

SIDE #1: FLIP, TAYLOR, KENT, CHERYL

FLIP Oh, hi...

(TALOR turns around. Both are shocked.)

TAYLOR Harold?

FLIP Flip. Please.

TAYLOR Flip. *(beat)* He's talked about you. But I didn't put it together.

FLIP Yeah, I heard he had a girl...it didn't even occur to me.

TAYLOR Taylor...

FLIP I know.

TAYLOR Yeah. O.K..

FLIP All right then.

(TAYLOR and FLIP speak simultaneously.)

TAYLOR Well, it's good to see you.

FLIP What you been up to?

(End of simultaneous dialogue. TAYLOR moves in for a hug, FLIP a shake...they fumble and eventually settle on an awkward half-embrace.)

FLIP So, where's my bro?

TAYLOR He's in the kitchen with...?

FLIP Ms. Ellie?

TAYLOR I don't know.

FLIP Large, pleasant, older black lady?

TAYLOR No, no. Pretty, young. Nice. She was already here.

FLIP Kimber beat me?

TAYLOR Spoon said you were in Aspen.

FLIP Spoon?

TAYLOR Kent. I'm sorry, pet name. Yeah, I thought you two were coming up later.

FLIP I cut it short. I had to fly back for an emergency. Kimber got here too early. I wanted time to smooth the way, you know.

TAYLOR *(beat)* No. *(beat)* She said we got here too early.

FLIP *(heading towards the kitchen)* She did, did she? *(TAYLOR follows, FLIP enters kitchen)* Honey, you weren't supposed to come for another...

KENT Honey?

CHERYL Hey!

FLIP Cheryl! Look at you, all grown up.

(He hugs her. We see that CHERYL carries an intense and painful crush on FLIP.)

CHERYL Yeah, well, you know I'll be going to college. Gonna load up the science on the front end so I can go pre-med. *(awkward beat)* Like you were, when you went, to college.

FLIP A long time ago. *(hugging KENT)* Hey man, met your girl. You coulda done worse. *(beat - looks around expectantly)* So what did you do with her?

KENT What?

(TAYLOR enters the Kitchen.)

FLIP Your girl said my girl was in the kitchen.

TAYLOR Oh, I thought she was...I'm confused.

FLIP Naw...my girl's still where I left her. I have a little ground-laying to do with the folks first.

TAYLOR Then you are?

CHERYL Oh, Cheryl. I'm working for the LeVays.

KENT Cheryl's mom, Ms. Ellie has helped Mom for years...but now she's all grown up.

CHERYL *(grinning at FLIP.)* I am.

TAYLOR Oh...you're the maid. *(Awkward silence. to KENT)* What did he mean, ground-laying?

KENT Yeah, Flip's girl is a little melanin-challenged.

CHERYL Melanin challenged?

KENT She's, of the other persuasion...

TAYLOR Not in the tribe, huh?

FLIP She's cool. *(to TAYLOR)* Studies race dynamics in inner-city schools.

TAYLOR As opposed to the outer city?

CHERYL *(just getting it)* Oh, she white?

KENT & FLIP She's Italian.

KENT So, this is Taylor.

FLIP Yeah...we go way back.

(FLIP and TAYLOR exchange a look, which CHERYL catches...)

KENT Yeah?

TAYLOR No.

FLIP Yeah, all the way back to the living room.

TAYLOR It's nice to *(beat)* meet you.

(They shake hands.)

END.