

**DEE**

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BRANDON

What's this supposed to be? Guess y'all can't afford real checkers in Africa, huh?

(BRANDON laughs and slams the game closed. It has a strong physical effect on DHAKIRAH. She freezes for a moment. SARAH grabs her hand and leads her back to her seat. DHAKIRAH is stunned.)

### SCENE THREE

(DHAKIRAH is alone, practicing her "American" accent. At times, the Ghanaian accent comes up. She is determined and struggles through the tongue-twisters until her Ghanaian accent is undetectable.)

DHAKIRAH: Red leather, yellow leather. Red leather, yellow leather...Hello. Hello? Helloooo...Hi, my name is Dha-- Hi, my name is Dee. How are you?

(Transition to...)

(DHAKIRAH is delivering the Valedictorian speech at her high school graduation with no trace of an accent.)

...and I say to the class of 2016 -- whether you plan to go to college, or work, or the military...you must draw your own road map and discover your own voice. No one can tell you who you should be, or what you should do...Congratulations, seniors. We made it!!!

### SCENE FOUR

(DHAKIRAH is in her college dorm room with friends, making signs for the Women's March on Washington. The Mancala game is open, sitting on a table nearby.)

DHAKIRAH

...because at that point, Ghana had been independent for a while. I mean, if you look at how the leadership of Kwame Nkrumah influenced the--

CONNOR

Actually, Nkrumah was far from a man of the people. He was more like a cult leader - like David Koresh or somebody. His image

CONNOR (cont'd)  
was on money, stamps, propaganda...people don't really understand the full--

DHAKIRAH  
Connor, I grew up in--

CONNOR  
Ghana is complicated.

(He notices the Mancala game, closes it, and picks it up.)  
What is this, a rainmaker?

(He shakes it from side to side.)  
Where did you get this from? This is so cool!

DHAKIRAH  
...  
(Everyone's phone buzzes simultaneously.)

CONNOR  
(Checking his phone.) Oh, come on...who even added that douche to the group chat?

TYLER  
I know, right?

CONNOR  
(To DHAKIRAH) Hey, I'm really sorry about what happened with you and Andre.

DHAKIRAH  
...

TYLER  
Omigod, yes!! That was so humiliating!

COURTNEY  
I kinda saw it coming, to tell the truth...you're not really like him... You two didn't "fit" together you know? You're too--

CONNOR  
He's not really--

TYLER

He's just not like you, Dee. You can do so much better than him, I mean...you're more...um....

(TYLER struggles to find the right word...)

DHAKIRAH

...

CONNOR

(Checking his phone.) Where's that pizza? I'm about to die in here.

TYLER

Right?!

(A knock on the door.)

CONNOR

Ha! That's liiiit! We got the pizzaaaa! (To DHAKIRAH) Why are you so quiet all of the sudden?

COURTNEY

All of a sudden...

CONNOR

What?

COURTNEY

Um...

CONNOR

...

COURTNEY

Whatever, forget it.

(CONNOR exits and the women go back to working on signs.)

COURTNEY

How about, "The FEMpire strikes back!"

TYLER

Nice...Mine says "Feminist As Fuck!"

COURTNEY

Yaaaaas, Betty Friedan! Pussy power, hun-ty [honey]!!! (To DHAKIRAH) Hey Dee, what's yours say?

(DHAKIRAH Holds up a sign that says "Your feminism is intersectional or it's bullshit.")

TYLER

...

COURTNEY

Okay, sure?

TYLER

...

COURTNEY

...

TYLER

So like... It's kinda confrontational, but not in a productive way... is this like, an attack on us, or something?

DHAKIRAH

(Barely audible) It's not about--

COURTNEY

She's not saying that. I totally get what you're saying Dee--

TYLER

When you say *your* feminism, it's like you're marginalizing yourself. And how are you even doing this march if you're not a feminist? Like, if you're not a feminist, then what are you?

COURTNEY

Of course she's a feminist.

DHAKIRAH

(Struggling to speak.) I'm a womanist.

TYLER

Same thing.

DHAKIRAH

No...

COURTNEY

(To TYLER) A womanist is a black feminist, dummy. Read a book.

TYLER

What?

COURTNEY

It's like, feminist meta-commentary. It's healthy! Just go with it.

TYLER

What does race have to do with gender? We all have vaginas. We're women. Black, white, whatever.

DHAKIRAH

(Finding her voice) Not all women have vaginas...

TYLER

The signs are supposed to be against Donald Trump, not each other. This march is about unity. This is not a time to be divisive.

DHAKIRAH

I did not invent divisiveness.

TYLER

Well aren't you sassy today...

(CONNOR enters.)

CONNOR

Ladies! I got the pizza, and y'all got the signs. Now all I need is a pink pussy hat, and I'm ready to punch some Nazis!

COURTNEY

(To DHAKIRAH) Hey, you okay?

DHAKIRAH

(Near tears) No. I'm not okay...

(DHAKIRAH exits.)

CONNOR

What's her problem? I thought this was supposed to be fun.

TYLER

I know, right?