



# Audition Monologues

## FLEX

by

Candrice Jones

STARRA JONES

P.106

STARRA

Mama,

I finally asked G-Mama about what Coach said

She told me everything. How she begged you not to go to war.

But, you knew you would come back home and everything would be fine.

And I understand why you lied, mama.

I still understand why you taught me to play dirty.

You were just trying to teach me how to stay ahead of everything.

How not to get hurt like you did.

You didn't deserve what happened to you, Mama.

You should have been given another chance to play.

But, I promise Ima keep going hard for you and me.

How can I do that?

How am I going to achieve everything we hoped for if I'm not on the court?

## SIDNEY BROWN

P.114

Sidney

You know, Starra, I begged my mom not to move here? I thought she was ruining everything I ever worked for. But, she kept saying, if it's one thing people in Plainole give a damn about, it's basketball. And, she was right. I got here and found a squad. Donna - a Lisa Leslie smart post. April got all the heart and hustle in the world. Cherise tries to make balling holy cause she loves it. But, you, Starra Jones, were just a true baller. Yeah, you got that ole skool Pistol Pete Maravich game, but can't nobody stop it. But, no matter how hard I tried to be your teammate, you denied me.

*[Starra*

*Cause at the end of the day, I'm a competitor!]*

Well, at the end of the day, I'm a winner. And, if one of my teammates got skills I'm gonna hype them up, so we can both win. You know what, Starra? I hope Coach keeps her word. If she lets you in, you'll just be part of a long line of people who do fucked up shit and get exactly what you want.

## CHERISE HOWARD

P.17

Cherise

*(shooting the shot)*

Dear God. It's me, Cherise. I'm here with my teammates Starra Jones, Sidney Brown, Donna Cunningham, and last but not least April Jenkins. God, we come to you as your humble servants knowing that none of us are perfect. I open the truth to you. That truth in which your omniscience has no doubt made you aware. God, we need water wide and forceful as a train to push us through today. We pray that any seed spilled into our streams be fruitful as you see fit. Be our referee in victory. We are not perfect, so let no flagrant foul go unchecked. As we contour our bodies in pursuit of basketball, you contour our journeys in the righteous path you direct. We acknowledge you in this prayer believing the new life April carries should not put an end to her life, but fuel a new flame of hope that burns within. Coach didn't put April off the team cause she had sex. She put her off the team cause she's pregnant. In our hearts of hearts, we question this choice. For a woman's body can move mountains even while with child. In the end, Lord, it is your will that shall be done. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

## DONNA CUNNINGHAM

p.45

Donna

It wasn't a whole school of fish like with April. It was just one. I was swimming in Lake Chicot. The mud in the water surrounded me, started to get in my body, but my eyes could see forward. It was a fish. Just like before April told us she was pregnant, I saw a fish. I could tell by the lips it was a catfish. But, seems like the closer it got, the more it became a girl. She had a face. Like I said, it wasn't the same-

## APRIL JENKINS

P.78

April

What else you need to know Cherise? My cousin, the one who molested me when I was little, he was molested too. Who knows? Maybe our cousin who molested him was molested too. And maybe somebody did it to him. And, somebody did it to her or him. And that person, and that person, and that person. And, it just goes and goes and goes and goes.

*[Sidney*

*April, you need to talk to somebody.]*

Who Ima talk to? Gotta watch Oprah if you ever wanna see somebody actually saying how fucked up this shit is. How fucked up these families are. Well not my child. Not my baby. I'll be damned if I bring a child into this world for that shit. I'm getting as far away as I can from the big fat Plainnole family lie. This lie that family got your back. Everything they tell you is the truth and all you have to do is lean on them in times of trouble. I tried to lean on mine and all I got was silence and blank stares. You understand yet, Cherise? When I'm in a place where I think a child can be safe, that's when me and Paul gon' have a baby. But, by hell or high water I'm getting rid of this one.

# COACH FRANCINE PACE

P.25

Coach

*(covers the ball with her body)*

I gotta admit. I have never seen a team stick together like this. Ya'll out here on this court with the mosquitoes, dirt packed on your legs with Home Economics bellies on acting like I ain't never seen a pregnant woman run before. April, we want you out there, but if I got to go out there and coach only four seniors and team full of sophomores, that's what's gonna happen. I've beat the odds before.

In 1981, I went to the State tournament. It was my second year coaching. I didn't have but six girls. Carlotta Spencer had hurt her ankle. Then with two minutes left in the fourth quarter her sister, Annetta Spencer, fouled out. The ref asked me if I wanted to forfeit. I told him, can't stop a moving train.

I looked your mother in the eye, Starra. And, I knew I had a point guard who could take that two minutes, her three teammates, and give me victory. And, that's just what happened. We won. So, don't you come here and tell me what or who the Lady Train can't play without. (beat) Donna, your mama know you got those pregnancy suits out of her classroom?