

ONE OF THE GOOD ONES

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FADE IN:

EXT - HOWARD UNIVERSITY YARD - DAY

ERIN (Black, 25 years-old) poses in her cap and gown, flowers in hand, in front of the historic Founder's Library at Howard University. Her family takes what it feels like hundreds of pictures. Erin is blinded by the camera flashes and annoyed by the constant clicking of her father's professional camera. She just gave her speech at the Howard University School of Law graduation ceremony.

ERIN
(annoyed)
Come on dad that's enough.

CUT TO:

INT - RESTURANT - DAY

Erin's MOTHER, FATHER, and BROTHER (Black, business casual clothing) all sit at a local restaurant in Washington, DC to celebrate. The restaurant is a popular destination being that it is loud and filled with many other graduates.

Erin eats her food and slowly looks up at her parents to see if this is the right time to tell them the big news.

ERIN
So, everybody, I have some
exciting news to share.

Her family stops what they are doing to give Erin their full attention.

ERIN
Do you guys remember the law firm
in New York I interviewed with
three times? Well, they emailed me
last week to tell me I got the
job.

Erin's mother and father both stand up to give Erin a hug.

Her brother stays seated but gives Erin a look of acceptance and a fist bump.

They all recognize Erin's lack of excitement.

MOTHER

(confused)

What's wrong? Aren't you happy?

ERIN

(worried)

Of course, I'm happy. How couldn't I be? It's just I have been at Howard for SEVEN YEARS. Howard spoiled me and now it's time to go back to the real world.

MOTHER

I know what you mean dear. It won't be easy adjusting, but this is too good of an opportunity to pass up.

BROTHER

If those white people give you a hard time just hit me up.

Erin chuckles and is relieved that her family is so supportive.

CUT TO:

EXT - OUTSIDE OF MITCHELL LAW GROUP - MORNING

Erin, wearing business attire, arrives for her first day of work and stands outside of the office building. The busyness of New York City continues behind her, but Erin stays completely still, taking it all in. She looks up at the sign that reads MITCHELL LAW GROUP.

Erin feels like her feet are glued to the ground. She can't move. Erin takes a deep breath and opens the door.

CUT TO:

INT - MITCHELL LAW GROUP OFFICE - MORNING

As soon as Erin enters the office she is greeted with chaos. The office is huge, filled with dozens of employees, and cubicles that feel like they go on forever. The air is filled with loud conversations, phone rings, and clicking of computer keys.

Everyone is moving and it is hard for Erin to get someone's attention.

Erin finally sees a familiar face from across the room. MARY (White, mid-thirties), Erin's new boss and mentor, waves and walks over to her.

MARY

Erin! I have been looking all over for you. Here, let me show you your cubicle.

Erin is about to say hello until Mary turns her back to her and quickly starts walking towards the cubicle.

MARY

(distracted)

Well, here we are. I emailed you some cases I want you to research and have them back to me by next week. It's really fast paced around here so we required employees to be efficient and independent. I'll check back up on you in a few.

Mary is about to leave until she finally slows down and looks Erin in her eyes. She begins to examine Erin as if it is her first time seeing her.

MARY

You look different from your online interview.

Erin looks down at herself confused, trying to find what has changed.

MARY

It's your hair. It was straight during the interview.

Erin realizes that her hair is now in an afro.

ERIN

(confused)

Oh right. Yeah, I like to change my hair every now and then.

Mary nods and walks away.

CUT TO:

INT. - ERIN'S CUBICLE - MIDDAY

Erin sits at her empty desk, only occupied by a computer and phone. She has began working on her research but has yet to be visited by Mary all day.

TOM (White, mid-forties) passes by Erin's cubicle, does a double take, then turns back around to introduce himself.

TOM

Hi, I'm Tom. You must be new here.

ERIN

Yes, It's my first day here. I'm
Erin it's nice to meet you.

Tom looks down and notices Erin's Howard University key chain and begins to look puzzled.

TOM

Howard University Huh?

ERIN

Yes, I went for undergrad and
graduate. Great school, are you
familiar with it?

TOM

A little, I've read somethings
about it online. The company
doesn't usually accept candidate
from those type of institutions
but I'm happy to see that they are
branching out.

A look of confusion sets onto Erin's face.

TOM

I've got to go but it was nice
meeting you. I work two cubicles

down so don't hesitate to reach
out if you need help.

Erin's stomach starts to turn as she realizes her worst
nightmare has come true. She is no longer in the 'fantasy world'
of Howard University.

Erin quickly scans the room. All white people.

Eye's red and damn near crying, Erin quickly rushes to the
bathroom so that none of her coworkers see her in distress.

CUT TO:

INT - BATHROOM - MIDDAY

Erin frantically enters the women's bathroom and checks under
each stall to see if it is a safe space to cry. Relieved, Erin
finds that she is the only person in the bathroom. Just her and
her thoughts.

Erin places both of her hands on the sink and looks at herself
in the mirror. Failing to keep her composure, she lowers her
head in defeat as a single tear falls down her face.

The sound of the toilet flushing immediately snaps Erin back
into reality.

Out walks one of the stalls ERIS (Black, 25 years-old), an
identical version of Erin.

Erin stares at Eris through the reflection of the mirror and is
taken aback by her doppelganger. She slowly turns around.

ERIN
(distraught)
Who are you? What's going on?

ERIS
Girl. Why the FUCK did you let
that white man talk to you like
that? I know Howard taught you
better than that.

ERIN
What?

ERIS
(mockingly)
"The company doesn't usually
accept candidate from those type
of institutions" I mean who does
he think he is!

Eris goes to the sink to wash her hands.

ERIS (CON'D)
I mean this is what's wrong with
the world, white men. Every
problem in the world was started
by a white man.

Erin interrupts Eris's rant.

ERIN
Hey! Who are you!

ERIS
I'm you. But you can call me Eris.

Suddenly, Mary walks in to use the bathroom.

MARY
Erin! Where have you been?

ERIS
Bitch, where have YOU been?

Erin notices that Mary isn't shocked that there is a woman that
looks exactly like her nor by Eris's comment.

ERIN
Sorry, I was just using the
bathroom. I'm heading back to my
desk now.

Erin exits the bathroom trying to get the thought of Eris out
of her mind, but Eris follows her.

CUT TO:

INT - MITCHELL LAW GROUP OFFICE - MIDDAY

As soon as Erin leaves the bathroom, she is bombarded by Tom once again. However, this time, he brings along ALICIA (black, mid-thirties) the first black employee she has seen all day.

TOM

Oh, there you are. Erin, this is Alicia. I wanted to introduce you two. It seems like you two would have a lot in common.

ERIS

Because we both are black?

Erin and Alicia both roll their eyes at Tom as he walks away.

The two women catch eye contact and laugh.

ALICIA

Is Tom not your favorite coworker either?

ERIN

He hasn't been the best, but it is only my first day.

ALICIA

You will get used to it. It's difficult here sometimes but it is better to just lay low. I'm sure you understand.

ERIS

Lay low?!

Erin cuts Eris off to remember her thought.

ERIN

Yeah, I know what you mean.

ALICIA

I have been an assistant here for almost fives year now. If you need anything just let me know. Us black girls have to stick together, right?

Erin wants to ask why she is still an assistant but decides to just smile and nod instead.

Alicia walks away back to her cubicle.

ERIS

Do you want to end up like her
Erin? Because that is what is
going to happen if you don't get a
backbone.

ERIN

No. But its not that easy. I can't
come across as an 'anger black
woman'.

CUT TO:

INT - BREAKROOM - MORNING

Erin walks into the breakroom with Eris not too far behind her. Erin goes into the breakroom where she finds a few white employees sitting down eating and chatting. Determined to prove Eris wrong, Erin smiles and waves as she walks to the complimentary snack table.

Erin grabs a bagel and takes a bite. Silence erupts as her back is turned to group of white employees. It is almost as if she can feel their eyes piercing into her back.

Erin turns around and the employees suddenly resume eating and chatting as if nothing has happened.

ERIS

The fuck is yall looking at?

Erin decides avoided confrontation and to take her bagel to her desk to get back to her work.

CUT TO:

INT - ERIN'S CUBICLE - MORNING

Erin sits down at her desk, quickly eats her bagel, and finishes up her research in hopes to make a good impression on Mary. Eris leans on the desk and critiques everything Erin does.

ERIS

You know finishing your research early isn't going to get Mary to notice you right?

ERIN

Yes, it will. She told me to be efficient and independent so that exactly what I'm going to do.

CUT TO:

INT - ERIN'S CUBICLE - AFTERNOON

Erin finishes up her research and waits for Mary to return to show her the amazing progress she has made. Before this could happen, Tom visits Erin's desk once again for another uncomfortable conversation.

TOM

So, Erin, how was your first day? Do you see yourself fitting in at Mitchell Law Group?

ERIN

Everyone was extremely welcoming, and it really made me feel at ease on my first day.

TOM

I'm glad to hear that. You know, I was a little nervous today, but you really came through.

Erin starts to feel uneasy, but she tries to contain herself.

ERIN

What do you mean?

TOM

You know. Sometimes you guys can be a lot to say the least.

ERIN

You guys?

TOM

Yeah, but don't worry you're one
of the good ones.

"One of the good ones" echoes in Erin's head and anger slowly
takes over her body. Anger then turns into rage and Erin cannot
control herself.

But Eris feels excitement as she sees Erin's eyes turn red. It
is finally going to happen. Erin is going to stand up for
herself.

ERIS

Don't let him get away with his
again Erin.

Erin abruptly stands up and loudly slams her hands on the desk.

Silence erupts in the office, and everyone begins to look at
Erin waiting to see what happens next.

ERIN

(enraged)

Tom! I have had it with you today.

Tom beings to look confused as if he is the victim.

TOM

I didn't mean to offend you. It
was a compliment.

ERIN

Even since I got here everyone has
belittled my education, talked
about my hair, stare at me
everywhere I go, and now I'm one
of the good ones?!

Erin knocks her computer off of her desk, grabs all of her
belongings and walks out of her cubicle.

As Erin walks out of Mitchell Law Group to never return, she
destroys everything in her path.

Eris joins her knocking over books, phones, and plants.

All of Erin's white coworkers stand in disbelief as Erin is escorted out by security.

Finally, we see a close of Erin's face as she begins to smile and laugh in relief. She is finally free.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.