

UNVEILED

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&

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SIMONE (27), African-American, radiant in wedding dress, stands in front of a floor length mirror. CLAIRE (27), Caucasian, walks into the room with a jewelry box in hand.

SIMONE

You got them! They'll look amazing
with your dress.

Claire, silent.

SIMONE (CONT'D)

Don't you like them?

CLAIRE

Why is Royce giving me his
Grandmother's earrings?

SIMONE

They're a gift. And why are you so
upset?

CLAIRE

This reeks of manipulation.

Claire waves the box.

SIMONE

Woah.. Seriously? Manipulation?
You're doing this right now.

(beat)

Stop being selfish Claire

CLAIRE

Selfish?! I am not being selfish.

(beat)

I won't to be bought by your
perfect fiancé and his family
heirlooms.

SIMONE

What's your problem with Royce?

CLAIRE

(mocking)

'I can't wait to officially be your
brother...' Really Simone? He
barely knows me. I don't know a
thing about him.

(beat)

Here--

Claire shoves the earring box into Simone's hands.

I don't accept bribes from
strangers

Claire turns to leave.

SIMONE
Don't you dare walk out on me!
(softer tone)
It's my wedding day for God's sake.

Tension. Claire stands at the door, considers her next move.

SIMONE (CONT'D)
Please.

Simone motions to Claire to come back in to the room.

SIMONE (CONT'D)
Claire...

Claire walks back into the room and sits down on the bedside.
Simone moves to sit beside her, but thinks better of it.

SIMONE (CONT'D)
Wait. I don't want to wrinkle my
dress. Unless you want me to sit.
Then I will. Wrinkle my dress.

CLAIRE
(annoyed)
No, don't wrinkle your dress - it's
your wedding day, for God's sake.

Simone leans against the vanity table. She exhales.

SIMONE
Now, what's going on?

CLAIRE
Ever since mom died, you've been
avoiding me. Whenever you call
home, I can hear you and dad
talking and laughing -- it's like
you're fine without me.
(beat)
We haven't talked-- really talked.
And today you want me to pretend
that nothing's wrong. Like we have
the perfect relationship, and be
the perfect sister. I can't!

SIMONE

Claire -- I haven't been avoiding you and I'm not asking you to be someone you're not. I've fallen in love, and spending time with Royce and his family has taught me a lot about my African-American heritage. They have history. Deep roots. And that's important to me.

(beat)

If you were to think about it - you'd be happy for me.

(beat)

Our family - you, me, dad - we'll always be that 'quirky and diverse, chocolate and vanilla' family mom insisted on.

CLAIRE

I miss mom...

SIMONE

I miss her too...

Simone sits down beside Claire.

SIMONE (CONT'D)

I'll always choose you, Claire. Even if it means walking down the aisle in a wrinkly dress.

Claire makes a face and chuckles.

CLAIRE

Okay, you win!

(beat)

And you're right -- I am happy for you.

Claire takes the jewelry box from Simone's hands and pulls out a pearl earring. She walks toward the mirror.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

I'll wear the earrings. Because they do go with my dress.

Claire examines her own dress in the mirror.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

And I know Royce will love your wrinkly dress!

A faint laugh from Simone.