FIRST LADY

by

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LUCAS CANON (24), African-American, lean and loose limbed, makes his way through a throng of impatient PASSENGERS. He joins the long line at the agent's desk just as the harried AGENT picks up her intercom.

AGENT

Ladies and gentlemen, if you are in line to inquire about how long all planes will be grounded due to the storm, we do not know at this time.

PASSENGERS all over the terminal grumble.

AGENT (CONT'D)

We will keep you updated as we receive more information. In the meantime, make yourselves as comfortable as possible.

Lucas looks at his watch then out the window at the tarmac.

Gale force winds bend trees sideways. Rain pelts the glass.

He looks around for a seat.

All chairs are taken. Quite a few PEOPLE lay on the floor.

JEREMIAH STACKS, an older African- American gentleman, sits on the floor in a corner with a Bible on his lap.

Lucas heads his direction and sits down.

JEREMIAH

(singing quietly)

This morning when I rose, yeah./I didn't have no doubt./This morning when I rose, yeah.

LUCAS

I didn't have no doubt.

The man looks at him curiously. Keeps singing.

JEREMIAH

This morning when I rose, yeah.

LUCAS

I didn't have no doubt.

FIRST LADY 2.

JEREMIAH

I know the Lord.

LUCAS

Will take care of me.

JEREMIAH

I know the Lord.

LUCAS

Will provide for me.

JEREMIAH

I know the Lord'll.

LUCAS

Lead and guide me all the way. All the way.

The man offers Lucas a smile.

JEREMIAH

What else Youngblood know?

LUCAS

I'm a better follower.

JEREMIAH

Don't punk out now, Youngblood. Show me what ya got.

Lucas looks away embarrassed. Meets the man's gaze again.

LUCAS

Thing is, God blessed me with the preaching. Not so much the singing.

The man laughs.

JEREMIAH

Woke up this morning with my mind.

LUCAS

Stayed on Jesus.

JEREMIAH

Not bad, Youngblood. I don't see what the problem is.

LUCAS

You gave me the note. On my own, I can't find it to save my life.

FIRST LADY 3.

JEREMIAH

This Little Light of Mine. You lead.

Lucas shakes his head with a laugh. Relaxes against the wall.

LUCAS

We haven't even technically met, yet. I don't hate you that much.

JEREMIAH

The name's Jeremiah and I won't take it personal. 'Nuff stallin'.

Lucas quirks an eyebrow at the man. He looks at the floor in concentration. When he looks up, he sings in multiple keys. All of them wrong.

LUCAS

This, little light of mine.

The old man slaps his knee cracking up.

JEREMIAH

Alright, alright! You win. (singing)
This, little light of mine.

Lucas smiles.

LUCAS

I'm gonna let it shine.

They continue their impromptu duet.

2 INT. SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH - SANCTUARY - DAY

A few MEMBERS are scattered around the small sanctuary of the African-American church. They're all rapt as REV. T. JAMES GEORGE (28), works himself into a preaching frenzy.

REV. GEORGE

And IIIIIII, know I'm right!

PASTOR MILTON PHILIPS (52), struggles to keep a frown off his face. He looks at his congregation in concern.

BESSIE MAE TAYLOR (62), a spry, energetic woman with well coifed blue white hair under a huge hat, hops up and waves her funeral home fan at him.

BESSIE MAE

You better preach, preacha!

FIRST LADY 4.

Taking their cues from Bessie Mae, JOYCE CLAY (43), mousy, stands and nods her agreement and BEVERLY KING (57), built like a tank, pushes to her feet and waves a dainty handkerchief.

3 INT. SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH - HIDING SPOT - DAY

3

JAYNA PHILIPS (21), lithe and agile, peeks through a gap in the wall at the pulpit below with gritted teeth.

REV. GEORGE (O.S.)

You got work to do if you want to get to Heaven.

BEVERLY (O.S.)

Say that!

REV. GEORGE (O.S.)

I said you got wooorrrkkk!

Jayna shakes her head and closes her laptop.

4 INT. AIRPORT - GATE 33 - DAY

4

Lucas and the gentlemen are now surrounded by people who are singing with them. An older WOMAN leads the song.

OLDER WOMAN

I stepped in the water and the water was cold.

EVERYBODY

The angels in Heaven done signed my name.

OLDER WOMAN

It chilled my body, but not my soul.

EVERYBODY

The angels in Heaven done signed my name.

The agent shoots an uneasy look at the growing crowd. Grabs her radio.

5 INT. AIRPORT - TERMINAL - DAY

5

Two SECURITY OFFICERS, one seasoned, one rookie, walk along the terminal.

ROOKIE

I'm telling ya man, if I set foot in a church, the ceiling'd fall in.

FIRST LADY 5.

SEASONED OFFICER

I'ma get you to church. We can't live without God.

His radio squawks to life. He pulls it from his belt.

SEASONED OFFICER (CONT'D)

6

Go 'head.

AGENT (V.O.)

We've got a disturbance. Gate 33.

SEASONED OFFICER

We're nearby. On our way.

The two officers break into a jog.

6 INT. AIRPORT - GATE 33 - DAY

Everybody listens as a young WOMAN in a scarf testifies.

SCARF WOMAN

The doctor told me they'd done all they could. That in three weeks, I'd be dead.

OLDER WOMAN

Lawd have mercy.

SCARF WOMAN

But my God is good. Three weeks was up six weeks ago. I am still here.

A praise ripples through the crowd.

Lucas claps his hands and shares a look with Jeremiah.

The praise subsides a bit.

LUCAS

Anyone else have song, prayer or testimony?

Everyone looks around expectantly. No one speaks up.

Jeremiah looks at Lucas.

JEREMIAH

Looks like you're up, Youngblood.

LUCAS

What?

FIRST LADY 6.

JEREMIAH

You said you could preach. Let's see what you got.

Lucas nods gravely at the challenge. Prays under his breath.

LUCAS

Just use me, Lord.

Turns back to crowd.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

You all ready to hear a Word from the Lord?

CROWD

Yeah!

7 INT. AIRPORT - GATE 33 DESK - DAY

7

The two security officers rush up. The seasoned officer considers the crowd.

ROOKIE

Should we get them to disburse? What's going on?

He follows his partner to the agent's desk. She keeps a wary eye on the crowd.

SEASONED

What's happening here?

AGENT

No idea. They've been singing and talking. For hours. You don't think they're planning anything?

8 INT. AIRPORT - GATE 33 - DAY

8

The seasoned officer edges his way through the crowd. The rookie follows.

LUCAS

If ya'll have a Bible, turn with me to 1 Corinthians 13:1. If not you can read it when you get home.

Several people pull out Bibles or open Bible apps.

FIRST LADY 7.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

The word of the Lord reads, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."

9 INT. SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH - SANCTUARY - DAY

9

Rev. George continues to whoop and holler in the pulpit. More people stand on their feet.

Not bothering to be stealthy, Jayna walks in the sanctuary and takes a seat in the back. She stares the preacher down.

Milton sees his daughter's irritated expression and looks to his wife.

GRACE PHILIPS (51), epitome of her name, catches Milton's look and glances behind her at Jayna. She sighs when she sees her daughter's open hostility.

REV. GEORGE (O.S.)
James 2:20 says, but wilt thou

know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

Jayna catches her mother's look. She ostentatiously puts a phony smile on a blank expression.

Grace glances back again. She stops and turns around to glare at Jayna when she sees her clown-like expression.

Jayna shrugs. Milton just shakes his head.

Rev. George's gaze settles on Jayna just as she sinks into her pew. Interest lights his eyes. She's cute. He takes the mic from its stand so he can walk his sermon. Showing off.

REV. GEORGE (CONT'D)

We're known by our works. Are you working? Or is your faith dead?

10 INT. AIRPORT - GATE 33 - DAY

10

The crowd surrounding Lucas stares at him with rapt attention. Some have tears running down their faces. He wipes sweat from his brow as he approaches different people.

LUCAS

God is love. He didn't just invent it. Not only does He want us to have it, He wants us to give it.

FIRST LADY 8.

MAN

Yes, Lord!

LUCAS

Every time you feed the poor.

CROWD

Yes!

LUCAS

Every time you visit the sick.

CROWD

Yes!

The Rookie is uneasy in the crowd. Whispers to his partner.

ROOKIE

Shouldn't we do something?

LUCAS

Every time you speak a kind word.

CROWD

Yeah!

Jeremiah observes the crowd. Shoots a proud look at Lucas.

LUCAS

It's as if you've done it unto Him.

CROWD

Yeah!

LUCAS

It's not what I said.

CROWD

No.

Lucas holds his Bible aloft.

LUCAS

It's what the Word says.

WOMAN

That's what He said, um hmm.

LUCAS

What good is telling someone you love them if they don't have food to eat?

FIRST LADY 9.

MAN

None at all.

LUCAS

We're called to show love. Not just say love.

LADY

Yes sir!

The seasoned guard smiles.

SEASONED

Remember how you said you wasn't going to no church?

The rookie nods with a frown.

SEASONED (CONT'D)

God brought the church to you.

LUCAS

If you'd like to know just how much God loves you, I'd like to invite you down front. Meet Jesus here for yourself.

Jeremiah looks surprised as several people start making their way to Lucas. Many of them cry. He gets up to receive them.

The seasoned guard goes to the front to help receive the people as well. They both have their hands full.

A couple more CLERGY or DEACONS come to the front to help. They all pray over the people.

Lucas looks at the makeshift altar in astonishment. He raises his hands to continue his appeal.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Is there anyone else who wants to come forward? Your blessing is waiting for you. Just walk into it.

More people come forward including the rookie. The seasoned guard receives him with a welcoming smile.

11 INT. SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH - SANCTUARY - DAY 11

Rev. George stands at the podium with his arms lifted in a grand gesture.

FIRST LADY

REV. GEORGE

If there's anyone out of the arc of covenant, come on down front.

Jayna looks around, amused that everyone just stands there with blank stares.

Rev. George's eyes dart around. Beads of sweat dot his forehead. Embarrassment has him nervous.

REV. GEORGE (CONT'D)
Don't you miss out on your blessing
now. Come on and accept the Lord
Jesus for yourself.

Pastor steps forward and whispers in Rev. George's ear.

PASTOR MILTON

Everyone here is already saved.

Rev. George nods. Whew!

REV. GEORGE

The doors of the church are open.

On cue, Jayna goes to open the double doors at the back.

12 INT. SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH - FOYER - DAY

A smile splits Jayna's face as soon as her back is to everyone. She props the doors open then goes down stairs.

13 INT. SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH - SANCTUARY - DAY 13

Rev. George holds his head up regally as he follows Pastor to the doors. He looks around for Jayna, but she's gone.

12

They take up posts just inside the door.

The churchgoers raise right hands and bow their heads.

PASTOR MILTON

Now may the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us now, henceforth and forever more. Let the church sing--

CONGREGATION

Amen.

The members gather up their belongings and greet each other.

As they make their way out, they greet Milton and Rev. George at the doors.

FIRST LADY

14 INT. AIRPORT - GATE 33 - DAY

The agent listens on the desk phone. A smile creases her face. She picks up the microphone.

14

15

AGENT

Ladies and gentlemen. I am pleased to announce that all flights are to resume immediately.

The crowd CHEERS. She checks her screen.

AGENT (CONT'D)

We will begin by boarding flight 3842 to LaGuardia. Flight 3842 is ready to board.

Several passengers shake Lucas' hand as they board. They form an impromptu receiving line.

PASSENGER

That was a wonderful service, young man. Thank you.

PASSENGER'S WIFE

We hated to be away from our church this morning, but it seems God met us here.

LUCAS

He does have a way of doing that.

They smile and hurry down the jetway.

The agent watches in wonder as all the preachers line up to warmly bid all the passengers farewell.

15 INT. SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH - SANCTUARY - DAY

Jayna returns to the sanctuary from a back entrance. She plops down in the pew next to her mother who chats with Bessie Mae.

BESSIE MAE

I'm inclined to think that time'll get away from us if we don't meet this afternoon.

GRACE

I think I saw the whole committee here this morning. Why don't we meet for a few moments now?

FIRST LADY 12.

BESSIE MAE

I'm afraid I have to run Sis. Clark home right now. Why don't we all meet back here at three o'clock?

JAYNA

Since Sis. Clark can't wait around for fifteen minutes, perhaps the update could go forth without you.

Grace turns her amused expression into a chastening one as she looks at Jayna. Stop it.

BESSIE MAE

I'm afraid I have the most to add to the update.

JAYNA

Or a conference call. So everyone doesn't have to be inconvenienced to accommodate one person.

Grace puts a gentle hand on Jayna's shoulder. Surreptitiously yanks her hair.

Bessie Mae frowns at Jayna.

BESSIE MAE

The work of the Lord is never an inconvenience. I'll see you back here at three.

She sniffs and walks away in a self-righteous huff.

GRACE

Please let the others know.

Grace turns her full attention to Jayna.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Thank you.

JAYNA

What? I was trying to help.

GRACE

Next time you want to help? Don't.

Her loving smile stays on her face. She massages Jayna's scalp where she pulled the hair earlier.

Pastor slides an arm around Grace's waist. Kisses her cheek.

Rev. George tags along. Eyes Jayna all the way.

FIRST LADY 13.

PASTOR MILTON

How're my favorite girls? Ready to go home?

GRACE

I have a meeting at three.

Pastor Milton grits his teeth.

PASTOR MILTON

I guess we're staying in town a while longer. Grab a bite?

REV. GEORGE

I'd love to join you. Get your thoughts on my sermon.

JAYNA

It was... Oooow!

GRACE

Sorry dear. Tangle.

Jayna glares at Grace. Slides down the pew out of her grasp.

GRACE (CONT'D)

We'd love for you to join us.

Off Jayna's irritated face.

END ACT ONE

FIRST LADY 14.

ACT TWO

16 INT. AIRPORT - GATE 33 - DAY

16

Lucas sits in one of the vacated seats next to Jeremiah.

JEREMIAH

All those people who were saved. What a blessing!

Lucas nods his agreement.

AGENT (O.S.)

Final call for flight 6548 to Phoenix. Final call for flight 6548.

Jeremiah gathers his things.

JEREMIAH

You keep in touch, ya hear? If the mentor thing doesn't work out where you're going, you come on out west.

LUCAS

Yes sir.

He stands and gives the man a parting hug. When Lucas sits again, he's immediately joined by a YOUNG WOMAN (23).

She gives him a flirty smile as she sits next to him.

YOUNG WOMAN

You sure did preach earlier.

LUCAS

Just God speaking though me.

YOUNG WOMAN

I would never have guessed you were a preacher. You're too sexy for that.

Lucas holds a smile in place that doesn't reach his eyes.

The passengers around them pretend to be engrossed elsewhere, but they all wait to see what's going to happen.

LUCAS

I don't know about that. I just love God.

FIRST LADY 15.

YOUNG WOMAN

You talk about love a lot. Is it all talk, though?

She puts her hand on his knee. He just stares at it.

LUCAS

You know what Paul told the Corinthians.

She give him a blank look.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

That they should marry if they can't contain.

YOUNG WOMAN

Can't contain what?

LUCAS

Sexually. So. How do you feel about marriage? To me?

She jerks her hand back.

YOUNG WOMAN

I don't know even know you.

LUCAS

And yet you felt comfortable enough to come over here and put your hand on my thigh.

YOUNG WOMAN

I was just... You're crazy. You know that?

She hops up and stalks away.

Lucas shrugs at the people openly watching. Most not even bothering to hide their amusement.

LUCAS

Women say they want to marry a good man. When such a man mentions marriage, they flee. Why is that?

17 INT. STEAK HOUSE - DAY

17

Jayna sulks at a table for four. Totally ignoring her parents and Rev. George in favor of some chocolate cake. A steak cools to the side.

FIRST LADY 16.

Rev. George watches her eat, amazed. He swallows his own bite of steak.

REV. GEORGE

You sure can eat, girl. I'm gaining a gut just by looking at that cake.

Jayna looks at him with a barely concealed smirk. Hurries to swallow the chocolate to retort. Knowing what's coming, Grace beats her to the punch.

GRACE

High metabolism runs in our family. And Jayna's an athlete. You should see her after a grueling practice.

REV. GEORGE

I'd love to. What about games? When are they?

JAYNA

Games?

REV. GEORGE

You play basketball, right? I'm guessing small forward?

Grace laughs. Jayna frowns at her.

JAYNA

Diving, actually.

REV. GEORGE

Diving? Like jumping off that big ole platform into water below?

JAYNA

That's generally how it works.

GRACE

So, Rev. George, what kind of interests and hobbies do you have?

Jayna ignores her mom's withering look and polishes off her cake. She digs into the steak.

Rev. George puffs up importantly.

REV. GEORGE

I don't have time for such frivolities. God's work keeps me much too busy. But you all know how that is.

(MORE)

FIRST LADY 17.

REV. GEORGE (CONT'D)

If I play my cards right, I might be appointed to a swanky international post like you, Pastor.

Pastor Milton's frown is subtle, while Jayna's gaze is downright hostile. He turns an oblivious smile on her.

REV. GEORGE (CONT'D)

But I wouldn't mind making time to swim. If I had the right teacher.

Jayna bites her lip. Looks at both her parents. Then smiles at him. She scoots her chair away from Grace's grasp.

JAYNA

You know what I'd really like to teach you?

Rev. George stares at her like he just won the lottery. Pastor Milton and Grace exchange wary looks.

REV. GEORGE

No. What?

JAYNA

How to preach.

REV. GEORGE

S'cuse me?

JAYNA

I'm done excusing you. Did you even go to seminary?

REV. GEORGE

What? Of course I did.

JAYNA

So you were just absent the day they taught grace.

REV. GEORGE

I was NOT absent!

JAYNA

Before you start teaching people that they're saved by good works, you might want to consider what God says on the subject.

GRACE

Jayna!

FIRST LADY 18.

JAYNA

Grace is for salvation. Works are for sanctification. Get it right.

PASTOR MILTON

That's enough Jayna.

REV. GEORGE

How dare you speak to me like this!

JAYNA

How dare you teach a false doctrine.

Furious, Rev. George throws his napkin down and stands. He looks at Pastor Milton.

REV. GEORGE

Feel free to never call me again. I will formally withdraw my application to be your successor tomorrow.

He stalks away. Jayna calls after him.

JAYNA

Tonight is better.

His steps falter, but he doesn't look back.

Grace and Pastor Milton glare at Jayna. She innocently munches on a bread roll.

JAYNA (CONT'D)

What? He needed to be told.

Her parents share a look. Pastor hurries after Rev. George.

GRACE

No matter how many times I teach you about tact, the lesson never seems to stick.

JAYNA

I'm plenty tactful.

GRACE

There's always a way to get your point across without such antagonism.

FIRST LADY 19.

JAYNA

Like you got your point across to Sis. Taylor? That worked really well for you.

GRACE

You didn't give it a chance to work.

JAYNA

You've been giving it a chance for the last twenty years.

Grace takes a calming breath. She lays some cash on the table for the bill.

GRACE

Let's go.

JAYNA

But I'm not finished.

Grace nails Jayna with a direct gaze. A steel undercurrent in her soft voice.

GRACE

Yes. You are.

Jayna nods and follows her mother from the restaurant.

18 INT. SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH - OFFICE - DAY

18

Pastor Milton sits at his desk with a long list of names. He crosses off the last one with a sigh.

Jayna bounds out of the bathroom wearing a swimming suit. She slides her skirt back on and considers her father.

JAYNA

What's wrong?

PASTOR MILTON

Rev. George was the bottom of the barrel. At this rate, I'm never going to find my replacement.

JAYNA

So we find a new barrel.

PASTOR MILTON

You haven't had enough fun picking preachers apart?

FIRST LADY 20.

JAYNA

If they knew their stuff, I couldn't pick them apart.

Pastor rubs his eyes. Refuses to admit that she has a point.

She lays her chin on his shoulder.

JAYNA (CONT'D)

We'll find someone. The sooner the better. I'm so ready to be finished with these two-faced folk.

PASTOR MILTON

You act like this is about you.

She backs away.

JAYNA

No I don't. But that doesn't mean I'm not going to enjoy the benefits of you being called elsewhere.

She practices a handstand. Lightly braces her feet against the wall. Carefully, she pulls them away.

JAYNA (CONT'D)

And you know as well as I that there is no way you're going to leave this church in anything but fully capable hands.

PASTOR MILTON

So where do we find this new barrel?

Jayna shifts her weight so she's balanced on one hand. She lifts the other one out to the side. Crumples to the floor with a muffled THUMP.

JAYNA

You know what we didn't try. We should visit local seminaries. Meet with their most promising students.

She tries the handstand again as her dad ponders the idea.

19 INT. SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH - SANCTUARY - DAY 19

Grace stands before Bessie Mae. Joyce and Beverly flank her.

GRACE

Any other old business?

FIRST LADY 21.

LEA MARKS (30), the epitome of confidence in a tailored suit, glances at her watch.

Bessie gives her a disapproving look.

BESSIE MAE

Is there somewhere you rather be than here serving the Lord?

Lea looks at the other three women. Shakes her head with a smile that doesn't quite erase the irritation in her eyes.

LEA

Of course not.

A THUMP sounds from overhead. Everyone looks up, puzzled.

LEA (CONT'D)

I had to rearrange some things to make it on such short notice.

GRACE

And we appreciate your time, Lea. We'll be finished shortly.

Lea accepts Grace's genuine smile with a nod.

Another THUMP.

Without missing a beat, Grace picks up her cell phone and sends a text message.

GRACE (CONT'D)

On to the new business.

20 INT. SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH - OFFICE - DAY

20

Pastor pauses in his writing to check his cell phone.

Jayna tries to lift the hand again. Falls over.

PASTOR MILTON

Your mother says to stop.

JAYNA

Stop what? I'm not even doing anything.

PASTOR MILTON

The thumping, Jayna. You must be disturbing her meeting.

FIRST LADY 22.

JAYNA

I'm just trying to get ready for practice.

She does another handstand.

JAYNA (CONT'D)

Okay. How about I just don't fall?

PASTOR MILTON

Why is it you never listen to your mother?

JAYNA

I do listen. I stopped thumping
didn't I?

Lucas knocks on the open office door.

LUCAS

Pastor Philips?

Both Jayna and Pastor look at the doorway.

Lucas raises and eyebrow as he takes in an upside down Jayna, with her skirt flopped up around her shoulders.

She falls with a CRASH knocking over a chair.

Pastor winces then rises to greet Lucas.

PASTOR MILTON

I'm Pastor Philips. How can I help you?

LUCAS

Lucas. Lucas Canon. I'm a recent graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary.

Jayna grins at Pastor.

JAYNA

Ask and you shall receive.

Jayna shakes Lucas' hand enthusiastically.

JAYNA (CONT'D)

Pleased to meet you. Surely you can't be worse than the last guy.

Lucas contemplates her with a frown.

FIRST LADY 23.

PASTOR MILTON

Please forgive my daughter. You were saying?

JAYNA

Don't take no for an answer.

LUCAS

Well... uh... I came to ask him... you to mentor me. I have the theological background, but before I take on a church, I'd like to gain some practical experience.

Jayna stares at him in surprise. That doesn't work for her at all. She shakes her head. Turns him around.

JAYNA

I guess you're not what we're looking for after all. Have a nice day.

Pastor catches her arm before she shoves Lucas all the way out of the office.

PASTOR MILTON

Let me hear the boy out.

JAYNA

Dad, you can't take on a mentee. You know that.

PASTOR MILTON

Jayna.

JAYNA

What's to hear out? Watch.

She spins to face Lucas.

JAYNA (CONT'D)

What's your exegesis on 1 Timothy 2:12?

LUCAS

Pardon?

JAYNA

See, Dad? New barrel.

Lucas frowns at her.

FIRST LADY 24.

LUCAS

1 Timothy 2:12. Paul says that women should not teach men in religious assemblies. There's a movement of people who say that the teaching is dated, but I'm not about to go against God's Word.

Jayna narrows her eyes at him. Lucas stares back. Facing down her challenge.

JAYNA

So you think women were put here to serve you?

LUCAS

Don't be ridiculous. Paul was very specific. He said in Religious Assemblies. Not in secular schools, corporations, etc.

JAYNA

So it's just in the church where you want women to submit to you.

LUCAS

Submission is for a wife to her husband. Not something that's hard to do when he loves her like Christ loves the church.

Jayna glares at him. At a loss for words. Lucas remains steady under her gaze.

Pastor Milton stands by, enjoying their spar. He's liking this new barrel.

JAYNA

But... but, you disregard the fact that Paul called Priscilla a fellow worker. She was teaching men. And Paul applauded her for it.

LUCAS

I don't disregard it. She was a huge asset to Apollo's ministry.

JAYNA

And yet you still don't want women to teach.

He shrugs.

FIRST LADY 25.

LUCAS

It's not what I want. I don't want to go against God, so I'm erring on the side of caution until He gives me a better understanding of the passage. In the meantime, it's not a salvation issue so I'm not going to sweat it.

Jayna opens her mouth to speak, but nothing comes out. Definitely a first for her to get bested.

Lucas calmly contemplates her. Amused, Pastor Milton clears his throat.

PASTOR MILTON

Could you give us a moment?

Jayna stares Lucas down for a little while longer. She hates being on the losing side.

JAYNA

I have to get to practice anyway. See you later.

She kisses her father's cheek. With head held high, she ignores Lucas as she leaves the office.

LUCAS

Nice meeting you.

She pauses for a last glare, closes the door in his face.

END ACT TWO

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