

MOIRA'S INTERLUDE

"PILOT"

Written by

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EXT. STREET - NOON

A MAN with a box of DVDs comes rushing around the corner to where children are playing. He is somewhat out of breath, and out of shape, but appears scared.

KID AT PLAY #1  
Hey Reeshi, what you got today?

REESHI THE DVD MAN  
Shit, lil homie, it's going down at  
125th n Lenox. Give me a minute.

He stops, short of breath.

KID AT PLAY #2  
My momma told me you gonna die  
there.

REESHI THE DVD MAN  
Man, fuck your mother.

MRS. HANEEFA  
Reeshi!

He looks over to the stoop.

EXT. MRS. HANEEFA'S STOOP - NOON

Reeshi, the DVD MAN, comes over to MRS. HANEEFA and MOIRA at the stoop.

REESHI THE DVD MAN  
Hey Mrs. Haneefa, I got Malcolm X  
bootleg. Hi Moira.

Moira nods him off.

MRS. HANEEFA  
I got it on VHS, DVD, Blu-Ray, and  
it's on Hulu. Listen, don't talk to  
them kids that way.

REESHI THE DVD MAN  
Yes ma'am.

MRS. HANEEFA  
Go somewhere.

REESHI THE DVD MAN  
Yes ma'am. Walaikum Salam.

MRS. HANEEFA  
Wa Alaikum as-Salam. And stay  
alive.

EXT. MRS. HANEEFA'S STOOP - NOON

**Marvin Gaye's** "What's Going On?" floats up and down the streets on a loud SPEAKER. It's a hot summer Saturday and many CHILDREN are out playing with the WATER HOSE/or WATER GUNS.

We see where the sound is coming from an opened window at Mrs. Haneefa's brownstone.

Sitting on the stoop is **MOIRA JONES** (18), who at first glance looks rough, but is actually warm and inviting. She's on TikTok mindlessly scrolling.

MOIRA  
Mrs. H, you want a refill?

She lifts her glass.

We are greeted with this stoic figure in the chair at the top of the stoop. **MRS. HANEEFA** (60s-70s) comfortable, watching the children at play.

MRS. HANEEFA  
I'll get it. Give me your cup.

MOIRA  
Ah, don't worry about it, I got it.

MRS. HANEEFA  
No, no, watch the children. I'll get us refills. I'll also bring out the ice pops for the young ones.

Mrs. Haneefa rises and enters her home.

MOIRA  
Damn it's hot.

MRS. HANEEFA (O.S.)  
Take off that damn jacket.

A GROUP OF GIRLS Moira's age walk by.

MOIRA  
What's up?

They smile and nod to her. One girl looks her up and down.

MOIRA (CONT'D)

Alright now.

She picks up her PHONE and opens TikTok. Moira goes to the "Create" section and presses it. She is seen on the camera.

She records herself.

MOIRA (CONT'D)

Okay, so I'm bored, it's hot, and I got time. Here's a story about how I found out my name and lowkey coming out story.

She pauses. Mrs. Haneefa comes back out.

MRS. HANEEFA

You hungry? What you doing?

MOIRA

Making a TikTok, wanna be in it?

MRS. HANEEFA

Oh, hell no. That's the devil's app.

She continues recording.

MOIRA

Sorry, y'all. My name is Moira Jones. Drip check.

She pans the camera up and down showing herself off.

MOIRA (CONT'D)

Now, what kind of name is "Moira" for a black girl? Well shit, I'll tell you what my mother told me.

INT. JONES HOUSEHOLD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A **YOUNG MOIRA** (AGE 4 OR 5) watches T.V. in the living room decorated with strong earthy tones.

ON T.V. is Zoe from **SESAME STREET** singing "*My Name is Zoe*".

Moira is bouncing to the tune. Her mother, **AMIRAH JONES**, walks into the room on the phone talking to a friend.

AMIRAH

Girl, I don't know the fascination with Sesame Street.

(MORE)

AMIRAH (CONT'D)

I didn't watch it growing up. Plus Big Bird gave me nightmares.

YOUNG MOIRA

Mama?

AMIRAH

What are you doing in Flatbush?  
*You're seeing your man?*

YOUNG MOIRA

Mama?

AMIRAH

I got cousins around there, none of them are shit. If they last names are Henson, Jones, or Avery. Avoid them.

Moira turns down the T.V.

YOUNG MOIRA

Mama!

Moira catches Amirah's attention.

AMIRAH

His last name is Henson? Let me call you back. Yes, baby?

YOUNG MOIRA

What's my name mean?

AMIRAH

I don't know.

Moira stares blankly.

Amirah dials back her friend.

MOIRA (V.O.)

Like what the hell? She didn't know? And what did we learn about my name? Absolutely nothing. So I had to do some digging.

EXT. MRS. HANEEFA'S STOOP - NOON (PRESENT)

Moira stops recording. At the door, Mrs. Haneefa holds a BOX OF ICE POPS.

MRS. HANEEFA

Make sure they each get one.

Mrs. Haneefa places a refilled GLASS OF LEMONADE down.

MOIRA

Got it.

She takes a seat.

Moira continues to record.

MOIRA (CONT'D)

Part 2! One day, I learned  
something troubling about my name.

EXT. LITTLE IRELAND - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Colors of Orange, White, and Green parade Little Ireland, New York.

Young Moira holds her mother's hand as she's seen yet again talking on the phone. They are met with looks and stares from locals.

AMIRAH

I told you my cousins ain't shit.  
Stay away from DeVan. Try your luck  
in the Heights. Yes Mami, get  
yourself a passionate Latin man.

MOIRA (V.O.)

I actually don't know what we were  
doing in Little Ireland, because I  
know it's lowkey racist as fuck,  
but the beat goes on.

Moira, excited, lets go of her mother's hand and runs into a bakery.

AMIRAH

Camae, this little girl ran off.  
I'll call you back.

CAMAE (V.O.)

Girl, she always doing something.

AMIRAH

I know, right?  
(shouts)  
Moira!

She flips the phone close. A GUY with a CART OF GOODS accidentally bumps into Amirah.

AMIRAH (CONT'D)  
Damn son, I know you saw me!

People turn around and see where the noise is coming from.

INT. BAKERY - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Moira looks at the assortment of desserts and bread. They look delicious.

She turns around to a curmudgeon OLD IRISHMAN. He sits in his chair flipping through a newspaper.

Moira approaches the man. He has an air of prejudice to him, not understood by the young girl yet.

MOIRA  
Hey mister, do you know what my name means?

OLD IRISHMAN  
That depends, what is your name?

MOIRA  
Moira.

OLD IRISHMAN  
Are you lost? What brings you in here?

He looks around for another black person.

MOIRA  
My mama is outside and I know what I'm doing.

OLD IRISHMAN  
You're grown for your age, how old are you?

MOIRA  
Answer my question!

The Old Irishman pulls out a flask and pours into his coffee. He takes a swig.

OLD IRISHMAN  
Your name is the same as me own sister. She was a troublesome lot. Caused me nothing but high blood pressure and issues with women. After what she did to my family, me ma said the name means "doom."

MOIRA  
What is doom?

OLD IRISHMAN  
Means bad. That's what you got to  
live with, being BAD. Now get.

The BAKER, behind the counter, nods in disappointment.  
Moira runs in horror outside.

EXT. LITTLE IRELAND - DAY (FLASHBACK)

She runs outside to her mama, whom she bumps into.

AMIRAH  
Whoa, Nelly!

Moira holds on to her mother's legs, real tight.

AMIRAH (CONT'D)  
What happened, baby?

Silence.

AMIRAH (CONT'D)  
Are you gonna be okay?

Moira nods. She points at the Old Irishman.

She doesn't believe Moira. Amira walks into the bakery. Moira  
watches from the outside.

- Amirah can be seen shouting at the old man.
- She snatches his paper and throws it over his head.
- She takes his coffee and pours it on him.

EXT. BAKERY - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Amirah RUNS out and GRABS Moira. They run up the street.  
Leaving behind Little Ireland.

AMIRAH  
No one hurts my baby.

INT. JONES HOUSEHOLD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Moira sits on the couch across from her mother who is  
squatted in front of her.

AMIRAH

Your name is special. Even if I don't know what it means, it means you're special. Because I gave it to you.

Moira smiles.

EXT. MRS. HANEEFA'S STOOP - AFTERNOON (PRESENT)

Moira scrolls on her PHONE. She is still recording, this time her screen is seen on the TikTok app.

MOIRA

(obnoxiously)

PART THREEEEEE!

(clears throat)

The name Moira means according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, "individual destiny, fate, or the will of the gods." Which means I'm a boss-ass bitch.

Moira gets up and joins the kids in the street. She has in her possession the signature freeze pops perfect for summer.

EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON

Cars, Taxis, and bikes pass by the kids playing safely in the street.

NEIGHBOR (O.C.)

Aye, Moira!

MOIRA

Hey Mr. Flushing.

Moira approaches with ICE POPS. The kids stop what they are doing and gather around.

MOIRA (CONT'D)

You get an Icey, you get an Icey and you get an Icey!!! You all get Iceys!

One by one, kids grab a flavor. Two kids, one YOUNG GIRL, and a YOUNG BOY step to Moira.

MOIRA (CONT'D)

Hi there! What's your name?

The little girl steps up.

RAYA

My name is Raya, and this is my brother Ray.

MOIRA

Are you twins?

They nod.

RAYA

Can I have the blue?

MOIRA

Yes, you may. How about you my guy?

He's shy.

Raya whispers to Ray.

RAY

Can I have the Red?

MOIRA

Yes, you may. Go on little queen and little king, enjoy your day.

RAYA

Thank you, you too.

The two kids walk away enjoying their ice pops. Moira gets back on Tiktok and FILMS THEM WALKING AWAY. She begins:

MOIRA

You see the children are the reason I keep moving. I really want to teach for a while. I believe in shaping young minds. Each one, teach one, you know?

She looks over at Mrs. Haneefa's stoop. There she is taking her chair back inside.

Moira heads back to the stoop. She films her excursion.

MOIRA (CONT'D)

If it wasn't for my mom introducing me to Mrs. Haneefa, I don't think I'd be the person I am now.

INT. JONES HOUSEHOLD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Moira (around 3 to 4 years younger from current, 13/14) sits in the living room getting her shoes on.

Amirah, her mother, comes downstairs.

MOIRA

Where are we going, again?

AMIRAH

Now, little girl you know I can't teach you how to be gay, so I'm going to some people who will.

MOIRA

Mom, why you got to say it like that?

AMIRAH

Because it's true. I was talking to a friend of the family about your situation and-

MOIRA

Mom! It's not a situation-

AMIRAH

Whatever it is, it's yours. So, I was talking to Mrs. Haneefa and Mrs. Leslie, the two colorful gay lesbians a couple of blocks down.

MOIRA

Gay and Lesbian are the same things, but-

AMIRAH

-Okay, either way. They say if I needed anything I can come to them.

MOIRA

Is it that serious?

EXT. SHABAZ-GREEN HOUSEHOLD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Amirah and Moira stand on the stoop. Amirah knocks.

MRS. HANEEFA (O.S.)

(irritable)

Who is it?

We hear clicking.

MRS. LESLIE (O.S.)

(loud)

Put that gun away!

THUD!

AMIRAH

It's Amirah and Moira Jones, Mrs.  
Haneefa.

The door unlocks. Mrs. Haneefa steps outside and crosses her  
cardigan.

A beam of green comes from behind, it's MRS. LESLIE, Mrs.  
Haneefa's wife.

MRS. LESLIE

Who is it?

MRS. HANEEFA

Amirah and her daughter.

MRS. LESLIE

Oh, the one who's come to the  
rainbow?

MOIRA

Look who's talking.

Amirah punches her shoulder.

AMIRAH

I came to hand over my daughter.  
She's gay and you can help her  
understand that.

MRS. HANEEFA

You're gay?

MOIRA

Yup.

MRS. HANEEFA

Enough said. Good evening.

Mrs. Haneefa walks away. Mrs. Leslie grabs her.

MRS. LESLIE

Is that all?

MOIRA

I've been trying to tell her, you  
can't teach being gay.

MRS. LESLIE

Well...

MRS. HANEEFA

No, the young one is right. Now  
let's get back to Family Feud.

MRS. LESLIE

We can't teach her how to be you  
know, but we can guide her through  
it.

AMIRAH

Well, let's do that. I'll come pick  
you up later, okay?

Moira nods. She walks inside with the elders.

MOIRA (V.O.)

From that point on, they became my  
Gayrus.

INT. SHABAZ-GREEN HOUSEHOLD - AFTERNOON (PRESENT)

The BOSE SPEAKERS plays **Miles Davis'** *"Blue In Green,"* or  
something similar.

Mrs. Haneefa wipes the dust off a picture of Mrs. Leslie. She  
comes face frontal to her urn over the furnace. The urn is  
labeled "Leslie Beulah Shabaz-Green, 1950-2017"

She kisses the urn and holds that for a while. She thinks of  
the kisses she shared with Mrs. Leslie.

PRE-LAP: Clapping

INT. SHABAZ-GREEN HOUSEHOLD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Mrs. Haneefa and Mrs. Leslie clap for Moira as she takes some  
bows.

MONTAGE OF MOMENTS:

Accompanied by, "Dreaming About You," by The Blackbyrds

- Moira and the two Gayrus drive through New York City to see  
the scenery.

- Moira carries groceries inside for them.

- Moira sits as Mrs. Haneefa and Mrs. Leslie reenact a story  
to her.

- Moira watches as the two lovebirds dance to a sweet song.

MOIRA (V.O.)  
They taught me that love is here,  
queer, and is possible.

The song fades out.

END MONTAGE.

EXT. MRS. HANEEFA'S STOOP - AFTERNOON (PRESENT)

Mrs. Haneefa comes out to check on Moira. Moira sits in wonder.

MRS. HANEEFA  
Ahem.

MOIRA  
Oh, what's good Mrs. H?

MRS. HANEEFA  
You want to come in and watch  
Family Feud?

MOIRA  
Sure. But, then I got to go meet up  
with my boy Chauncey.

MRS. HANEEFA  
You got friends?

MOIRA  
Now you know what-

MRS. HANEEFA  
I'm just playing with you. Come on,  
the heat is harsh.

MOIRA  
It cooled down.

MRS. HANEEFA  
You wearing denim and saying it  
cooled down? Y'all kids getting  
heatstroke for a fashion statement.

MOIRA  
I look pretty fly. I'm chill.

MRS. HANEEFA  
Do you know what else is chill? The  
morgue.

They get inside. The door is shut and locked.

MOIRA (V.O.)

I'm all Mrs. Haneefa's got since Mrs. Leslie passed. I take care of her, we still have good times. She helped me get through my first relationship even as she ended hers...

INT. SHABAZ-GREEN HOUSEHOLD - AFTERNOON (PRESENT)

Moira sits next to Mrs. Haneefa watching Family Feud. Mrs. Haneefa is eating popcorn. She offers some to Moira.

(\*\* Steve Harvey is having one of those moments where he looks distraught to someone's absurd answer).

MOIRA

I'm good.

Moira gets a text.

CHAUNCEY

*Hey cuh, I'm gon b late, but I promise we chilling 18r.*

Moira swipes away.

MRS. HANEEFA

More for me.

Mrs. Haneefa pops some into her mouth.

MOIRA

(silence, then)

Hey Mrs. Haneefa?

MRS. HANEEFA

Yes, baby?

MOIRA

What was it like? To lose Mrs. G?

Beat.

MRS. HANEEFA

It was like having my heart ripped out of me.

MOIRA

Like, it's still hard to believe she is gone.

MRS. HANEEFA

Well, she is and isn't. See, all we have to do is call on her and she'll come.

MOIRA

Like the great ancestors?

MRS. HANEEFA

Yes.

Moira sits back in her chair.

MOIRA

I feel the same way about Destiny.

MRS. HANEEFA

Oh, you do?

MOIRA

Like if I lose her, I'll fall apart.

INT. CLASSROOM - HIGHSCHOOL - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Moira enters a classroom dressed in a red and black checkered ensemble, she looks fly.

MOIRA (V.O.)

Storytime about my crush...It was the first day back to school, I was like 17. I was reintroduced to Destiny.

Moira sits down at a desk next to this beautiful girl with a vibe of a 90s it-girl. She arranges her books and notes on her desk, she's a perfectionist.

She, DESTINY (16, as of right now) smiles at the arrival of Moira.

MOIRA

Moira Jones.

She reaches over to shake her hand.

DESTINY

I know. Destiny.

They shake hands. Moira holds on a bit longer. She's shocked.

Moira slides her desk closer to Destiny.

MOIRA  
Like Destiny who went to Adam  
Clayton Powell Jr.?

DESTINY  
Yes, I am she.

MOIRA  
Oh, this is crazy!

DESTINY  
Long time no see, Moira.

MOIRA  
Girl you glowed the fuck up. I used  
to- Nah, never mind.

DESTINY  
Used to what?

Destiny leans in.

MOIRA  
(chokes)  
Uh, uh... I used to have the  
biggest, fattest, ginormous crush  
on your ass!

DESTINY  
On my ass?

MOIRA  
Well, you. Respectfully.

Destiny and Moira share a laugh.

MOIRA (V.O.)  
And from that moment, I think I  
found my person.

Destiny pulls out her phone.

DESTINY  
Here, lock my number in.

MOIRA  
That's the fastest I got some  
digits.

DESTINY  
Well, let that be a sign.

Moira looks at her.

MOIRA

You can have my address, phone number, email, and whatever else you need.

MOIRA (V.O.)

She is the bomb dot com!

DESTINY

Let's chill, sometimes.

MOIRA (V.O.)

This was an excellent start to my year.

*"Make it Better,"* by **Anderson .Paak** (featuring Smokey Robinson) or something similar plays.

INT. HALLWAY - HIGH SCHOOL - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Moira and Destiny enter the school.

- They make cute, cheesy, faces to one another.
- Moira holds a door open for her.
- Destiny grabs two water's from a vending machine.
- Moira plants a kiss on Destiny's cheek.

Destiny and Moira ease on down the hall, holding hands.

A young man, CHAUNCEY, barrels down the hall and breaks the two apart. Also, the SONG cuts out-

CHAUNCEY

Oops, my bad!

Some STUDENTS witness and laugh.

Moira's livid.

MOIRA

Yo, NIGGA, what the fuck?

CHAUNCEY

Don't breathe my way you fucking dyke.

DESTINY

Let's just go.

MOIRA

No.

(to Chauncey)

You know I fight niggas, right?

He puffs up.

CHAUNCEY

And I fight dykes. These hands  
don't discriminate bitch nigga.

MOIRA

You the bitch, nigga!

Students HOWL and SCREECH, instigating the conflict.

Moirira and Chauncey get into it.

He lunges into her, she dodges and rocks him square in the  
face with a clean punch.

A TEACHER runs in and breaks up the fight. Destiny pulls  
Moirira back.

MOIRA (CONT'D)

Yeah, names Moirira don't look my way  
ever again. With you stank ass,  
crusty ass, jank hairline havin-

Destiny taps her shoulder.

DESTINY

Uh, babe...

Moirira turns around and is met with PRINCIPAL CARTIER.

INT. OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A counselor, MR. COSTANZA (40s) stands behind a sitting MR.  
CARTIER (50s) and laugh hysterically across from Moirira.

Moirira daps up Mr. Costanza.

Amirah bum rushes through the door past the SECRETARY and the  
laughter ceases.

The Secretary, MICHELLE, enters.

MICHELLE

I'm sorry, she just barged in-

MR. CARTIER

It's fine. Hello, Mrs. Jones.

Michelle leaves.

MOIRA  
(snickers)  
Hey, Mom.

AMIRAH  
Don't you "Hey Mom" me. Why the hell did I get a phone call about you getting into a fight. Who the fuck do I got to fuck up for fighting my daughter.

INT. FRONT OFFICE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

The phone rings uncontrollably, and Michelle picks up the phone and hangs up.

Chauncey sits next to Destiny, uncomfortable, holding an icepack to his face.

He looks up scared at the sound of a LOUD Amirah talking shit.

INT. OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Amirah takes a seat.

AMIRAH  
I'm waiting.

MOIRA  
Moms, chill. We got it under control.

AMIRAH  
Shit, then why'd I get called?

MR. COSTANZA  
Well, it's protocol ma'am. We call all parents involved.

MOIRA  
I just wish you didn't call Destiny's mom.

AMIRAH  
Destiny?

MOIRA (V.O.)  
Incoming Trouble.

INT. FRONT OFFICE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

The SOUND of HEELS walking uniformly haunts Destiny.

DESTINY

Oh, no.

She stands up.

Her mother, MS. ESTER CHAPMAN (40s), black, and looks as strict as the bible enters the room.

MS. CHAPMAN

Sit.

Destiny sits.

MICHELLE

Ma'am, please sign in.

MS. CHAPMAN

Not now.

She enters Mr. Cartier's office.

INT. OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Ms. Chapman walks in on the conversation.

AMIRAH

Hello.

Ms. Chapman ignores.

MS. CHAPMAN

Mr. Cartier.

MR. CARTIER

Miss Chapman. Pleasure.

MS. CHAPMAN

Wish that was true.

(with venom)

Why was I informed that my daughter was in a fight?

MR. COSTANZA

Well, it was proto-

Her look cuts him off. Like Medusa to Men.

MS. CHAPMAN

Protocol. I know the damn rules, I worked in the public school system for 10+ years. My daughter was not in a fight. She knows the rules.

MOIRA

Excuse me, Ms. Chapman, nice to meet you, Destiny was holding me back. She was being a friend.

She takes a gander at Moira, seeing her boyish demeanor.

AMIRAH

They just call all involved. The kids are alright.

MS. CHAPMAN

(to Cartier)

Is this the "girl" who was in the fight?

MR. CARTIER

Yes, ma'am. Everything has been settled, now if-

Ms. Chapman puts a finger up.

Beat.

MS. CHAPMAN

You stay the HELL away from my daughter, you delinquent.

MOIRA

Whoa, not the D-word!

AMIRAH

Now you not gonna point no fingers at my daughter!

MS. CHAPMAN

That's your daughter or your son?

Amira jumps out of her chair and starts taking off her earrings- Moira stops her from taking the second pair off.

MOIRA

Ma, chill!

MS. CHAPMAN

You don't want this, I'm from PG County!

AMIRAH

And I'm from Bed-Stuy! You know how  
the rest goes.

Moira holds her mother back. Mr. Cartier stands up, safely  
behind his desk.

MOIRA

Mr. Costanza? A little help.

AMIRAH

Raul, don't come over here!

Michelle puts a PAPER on the door window with "911" scribbled  
on it. Mr. Cartier nods "No."

MR. CARTIER

Ladies. Please. Not here.

They stop the almost scuffle.

MS. CHAPMAN

Stay away from my daughter.

Michelle holds the door open.

INT. FRONT OFFICE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Ms. Chapman marches out. She directs Destiny to follow.

CHAUNCEY

Glad my mom's not here.

MOM'S VOICE (O.S.)

CHAUNCEY KIRKLAND OMARION  
TAYLOR!!!!

Chauncey sinks in his chair.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Moira and Amirah step outside.

AMIRAH

Do you want to talk about it?

Moira nods.

END OF  
FLASHBACK.

INT. SHABAZ-GREEN HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - EVENING (PRESENT)

The BOSE SPEAKERS play, **Sade Adu's** "*Never As Good As the First Time*," or something similar.

Mrs. Haneefa washes dishes. Moira sits in silence. She stares at the **TEXT MESSAGE SCREEN** under "DESTINY <3<3."

MOIRA

How do you know that you've found the one?

MRS. HANEEFA

When you realize that it all makes sense when they are around.

Moira sips the lemonade.

MOIRA

Need some help?

MRS. HANEEFA

Please.

Moira joins her.

MOIRA (V.O.)

I still got to see Destiny, in secret.

INT. DESTINY'S ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

"*Pink + White*" by **Frank Ocean** plays on the speakers, or something similar.

Moira sits on Destiny's BED. Destiny sits across from her. Moira slides her hand to hers.

They join hands. They let go.

Moira jumps off the bed and takes off the first layer of clothes. Destiny follows suit.

They both get under the covers and look at one another.

Pure ecstasy.

INT. DESTINY'S ROOM - NIGHT - LATER(FLASHBACK)

Moira looks at the collection of books along Destiny's wall.

Destiny looks out the window, to the MOON.

MOIRA

We've been dating for a few months,  
but this was the moment everything  
changes.

DESTINY

Are you up?

Moira reaches her hand back to hers.

MOIRA

Yeah.

DESTINY

My mom says that I should stay away  
from you.

MOIRA

Does your Mom also dictate your  
life?

Beat.

MOIRA (CONT'D)

Sorry.

DESTINY

I love your energy. I can't quit  
you.

MOIRA

I love you.

Beat.

Destiny lets go of Moira's hand. They both turn to one  
another.

DESTINY

I, uh, I-

MOIRA

It's okay you don't have to say it  
back, yet.

DESTINY

It's just my mom won't accept this.

MOIRA

But you have to live your truth.

DESTINY

How does your mom feel about you  
being out?

MOIRA (V.O.)

Well...

INT. JONES HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

The night was several years ago. (\*\*Moira here would be about 12 or 13 here, prior to meeting Mrs. Haneefa and Mrs. Leslie).

Amirah sits on the sofa watching **Law and Order: SVU**.

AMIRAH

I know that's right, Tutuola.

Moira comes down the stairs, scared.

AMIRAH (CONT'D)

Hey baby. You should be sleep.

Moira sits at the bottom of the stairs. She begins to cry.

Amirah hears her exasperation. She goes to her daughter.

AMIRAH (CONT'D)

Baby, Moira, what's wrong?

MOIRA

Mom, I have to tell you something.

AMIRAH

Yes, tell me, what is it?

Beat.

MOIRA

I'm Gay.

The TV makes the Law and Order sound. (\*\*You know the one).

AMIRAH

Oh, is that all?

Moira stops crying.

MOIRA

What.

Amirah goes to the closet by the stairs and opens the door.

AMIRAH

You got everything you need out of here? Is this luggage yours?

(MORE)

AMIRAH (CONT'D)

Shit, take this vacuum and clean your room.

Moira wipes her tears and hugs her mom.

AMIRAH (CONT'D)

I knew baby, I always knew. That won't change me loving you.

INT. DESTINY'S ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Destiny turns on her back and looks up at the ceiling.

DESTINY

So fucking unfair.

MOIRA

What?

DESTINY

Your mom is so cool. I wish I had it that easy.

MOIRA

That doesn't mean we are exempt from challenges.

They both sigh.

END OF  
FLASHBACK.

INT. SHABAZ-GREEN HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - EVENING (PRESENT)

Mrs. Haneefa sits at the table across from Moira. They both are enjoying a refreshing dessert. There is an open SCRAPBOOK on the table.

"*You Go to My Head*," by **Billie Holiday** plays, or something similar.

MOIRA

How many relationships did you have other than Mrs. Leslie?

Moira sifts through the book.

Images of Mrs. Leslie and Mrs. Haneefa marching in 2015 Pride/ The Two in their younger days and many more photos are seen.

MRS. HANEEFA  
She was my one and only.

MOIRA  
Wow.

MRS. HANEEFA  
It was a different time. Enjoy  
these freedoms, baby. Enjoy your  
youth. Meet new people.

MOIRA  
Did your parents ever come around?

MRS. HANEEFA  
No. Well, Leslie's father did, but  
mine, nope. My mother told me last  
time we spoke that she was  
disappointed in me.

Beat.

MOIRA  
I'm sorry.

MRS. HANEEFA  
I'm not. It was her problem. Sure,  
it hurt, but I could not let that  
bring me down. I was a gay, Black,  
and Muslim woman against the world.

MOIRA  
You're a living testament.

MRS. HANEEFA  
Amen.

MOIRA  
I wish Destiny's mom could come  
through.

MRS. HANEEFA  
Her mom is going to believe in what  
she wants to believe. We all can't  
have a supportive mother like  
yours. Hell, all queer children  
would kill to have a mother like  
yours, but the reality is not  
everyone will.

Moira looks down at the melting dessert.

MRS. HANEEFA (CONT'D)  
What's wrong, Moira?

MOIRA

Destiny's mom moved her to Trenton because of me.

MRS. HANEEFA

That's why she left all those months ago?

MOIRA

Yeah.

MRS. HANEEFA

You haven't even graduated high school yet.

MOIRA

I know.

INT. DESTINY'S ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Destiny and Moira are sorting through a shoebox of Destiny's old things.

MOIRA

Whoa, whoa, whoa, what is this? A blast from the past.

Moira holds up a dead Tamagotchi.

DESTINY

Yeah, I used to play with them as a kid. My cousin gave me that and I kept it alive.

MOIRA

It's dead now.

DESTINY

Really dead.

Moira pulls out another dead Tamagotchi. She attempts to turn it on.

MOIRA

Damn, double homicide.

Moira picks up another item.

MOIRA (CONT'D)

Oh, what's this?

DESTINY  
That's my Radio Disney CD! The  
skin's scraped off now.

MOIRA  
Pop that shit in the player!

She puts the CD into her laptop on the desk next to her bed.  
There is no response.

DESTINY  
It broken.

MOIRA  
Okay, back to the modern era we go.

Destiny plays a song on Soundcloud. She turns up the volume.  
"Surrender," by **Alona** plays, or something similar.  
Moirira pulls Destiny down and they sit intimately.

DESTINY  
I have a question.

MOIRA  
I hopefully have an answer.

DESTINY  
Have you ever doubted that your  
gay? Like this is all a phase and  
it will pass?

MOIRA  
I'm not gonna say I haven't, but I  
know for sure I'm 100% and I'm  
valid.

DESTINY  
I wish I could be on 100.

MOIRA  
Come here...

Moirira leans in to kiss Destiny. Passion bursts through both  
of them as Moirira grabs her head.

KNOCK-KNOCK!

MS. CHAPMAN (O.S.)  
Destiny, I don't understand this  
Snapchat filter.

Ms. Chapman enters. Moira jumps up.

DESTINY

Mom!

MS. CHAPMAN

What in the hell?

MOIRA

You don't wait for a response?

DESTINY

Mom. Mom, please listen I- I'm-

Ms. Chapman sees Moira's jacket on the ground and Destiny's tank top off.

MS. CHAPMAN

(to Destiny)

No! No.

(to Moira)

Get the fuck out. Get out you  
DEMON. Leave. Leave before I call  
the cops.

Moira sucks her teeth.

DESTINY

Wait, the cops? Moira wait-

MOIRA

Don't. It's okay.

(to Ms. Chapman)

You don't have to fucking tell me  
twice.

Moira grabs her jacket.

DESTINY

Moira!

MS. CHAPMAN

Get.

Moira bucks at Ms. Chapman. She flinches.

She picks up a shoe and charges at Moira, heading down the stairs. Destiny intercepts and stops her mother.

Moira glares up the stairs at them. She leaves.

DESTINY

Why would you call her a demon?  
You're the one acting like one.

Ms. Chapman swings her hand to hit Destiny. She dodges into her room and slams the door. Locking it.

MS. CHAPMAN  
Don't you slam my doors in MY  
house.

EXT. HARLEM STREETS -- NEW YORK CITY - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Moirira walks into the night. She passes by some OLD HEADS chilling on the stoops talking shit and carrying on.

EXT. LONE BODEGA - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Moirira stands outside of a lone bodega next to a full cart and a couple of chairs. She is on the verge of tears.

She takes a seat in one of the chairs.

A HOMELESS MAN, (Mexican, 40s-) walks out of the bodega holding a TACQUITO.

CART GUY  
That's my chair.

MOIRA  
Oh, my bad.

Moirira gets up. She bumps into the cart next to her.

CART GUY  
That's my cart.

Moirira looks at the cart filled with an assortment of goods and merchandise and a MEXICAN FLAG sticking out of it.

MOIRA  
Oh, um. Yeah, I'll leave. My bad,  
B.

CART GUY  
Taquito.

She looks at his hands.

MOIRA  
Nah. I'm good.

CART GUY  
Whatever you're going through just  
keep your head up. You meet people  
at a very strange time in life.

(MORE)

CART GUY (CONT'D)

You gotta ask yourself when is it not strange, when is it a better time?

MOIRA

Uh, thanks.

CART GUY

Never let people tell you who you are. You know who you should be. Go in peace.

Moira nods and starts on her way. She stops and turns around.

MOIRA

Those sound like Tumblr quotes.

CART GUY

Aye, I may be homeless, but Wi-Fi is free.

MOIRA

No. Wi-Fi is very much expensive.

CART GUY

Not when you're stealing.

Beat.

MOIRA

What flavor of taquito is that?

CART GUY

Bean and cheese.

MOIRA

They got chicken and cheese?

CART GUY

I guess. Do you have a dollar?

Moira pulls out money and looks around.

MOIRA

Have two.

Moira hands him the money and he stops her.

CART GUY

It's gonna be a dollar for a taquito. I'm good, chica. Don't pull out cash on these streets, are you crazy?

The Homeless man pulls out a SPEAKER and PRESSES PLAY.

*"Walk Away from Love,"* by **Bitty McLean**, or something similar.

Moirira walks down the street, heartbroken.

END OF  
FLASHBACK.

INT. SHABAZ-GREEN HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - NIGHT (PRESENT)

Mrs. Haneefa consoles a crying Moirira.

MOIRIRA

I don't know what to do like I  
really love this girl.

MRS. HANEEFA

Baby, she has her journey and you  
have yours. Feel what you need to,  
but don't let it rule you.

Moirira goes to wipe her face.

MOIRIRA

But I need her.

MRS. HANEEFA

Baby, you don't need anyone. I was  
doing fine without Leslie, but  
something in me told me to want,  
the right way. It's the want that  
must outweigh the need.

MOIRIRA

The Want?

MRS. HANEEFA

Yes. You want to share your time  
with her, love her, grow with her.  
Once you need someone, you're  
dependent on them.

Moirira moves to the LIVING ROOM. She takes a seat on the  
couch.

Mrs. Haneefa sits down with her.

MRS. HANEEFA (CONT'D)

Tell me what you're feeling?

MOIRA

I've been feeling hurt. Pain. Like I've never really cared but this time it was different.

MRS. HANEEFA

You care about Destiny. Her mother is part of her life. I can see that.

MOIRA

I don't want to hate her mom, I just can't agree with her.

MRS. HANEEFA

And that's fine. Just don't let her anger you.

MOIRA

Because those who anger you control you.

MRS. HANEEFA

That's right.

Moira is somewhat relieved.

MOIRA

We still talk, but rarely. Her mother monitors her text messages to me only.

MRS. HANEEFA

See the difference now is this technology.

Mrs. Haneefa goes to the URN and rubs it. She looks over a PHOTO OF MRS. HANEEFA AND MRS. LESLIE marching with signs.

MRS. HANEEFA (CONT'D)

We still have a long way to go.

MOIRA

Yeah, we do.

Mrs. Haneefa holds Moira's hand.

KNOCK-KNOCK.

DING-DONG.

MRS. HANEEFA

Who could that be?

Mrs. Haneefa pulls out a GUN from a SMALL DRAWER.

MOIRA  
Whoa, it's like that?

MRS. HANEEFA  
Company at this hour is usually  
unwelcomed.

Moira backs up Mrs. Haneefa.

MOIRA (V.O.)  
I wasn't expecting the day to go  
like this. It was very reflective.

KNOCK-KNOCK-KNOCK.

The knocks are not too loud, but are not quiet either.

MRS. HANEEFA  
Who is it?

MOIRA (V.O.)  
But I wasn't prepared for what  
happened next.

DESTINY (O.S.)  
Hello? It's Destiny Simmons, I'm  
looking for Moira Jones.

Moira and Mrs. Haneefa exchange a look.

Moira is baffled.

Mrs. Haneefa opens the DOOR.

FADE OUT.

**END OF EPISODE.**