kelli!!!!!! I'm so sorry I'm late! You look gorgeous!

KELLI

Thank you. I'm only getting better with time. I hope I rub off on y'all.

ISSA

Me, too. Oh. And everyone, meet
Nasir. Nasir, this is everyone.

Everyone greets Nasir.

KELLI

Now that we're all here, we have
some little party favors for
everyone. We'll be right back, but
y'all mingle!

Kelli and Desmond head off as Nasir pulls out Issa's chair.

MOLLY

I tried to save you a seat, Iss,
but these losers got here first.

DEREK / TIFFANY

We can hear you. / You're not that
far apart.

ISSA

So, what'd we miss?

TAUREAN

Just a lot of PDA. I don't think I
can look her in the eye at the
office anymore.

ISSA

(to Molly)

I saw Isaac's little graduation
pictures! Y'all were so cute.

MOLLY

Yeah, it was really nice to get the
family together to actually
celebrate something.

(off Issa's sympathy)

How was your event? Did the sponsor
come through?

ISSA

It was amazing. Oh my God, remember
that exec I was telling you about?

MOLLY

The condescending blonde bitch?

ISSA

No, she's out. There's this other
dude--

(then, too much to share)

(MORE)

ISSA (CONT'D)

Girl, we have to catch up forreal.
This ain't it.

DEREK

Do y'all want to switch spots...?

TIFFANY

No. We have catching up to do, too.
(then, to Nasir)
So, how did you two meet?

ISSA / NASIR

On an app. / At a work event.

They look at each other and laugh, explaining the story.

ISSA

I had seen him on an app--

NASIR

And then she saw me at the Pyer
Moss show--

ISSA

The Crenshawn collab--

NASIR

And thought she knew me, so--

TIFFANY

Oh, Issa. Please stay you.

NASIR

(to Tiffany and Derek)
So, how long are you two in town?

DEREK

'Til tomorrow. Just hitting the
highlights. Kelli's birthday, then
hanging with all my guys later.

Issa can't help but catch Derek's eye. He's talking about
Lawrence. Taurean suddenly starts gathering his and Molly's
things.

TAUREAN

Babe, we gotta go.

MOLLY

Already?

ISSA

Nooooo. Whaaaaat? Don't leave me
with these people...!

TAUREAN

Blame me, sorry. The partners are having a thing, and we're already a little late...

MOLLY

Well, maybe we can get lunch next week?

ISSA

I'll call you.

They hug and everyone waves goodbye to Molly and Taurean. Issa turns to Nasir, who puts a hand on her leg and they continue mingling.

19

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER (N7)

19

The dinner has wound down, dessert has been eaten and people have party favor bags in front of them. Kelli clinks a glass and stands.

KELLI

Announcement! Hello! I have an announcement!

DESMOND KANOLA

Everybody, my baby has an announcement!

Everyone simmers down and listens.

KELLI

First of all, thank you for coming to celebrate me on my birthday. You guys are the most important people in my life. But we just wanted to let you know...

(big smile)

... we're about to have another very important person in our lives.

Kelli smiles at Desmond, who kisses her hand...

DESMOND KANOLA

I love this woman so much--

KELLI

--and y'all know me. I would never, under any circumstances, have done this with anyone else--

Suddenly, Tiffany starts SCREAMING in glee--

TIFFANY

Ahhh! Ahhh! Shut the fuck up! Shut!
The fuck! Up!

ISSA

Wait, what?!

Desmond lays a hand on Kelli's stomach, then leans over and kisses her. Guests begin to catch on, leaping up to hug Kelli as the table cheers. Nasir claps awkwardly. Issa is shocked but gives a big, confused smile to Kelli when she looks over.

ISSA (CONT'D)
Congratulations!

Derek takes in Tiffany, who sobs, wiping her running mascara.

DEREK
I'm gonna... cancel on the guys.

TIFFANY
(through tears)
Gooooood.
(then, to Kelli)
You are going to be the best
mother. Our babies are going to be
long distance friends.
(gasps)
Or they could get married.

KELLI
Oooh, Simone would be the older
woman.

ISSA
I thought you didn't want kids?

KELLI
I didn't. But look at my bad-ass,
beautiful life. It's too good not
to share this shit with someone
else! And when I died--

DEREK
You didn't die--

TIFFANY
Let her have this--

KELLI
--one of my preguntas was, "do I
want kids?" I realized I didn't
just want any nigga's kids. I
wanted his.

Kelli hugs Desmond close.

ISSA
Aww!

KELLI

Shut the fuck up! Nigga got me out here doing shit I never thought I'd do. Even butt stuff.

TIFFANY

I have so many baby apps to tell you about.

Issa watches as Tiffany and Kelli bond over this news. She turns to THE COUPLE next to her. They all share the smile strangers share when something exciting has happened.

As everyone celebrates, Issa looks around, feeling alone without Molly to share this with.

20

INT. CHAD'S CONDO - SAME TIME (N7)

20

Lawrence hangs out with his guy friends, CHAD, BRANDON, and FAST MIKE, and SIENNA (Fast Mike's girlfriend). Chad has a small keyboard that he plays with ELIJAH (21 months).

CHAD

(to Lawrence)

You gotta let me take 'Jah to open houses. People trust a realtor with a family. I tried using my sister's kid, but he got a stutter. Took the lil' nigga fifteen minutes to say hello. He's not a closer.

LAWRENCE

I'm not going to let you pimp my son to sell condos.

CHAD

Condos? C'mon, man. Elijah got them deep dimples, too? We flippin' four bedrooms with detached garages at a minimum. Have vision, nigga.

Lawrence sees he got a TEXT from Derek.

LAWRENCE

Derek got hung up. He's not gonna make it.

CHAD

It's cool. We don't really talk that much anymore.

(plays it cool)

But did he say why he not coming, though? Is it something I did? Did he mention anything about salsa classes?

LAWRENCE

No. He didn't.

CHAD

(playing it off)

Yeah, why would he?

Sienna goes to grab another beer for her and Fast Mike. REMY (Brandon's 3-year-old son, who seems a little "off") grabs a stuffed giraffe and rips the head off.

REMY

Blood!

Chad, Lawrence, and Fast Mike all look at Remy a little sideways. Lawrence subtly moves Elijah away from Remy.

CHAD

(to Remy)

Hey, what's wrong with you?

(MORE)

CHAD (CONT'D)

That was Elijah's giraffe. You ain't see I wrote his name on the hoof.

Remy turns to Chad and gives him a death stare.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Aye, Brandon, once Remy starts setting cats on fire, you gotta let us know. Get ahead of that shit.

BRANDON

He just built different.

FAST MIKE

(sotto)

He definitely different.

LAWRENCE

(sotto)

Is that what we calling it?

Sienna hands Fast Mike another beer.

SIENNA

Lawrence, you know I'm mad at you.

LAWRENCE

(knowing)

About Tammy?

SIENNA

Yes! Y'all went out, she said y'all had a great time, but then -- nothing.

BRANDON

You ain't call back Tammy? "Thighs" Tammy? Maaaaaaan, stop playing.

LAWRENCE

She was cool. Gorgeous, good conversation, but I didn't feel like we connected.

SIENNA

You can't decide all of that off just one date. People get nervous.

FAST MIKE

Yeah, man. Me and Sienna's first date was horrible. She kept trying to correct me.

SIENNA

That's incorrect.

CHAD

(re: Fast Mike)

He's right. You can't always tell
from one date. Like with me and
Leah--

Chad takes a pause and quickly leans, trying to peek into a nearby bedroom.

CHAD (CONT'D)

It's cool. She sleep.

(then)

Me and Leah's first date was
horrible. We got into a big fight
'cause I said her mama could get
it. It was a compliment. Leah look
like her mama. When she gets old,
I'd still wanna smash. I was just
saying, even though we just met, I
wanted to grow old with her.

LAWRENCE

Why didn't you just say the last
part? It's beautiful.

CHAD

(long beat, realizing)

Where was all this wisdom four
years ago, nigga?

(then)

The point is, sometimes you gotta
get through the uncomfortable shit
to get to the other side.

LAWRENCE

I mean, when I went out with Issa
the first time, we just clicked
right away.

CHAD

If ol' girl was so special, why I
still call her ol' girl?

Lawrence sighs and lets it go.

LAWRENCE

I already did the "date around"
thing. I don't wanna waste time
with people it's not gonna happen
with. I know what the real thing
looks like.

Lawrence thinks on this a beat and then:

FAST MIKE
Aye, he stalking y'all.

Chad and Lawrence look over and see Remy staring at them from behind a plant. It's creepy.

CHAD
(aside to Lawrence)
Remember this when they make the documentary.

LAWRENCE
Yup.

21 OMITTED 21

21A INT. ISSA'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - LATER (N7) 21A

Issa, now in lingerie, preps in the bathroom for sexy time. She looks in the mirror.

NASIR (O.C.)
I'm feeling this new [ARTIST TBD].

ISSA
Yeah, it's dope.
(then, checks phone)
Molly still hasn't texted me back.
She's never going to believe this.

Issa calls Molly. As the phone rings, Nasir enters, shirtless, and comes closer. Molly's voicemail picks up: "You have reached Molly Carter..."

ISSA (CONT'D)
Damn. Tonight's crazy.

NASIR
I've got something to take your mind off it.

He kisses her neck. Issa turns and kisses him. After a beat:

ISSA
Just give me a few minutes. I'm almost done.

Nasir smiles at her and leaves. She looks in the mirror:

MIRROR ISSA
It's so great that everybody we know is actually making decisions and going for what they really want. We're on that path, too.

ISSA
(hesitant)
Yeah. We are. It's great.

MIRROR ISSA
I'm so proud of us. I can finally
start claiming you around my
friends.

Just then, Issa's phone rings. It's Lawrence. Issa freezes.
Then, she looks up at Mirror Issa. It's a stare down.

MIRROR ISSA (CONT'D)
Bitch, don't you fuckin' dare.

ISSA
He's calling me!

MIRROR ISSA
You got a fine ass man outside,
ready to dick you down. Don't
answer!

Issa holds the phone.

ISSA
Why not?!

MIRROR ISSA
Because it's never gonna work, you
dumb bitch! Move on!

The phone stops ringing. Issa looks at Mirror Issa, who lets
out a sigh of relief.

ISSA
How do you know?

Before Mirror Issa can answer:

NASIR (O.S.)
Issa? You good in there?

ISSA
Uh huh. Just... getting sexy.

Mirror Issa looks smug. Issa gives Mirror Issa the finger,
leaving her phone behind as she exits.

22 INT. HAYWARD LAW FIRM - THREE MONTHS LATER - EVENING (D8) 22

Molly works at her desk. A few birthday balloons and flowers
deck her office. Her phone rings, it's Issa.

MOLLY

Heyyyy!

We INTERCUT with:

23

INT. THE BLOCC OFFICES - SAME TIME (D8)

23

Issa is at her new, nearly empty office tidying up. Quoia can be seen guiding a NEW INTERN to clean, in the background.

ISSA

Happy birthdayyyyyyy!

MOLLY

Aww, thank you, girl.

ISSA

I just wanted to catch you before you left. You getting ready?

MOLLY

Girl, no. I'm still at work finishing up. Taurean went home to get ready, so... you still have time to spill.

ISSA

(laughs)

Let that man surprise you!

MOLLY

You know my face can't hide disappointment. But I'll try.

ISSA

Just enjoy it... How are you feeling, though?

MOLLY

I mean, work's been a good distraction, but it's been hitting me all day. She was just celebrating with me last year, you know? But, I'm okay.

ISSA

And you know it's okay if you're not...

MOLLY

... I just miss her. And it's really hard to wrap my mind around the fact that I'm gonna keep having birthdays without her.

ISSA

I know. I wish I could hug you right now... And, um, I know Taurean got dibs on your birthday this year, but I definitely want to take you to dinner this week. I miss you.

MOLLY

I really miss you, too.

(then)

When did all this shit get so real?

ISSA

Right? I feel like... I don't know--
Our friendships got hard all of a
sudden. Like, stuff just keeps
happening, whether it's with work
or family...

MOLLY

Girl. Life. You can make all the plans you want, but there's always gonna be some shit.

ISSA

Yeah...

Kelli, in a fly suit, pops into Molly's office.

KELLI

Bitch, you still here? Go home and change! I got it from here.

ISSA

(laughs)

Listen to Kelli!

(beat)

Okay, stop listening to Kelli.

(then)

Well, I hope you have the best birthday ever. You deserve it. T better get it right.

MOLLY

(laughs)

Thanks for calling. For real. Love you.

ISSA

Love you, too. Bye.

KELLI

Love you, three! Byeeee.

Issa hangs up the phone and we stay with her for a bit, she looks like she's lost someone.

23A OMITTED

23A

23B INT. THE BLOCC OFFICES - A LITTLE LATER (D8)

23B

Issa heads to her makeshift desk and sits down at her computer. A KNOCK sounds at the door. She looks up and walks over to the door, smiling. She opens the door.

ISSA

Hey.

LAWRENCE

Hey.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Sorry I'm late-- traffic from the office was...

ISSA
No, you're not late at all. Come
in.

Lawrence walks inside and looks around, impressed.

LAWRENCE
This is all you?

ISSA
(laughs)
Yeah...
(then)
So, do you want the tour?

LAWRENCE
For sure.

Issa starts walking, leading him toward her desk.

ISSA
There isn't a lot to see yet, but
I'm thinking about a conference
room here, down the line. And then
like a kitchen area over there.

LAWRENCE
I hope it's close to your office,
'cause you stay hungry.

ISSA
You know it. I sit over here right
now. Honestly, though, the best
view is from Quoia's side of the
office. She scammed me out of a
window.

LAWRENCE
This is cool as hell. From We Got
Y'all to...

ISSA
Please don't do it--

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
... I Got Mine!

Lawrence beams proudly. Issa laughs. A beat as they look at each other, uncertain where to start.

ISSA (CONT'D)
I know it's not done yet -- and
there's still a long way to go,
but... I keep thinking about all it
took to get here, you know?
(MORE)

ISSA (CONT'D)

Doubting myself, going back and forth about what I wanted, being hella afraid of everything not working out; wasting my time and looking stupid. And I think what I realized is that... it was all in my head? No one was doubting me, but me. And Kelli. And sometimes Ahmal. But... I had to believe it would work out for it to work.

Lawrence takes this in.

LAWRENCE

And what if it doesn't work out?

ISSA

Then at least I gave it everything I had. And I'm okay with that.

Then, he kisses her! They lean against her desk, kissing passionately until a cup of coffee falls, splashing everywhere, breaking the moment.

ISSA (CONT'D)

Aww, there was still coffee in that? No wonder I'm so tired.

Off them looking at each other lovingly, fully accepting who they are, we FLASH TO:

ONE YEAR LATER

24

EXT. INTERNATIONAL LOCATION - DAY (D9)

24

We see shots of a tropical, production-friendly location.

27 INT. HOTEL ROOM - BATHROOM - NIGHT (N9)

27

The party is over. Issa helps Molly to take her wedding dress off. As Issa unzips and unclips the complicated dress and Molly sways, still tipsy:

ISSA
(re: buttons)
Okay! Just one more row. How you feeling, girl?

MOLLY
(smiles, super content)
Happy. Like, really, really, *really* happy.

ISSA
I'm happy for you. For real. You looked gorgeous. The baddest bitch there ever was.

Issa finishes unbuttoning, and Molly steps out of the dress, steadying herself on Issa's arm.

MOLLY
Thank you, Issa. So much.

ISSA
Of course. There was no way you were gonna get out of this dress on your own.

MOLLY
No, I mean for everything. For being you. And for loving me while I was me. I don't know where life's gonna take us, but I know as long as you're around, I'll be okay.

Issa is overwhelmed. She nods, holding it in.

ISSA
Yeah. Mm-hm. Me too.

Molly starts to get overwhelmed, too. They hug, holding on. Then suddenly letting go:

MOLLY
Bitch, I gotta pee. I been holding it for like, three hours.

Issa laughs, pushing her friend towards the toilet.

ISSA
I'm gonna step out, then. I'll let
Taurean take it from here.

MOLLY (O.C.)
Taurean?! Who's that?! Oh right,
he's my *husband*. HAHA!

Issa laughs back as she exits the bathroom, leaving her
friend alone.

FLASH TO:

28 INT. THE BLOCC OFFICES - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY (D10) 28

Issa stands before a 3D model of Leimert Park, leading a
presentation to a small group of eager, mostly Black, NEW
EMPLOYEES, discussing the layout of a new event. Quoia stands
in the front corner, listening.

FLASH TO:

29 EXT. SOUTH LA STREET - DAY (D10) 29

Issa walks out of the offices to her car, parked out front.
She looks up at The BLOCC sign, proudly and then drives off.

30 EXT. LA STREETS - MOMENTS LATER (D10) 30

The car drives and we begin a MONTAGE of the "Insecure" spots
we love. We pass some of our favorite LA landmarks: THE
DUNES, where THUG YODA talks to HIS DAUGHTER, RANDY'S DONUTS,
WORLDWIDE TACOS, WE GOT Y'ALL, where FREIDA and SARAH lead a
group of kids outside, MAVERICK'S FLAT, A RITE-AID, where a
DUDE in a BEST BUY shirt walks out. Issa takes in all of it.
She loves this city.

*
*
*

31 INT. HOUSE IN SOUTH LA - ENTRY/KITCHEN - EVENING (D11) 31

A beautiful, mid-century modern with warm lighting and good energy. As Issa enters and takes off her jacket, she hears:

LAWRENCE (O.S.)
The birthday girl's home!

KID'S VOICE (O.S.)
Issaaaaa!

Issa turns the corner... and there's Lawrence with Elijah (now almost 4). There are birthday decorations in the living room. The boys are decorating a birthday cake.

ISSA
Heyy Jah, did you make this for me?

She goes forward and gives them both kisses. She hugs Lawrence close, nestling into his arm. This is home.

LAWRENCE
He wanted to decorate. That says, Issa, right there.

ANGLE ON the cake. The writing is all squiggles.

ISSA
(sotto)
Does it?

LAWRENCE
(sotto)
It could.
(then)
The sitter will be here in a half hour. Should we have a little piece of cake before we go?

ELIJAH
Yes!

Issa laughs.

ISSA
Mmm. You know I love dessert before dinner. Let's go!

And as she sits to enjoy the cake with her family, we...

32 INT. HOUSE IN SOUTH LA - BATHROOM - A LITTLE LATER (N11) 32

Issa gets ready for a night out. As she applies lipstick, we peep her ENGAGEMENT RING. We stay with her a moment.

Then, she stares in the mirror, smiles and exhales. Her normal reflection looks back, confidently.

LAWRENCE (O.S.)
Lyft's almost here. You ready?

ISSA
Almost!

Just then, her phone rings. It's Molly! Issa beams.

ISSA (CONT'D)

Hello?

MOLLY

Bitch, I miss you so fuckin' much!
Happy birthday!

Issa laughs, relieved.

ISSA

Bitch, me too!

MOLLY

Why are niggas so boring to travel
with?! And he won't leave my side.

ISSA

(laughs)

Is that what I have to look forward
to?! Oh no!

(then)

How's Greece?

MOLLY

Honestly, I ain't seen much 'cause
we been getting it in, girl. I
think this nigga might've really up
and broke my pussy!

They laugh and continue to crack jokes as Issa exits the
bathroom, leaving the mirror alone in frame.

END OF SERIES